

THE CONSERVATIVE MINORITY GOVERNMENT

Canadians say Tories have not delivered on some campaign promises, but two-in-four would keep them in Ottawa

GST reduction seen as most successful policy during Harper's tenure.

[VANCOUVER – Oct. 15, 2007] – As the country prepares to review the contents of the Speech from the Throne, many Canadians are disappointed with the performance of the Conservative government on some of the issues they championed during the last federal electoral campaign, an Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 59 per cent of respondents believe the government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper has not done enough to make Canadian streets and communities safe by cracking down on crime, and 57 per cent are dissatisfied with the way the federal administration has dealt with working with the provinces to establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee.

Residents of Ontario, British Columbia and Atlantic Canada were more likely to express some level of frustration on both the public safety and health care issues.

The government gets mixed reviews on two other of its five core campaign commitments. Forty-three per cent of Canadians think the Conservatives have cleaned up government by passing the Federal Accountability Act, while the same number expresses disagreement. While 41 per cent of respondents believe the government has been satisfactory in helping parents with the cost of raising their children, almost half (48%) are disappointed.

KEY FINDINGS

- » **64% content with GST cut**
- » **59% believe the Tories have not done enough to make Canadian streets and communities safe**
- » **57% are dissatisfied with the progress on the Patient Wait Times Guarantee**
- » **43% think the Conservatives have cleaned up government**

More results are at the end of this release.

*From October 8 to 9, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of **1,179 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.*

Almost two-thirds of Canadians (64%) commend the government for its decision to cut the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the first year of its mandate—including 83 per cent in Alberta, 73 per cent in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and 64 per cent in Quebec.

Finally, the survey asked Canadians to rate the performance of the Tories by gauging whether or not they deserve to be returned to office. More than a third of respondents (35%) believe the Conservatives have performed poorly and do not deserve to form a government after the next election. However, 44 per cent would give the Conservatives a new chance, either with a majority mandate (19%) or in the form of a new minority administration (25%).

Rejection for the Tories in charge of the federal government reaches its highest point in British Columbia (44%), Atlantic Canada (40%) and Ontario (39%). Conversely, Albertans (31%) are more likely to bestow a majority mandate on the Tories

The poll also showed a gender gap. While 52 per cent of men would favour a new Tory administration—either as a majority or a minority—after the next election, only 39 per cent of women concur.

Most Canadians satisfied with GST cut

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the government has dealt with the following issues?
("Moderately satisfied" and "strongly satisfied" answers only)

	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Working with the provinces to establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee	30%	22%	38%	27%	27%	38%	25%	30%	22%
Making our streets and communities safe by cracking down on crime	34%	17%	34%	28%	36%	43%	33%	34%	17%
Cleaning up government by passing the federal accountability act	43%	39%	54%	44%	41%	45%	38%	43%	39%
Helping parents with the cost of raising their children	41%	32%	51%	42%	38%	48%	36%	41%	32%
Cutting the GST by 1% in the first year of their mandate	64%	59%	83%	73%	60%	64%	58%	64%	59%

Most Canadians dissatisfied with progress on health care, public safety

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the government has dealt with the following issues?
("Moderately dissatisfied" and "strongly dissatisfied" answers only)

	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Working with the provinces to establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee	57%	62%	43%	70%	60%	50%	67%	58%	56%
Making our streets and communities safe by cracking down on crime	59%	77%	63%	67%	58%	49%	63%	61%	58%
Cleaning up government by passing the federal accountability act	43%	45%	37%	41%	46%	39%	46%	41%	45%
Helping parents with the cost of raising their children	48%	53%	38%	54%	49%	42%	58%	51%	45%
Cutting the GST by 1% in the first year of their mandate	30%	34%	13%	27%	33%	28%	35%	30%	29%

Canadians offer differing views on a new Tory government

Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
The Conservative government has performed well, and deserves a majority in the House of Commons	19%	12%	31%	18%	23%	16%	16%	24%	16%
The Conservative government has performed adequately, and deserves to stay in office with a minority	25%	19%	34%	29%	23%	30%	20%	28%	23%
The Conservative government has performed poorly, and does not deserve to form a government after the next election	35%	44%	13%	35%	39%	30%	40%	36%	34%
Not sure	20%	25%	22%	18%	15%	24%	24%	13%	28%

Canadians offer differing views on a new Tory government

Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Total	Age			Income		
		18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K +
The Conservative government has performed well, and deserves a majority in the House of Commons	19%	15%	18%	27%	17%	21%	28%
The Conservative government has performed adequately, and deserves to stay in office with a minority	25%	26%	25%	25%	20%	31%	28%
The Conservative government has performed poorly, and does not deserve to form a government after the next election	35%	34%	34%	36%	37%	32%	34%
Not sure	20%	24%	24%	12%	27%	17%	10%

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**