

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Lukewarm response to Tory proposals; few Canadians want a federal election

Conservatives and Liberals remain below their 2006 election totals.

[VANCOUVER – Oct. 19, 2007] – A unique survey by Angus Reid Strategies, conducted right after Canadians reviewed the contents of the Speech from the Throne, reveals that the proposals outlined by the minority Conservative government are not overwhelmingly supported by the population.

In the online poll of a representative national sample, 40 per cent of respondents expressed satisfaction with the way the Tories intend to deal with Canada's role in the world, and 38 per cent were content with the proposals on tax cuts, crime legislation and Arctic sovereignty.

However, 33 per cent of respondents were not happy with the plans for Federal-Provincial relations, 38 per cent feel the same way about health care, and at least two-in-five Canadians were dissatisfied with the government's approach to the environment (42%), and the mission in Afghanistan (40%).

When asked how opposition parties should react to the Speech from the Throne in the House of Commons, a third of respondents (34%) called on lawmakers to approve the government's plan and avoid a federal election, while one-in-five (22%) want the minority administration to be toppled.

More than two-in-five Canadians (45%) have not made up their minds yet.

Quebec (30%) and Atlantic Canada (34%) show the highest support for a fresh election, while residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan (46%), Ontario (39%) and Alberta (36%) believe the Speech from the Throne should pass.

KEY FINDINGS

- » **At least 38% satisfied with Throne Speech plans for tax cuts, Canada's role in the world and Arctic sovereignty**
- » **At least 40% dissatisfied with environment, Afghanistan and health care proposals**
- » **Voting Intention: Con. 34%, Lib. 29%, NDP 17%, BQ 9%, Grn. 9%**
- » **Approval Ratings: Harper 30%, Dion 10%; Preferred Prime Minister: Harper 32%, Dion 9%, Neither 45%**

More results are at the end of this release.

From October 16 to 17, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,018 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.1%, 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.

Bloc Québécois voters (54%) echoed the feelings expressed by their leader, Gilles Duceppe, and reject the Speech from the Throne, while NDP voters (36%) and Liberal voters (32%) were less enthusiastic about forcing an early ballot.

In the first national voting intention survey conducted after the Speech from the Throne, 34 per cent of decided voters say they will support the governing Conservative Party in the next federal election, followed by the Liberal Party with 29 per cent, the New Democratic Party (NDP) with 17 per cent, the Bloc Québécois with nine per cent, and the Green Party also with nine per cent.

The national approval rating for Prime Minister Stephen Harper stands at 30 per cent (-1%), while Stéphane Dion maintains considerably lower numbers at 10 per cent (-4%). In the preferred prime minister category, more than two-in-five Canadians (45%) pick neither of these leaders for the country's top political job, while 32 per cent choose Harper and nine per cent pick Dion (-2%).

The two leaders appear to be struggling in their efforts to connect with Canadians. Harper's momentum score is -10 (13% of respondents say their opinion of the prime minister has improved, while 23% say it has worsened), while Dion stands at -26 (4% say their opinion of the opposition leader has improved, while 30% say it has worsened).

Few Canadians want an election

From what you have seen, read or heard about the Speech from the Throne, how do you think the opposition parties in the House of Commons should react?

| | Total | Region | | | | | | Gender | |
|--|-------|--------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|
| | | BC | AB | MB/SK | ONT | PQ | ATL | Male | Female |
| The opposition should approve the Speech from the Throne and avoid an election | 34% | 29% | 36% | 46% | 39% | 28% | 20% | 43% | 24% |
| The opposition should topple the Conservative government and force an election | 22% | 19% | 18% | 9% | 17% | 30% | 34% | 24% | 20% |
| Not sure | 45% | 51% | 46% | 44% | 43% | 42% | 46% | 33% | 56% |

