



## **ANGUS REID POLITICAL TRACKER**

### **HARPER LOSES POINTS, DION STILL STAGNANT**

**Prime Minister's approval rating falls to 34%**

**Liberal leader cannot clear 20% mark**

**Harper still preferred PM, but margin against Dion  
shrinks (36% - 18%)**

**Opinion on Dion has worsened for 31% of Canadians,  
including 36% of Quebeckers**

**Canada on the right track for 39%**

*From April 19 to 20, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,001 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample 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.*

**Public Release:  
National Public Opinion Poll**

[TORONTO – April 26, 2007] – Public support for Stephen Harper across Canada diminished over the course of the past three weeks, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found. In the online survey of a representative national sample, 34 per cent of respondents approve of the way the Prime Minister is handling his duties.

Many Canadians now disapprove of Harper (43%), led by more than two-in-five respondents in Atlantic Canada who are unhappy with his job. Harper lost most of his support in Quebec, where he went from 47 per cent in late March, to 34 per cent in our latest poll.

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion keeps low numbers at a national level, with only 18 per cent of respondents believing he is doing a good job as leader of the opposition. About half of Quebecers (51%) still disapprove of his leadership. However, Dion gained 15 percentage points in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (30%) in three weeks.

Harper remains as Canada's preferred Prime Minister over Dion, though his lead has also shrunk (36% -18%). However, the survey shows this is not due to an improvement on the part of Dion, but rather to a large number of respondents (34%) who think neither one of the two main party leaders is up to the task.

Overall, 17% of Canadians say their opinion of Harper has improved over the past four weeks. Harper might still be enjoying some of the post-budget boost in Quebec, where a quarter of respondents say their opinion of him improved over the past month. Conversely, in British Columbia, the prime minister looks worse than before for 35 per cent of respondents.

Dion's image improved for almost one-in-five residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan (18%), but worsened for 44 per cent of respondents in Alberta, and 36 per cent of those in his home province, Quebec. Only 10 per cent of respondents in the entire country say they have a better opinion of the Liberal leader.

In all, 39% of Canadians think the country is on the right track, up three points since March. In Atlantic Canada, less than one-in-four respondents (24%) believe the country is going in the right direction.

**Angus Reid Political Tracker**  
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| <b>Harper's Performance</b>   |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|---|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Q. Do you approve or disapprove of Stephen Harper's performance as Prime Minister?</i> |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|   |              | <b>Region</b> |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|   | <b>Total</b> | <b>BC</b>     | <b>Alberta</b> | <b>Man/<br/>Sask</b> | <b>Ontario</b> | <b>Quebec</b> | <b>Atlantic</b> |
| <b>Approve</b>  | <b>34%</b>   | <b>26%</b>    | <b>59%</b>     | <b>32%</b>           | <b>33%</b>     | <b>34%</b>    | <b>20%</b>      |
| <b>Disapprove</b>   | <b>43%</b>   | <b>55%</b>    | <b>18%</b>     | <b>54%</b>           | <b>45%</b>     | <b>34%</b>    | <b>62%</b>      |
| <b>Not sure</b>   | <b>23%</b>   | <b>19%</b>    | <b>23%</b>     | <b>14%</b>           | <b>22%</b>     | <b>31%</b>    | <b>18%</b>      |

| <b>Dion's Performance</b>  |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Q. Do you approve or disapprove of Stéphane Dion's performance as Leader of the Opposition?</i> |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|  |              | <b>Region</b> |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>BC</b>     | <b>Alberta</b> | <b>Man/<br/>Sask</b> | <b>Ontario</b> | <b>Quebec</b> | <b>Atlantic</b> |
| <b>Approve</b>   | <b>17%</b>   | <b>18%</b>    | <b>7%</b>      | <b>30%</b>           | <b>17%</b>     | <b>17%</b>    | <b>18%</b>      |
| <b>Disapprove</b>  | <b>44%</b>   | <b>38%</b>    | <b>53%</b>     | <b>34%</b>           | <b>41%</b>     | <b>51%</b>    | <b>42%</b>      |
| <b>Not sure</b>  | <b>39%</b>   | <b>44%</b>    | <b>40%</b>     | <b>36%</b>           | <b>42%</b>     | <b>32%</b>    | <b>41%</b>      |

