

CANADIAN POLITICAL PULSE

Conservatives Still First in Canada, NDP Would Do Well Under Mulcair

With the Quebec MP as leader, support for the official opposition party reaches 28 per cent—three points higher than under Brian Topp.

[VANCOUVER – Sept. 24, 2011] – As the New Democratic Party (NDP) ponders its next leader, the Conservative Party maintains a ten-point advantage in Canada, a new Angus Red Public Opinion poll conducted in partnership with the *Toronto Star* and *La Presse* has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample of 1,668 Canadian adults also shows that Quebec MP Thomas Mulcair would provide the NDP with a clear advantage in Quebec and a closer race at the national level than party president Brian Topp.

Voting Intention

Across the country, 39 per cent of decided voters and leaners (unchanged since August) would support the governing Tories in the next federal election. The NDP is second with 29 per cent (-2), followed by the Liberal Party with 21 per cent (+2), the Bloc Québécois with five per cent (-1), and the Green Party with four per cent (=).

KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: Con. 39%, NDP 29%, Lib. 21%, BQ 5%, Grn. 4%**
- **With Topp as NDP Leader: Con. 42%, NDP 25%, Lib. 21%, BQ 6%, Grn. 4%**
- **With Mulcair as NDP Leader: Con. 41%, NDP 28%, Lib. 21%, Grn. 5, BQ 4%**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From September 20 to September 21, 2011, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,668 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.4%, 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.

The Conservatives remain well ahead in Alberta (61%) and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (56%), and have the support of more than two-in-five voters in British Columbia (43%) and Ontario (42%). The NDP is first in Quebec (40%), with the Tories and the Bloc fighting for second place.

The Conservatives remain the most popular party for both genders (Men 43%, Women 36%). Respondents aged 18-to-34 pick the NDP first (38%), while those aged 35-to-54 and those over the age of 55 prefer the Tories (42% and 48% respectively).

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Three parties—the Conservatives, the NDP and the Greens—are holding on to at least four-in-five voters who supported them in the May 2011 election. The retention rate is lower for the Bloc (75%) and the Liberals (70%).

NDP Leadership Race

In this survey, respondents were provided with a list of 16 NDP figures and asked whether each one of them would be a “good choice” or a “bad choice” to lead the party.

Thomas Mulcair is seen as a “good choice” to replace Jack Layton by 24 per cent of Canadians, followed by former Saskatchewan Premier Ray Romanow, Brian Topp and former Manitoba Premier Gary Doer all at 18 per cent, and former NDP deputy leader Bill Blaikie and Ontario MP Paul Dewar at 10 per cent each.

Among NDP voters in the 2011 election, Mulcair is also the top choice with 35 per cent, followed by Topp with 21 per cent, Romanow with 18 per cent, Doer with 16 per cent, Dewar, Blaikie and British Columbia MP Libby Davies with 11 per cent each, and Quebec MP Roméo Saganash with 10 per cent.

Canadians were also presented with a ballot question featuring three NDP figures as leaders. With Doer at the helm, the NDP trails the Conservatives by an 18-point margin (42% to 24%). While the party becomes slightly more competitive in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, it drops markedly in Quebec.

With Topp as leader, the Tories would hold a 17-point lead (42% to 25%), but the NDP keeps first place in Quebec with 31 per cent. The NDP's fortunes would rise with Mulcair, who would take the party to 28 per cent at the national level—a 13-point lead for the Conservatives—but would command the backing of more than half of voters in Quebec (52%).

Analysis

Most Canadian voters are standing by their choices in the May 2011 election, but the survey shows that there might be a realignment depending on who becomes the new leader of the NDP. With Doer, who has stated he has no intention of running, the party gets a bit of a boost in Western Canada, but no tangible bounce nationally. With Topp, the NDP does not maintain the connection with Ontario that was observed in the last federal ballot. Mulcair is clearly a dominant figure in Quebec, syphoning support from former Liberal and Bloc voters, and bringing a level of dominance for a federal party that is seldom seen outside of Alberta.

It is important to note that, under all three scenarios, the NDP would drop to pre-2011 levels in Ontario, where the Liberal Party would take sole possession of second place with the Conservatives clearly ahead.

