

**ELECTIONS CANADA / CONSERVATIVE PARTY**

# Canadians Say Electoral Dispute Has Hurt Tory Government's Credibility

*Respondents are equally divided on whether the so-called "in-and-out" scheme should be allowed.*

[VANCOUVER – Apr. 26, 2008] - Many Canadians believe the ongoing dispute between Elections Canada and the Conservative Party has had a negative effect on the current minority administration, a *Toronto Star* / Angus Reid poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 58 per cent of respondents think the dispute has damaged the credibility of the Conservative government.

Even in the Tory stronghold of Alberta, a majority of respondents (51%) share this view.

Ronald Lamothe—the assistant chief investigator in the office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections—alleged in an affidavit that the Conservative Party contravened federal election laws by funnelling money in and out of the campaigns of local Tory candidates.

According to Lamothe, the manoeuvre allowed the Conservatives to spend \$1.1 million above their legal limit in media advertising during the 2006 federal election.

Respondents were almost equally divided on whether political parties should be allowed to channel funds for advertising from the national campaign to local campaigns. While 39 per cent of Canadians agree to the idea, 41 per cent reject it.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- » **58% think the dispute between Elections Canada and the Conservative Party has damaged the credibility of the Conservative government**
- » **47% say the Conservative Party won the 2006 federal election in a fair manner**
- » **Respondents are almost evenly split on whether political parties should be allowed to channel funds for advertising from the national campaign to local campaigns**
- » **52% believe the Conservative government should not resign over this matter**

More results are at the end of this release.

*From April 23 to April 24, 2008 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.*

When asked whether the Conservative Party won the 2006 federal election in a fair manner, 47 per cent of respondents believe it did, including 54 per cent of British Columbians and 67 per cent of Albertans. A third of Canadians (33%) disagree.

In addition, 52 per cent of respondents believe the Conservative government should not resign over this matter. More than one-in-three Quebecers (36%) want the Tory administration to resign.

### Elections Canada / Conservative Party

From what you have seen, heard or read about the ongoing dispute between Elections Canada and the Conservative Party, do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - The dispute has damaged the credibility of the Conservative government

	Canada	BC	Alta.	Prai.	Ont.	Que.	Atl.
Agree	58%	57%	51%	60%	49%	73%	51%
Disagree	25%	28%	39%	26%	26%	14%	29%
Not sure	18%	14%	10%	15%	24%	14%	20%

### Elections Canada / Conservative Party

From what you have seen, heard or read about the ongoing dispute between Elections Canada and the Conservative Party, do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - The Conservative Party won the 2006 federal election in a fair manner

	Canada	BC	Alta.	Prai.	Ont.	Que.	Atl.
Agree	47%	54%	67%	41%	42%	43%	52%
Disagree	33%	30%	22%	42%	35%	38%	21%
Not sure	20%	16%	11%	17%	23%	19%	27%

### Elections Canada / Conservative Party

From what you have seen, heard or read about the ongoing dispute between Elections Canada and the Conservative Party, do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - Political parties should be allowed to channel funds for advertising from the national campaign to local campaigns

	Canada	BC	Alta.	Prai.	Ont.	Que.	Atl.
Agree	39%	46%	52%	36%	35%	33%	49%
Disagree	41%	40%	30%	38%	42%	49%	30%
Not sure	20%	14%	19%	26%	23%	18%	21%

### Elections Canada / Conservative Party

From what you have seen, heard or read about the ongoing dispute between Elections Canada and the Conservative Party, do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - The Conservative government should resign over this matter

	Canada	BC	Alta.	Prai.	Ont.	Que.	Atl.
Agree	28%	25%	18%	29%	27%	36%	24%
Disagree	52%	60%	71%	52%	47%	46%	57%
Not sure	20%	15%	11%	18%	26%	17%	19%

*Angus Reid Strategies is a 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.*

*Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its four offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices San Francisco, New York and London, England. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*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.*

*Over the last year, Angus Reid has covered five 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. <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>*

*More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.pdf>*

**- 30 -**

**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)**