



After Prorogation, Tory Lead Over Liberals Drops to Six Points

Momentum score for the Prime Minister drops, as a majority of Canadians expect a federal election to take place this year.

[TORONTO – Jan. 13, 2010] – Since the Prime Minister's decision to prorogue Parliament, the governing Conservative Party has lost support across Canada, while the New Democratic Party (NDP) begins the year in a good position, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample of 1,077 adults also finds that the momentum rating for Stephen Harper has dropped noticeably since the final month of 2009.

Voting Intention

Across the country, 34 per cent of decided voters (-2 since December) would cast a ballot for the Conservative candidate in their riding if a new federal election took place today.

The Liberal Party is second with 28 per cent (-1), ahead of the proportion of the vote that the party received in the October 2008 federal election.

The NDP is a strong third with 19 per cent (+3), followed by the Bloc Québécois with nine per cent (-2), and the Green Party with eight per cent (+2).

KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: Con. 34%, Lib. 28%, NDP 19%, BQ 9%, Grn. 8%.**
- **Approval Rating: Harper 28%, Layton 26%, Ignatieff 17%.**
- **Momentum: Layton -9, Ignatieff -26, Harper -35.**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From January 12 to January 13, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,077 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.0%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com

Regional Breakdowns

As was the case throughout 2009, a majority of decided voters in Alberta (62%) and half in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (49%) voice support for the Tories. In British Columbia, the governing party remains on top (40%), with the Liberals (25%) slightly ahead of the NDP (22%).

In Ontario, 37 per cent of decided voters would vote for the Conservatives, giving the governing party a four-point lead over the Liberals (33%). The NDP had a particularly strong showing in Ontario this week (22%).

In Quebec, the Bloc is still first with 37 per cent, followed by the Liberals with 26 per cent, the Conservatives with 16 per cent, and the NDP with 13 per cent.

Approval

In the first approval rating survey conducted since prorogation, Stephen Harper has lower numbers. Only 28 per cent of respondents approve of the performance of the Prime Minister and Conservative leader (-4 since December), and a majority (51%) disapprove.

The approval rating for NDP leader Jack Layton stands at 26 per cent (-3), while Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff posts a modest gain of two points (17%).

Momentum

While Harper closed 2009 with a better momentum score than Ignatieff, this is no longer the case. Now, Harper's score is the worst of the three leaders at -35 (9% of Canadians report an improvement in their opinion of the Prime Minister over the past month, while 44% say their views have worsened).

Ignatieff does better this month, at -26 (compared to -33 in December 2009). Layton still manages the best showing of the three leaders at -9, although this score is worse than the one posted by the NDP leader last month (-6).

An Election in 2010?

Three-in-five Canadians (61%) think it is "very likely" or "moderately likely" that Canada will have a federal election in 2010, while only 24 per cent deem this possibility as "not too likely" or "not likely at all." It is important to note that the views on the likelihood of an election are lower among Conservative voters (57%) than among Liberal voters (69%).

If an election indeed takes place this year, one-in-four Canadians (25%) say they would prefer a Conservative majority government, while 12 per cent would rather have a Conservative minority.

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com

Conversely, 24 per cent of respondents would like to have a Liberal majority, and 16 per cent would choose a Liberal minority.

However, when asked about the likely outcome of a federal election, two-in-five Canadians (39%) foresee a Conservative minority, while 16 per cent expect a Conservative majority. Only eight per cent of respondents think the Liberals will get to form a majority government, and 16 per cent predict a Liberal minority.

Analysis

This edition of the Canadian Political Pulse shows that prorogation has hurt the governing party in Ontario, where the Tories have dropped below 40 per cent for the first time since the fall of 2009. The Liberals are doing better than in the last election, but the main winner this week is the NDP, with noticeable gains in Quebec and Ontario.

Harper's momentum score has dropped dramatically in the first month of the year, while Layton appears stable and Ignatieff shows some signs of recovery.

The electorate expects to head to the ballot box before the end of 2010. Canadians are almost evenly divided in their "wishes" for the next government (37% Conservative, 40% Liberal), but there is a deeper difference when they assess "reality" (55% Conservative, 24% Liberal).

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com

Canadian Political Pulse - TREND

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Jan. 12-13	Dec. 9-10	2008 Election
Conservative Party	34%	36%	37.6%
Liberal Party	28%	29%	26.2%
New Democratic Party	19%	16%	18.2%
Bloc Québécois	9%	11%	10.0%
Green Party	8%	6%	6.8%
Other party	1%	1%	1.2%

Canadian Political Pulse - REGIONS

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Conservative Party	34%	40%	62%	49%	37%	16%	24%
Liberal Party	28%	25%	15%	24%	33%	26%	36%
New Democratic Party	19%	22%	12%	15%	22%	13%	29%
Bloc Québécois	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	37%	0%
Green Party	8%	13%	5%	13%	7%	4%	8%
Other party	1%	0%	6%	0%	0%	2%	2%

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com

Canadian Political Pulse - APPROVAL

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following people? *(Change since Dec. 9-10)*

	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure
Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper	28% (-4)	51% (+2)	21% (+3)
Liberal Party and Official Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff	17% (+2)	50% (-3)	32% (+1)
New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jack Layton	26% (-3)	33% (-3)	40% (+5)

Canadian Political Pulse - MOMENTUM

Over the course of the past month, would you say your opinion of each of the following people has improved, stayed the same or worsened? *(Change since Dec. 9-10)*

	Improved	Stayed the same	Worsened	Not sure
Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper	9% (-2)	39% (-10)	44% (+9)	8% (+2)
Liberal Party and Official Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff	7% (=)	48% (+4)	33% (-7)	12% (+2)
New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jack Layton	5% (-2)	70% (-1)	14% (+1)	11% (+2)

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com

Canadian Political Pulse - ELECTION IN 2010

How likely is it that Canada will have a federal election in 2010?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Very likely	18%	19%	10%	20%	17%	22%	17%
Moderately likely	43%	42%	55%	45%	51%	30%	42%
Not too likely	22%	26%	22%	19%	20%	26%	21%
Not likely at all	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	6%	1%
Not sure	13%	12%	12%	16%	11%	16%	19%

Canadian Political Pulse - ELECTION IN 2010

How likely is it that Canada will have a federal election in 2010?

	Party Preference					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Very likely	18%	15%	23%	20%	27%	20%
Moderately likely	43%	42%	45%	49%	32%	40%
Not too likely	22%	32%	18%	22%	29%	32%
Not likely at all	2%	4%	1%	1%	5%	1%
Not sure	13%	6%	14%	8%	7%	7%

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com

Canadian Political Pulse - OUTCOME

If a federal election takes place in 2010, which of these outcomes would you personally prefer?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
A Conservative majority	25%	34%	50%	37%	23%	13%	13%
A Conservative minority	12%	7%	7%	16%	14%	16%	6%
A Liberal minority	16%	21%	13%	3%	16%	20%	13%
A Liberal majority	24%	20%	14%	16%	26%	26%	35%
Not sure	23%	18%	17%	28%	22%	25%	34%

Canadian Political Pulse - OUTCOME

And if a federal election takes place in 2010, which of these outcomes do you think is most likely?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
A Conservative majority	16%	16%	24%	16%	14%	17%	10%
A Conservative minority	39%	41%	50%	49%	40%	31%	34%
A Liberal minority	16%	17%	8%	9%	19%	16%	13%
A Liberal majority	8%	10%	7%	2%	5%	12%	7%
Not sure	22%	16%	12%	24%	22%	24%	37%

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com

Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at

<http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com