

HARMONIZED SALES TAX

Two-in-Five British Columbians Hold Off on Purchases Because of HST

Two thirds of respondents are dissatisfied with the plan to phase out the harmonized sales tax by March 2013.

[VANCOUVER – Feb. 16, 2011] – Many people in British Columbia are unhappy with the time the government is taking to abandon the harmonized sales tax (HST), and some are deciding not to acquire certain goods and services in order to avoid the tax, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative provincial sample of 801 British Columbians, 66 per cent of respondents say they are dissatisfied with the government's plan to phase out the HST by March 2013. British Columbians who voted "Yes" (72%) and "No" (70%) on last year's referendum are equally disappointed.

Three-in-five British Columbians (60%) think the government's timeline to go back to the provincial sales tax (PST) and goods and services tax (GST) system is too long, including 68 per cent of people in Vancouver Island, 65 per cent of those over the age of 55, and 85 per cent of those who voted "Yes" in order to scrap the HST in 2011.

Two-in-five respondents (40%) say they have held off on some major purchases—such as a car, work with a contractor, or a holiday—because they do not want to pay the HST, including 44 per cent of middle-aged British Columbians.

KEY FINDINGS

- **66% say they are dissatisfied with the government's plan to phase out the HST by March 2013**
- **60% think the government's timeline to go back to the PST and GST system is too long**
- **40% have held off on some major purchases because they do not want to pay the HST**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From February 7 to February 9, 2012, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 801 randomly selected British Columbia adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.5%. 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 British Columbia. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

While one third of respondents in the highest income bracket (32%) have chosen not to make some major purchases because of the HST, the proportion rises to 41 per cent for those in the lowest income bracket and 43 per cent for respondents in the middle income bracket.

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.

About Vision Critical®

Vision Critical is a global research and technology firm that creates software and services solutions for over 600 clients, including one third of the world's top 100 brands. The company has offices across North America, Europe and Australia as well as a Global Partner Program that provides other research companies and consultants with access to top-of-the-line technology. Its Sparq™ product is the most widely adopted community panel platform on the planet.

- 30 -

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

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

Harmonized Sales Tax

All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the government's plan to phase out the HST by March 2013?

	British Columbia	Region			
		Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Satisfied	27%	30%	25%	25%	24%
Dissatisfied	66%	63%	72%	67%	69%
Not sure	7%	7%	4%	8%	7%

Harmonized Sales Tax

All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the government's plan to phase out the HST by March 2013?

	Vote in HST Referendum			Age			Household Income		
	"Yes"	"No"	Did not vote	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+
Satisfied	26%	24%	41%	36%	25%	23%	29%	25%	25%
Dissatisfied	72%	70%	40%	53%	68%	73%	63%	71%	70%
Not sure	2%	7%	20%	11%	6%	4%	7%	4%	5%

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

Harmonized Sales Tax

The Government of British Columbia has said that it intends to scrap the HST and go back to the PST and GST system by March 31, 2013. All things considered, do you think this timeline is too short, about right, or too long?

	British Columbia	Region			
		Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Too short	11%	11%	9%	10%	22%
About right	18%	20%	13%	18%	10%
Too long	60%	57%	68%	60%	58%
Not sure	11%	12%	9%	13%	10%

Harmonized Sales Tax

The Government of British Columbia has said that it intends to scrap the HST and go back to the PST and GST system by March 31, 2013. All things considered, do you think this timeline is too short, about right, or too long?

	Vote in HST Referendum			Age			Household Income		
	"Yes"	"No"	Did not vote	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+
Too short	6%	19%	9%	10%	11%	13%	12%	11%	12%
About right	6%	28%	28%	25%	18%	12%	20%	16%	16%
Too long	85%	36%	42%	51%	61%	65%	58%	64%	58%
Not sure	4%	17%	21%	13%	11%	10%	10%	9%	14%

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

Harmonized Sales Tax

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? –

I've held off on some major purchases (such as a car, work with a contractor, or a holiday) because I don't want to pay the HST.

	British Columbia	Region			
		Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Agree	40%	39%	40%	40%	52%
Disagree	54%	56%	53%	53%	46%
Not sure	6%	5%	7%	7%	2%

Harmonized Sales Tax

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? –

I've held off on some major purchases (such as a car, work with a contractor, or a holiday) because I don't want to pay the HST.

	Vote in HST Referendum			Age			Household Income		
	"Yes"	"No"	Did not vote	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+
Agree	59%	17%	39%	38%	44%	37%	41%	43%	32%
Disagree	36%	79%	50%	55%	51%	57%	53%	51%	65%
Not sure	6%	3%	11%	7%	5%	5%	6%	6%	3%

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com