

ALBERTA POLITICS

Albertans Would Back Coalition of Opposition Parties Before Next Election

In principle, two-in-five voters would support an alliance of opposition forces, while three-in-ten would not.

[CALGARY – Jul. 11, 2008] – Alberta residents appear supportive of an alliance of opposition parties before the next provincial election takes place, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll reveals.

In the March 2008 provincial election, the Progressive Conservative Party earned a new majority, winning 72 of Alberta's 83 ridings. The Progressive Conservatives have been in power for 37 years and have won 11 consecutive majorities. Recently, some members of opposition parties have suggested amalgamating to have a better chance at defeating the Progressive Conservatives in the next provincial ballot.

In the online survey of a representative provincial sample, 44 per cent of Albertans said that, in principle, they would support a coalition of opposition parties. Another 31 per cent said they would oppose such a merger, while one-in-four (24%) are undecided.

Politically, the highest level of support for an opposition coalition comes from respondents who voted for the Liberal Party in the last provincial election (71%), followed by those who supported the New Democratic Party (52%), the Green Party (44%) and the Wildrose Alliance (42%). Only 37 per cent of Progressive Conservative voters support the idea of an opposition coalition.

KEY FINDINGS

- **44% of Alberta residents would support a coalition of opposition parties**
- **Respondents with at least one university degree (59%) and a household income of \$100,000 or more (53%) most supportive**
- **A Liberal and NDP alliance is the favourite choice (23%), followed by a grouping of Liberals, NDP and Greens (18%)**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From June 24 to June 26, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of **802 adult Alberta residents**. The margin of error for the total sample 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 a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

A further breakdown reveals that respondents with a yearly household income of \$100,000 or more (53%) and those with at least one university degree (59%) are most likely to back an opposition merger.

Across the province, roughly one-in-four (23%) respondents believe the Liberals and NDP would make the best opposition coalition, followed by a grouping of Liberals, NDP and Greens with 18 per cent, an NDP-Green alliance with 10 per cent, and a Liberal-Green merger with nine per cent. Two-in-five respondents (40%) do not like any of these possibilities.

An alliance between the Liberals, NDP and Greens is the favourite option for those who voted Liberal in the last provincial election (39%) and those who cast a ballot for the NDP (36%) and Greens (29%). While some Progressive Conservatives would rather see a Liberal-NDP merger (22%), almost half (49%) say none of the options are suitable.

An analysis of different socio-economic groups also reveals some interesting snippets, particularly relating to gender, income and education. A Liberal-NDP merger is the preferred choice for women (27%), respondents aged 18-34 (26%), those with a yearly household income of less than \$50,000 (26%) and those with a high school education or less (25%).

In turn, males (19%), respondents over the age of 55 (20%), those with a yearly household income of \$100,000 or more (24%), and those with at least one university degree (30%) are more likely to view a coalition of the Liberals, NDP and the Greens as the most appropriate choice.

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In principle, would you support or oppose a coalition of opposition parties before the next provincial election?

	Total	Progressive Conservative Voters	Liberal Voters	New Democratic Party (NDP) Voters	Green Party Voters	Wildrose Alliance Voters	Other Party Voters
Support	44%	37%	71%	52%	44%	42%	46%
Oppose	31%	45%	21%	22%	20%	45%	6%
Not Sure	24%	18%	8%	26%	36%	13%	47%

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In principle, would you support or oppose a coalition of opposition parties before the next provincial election?

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College / Tech School	Univ+
Support	44%	45%	46%	43%	45%	45%	40%	53%	41%	42%	59%
Oppose	39%	23%	27%	29%	42%	26%	33%	35%	27%	38%	28%
Sure	16%	32%	27%	28%	13%	28%	27%	12%	32%	20%	13%

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If the opposition parties in Alberta ultimately formed a coalition, which of these options would you prefer?

	Total	Progressive Conservative Voters	Liberal Voters	New Democratic Party (NDP) Voters	Green Party Voters	Wildrose Alliance Voters	Other Party Voters
Liberals and NDP	23%	22%	34%	28%	3%	8%	26%
Liberals, NDP and Greens	18%	13%	39%	36%	29%	9%	5%
NDP and Greens	10%	7%	0%	26%	27%	5%	0%
Liberals and Greens	9%	9%	16%	2%	18%	6%	0%
None of the above	40%	49%	11%	8%	23%	72%	69%

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If the opposition parties in Alberta ultimately formed a coalition, which of these options would you prefer?

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College / Tech School	Univ+
Liberals and NDP	19%	27%	26%	20%	24%	26%	22%	20%	25%	21%	23%
Liberals, NDP and Greens	19%	17%	17%	17%	20%	14%	16%	24%	14%	16%	30%
Liberals and Greens	9%	9%	10%	10%	6%	8%	10%	11%	8%	9%	12%
NDP and Greens	9%	11%	13%	9%	7%	13%	9%	9%	10%	12%	5%
None of the above	45%	35%	33%	43%	43%	39%	44%	36%	44%	41%	29%

Angus Reid Strategies is a 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.

Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its four offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices San Francisco, New York and London, England. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

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.

Over the last year, Angus Reid has covered five 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. <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.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**