

QUEBEC POLITICS – LA PRESSE / ANGUS REID PUBLIC OPINION

Lucien Bouchard Comeback Would Alter Quebec's Political Scene

If the former premier formed a new political party, he would position himself as the top political force in Quebec.

[MONTREAL – Feb 20, 2010] - Former Premier Lucien Bouchard has the potential to drastically alter the Quebec political landscape if he decided to create a new political party, a new *La Presse* / Angus Reid Public Opinion survey has found.

The online survey of a representative sample of 804 Quebecers finds that a new, Bouchard-led political party would garner the support of 31 per cent of decided voters, compared to 28 per cent for current premier Jean Charest's Liberal Party of Quebec, and 24 per cent for the Parti Québécois, currently led by Pauline Marois.

Bouchard—who made headlines this week with pointed comments about sovereignty, reasonable accommodations and what he described as a radicalization of the Parti Québécois—also tops the list when Quebecers are asked who would make the best Premier.

Slightly more than one-in-four respondents (27%) say Bouchard would make the best Premier for Quebec, compared to 19 per cent for Charest, 15 per cent for Marois and four per cent for the leader of Action démocratique du Québec (ADQ) Gérard Deltell. A quarter of Quebecers (26%), however, respond that none of these politicians would make a good premier.

KEY FINDINGS

- **31% of Quebecers would vote for a new party headed by Lucien Bouchard , 28% would vote for Jean Charest's LPQ, 24% for Pauline Marois's PQ**
- **Without Bouchard in the picture, 39% would vote for LPQ, 35% would vote for PQ and 9% would vote for ADQ.**
- **78% agree that there are more pressing concerns than sovereignty and 75% agree that sovereignty will not be attainable in the near future**
- **Only 35% of Quebecers would support another referendum on Quebec**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From February 18 to February 19, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 804 Quebec adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.5%, 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 samples representative of the entire adult population of Quebec. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

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

A Comeback for Bouchard?

A return to Quebec politics for Bouchard would draw supporters from all three main political parties, with the greatest percentage coming from the diminished ADQ. Yet despite the goodwill of a clear segment of the population, almost half of Quebecers (48%) don't believe Bouchard should in fact create a new political party.

The survey also explored support for specific comments Bouchard made during a televised appearance discussing the future of Quebec politics. More than three quarters of Quebecers (78%) agree with him that sovereignty is not something that will be achieved in Quebec for a number of years. An equally strong proportion (75%) agree that there are other more pressing concerns to attend to in Quebec than sovereignty. Appetite for another referendum remains low in Quebec, with a majority (58%) saying they would not want another province-wide vote to be held, while 35 per cent say they would favour having one.

On this issue of the PQ's radicalization over reasonable accommodation, Quebecers are more evenly split. A plurality (42%) agrees with Bouchard 36 per cent disagree. It is worth noting however, that a third (34%) of respondents who voted for the Parti Québécois in 2008 agree with the statement that the PQ has adopted a radical stance on reasonable accommodations.

However, when it comes to whether the burka should be banned in Quebec, Bouchard appears to be in the minority. Only 23 per cent of respondents agree that the burka should not be banned compared to 71 per cent who feel it should be banned.

CONTACT:

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

Quebec Politics

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

	Total	Voted PLQ in 2008	Voted PQ in 2008	Voted ADQ in 2008
Liberal Party of Quebec, led by Jean Charest	39%	86%	3%	11%
Parti Québécois, led by Pauline Marois	35%	3%	86%	12%
Action démocratique du Québec, led by Gérard Deltell	9%	3%	1%	55%
Québec solidaire, led by Amir Khadir	7%	1%	8%	7%

Quebec Politics

If Lucien Bouchard, former prime minister of Québec, were to become the head of a new political party in Quebec, which one of the following parties would you most likely to support in your constituency if an election was held tomorrow?

