

CANADIAN POLITICAL PULSE

# Conservatives Expand Lead in Canada as Liberals and Greens Drop

*Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are last bastions of Liberal dominance, with Tories amassing a 13-point lead in Ontario.*

[OTTAWA – Feb. 26, 2011] – The Conservative Party is holding on to a substantial lead in Canada, and is now ahead of its political rivals in seven of the country's ten provinces, a new Vision Critical / Angus Reid poll conducted for the *Toronto Star* has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 6,482 Canadian adults, 39 per cent of decided voters and leaners (+5 since January) would support the governing Conservative Party in the next federal election.

The Liberal Party is second with 26 per cent (-2), followed by the New Democratic Party (NDP) with 18 per cent (+1), the Bloc Québécois with nine per cent (-2), and the Green Party with six per cent (-2).

The results of this survey are very similar to the outcome of the 2008 federal election, with the Conservatives at a slightly higher level and both the Bloc and the Greens garnering fewer supporters.

## Regional Breakdowns

The large sample size of this survey allows for a proper look at the results across specific provinces. The Conservatives remain particularly dominant in Alberta (60%), Saskatchewan (54%) and Manitoba (54%), and hold double-digit leads over their nearest rival in Ontario (43%, compared to 30% for the Liberals) and British Columbia (40%, compared to 28% for the NDP).

The Bloc remains the most popular party in Quebec at 39 per cent, followed by the Liberals (21%), the Conservatives (20%) and the NDP (14%). In both New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador, the

### KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: Con. 39%, Lib. 26%, NDP 18%, BQ 9%, Grn. 6%,**

*Full topline results are at the end of this release.*

*From February 11 to February 18, 2011, Vision Critical / Angus Reid conducted an online survey among 6,482 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 1.2%, 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.*

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Conservatives lead the Liberals by six points. The Grits are the most popular federal party in Nova Scotia (45%) and Prince Edward Island (51%).

### Gender and Age

The Tories hold a 20-point lead over the Grits among male voters (44% to 24%), and are ahead by six points among female voters (34% to 28%). Half of decided voters over the age of 55 (49%) would cast a ballot for the Conservative candidate in the next election. The Tories have a ten-point advantage over the Liberals among middle aged Canadians (37% to 27%) and are five points ahead among respondents aged 18 to 34 (32% to 27%).

### Analysis

While the Tories have lost some points since the last election in some provinces (such as British Columbia), they show gains in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador—where the departure of Premier Danny Williams may have pre-empted a new “Anything But Conservative” campaign—and New Brunswick.

The Liberals are in a better position on some provinces, but are not showing enough growth to threaten the Conservative hegemony. The NDP remains relatively stable, aside from a slight drop in Nova Scotia. The other two parties remain close to their 2008 totals, with the Bloc still dominating in Quebec, and the Greens in single digits, with their hopes pinned on Elizabeth May’s candidacy in British Columbia.

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### About Vision Critical®

*Vision Critical is a global research and technology firm that creates software and services solutions for over 600 clients, including one-in-four of the world’s top 100 brands. The company has offices across North America, Europe and Australia as well as a Global Partner Program that provides other research companies and consultants with access to top-of-the-line technology. Its Sparq™ product is the most widely adopted community panel platform on the planet.*

### About the Vision Critical Public Affairs practice

*The Vision Critical Public Affairs practice is headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conducts high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.*

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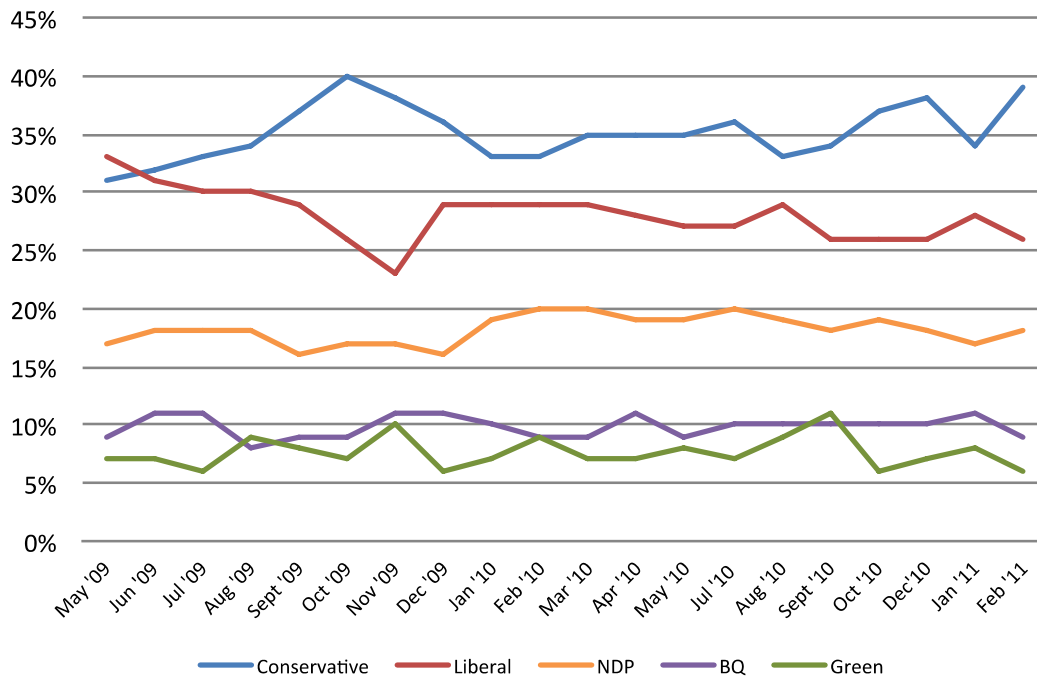
**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

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	Region											
	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	NL	PEI	2008 Election
<b>Margin of Error</b>	1.2%	3.5%	3.5%	2.8%	3.4%	3.1%	3.5%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	9.6%	--
<b>Conservative Party</b>	39%	40%	60%	56%	54%	43%	20%	45%	32%	42%	40%	37.6%
<b>Liberal Party</b>	26%	22%	21%	16%	21%	30%	21%	39%	41%	36%	51%	26.2%
<b>New Democratic Party</b>	18%	28%	9%	24%	20%	19%	14%	11%	21%	21%	5%	18.2%
<b>Bloc Québécois</b>	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	39%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10.0%
<b>Green Party</b>	6%	8%	6%	4%	5%	7%	5%	4%	5%	0%	3%	6.8%
<b>Other party</b>	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1.2%

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	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
<b>Conservative Party</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Liberal Party</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>New Democratic Party</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Bloc Québécois</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Green Party</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Other party</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>

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

	Age			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>Conservative Party</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Liberal Party</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>New Democratic Party</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Bloc Québécois</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Green Party</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Other party</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>

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