Canadians satisfied with foreign policy, tax, crime proposals

From what you have seen, read or heard about the Speech from the Throne, how satisfied are you with the way the Federal government under the Conservative Party led by Stephen Harper plans to deal with each of the following issues? ("Very satisfied" and "Moderately satisfied" answers listed)

| | Total | Region | | | | | | Gender | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|
| | | BC | AB | MB/SK | ONT | PQ | ATL | Male | Female |
| Tax cuts | 38% | 31% | 32% | 53% | 39% | 40% | 34% | 45% | 31% |
| Health care | 29% | 19% | 28% | 42% | 32% | 25% | 31% | 33% | 24% |
| Crime legislation | 38% | 27% | 37% | 40% | 43% | 37% | 34% | 46% | 29% |
| Canada's role in the world | 40% | 28% | 45% | 54% | 45% | 34% | 31% | 44% | 35% |
| Arctic sovereignty | 38% | 35% | 29% | 50% | 42% | 33% | 40% | 50% | 26% |
| The environment | 28% | 22% | 41% | 41% | 29% | 22% | 20% | 32% | 24% |
| Federal-Provincial relations | 30% | 21% | 27% | 45% | 33% | 33% | 16% | 38% | 22% |
| The Mission in Afghanistan | 29% | 25% | 37% | 35% | 33% | 21% | 25% | 37% | 21% |

Canadians dissatisfied with health care, Afghanistan, environment plans

From what you have seen, read or heard about the Speech from the Throne, how satisfied are you with the way the Federal government under the Conservative Party led by Stephen Harper plans to deal with each of the following issues? ("Very dissatisfied" and "Moderately dissatisfied" answers listed)

| | Region | | | | | | | Gender | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|
| | Total | BC | AB | MB/SK | ONT | PQ | ATL | Male | Female |
| Tax cuts | 31% | 31% | 33% | 26% | 33% | 28% | 33% | 33% | 29% |
| Health care | 38% | 38% | 38% | 36% | 37% | 41% | 39% | 42% | 34% |
| Crime legislation | 30% | 29% | 31% | 42% | 27% | 30% | 32% | 31% | 29% |
| Canada's role in the world | 27% | 29% | 21% | 28% | 25% | 31% | 33% | 33% | 21% |
| Arctic sovereignty | 21% | 18% | 25% | 26% | 17% | 26% | 22% | 22% | 21% |
| The environment | 42% | 38% | 27% | 41% | 44% | 47% | 48% | 47% | 37% |
| Federal-Provincial relations | 33% | 29% | 30% | 34% | 34% | 30% | 50% | 35% | 32% |
| The Mission in Afghanistan | 40% | 34% | 28% | 46% | 38% | 47% | 42% | 42% | 37% |

Preferred Prime Minister: "Neither" is ahead

Which of these two leaders would make the best Prime Minister of Canada?

| | Region | | | | | | | Gender | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|
| | Total | BC | AB | MB/SK | ONT | PQ | ATL | Male | Female |
| Stephen Harper | 32% | 27% | 37% | 54% | 35% | 27% | 15% | 40% | 24% |
| Stephane Dion | 9% | 10% | 9% | 11% | 8% | 10% | 10% | 9% | 9% |
| Neither | 45% | 41% | 38% | 28% | 42% | 54% | 57% | 45% | 45% |
| Not sure | 14% | 21% | 16% | 7% | 14% | 9% | 18% | 6% | 22% |

Voting Intention – Tories Hold Five-Point Lead

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

| | Latest | Past surveys | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | October | August | July | June | May | March | February |
| Conservative | 34% | 33% | 33% | 34% | 35% | 39% | 28% |
| Liberal | 29% | 29% | 28% | 27% | 28% | 22% | 26% |
| New Democratic Party | 17% | 19% | 19% | 19% | 18% | 17% | 15% |
| Bloc Québécois | 9% | 9% | 9% | 10% | 9% | 10% | 10% |
| Green | 9% | 9% | 8% | 8% | 9% | 11% | 8% |
| Other | 2% | 1% | 3% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% |

Angus Reid Strategies is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which 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 Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies has been successful in predicting the outcome of this year's provincial elections:

In Quebec: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=37>

In Manitoba: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=56>

In Ontario: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=129>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF%20WHITE%20PAPER.pdf>

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

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**