| <b>Best PM: Dion or Harper?</b>  |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Q. Which of these two leaders would make the best Prime Minister of Canada?</i> |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|  |              | <b>Region</b> |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>BC</b>     | <b>Alberta</b> | <b>Man/<br/>Sask</b> | <b>Ontario</b> | <b>Quebec</b> | <b>Atlantic</b> |
| <b>Stephen Harper</b>  | <b>36%</b>   | <b>32%</b>    | <b>62%</b>     | <b>30%</b>           | <b>34%</b>     | <b>40%</b>    | <b>17%</b>      |
| <b>Stephane Dion</b>   | <b>18%</b>   | <b>24%</b>    | <b>3%</b>      | <b>29%</b>           | <b>20%</b>     | <b>12%</b>    | <b>23%</b>      |
| <b>Neither</b>   | <b>34%</b>   | <b>35%</b>    | <b>23%</b>     | <b>35%</b>           | <b>35%</b>     | <b>36%</b>    | <b>35%</b>      |
| <b>Not sure</b>  | <b>12%</b>   | <b>10%</b>    | <b>12%</b>     | <b>5%</b>            | <b>12%</b>     | <b>12%</b>    | <b>24%</b>      |

| <b>How is the country doing?</b>  |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|---|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Q. Overall, do you think Canada is on the right track, or thw wrong track?</i> |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|   |              | <b>Region</b> |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|   | <b>Total</b> | <b>BC</b>     | <b>Alberta</b> | <b>Man/<br/>Sask</b> | <b>Ontario</b> | <b>Quebec</b> | <b>Atlantic</b> |
| <b>Right track</b>  | <b>39%</b>   | <b>39%</b>    | <b>58%</b>     | <b>47%</b>           | <b>40%</b>     | <b>33%</b>    | <b>24%</b>      |
| <b>Wrong track</b>  | <b>34%</b>   | <b>35%</b>    | <b>23%</b>     | <b>37%</b>           | <b>33%</b>     | <b>34%</b>    | <b>51%</b>      |
| <b>Not sure</b>   | <b>27%</b>   | <b>27%</b>    | <b>20%</b>     | <b>16%</b>           | <b>27%</b>     | <b>33%</b>    | <b>25%</b>      |

| <b>Opinion of Harper: better, worse, staying the same?</b>   |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Q. Over the course of the past month, would you say your opinion of Stephen Harper has improved, stayed the same or worsened?</i> |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|  |              | <b>Region</b> |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>BC</b>     | <b>Alberta</b> | <b>Man/<br/>Sask</b> | <b>Ontario</b> | <b>Quebec</b> | <b>Atlantic</b> |
| <b>Improved</b>  | <b>17%</b>   | <b>10%</b>    | <b>25%</b>     | <b>13%</b>           | <b>14%</b>     | <b>25%</b>    | <b>11%</b>      |
| <b>Stayed the same</b>   | <b>54%</b>   | <b>53%</b>    | <b>51%</b>     | <b>48%</b>           | <b>57%</b>     | <b>54%</b>    | <b>51%</b>      |
| <b>Worsened</b>  | <b>22%</b>   | <b>35%</b>    | <b>17%</b>     | <b>27%</b>           | <b>22%</b>     | <b>15%</b>    | <b>27%</b>      |
| <b>Not sure</b>  | <b>7%</b>    | <b>1%</b>     | <b>7%</b>      | <b>12%</b>           | <b>7%</b>      | <b>6%</b>     | <b>11%</b>      |

| <b>Opinion of Dion: better, worse, staying the same?</b>  |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|---|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Q. Over the course of the past month, would you say your opinion of Stephane Dion has improved, stayed the same or worsened?</i> |              |               |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|   |              | <b>Region</b> |                |                      |                |               |                 |
|   | <b>Total</b> | <b>BC</b>     | <b>Alberta</b> | <b>Man/<br/>Sask</b> | <b>Ontario</b> | <b>Quebec</b> | <b>Atlantic</b> |
| <b>Improved</b>   | <b>10%</b>   | <b>14%</b>    | <b>1%</b>      | <b>18%</b>           | <b>9%</b>      | <b>8%</b>     | <b>15%</b>      |
| <b>Stayed the same</b>  | <b>43%</b>   | <b>41%</b>    | <b>33%</b>     | <b>44%</b>           | <b>47%</b>     | <b>45%</b>    | <b>34%</b>      |
| <b>Worsened</b>   | <b>31%</b>   | <b>25%</b>    | <b>44%</b>     | <b>18%</b>           | <b>29%</b>     | <b>36%</b>    | <b>26%</b>      |
| <b>Not sure</b>   | <b>16%</b>   | <b>20%</b>    | <b>22%</b>     | <b>20%</b>           | <b>15%</b>     | <b>10%</b>    | <b>25%</b>      |

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*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](http://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.*

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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](http://www.angusreidstrategies.com)**