

Canadian Majority Warms Up to NDP as Official Opposition

More than a third of respondents think the NDP would do a “good job” as the next federal government.

[CALGARY – Sept. 10, 2008] – Canadians are more inclined to view the New Democratic Party (NDP) as a successful official opposition party than a ruling federal government, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll reveals.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,007 adults, 62 per cent of respondents say the NDP would do a good job as the official opposition in Ottawa. The NDP has never handled these duties in the House of Commons.

A significantly smaller proportion of Canadians (38%) believe the NDP would be successful as the next federal government.

Regionally, almost three-in-four respondents in British Columbia (73%) and 70 per cent of those living in Atlantic Canada believe the NDP would thrive as the official opposition in Ottawa, compared to fewer respondents in Ontario (54%) and Alberta (58%).

Notably, a considerably high number of Quebec respondents believe the NDP would flourish as the next federal government. More than half of the respondents in this province feel this way (53%), well above the national average.

Males and females have the same thoughts on whether the NDP would do a good job as the official opposition in Ottawa (61% of men and 63% of women strongly or moderately agree), but differ in their views regarding the NDP as the next federal government (43% of women and 33% of men believe the NDP would do a good job as a governing party).

KEY FINDINGS

- **62% of Canadians think the NDP would do a good job as the official opposition**
- **38% believe it would function well as the next federal government**
- **Conservative Party supporters are least inclined to believe the NDP would succeed as an official opposition party or the next federal government**

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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Respondents aged 55+ (59%), those living in households earning between \$50,000 and \$99,000 a year (67%) and respondents with a college diploma or a university degree (both at 64%) are also more likely to envision the NDP as a successful opposition party.

It is also interesting to note that confidence in the capability of the NDP to do a good job as the next federal government seems to decrease steadily with age, income and education.

Forty-four per cent of those aged 18 to 34 either strongly or moderately agree that the NDP would do a good job as the next federal government, compared to 39 per cent of respondents aged 35-54 and significantly fewer older adults (31%).

An analysis based on income tells a similar story. While 44 per cent of those with a yearly household income of less than \$50,000 think the NDP would do a good job, the number drops to 39 per cent for those in the middle-income bracket, and plummets to 23 per cent for those earning more than \$100,000.

High school graduates are also more likely to have confidence in the NDP's abilities—two-in-five respondents in this group (40%) strongly or moderately agree, compared to 38 per cent of those with a college or technical school diploma and slightly fewer university students (35%).

A political breakdown reveals that Canadians who intend to vote for the NDP in the next federal ballot are very certain that their party would function well both as an official opposition party (95%) and forming the next federal government (88%). Bloc Québécois supporters are next, with 68 per cent believing the NDP would make a good opposition party and 58 per cent entrusting the NDP to do well as the next federal government.

In turn, Conservative Party supporters are the least likely to express confidence in the NDP on either of the two possible roles. Only 49 per cent of those who intend to vote for the Tories in the next federal election believe the NDP would make do a good job as an official opposition party, while a mere 16 per cent agree that the NDP would function well as the next government.

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Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
The NDP would do a good job as the official opposition in Ottawa.

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Strongly agree	22%	24%	19%	21%	18%	27%	24%
Moderately agree	40%	49%	39%	46%	36%	38%	46%
Strongly disagree	12%	10%	8%	7%	16%	13%	7%
Moderately disagree	16%	10%	24%	17%	21%	9%	19%
Not sure	10%	6%	9%	9%	9%	14%	5%
Net agree	62%	73%	58%	67%	54%	65%	70%
Net disagree	29%	20%	32%	24%	37%	21%	26%



Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
The NDP would do a good job as the official opposition in Ottawa.

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College / Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly agree	22%	22%	27%	21%	19%	22%	26%	18%	19%	21%	28%
Moderately agree	39%	41%	36%	42%	40%	39%	41%	34%	45%	38%	36%
Strongly disagree	13%	12%	11%	13%	12%	12%	12%	16%	12%	13%	12%
Moderately disagree	21%	12%	11%	15%	23%	14%	14%	24%	12%	18%	18%
Not sure	5%	14%	15%	9%	6%	12%	8%	8%	12%	10%	5%
Net agree	61%	63%	63%	63%	59%	62%	67%	52%	64%	59%	64%
Net disagree	34%	24%	22%	28%	35%	26%	25%	40%	24%	31%	31%

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*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
The NDP would do a good job as the official opposition in Ottawa.*

	Will vote for or intends to vote for in next federal ballot					
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Green
Strongly agree	22%	7%	18%	57%	26%	19%
Moderately agree	40%	42%	33%	37%	42%	52%
Strongly disagree	12%	15%	20%	0%	17%	12%
Moderately disagree	16%	28%	22%	0%	9%	10%
Not sure	10%	9%	8%	5%	6%	7%
Net agree	62%	49%	51%	95%	68%	71%
Net disagree	29%	42%	41%	0%	26%	22%

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*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
 The NDP would do a good job as the next federal government.*

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Strongly agree	15%	15%	11%	9%	13%	23%	12%
Moderately agree	23%	28%	11%	25%	18%	30%	21%
Strongly disagree	19%	21%	12%	18%	20%	15%	32%
Moderately disagree	32%	27%	57%	39%	37%	17%	30%
Not sure	11%	9%	9%	8%	11%	15%	5%
Net agree	38%	43%	22%	34%	31%	53%	33%
Net disagree	51%	49%	69%	57%	57%	32%	62%



*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
 The NDP would do a good job as the next federal government.*

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College / Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly agree	13%	18%	20%	15%	12%	17%	16%	11%	14%	17%	14%
Moderately agree	20%	25%	24%	24%	19%	26%	23%	11%	26%	21%	21%
Strongly disagree	21%	18%	15%	20%	22%	15%	22%	21%	22%	16%	20%
Moderately disagree	39%	25%	22%	31%	42%	28%	30%	46%	23%	36%	37%
Not sure	7%	15%	19%	10%	5%	13%	10%	10%	15%	10%	8%
Net agree	33%	43%	44%	39%	31%	44%	39%	23%	40%	38%	35%
Net disagree	60%	43%	37%	50%	64%	43%	51%	67%	45%	52%	57%

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*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
The NDP would do a good job as the next federal government.*

	Will vote for or intends to vote for in next federal ballot					
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Green
Strongly agree	15%	2%	6%	51%	23%	12%
Moderately agree	23%	14%	16%	37%	35%	35%
Strongly disagree	19%	18%	29%	8%	17%	15%
Moderately disagree	32%	57%	38%	0%	18%	26%
Not sure	11%	9%	10%	4%	7%	12%
Net agree	38%	16%	22%	88%	58%	47%
Net disagree	51%	75%	67%	8%	35%	41%

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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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