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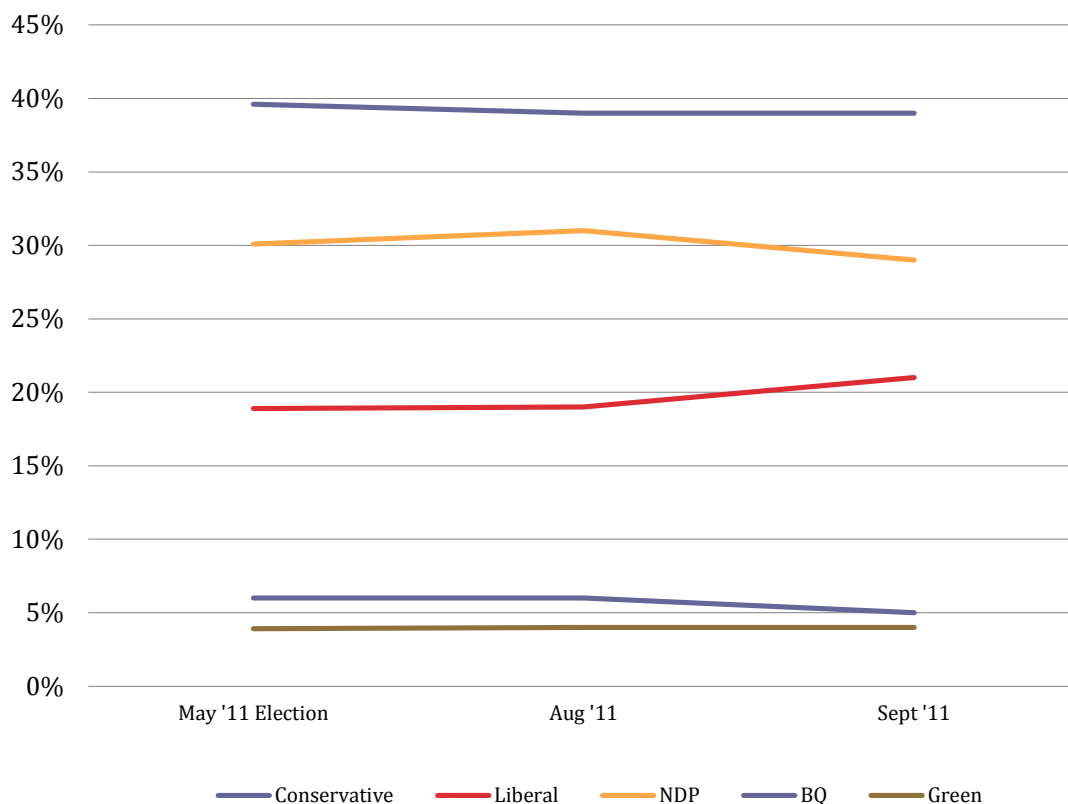
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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

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If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?



Canadian Political Pulse

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL	2011 Election
Conservative Party	39%	43%	61%	56%	42%	22%	33%	39.6%
New Democratic Party	29%	30%	15%	26%	26%	40%	35%	30.1%
Liberal Party	21%	19%	14%	15%	27%	14%	31%	18.9%
Bloc Québécois	5%	--	--	--	--	21%	--	6.0%
Green Party	4%	6%	9%	3%	5%	2%	2%	3.9%
Other party	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1.2%

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Canadian Political Pulse

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Conservative Party	39%	43%	36%
New Democratic Party	29%	29%	30%
Liberal Party	21%	18%	24%
Bloc Québécois	5%	6%	5%
Green Party	4%	3%	5%
Other party	1%	1%	1%

Canadian Political Pulse

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Age			
	Total	Age 18-34	Age 35-54	Age 55+
Conservative Party	39%	26%	42%	48%
New Democratic Party	29%	38%	27%	26%
Liberal Party	21%	22%	22%	19%
Bloc Québécois	5%	5%	6%	5%
Green Party	4%	7%	4%	3%
Other party	1%	2%	0%	0%

