

PRIME MINISTERS

Trudeau Still Best Recent PM for Canadians, But Harper Gains Ground

Brian Mulroney and Stephen Harper are deemed the worst heads of government by one-in-five Canadians.

[VANCOUVER – Aug. 16, 2011] – Pierre Trudeau maintains his position as the best Canadian prime minister of the past five decades, but the current head of government has seen his numbers rise in the past year, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,002 Canadian adults, 36 per cent of respondents think Trudeau has been the best prime minister since 1968.

Stephen Harper is now second on the list with 19 per cent—up eight points since 2010—followed by Jean Chrétien with 12 per cent, and Brian Mulroney with six per cent.

Trudeau is particularly popular in Atlantic Canada (52%), Manitoba and Saskatchewan (41%) and Ontario (also 41%). Harper is the top choice for Albertans (35%). Chrétien and Mulroney have their best showing in Quebec (14% each).

Since Angus Reid Public Opinion began asking this question in 2007, Trudeau has consistently been backed by at least one third of respondents, and Mulroney has lost more than half of his supporters since 2007 (going from 14% to 6%).

When Canadians are asked about the worst prime minister the country has had since 1968, Mulroney and Harper are tied with 19 per cent, followed by Trudeau with 13 per cent, Chrétien with 10 per cent, and Kim Campbell with eight per cent.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Best PM since 1968: Trudeau 36% (-2), Harper 19% (+8%), Chrétien 12% (-1), Mulroney 6% (-1)**
- **Worst PM since 1968: Mulroney 19% (-5), Harper 19% (+1), Trudeau 13% (+1), Chrétien 10% (=)**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From August 10 to August 11, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,002 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.

CONTACT:

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The regional breakdown shows that while Albertans pick Trudeau as the worst prime minister and Quebecers select Harper, respondents in British Columbia, Ontario and Atlantic Canada are divided on whether Mulroney or Harper have been the worst.

The overall trend in this question shows Mulroney at the same level he had in 2009, while Trudeau and Chrétien have maintained stable numbers since 2007.

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About Angus Reid Public Opinion

[Angus Reid Public Opinion](#) is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.

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

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Prime Ministers

We would like to ask you some questions about the people who have served as prime minister of Canada since 1968. Which of these politicians do you think has been Canada's best prime minister?

	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Pierre Trudeau	36%	37%	21%	41%	41%	26%	52%
Stephen Harper	19%	22%	35%	31%	20%	10%	10%
Jean Chrétien	12%	13%	9%	8%	11%	14%	12%
Brian Mulroney	6%	4%	3%	0%	4%	14%	6%
Paul Martin	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%	4%	5%
Joe Clark	2%	0%	5%	0%	2%	2%	1%
Kim Campbell	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%
John Turner	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Not sure	22%	19%	26%	19%	20%	27%	15%

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Prime Ministers - TREND

We would like to ask you some questions about the people who have served as prime minister of Canada since 1968. Which of these politicians do you think has been Canada's best prime minister?

	August 2011	June 2010	May 2009	June 2008	October 2007
Pierre Trudeau	36%	38%	39%	38%	33%
Stephen Harper	19%	11%	11%	12%	14%
Jean Chrétien	12%	13%	9%	11%	8%
Brian Mulroney	6%	7%	8%	9%	14%
Paul Martin	2%	3%	4%	3%	2%
Joe Clark	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Kim Campbell	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
John Turner	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Not sure	22%	23%	23%	23%	26%

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Prime Ministers

We would like to ask you some questions about the people who have served as prime minister of Canada since 1968. Which of these politicians do you think has been Canada's worst prime minister?

	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Brian Mulroney	19%	23%	15%	28%	21%	9%	27%
Stephen Harper	19%	20%	6%	17%	19%	24%	28%
Pierre Trudeau	13%	15%	23%	10%	13%	13%	5%
Jean Chrétien	10%	14%	11%	7%	7%	14%	7%
Kim Campbell	8%	8%	5%	7%	9%	8%	12%
Joe Clark	4%	3%	2%	6%	4%	6%	2%
Paul Martin	4%	1%	3%	4%	3%	8%	2%
John Turner	3%	2%	4%	5%	2%	3%	4%
Not sure	19%	15%	30%	16%	21%	15%	14%

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Prime Ministers - TREND

We would like to ask you some questions about the people who have served as prime minister of Canada since 1968. Which of these politicians do you think has been Canada's worst prime minister?

	August 2011	June 2010	May 2009	June 2008	October 2007
Brian Mulroney	19%	24%	19%	25%	20%
Stephen Harper	19%	18%	22%	15%	15%
Pierre Trudeau	13%	12%	10%	13%	13%
Jean Chrétien	10%	10%	12%	11%	13%
Kim Campbell	8%	8%	9%	6%	8%
Joe Clark	4%	6%	4%	3%	4%
Paul Martin	4%	5%	6%	8%	9%
John Turner	3%	1%	4%	2%	3%
Not sure	19%	17%	15%	17%	16%

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