

Conservatives Remain Ahead, As Race for Second Place Tightens

The Tories have gained two points since the start of the campaign, as the NDP reaches 21 per cent for the first time this year.

[CALGARY - Sept. 10, 2008] - The Conservative Party remains on top in the early stages of Canada's federal electoral campaign, while the New Democratic Party (NDP) is closing in on the Liberals, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,007 adults, 38 per cent of decided voters would support the Tories in the Oct. 14 federal election, up two points since late August and above the party's share of the vote in the 2006 electoral process (36.3%).

The Liberal Party is a distant second with 24 per cent (-4), well below its 2006 total (30.2%).

The NDP has markedly improved over the past two weeks, reaching 21 per cent (+3) for the first time this year and clearly surpassing its 2006 showing (17.5%).

The Bloc Québécois remains stable at nine per cent, while the Green Party drops back to seven per cent (-1).

The regional breakdowns see the Tories holding considerable leads in Alberta (66%) and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (49%). The Conservatives also enjoy a five-point advantage over the Liberals in seat-rich Ontario (38% to 33%), with the NDP at 20 per cent.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: Con. 38%, Lib. 24%, NDP 21%, BQ 9%, Grn. 7%**
- **Tories lead in Ontario, dominate in Alberta and the Prairies**
- **Grits first in Atlantic Canada**
- **Virtual tie in Quebec, Liberals plummet**
- **NDP ties Conservatives in British Columbia**

Full topline results are at the end of this release

From September 8 to September 9, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,007 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.

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In British Columbia, the NDP has managed to tie the usually dominant Tories (both at 31%), while the Liberals are third with 23 per cent, and the Greens are fourth with 12 per cent—their best showing in any of the six regions surveyed.

In Quebec, the Bloc is barely ahead of the Conservatives (33% to 31%), with the NDP in third place (18%) and the Liberals running a distant fourth (12%). In Atlantic Canada, the Liberals are leading both the Tories and the New Democrats.






The first few days of the campaign appear to have benefitted the Conservatives and the New Democrats. Both parties are at their highest level of support in all of 2008, while the Liberals have dropped below the 25 per cent threshold nationally—something last observed in March 2007.

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Conservatives Lead, Race for Second Place Tightens

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






	Latest		Past surveys					2006 Election
	Sept. 8-9 2008	AUG 2008	JUL 2008	JUN 2008	MAY 2008	APR 2008		
	38%	36%	35%	33%	34%	33%	36.3%	
	24%	28%	30%	30%	27%	30%	30.2%	
	21%	18%	17%	19%	18%	20%	17.5%	
	9%	9%	9%	9%	11%	8%	10.5%	
	7%	8%	8%	7%	8%	8%	4.5%	
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1.0%	

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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?

	Latest	Provincial Breakdown					
	Sept. 8-9 2008	BC	Alta.	Prai.	Ont.	Que.	Atl.
	38%	31%	66%	49%	38%	31%	30%
	24%	23%	18%	21%	33%	12%	35%
	21%	31%	10%	21%	20%	18%	30%
	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	0%
	7%	12%	6%	8%	8%	6%	5%
Other	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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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), 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>

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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**

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