



FEDERAL SURPLUS

FEW THINK CONSERVATIVES ALONE DESERVE CREDIT FOR \$14-BILLION SURPLUS

**17% say Tories are responsible for the extra \$14 billion
19% say past Liberal governments; 24% say neither**

**Three-in-four (76%) think the surplus
means Canadians are overtaxed**

**69% think all parties should have
a say in how to invest the surplus**

**41% say spend surplus on special projects,
not tax breaks; 54% disagree**

From October 2 to 3, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,066 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.

[VANCOUVER – Oct. 9, 2007] – While the Conservative government recently announced a budget surplus of \$14 billion, relatively few Canadians think the ruling party is solely responsible for the windfall, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, just 17 per cent of respondents say the Conservatives deserve more credit for Canada's economic situation. As well, only 19 per cent attribute more credit to past Liberal governments.

And while 20 per cent say the surplus is owed to both the present Conservative and past Liberal governments, 24 per cent believe it can be credited to neither of these governments. A further 19 per cent say they are not sure who is most responsible.

In addition, while the Conservative government has earmarked the surplus for reducing Canada's debt, two-in-three Canadians (69%) think all parties in the House of Commons should have a say in where to spend the extra money. However, over half (54%) do not think the surplus should be spent on special projects instead of being given back to citizens as a tax break.

And three-in-four Canadians (76%) believe the \$14-billion surplus is just evidence that the country is overtaxing its citizens.

For many from Alberta (36%), the budget surplus is largely the work of the Conservatives—in contrast, only 5 per cent from Atlantic Canada say the Conservatives are responsible for the current economic situation. Instead, many from Atlantic Canada (28%) and British Columbia (24%) favour past Liberal governments, while a quarter from Ontario (26%) think both the Conservative and Liberal governments are responsible. As well, about a quarter from Quebec (28%), Atlantic Canada (27%), and Ontario (23%) think that neither party should be credited for the surplus.

Four-in-five Atlantic Canadians (80%) say that all parties should have a say in how to invest the budget surplus, but fewer from Alberta (64%) and Quebec (62%) agree. And over half from British Columbia (52%) think the extra money should be spent on specific projects instead of disbursement through tax breaks, while over half from most other regions disagree.

About one-third of men (30%) attribute the current economic situation to neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives, and one-in-four men (24%) think the past Liberal governments had the most responsibility for producing the surplus. But in contrast, a quarter of women (25%) think both parties are equally responsible for the surplus, and one-in-five (19%) think neither party deserves credit.

Around a third of those with university education (30%) are inclined to credit past Liberal governments for the current economic situation, and this group is less likely

Federal budget surplus

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than other educational levels to feel that the budget surplus means citizens are being overtaxed. Over half (53%) from this group also agrees that the budget surplus should be spent on specific projects and not returned to Canadians as tax breaks.

Thirty per cent of those in households earning \$100,000 or more a year think neither the Conservatives nor the Liberals are responsible for the budget surplus, and this group is less likely than other income levels to think that all parties should be involved in deciding how to invest the extra money. Nearly two-in-three (64%) from this income level disagree that the money should be spent on projects and not given back to Canadians through tax reductions.

Canadians aged 18-34 are less likely to think that the surplus means citizens are being overtaxed, and this age group is split on whether the money should be spent on projects instead of given back to Canadians through tax breaks. Over half from all other age groups disagree that the surplus should go to special projects instead of tax breaks.

Unsurprisingly, nearly half of those voting Conservative in the next election (45%) think the current Conservative government is responsible for the current economic situation. Almost half of Liberal voters (46%) believe credit should go to the past Liberal governments, while 40 per cent of NDP voters say neither party deserves credit.

Conservative voters are split on whether all parties should have a say on how to invest the surplus, but four-in-five of the Liberal and NDP supporters believe all parties should be involved.

In addition, four-in-five Conservatives (83%) think the surplus means Canadians are being overtaxed, and 69 per cent do not think it should be spent on projects rather than tax breaks. Fewer Liberals (71%) and New Democrat voters (65%) think that Canadians are being taxed too heavily, and over half from both these groups think the surplus should be spent on projects instead of tax reductions.

**17% say Tories are responsible for the extra \$14 billion
19% say past Liberal governments; 24% say neither**

*Q. Canada's federal government recently announced a budget surplus of nearly \$14 billion for the last fiscal year.
Who do you think deserves more credit for Canada's economic situation?*

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
The current Conservative government	17%	10%	36%	21%	15%	18%	5%	18%	15%
Past Liberal governments	19%	24%	12%	23%	20%	15%	28%	24%	15%
Both equally	20%	18%	12%	15%	26%	22%	14%	16%	25%
Neither	24%	22%	22%	16%	23%	28%	27%	30%	19%
Not sure	19%	27%	19%	24%	17%	16%	25%	12%	26%

	Age			Household Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
The current Conservative government	17%	11%	17%	23%	17%	17%	17%	16%	22%	11%
Past Liberal governments	19%	22%	16%	21%	17%	20%	25%	16%	15%	30%
Both equally	20%	16%	22%	23%	22%	20%	18%	19%	21%	22%
Neither	24%	25%	25%	21%	24%	23%	30%	21%	25%	26%
Not sure	19%	26%	19%	12%	20%	19%	9%	28%	18%	10%

