

ELECTION PREPAREDNESS

Half of Canadians Want to Hold a Federal Election in 2011

Two thirds of respondents think it is likely that they will go to the polls in the New Year.

[TORONTO – Dec. 23, 2010] – Half of Canadians would have no reservations about taking part in a federal election in 2011, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion / *Toronto Star* poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,000 Canadian adults, 49 per cent of respondents agree with holding a federal election next year while one third (34%) disagree with the idea.

Nearly three-in-five respondents who voted for the Conservative Party in the 2008 federal election (57%) do not want to see an election in 2011. Conversely, 58 per cent of people who voted for either the Liberal Party or the New Democratic Party (NDP) in 2008 do support an election.

Despite their personal opinions on the matter, a majority of Canadians (57%) feel that a federal election is likely in the New Year. One quarter (24%) think it is unlikely while one-in-five are not sure (19%).

When asked which election outcome they would personally prefer, 36 per cent of respondents favour a Conservative government while slightly fewer (30%) support Liberal control. That said, nearly half of Canadians (48%) expect that the Conservatives will maintain their position in Ottawa. More than a third are not sure (36%) and 16 per cent expect the Liberals to form the government.

KEY FINDINGS

- **49% of Canadians agree with holding a federal election in 2011; 34% disagree with the idea**
- **57% of Conservative supporters do not want to see an election**
- **58% of Liberal and NDP voters support an election**
- **48% expect the Conservatives to retain power following an election**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From December 21 to December 22, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,016 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—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.

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Were the Conservatives to win a majority of the seats in the House of Commons, 41 per cent of Canadians would be dissatisfied and one third would be happy (34%). With a Conservative minority government, 44 per cent would not be satisfied while 31 per cent would be content.

A scenario where the Conservatives win more seats than any other single party, but the Liberals and the NDP form a coalition government—having more combined seats than the Conservatives—would leave 31 per cent of Canadians satisfied, and 43 per cent dissatisfied.

Canadians would be most unhappy with a scenario in which the Conservatives win the most seats but the Liberals and NDP form a coalition government with the support of the Bloc Québécois. Only one-in-four Canadians (25%) would be satisfied with this outcome, while half of respondents (50%) would be dissatisfied.

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All things considered, do you agree or disagree with holding a federal election in 2011?						
	Party support in the 2008 federal election					
	Canada	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Green
Agree	49%	37%	58%	58%	65%	57%
Disagree	34%	57%	33%	30%	26%	36%
Not sure	17%	6%	9%	12%	9%	7%

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How likely is it that Canada will have a federal election in 2011?						
	Party support in the 2008 federal election					
	Canada	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Green
Likely	57%	58%	66%	63%	70%	70%
Unlikely	24%	31%	26%	26%	27%	21%
Not sure	19%	11%	8%	11%	3%	8%

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If a federal election takes place in 2011, which of these outcomes would you personally prefer?	
	Canada
A Conservative majority	26%
A Conservative minority	10%
A Liberal minority	13%
A Liberal majority	16%
Not sure	34%

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And if a federal election takes place in 2011, which of these outcomes do you think is most likely?

	Canada
A Conservative majority	12%
A Conservative minority	37%
A Liberal minority	10%
A Liberal majority	6%
Not sure	36%

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Here are some prospective scenarios that could materialize if a federal election takes place in 2011.
Would you personally be satisfied or dissatisfied with each one of these outcomes?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Not sure
The Conservatives win more seats than all other parties combined, and form a majority government	34%	41%	25%
The Conservatives win more seats than any other single party, and form a minority government	31%	44%	25%
The Conservatives win more seats than any other single party, but the Liberals and the NDP have more combined seats than the Conservatives. The Liberals and the NDP form a coalition government.	31%	43%	26%
The Conservatives win more seats than any other single party, but the Liberals, the NDP and the Bloc have more combined seats than the Conservatives. The Liberals and the NDP form a coalition government, with the support of the Bloc.	25%	50%	25%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specialising in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical 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 Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995.

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial 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.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record in Canada and the United States can be found at:

<http://www.angus-reid.com/services/record-of-accuracy/>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/>**

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