	Total	Voted PLQ in 2008	Voted PQ in 2008	Voted ADQ in 2008
New political party, led by Lucien Bouchard	31%	29%	27%	40%
Liberal Party of Quebec, led by Jean Charest	28%	64%	2%	5%
Parti Québécois, led by Pauline Marois	24%	1%	63%	7%
Action démocratique du Québec, led by Gérard Deltell	7%	2%	0%	40%
Québec solidaire, led by Amir Khadir	5%	1%	6%	3%

CONTACT:

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

Quebec Politics

Would you support or oppose holding another referendum on Quebec's place in Canada?

	Total	Voted PLQ in 2008	Voted PQ in 2008	Voted ADQ in 2008
Strongly support	17%	2%	43%	5%
Moderately support	18%	5%	31%	17%
Moderately oppose	10%	9%	11%	10%
Strongly oppose	47%	82%	9%	60%
Not sure	7%	1%	6%	7%

Quebec Politics

Some people believe that the debate over sovereignty is a distraction and that Quebec's politicians should focus on other priorities such as the economy and health care. Others argue that sovereignty should be a priority because it will provide Quebec with greater resources with which to address important issues such as the economy and health care. Which of the following statements best describe your opinion?

	Total	Voted PLQ in 2008	Voted PQ in 2008	Voted ADQ in 2008
Quebec's politicians should focus on other priorities besides sovereignty	75%	96%	47%	93%
Quebec's politicians should focus on sovereignty	16%	2%	41%	4%
Not sure	9%	2%	12%	3%

CONTACT:

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

Quebec Politics

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Sovereignty will not be attainable for many years

	Total	Voted PLQ in 2008	Voted PQ in 2008	Voted ADQ in 2008
Strongly agree	53%	78%	22%	70%
Moderately agree	26%	17%	41%	14%
Moderately disagree	11%	2%	19%	8%
Strongly disagree	6%	1%	13%	3%
Not sure	5%	2%	5%	5%

Quebec Politics

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
On the issue of reasonable accommodation, the Parti Québécois has radicalized its position

	Total	Voted PLQ in 2008	Voted PQ in 2008	Voted ADQ in 2008
Strongly agree	16%	27%	9%	19%
Moderately agree	26%	32%	25%	24%
Moderately disagree	21%	17%	24%	18%
Strongly disagree	15%	7%	28%	14%
Not sure	22%	18%	14%	25%

CONTACT:

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

Quebec Politics

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? -
Québec should not ban the burka in public places

	Total	Voted PLQ in 2008	Voted PQ in 2008	Voted ADQ in 2008
Strongly agree	12%	16%	8%	7%
Moderately agree	11%	14%	7%	4%
Moderately disagree	13%	16%	9%	10%
Strongly disagree	59%	51%	74%	73%
Not sure	5%	3%	1%	6%

CONTACT:

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

Quebec Politics

In your opinion, which of these persons would make the best Premier of Québec?

	Total	Voted PLQ in 2008	Voted PQ in 2008	Voted ADQ in 2008
Lucien Bouchard	27%	25%	33%	32%
Jean Charest	19%	50%	1%	6%
Pauline Marois	15%	1%	41%	6%
Gérard Deltell	4%	1%	0%	22%
None of them	26%	17%	19%	25%
Not sure	9%	6%	6%	9%

Quebec Politics

In your opinion, should Lucien Bouchard become the head of a new political party?

	Total	Voted PLQ in 2008	Voted PQ in 2008	Voted ADQ in 2008
Yes	36%	37%	35%	46%
No	48%	50%	51%	43%
Not sure	16%	13%	13%	10%

CONTACT:

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

Quebec Politics

Some analysts say that Lucien Bouchard, as former Prime Minister of Québec and former head of the Parti Québécois, should keep his distance and not share his political opinions in public. Others think that he has the right to express himself as he likes. Which statement best describes your point of view?

	Total	Voted PLQ in 2008	Voted PQ in 2008	Voted ADQ in 2008
Lucien Bouchard should keep his distance and not give his political opinion publicly	16%	13%	23%	17%
Lucien Bouchard has the right to express himself as he likes	79%	85%	72%	79%
Not sure	5%	2%	5%	3%

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.

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.

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. More information on our electoral record can be found at:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

- 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