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Canadian Political Pulse

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

Vote in the 2011 Federal Election					
	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Conservative Party	89%	9%	6%	5%	1%
Liberal Party	5%	70%	8%	0%	3%
New Democratic Party	5%	18%	81%	16%	9%
Bloc Québécois	0%	0%	2%	75%	0%
Green Party	1%	3%	3%	3%	84%
Other party	0%	1%	0%	0%	4%

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Canadian Political Pulse

Imagine that **Gary Doer** is the leader of the federal New Democratic Party (NDP). If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL	2011 Election
Conservative Party	42%	45%	63%	52%	46%	24%	36%	39.6%
New Democratic Party	24%	28%	18%	34%	20%	27%	31%	30.1%
Liberal Party	21%	21%	12%	11%	28%	17%	27%	18.9%
Bloc Québécois	6%	--	--	--	--	25%	--	6.0%
Green Party	5%	5%	6%	2%	5%	5%	6%	3.9%
Other party	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	0%	1.2%

Canadian Political Pulse

Imagine that **Brian Topp** is the leader of the federal New Democratic Party (NDP). If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL	2011 Election
Conservative Party	42%	47%	66%	60%	45%	23%	36%	39.6%
New Democratic Party	25%	26%	15%	22%	22%	31%	30%	30.1%
Liberal Party	21%	21%	12%	15%	27%	17%	30%	18.9%
Bloc Québécois	6%	--	--	--	--	23%	--	6.0%
Green Party	4%	5%	6%	3%	5%	3%	5%	3.9%
Other party	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%	3%	0%	1.2%

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Canadian Political Pulse

Imagine that **Thomas Mulcair** is the leader of the federal New Democratic Party (NDP). If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL	2011 Election
Conservative Party	41%	45%	64%	60%	46%	18%	37%	39.6%
New Democratic Party	28%	25%	10%	19%	20%	52%	27%	30.1%
Liberal Party	21%	23%	15%	17%	28%	11%	29%	18.9%
Green Party	5%	6%	10%	3%	5%	3%	5%	3.9%
Bloc Québécois	4%	--	--	--	--	15%	--	6.0%
Other party	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1.2%

Canadian Political Pulse

There has been some talk recently about starting a movement that would merge all or some of the so-called “progressive” parties. Would you approve or disapprove of each of the following mergers? – ***The New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party***

	Vote in the 2011 Federal Election					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Approve	31%	19%	46%	40%	35%	23%
Disapprove	50%	62%	47%	49%	49%	60%
Not sure	19%	19%	7%	11%	16%	17%

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There has been some talk recently about starting a movement that would merge all or some of the so-called “progressive” parties. Would you approve or disapprove of each of the following mergers? – *The New Democratic Party and the Green Party*

Vote in the 2011 Federal Election						
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Approve	41%	28%	43%	60%	57%	49%
Disapprove	36%	47%	43%	27%	25%	41%
Not sure	23%	25%	14%	13%	18%	10%

Canadian Political Pulse

There has been some talk recently about starting a movement that would merge all or some of the so-called “progressive” parties. Would you approve or disapprove of each of the following mergers? – *The Green Party and the Liberal Party*

Vote in the 2011 Federal Election						
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Approve	24%	17%	34%	31%	15%	23%
Disapprove	51%	58%	56%	47%	58%	60%
Not sure	25%	25%	10%	22%	27%	17%

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Do you think each of the following politicians would make a good choice or a bad choice to lead the federal New Democratic Party (NDP) in the future? - **"Good choice" listed.**
Each candidate rated individually.

	All Canadians	Respondents who voted for the NDP in 2011 Federal Election
Charlie Angus	5%	6%
Dawn Black	4%	4%
Bill Blaikie	10%	11%
Françoise Boivin	6%	8%
Robert Chisholm	5%	5%
Nathan Cullen	4%	6%
Libby Davies	8%	11%
Paul Dewar	10%	11%
Gary Doer	18%	16%
Peter Julian	4%	6%
Megan Leslie	5%	7%
Pat Martin	8%	9%
Thomas Mulcair	24%	35%
Ray Romanow	18%	18%
Romeo Saganash	6%	10%
Brian Topp	18%	21%

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