



THE REFORM PARTY, 20 YEARS ON
TWO-IN-FIVE THINK REFORM PARTY DID NOT
HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON POLITICS

Nearly two-in-five (39%) think Reform Party did not have a positive impact on federal politics

58% would not vote Reform/Canadian Alliance if they were running candidates today

A quarter of Canadians (26%) believe Conservative Party resembles Reform Party, not PC

Two-in-five(41%) Canadians believe no federal party truly represents conservatism in Canada – and 44% of Conservative voters believe this too

Older people, those with high-incomes and high-education more likely to think badly of Reform

From May 22 to 23, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,097 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample 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.

Public Release:
National Public Opinion Poll

[VANCOUVER - May 29, 2007] – Twenty years after the formation of the western-based right-wing Reform Party, many Canadians do not see its political legacy as positive, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, nearly two-in-five Canadians (39%) disagree with the statement that “The now-defunct Reform Party / Canadian Alliance had a positive impact on the federal political landscape.” However, 22 per cent do agree that the Reform Party did have a positive impact, while 38 per cent are not sure how to rate their influence.

As well, over half of Canadians (58%) would not vote for the Reform Party if it was alive and running candidates in the next federal election. Perhaps in a testament to how effectively the Conservative Party has replaced its predecessor, a mere nine per cent say they would vote Reform if the option was available.

In fact, over a quarter of Canadians (26%) do believe the Conservative Party most closely resembles Reform over the Progressive Conservatives. But 22 per cent think that the Conservative Party has become its own distinct political entity, while 20 per cent believe it resembles the Progressive Conservatives.

However, by and large, over two-in-five Canadians (41%) do not believe any current federal political party truly represents conservatism in Canada. Even among those intending to vote Conservative in the next election, 44 per cent say this is true.

By political preference, over half of those voting Conservative in the next election (39%) believe the Conservatives are a unique political entity, but those voting Liberal (54%) and those voting NDP (35%) believe it most closely resembles Reform.

Conservatives are also most likely to believe Reform’s influence was positive, while 68 per cent of Liberals and 51 per cent of NDP voters disagree. Twenty-two per cent of Conservatives would also vote Reform in the next election if given the chance.

Unsurprisingly, Alberta remembers the Reform Party most fondly, with 35 per cent agreeing that it was a positive influence on federal politics and 18 per cent saying they would vote Reform in the next election. Albertans are also among the most likely to believe the Conservative Party resembles the Reform Party, and are in overwhelming disagreement that no federal party truly represents Canadian conservatism.

Conversely, Ontario conjures up little affection for the Reform Party in hindsight. Thirty-five per cent of Ontarians believe that the Reform Party was not a positive influence on federal politics, and three-in-five (62%) would not vote Reform in the next election.

The survey also reveals that older Canadians, those with university education or more, and those in households earning \$100,000 or more are the least likely to look kindly on Reform. Far more respondents from these groups believe the Reform Party did not

Reform Party 20 years on
Contact: Craig Worden, Vice President, Public Affairs
416-644-4038 or craig.worden@angus-reid.com

Public Release:
National Public Opinion Poll

have a positive influence on Canadian politics, and would never vote Reform in the next election.

Many Canadians believe the Conservative Party resembles Reform

Q. Now thinking of the federal Conservative Party of Canada, which of its two predecessors does it most closely resemble now?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
The Progressive Conservative Party	20%	21%	18%	22%	23%	16%	13%
The Reform Party / Canadian Alliance	26%	20%	34%	21%	27%	22%	35%
Neither; it is a distinct political entity	22%	16%	21%	21%	23%	25%	19%
Not sure	33%	43%	27%	35%	27%	37%	34%

Q. Now thinking of the federal Conservative Party of Canada, which of its two predecessors does it most closely resemble now?

	Age				Income			Education		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
The Progressive Conservative Party	20%	20%	21%	17%	15%	20%	26%	17%	23%	18%
The Reform Party / Canadian Alliance	26%	20%	25%	32%	20%	29%	38%	13%	27%	39%
Neither; it is a distinct political entity	22%	16%	19%	33%	26%	22%	16%	24%	18%	25%
Not sure	33%	43%	35%	18%	39%	29%	20%	46%	32%	18%

But many believe Reform did not have a positive impact on Canadian politics

Q Do you agree or disagree with these statements?

The now-defunct Reform Party / Canadian Alliance had a positive impact on the federal political landscape

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Agree	22%	17%	36%	32%	24%	13%	23%
Disagree	39%	38%	35%	40%	42%	36%	45%
Not sure	38%	46%	29%	28%	34%	51%	31%

Q Do you agree or disagree with these statements?

The now-defunct Reform Party / Canadian Alliance had a positive impact on the federal political landscape

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
Agree	22%	18%	21%	29%	20%	22%	29%	17%	25%	25%
Disagree	39%	30%	40%	48%	33%	43%	52%	27%	40%	53%
Not sure	38%	52%	39%	23%	47%	34%	20%	56%	35%	22%

And over half would not vote for Reform if they ran in the next election

*Q Do you agree or disagree with these statements?
If the Reform Party / Canadian Alliance was still in politics, I would vote for
a Reform / Canadian Alliance candidate in the next federal election*

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Agree	9%	9%	18%	10%	10%	5%	6%
Disagree	58%	54%	46%	54%	62%	57%	63%
Not sure	33%	36%	35%	36%	27%	38%	31%

*Q Do you agree or disagree with these statements?
If the Reform Party / Canadian Alliance was still in politics, I would vote for
a Reform / Canadian Alliance candidate in the next federal election*

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
Agree	9%	8%	9%	11%	11%	9%	8%	10%	11%	6%
Disagree	58%	49%	58%	67%	49%	63%	70%	43%	59%	73%
Not sure	33%	44%	33%	21%	40%	28%	22%	47%	30%	21%

Four-in-ten say no party truly represents conservatism in Canada

Q Do you agree or disagree with these statements?

No current federal political party truly represents conservatism in Canada

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Agree	41%	38%	28%	39%	45%	41%	50%
Disagree	27%	20%	46%	26%	29%	25%	18%
Not sure	31%	42%	26%	35%	26%	34%	32%

Q Do you agree or disagree with these statements?

No current federal political party truly represents conservatism in Canada

	Age				Income			Education		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
Agree	41%	34%	39%	52%	38%	46%	38%	48%	40%	36%
Disagree	27%	29%	27%	27%	26%	24%	40%	18%	30%	35%
Not sure	31%	37%	34%	21%	36%	30%	22%	34%	31%	29%

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>*

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_WHITE_PAPER.pdf

- 30 -

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

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