	Vote in next federal election			
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP
The current Conservative government	17%	45%	5%	2%
Past Liberal governments	19%	7%	46%	27%
Both equally	20%	22%	28%	15%
Neither	24%	15%	11%	40%
Not sure	19%	10%	9%	16%

Three-in-four (76%) think the surplus means Canadians are overtaxed

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
The \$14 billion budget surplus means that Canadians are being overtaxed

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Strongly agree	44%	38%	42%	34%	46%	50%	37%	45%	43%
Moderately agree	32%	34%	32%	38%	30%	27%	41%	30%	33%
Moderately disagree	14%	11%	18%	12%	16%	14%	13%	16%	13%
Strongly disagree	5%	10%	1%	12%	3%	5%	6%	6%	4%
Not sure	5%	8%	6%	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	7%
Total Agree	76%	71%	74%	72%	77%	78%	78%	76%	76%
Total Disagree	20%	21%	20%	24%	19%	19%	19%	22%	17%

	Age			Household Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
Strongly agree	44%	26%	48%	56%	46%	45%	45%	49%	47%	33%
Moderately agree	32%	35%	33%	26%	29%	33%	38%	28%	32%	35%
Moderately disagree	14%	24%	9%	13%	16%	11%	11%	9%	14%	21%
Strongly disagree	5%	5%	6%	4%	5%	6%	5%	4%	4%	8%
Not sure	5%	10%	3%	1%	4%	5%	0%	9%	2%	2%
Total Agree	76%	61%	81%	82%	75%	79%	83%	77%	80%	69%
Total Disagree	20%	29%	16%	17%	21%	17%	17%	14%	18%	29%

	Vote in next federal election			
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly agree	44%	45%	36%	43%
Moderately agree	32%	38%	35%	22%
Moderately disagree	14%	13%	21%	20%
Strongly disagree	5%	4%	5%	12%
Not sure	5%	1%	3%	3%
Total Agree	76%	83%	71%	65%
Total Disagree	20%	17%	26%	32%

41% say spend surplus on special projects, not tax breaks; 54% disagree

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

The budget surplus should be spent on specific projects, and not given back to Canadians as a tax break

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Strongly agree	19%	25%	17%	20%	18%	15%	22%	19%	18%
Moderately agree	22%	27%	16%	18%	20%	25%	26%	22%	23%
Moderately disagree	21%	14%	16%	19%	25%	21%	20%	21%	20%
Strongly disagree	33%	28%	45%	37%	32%	34%	28%	33%	33%
Not sure	5%	5%	6%	7%	5%	5%	4%	4%	6%
Total Agree	41%	52%	33%	38%	39%	40%	47%	41%	41%
Total Disagree	54%	43%	61%	56%	57%	55%	48%	54%	54%

	Age				Household Income			Education		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
Strongly agree	19%	24%	13%	22%	18%	20%	17%	13%	14%	33%
Moderately agree	22%	22%	24%	19%	23%	27%	18%	25%	21%	20%
Moderately disagree	21%	22%	22%	17%	19%	20%	25%	19%	22%	21%
Strongly disagree	33%	21%	37%	39%	34%	29%	39%	35%	39%	22%
Not sure	5%	11%	3%	2%	6%	4%	1%	8%	3%	4%
Total Agree	41%	46%	38%	41%	41%	47%	34%	38%	35%	53%
Total Disagree	54%	43%	59%	57%	53%	49%	64%	54%	61%	43%

	Vote in next federal election			
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly agree	19%	9%	25%	34%
Moderately agree	22%	20%	29%	23%
Moderately disagree	21%	26%	23%	15%
Strongly disagree	33%	43%	19%	26%
Not sure	5%	3%	5%	2%
Total Agree	41%	28%	54%	57%
Total Disagree	54%	69%	41%	41%

69% think all parties should have a say in how to invest the surplus

*Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
All parties in the House of Commons should have a say on how to invest the budget surplus*

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Strongly agree	31%	30%	30%	28%	30%	31%	40%	31%	31%
Moderately agree	38%	40%	34%	46%	41%	30%	40%	34%	41%
Moderately disagree	12%	11%	7%	10%	12%	14%	12%	14%	10%
Strongly disagree	14%	11%	23%	7%	13%	18%	6%	18%	10%
Not sure	6%	8%	5%	9%	4%	6%	2%	3%	8%
Total Agree	69%	70%	64%	74%	71%	62%	80%	65%	72%
Total Disagree	26%	22%	30%	17%	24%	32%	18%	32%	20%

	Age				Household Income			Education		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
Strongly agree	31%	34%	27%	35%	35%	31%	25%	28%	28%	40%
Moderately agree	38%	38%	41%	33%	39%	37%	36%	36%	42%	33%
Moderately disagree	12%	11%	14%	9%	8%	14%	13%	14%	11%	10%
Strongly disagree	14%	6%	15%	21%	12%	12%	26%	13%	15%	15%
Not sure	6%	11%	4%	3%	5%	6%	0%	9%	4%	3%
Total Agree	69%	72%	68%	68%	74%	68%	61%	64%	70%	73%
Total Disagree	26%	17%	29%	29%	20%	26%	39%	26%	26%	24%

	Vote in next federal election			
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly agree	31%	16%	38%	50%
Moderately agree	38%	34%	44%	35%
Moderately disagree	12%	19%	11%	5%
Strongly disagree	14%	28%	5%	7%
Not sure	6%	2%	2%	2%
Total Agree	69%	50%	82%	85%
Total Disagree	26%	47%	16%	13%

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

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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**