

2008 FEDERAL ELECTION

Half of Canadians Dissatisfied with Federal Election Outcome

Three-in-four Liberal voters are open to a merger of “progressive” Canadian political parties.

[CALGARY – Oct. 20, 2008] – Half of Canadians are disappointed with the results of the latest federal ballot, but a considerable number also believe that another Conservative minority will be good for the country, a new Angus Reid poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 1,003 Canadians, 50 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with the outcome of the election, while 45 per cent are satisfied.

Quebec (55%) boasts the largest proportion of Canadians who are upset with the results, while the highest level of satisfaction is voiced in the Tory stronghold of Alberta (63%).

Almost half of respondents (46%) believe another Conservative minority will be good for Canada—including 68 per cent of respondents in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and 50 per cent of Atlantic Canadians—while one-in-three (33%) disagree. One-in-five (22%) are unsure.

A “progressive” merger?

Following an election in which a majority of Canadians voted for three so-called “progressive” federal parties, the possibility of a merger including two or all of these political forces resonates strongly with supporters of the Liberals.

KEY FINDINGS

- **50% are dissatisfied with the outcome of the 2008 Canadian federal election; 45% are satisfied**
- **46% think that, on balance, a Conservative minority will be good for Canada; 33% disagree**
- **41% of Canadians do not like any merger option involving the Liberals, NDP or Greens**
- **75% of Liberal Party voters are open to agreements with NDP or Greens**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From October 16 to October 17, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,003 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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Overall, 41 per cent of Canadian respondents say they would not like any of the possible unions. Roughly one-in-five (19%) would welcome a merger of the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Green Party, while 15 per cent are open to both an agreement between the Liberal Party and the NDP, or a combination of the three parties. Only one-in-ten would prefer a merger of Liberals and Greens.

However, when the views of Canadian voters are assessed, 75 per cent of those who supported the Liberal Party in last week's federal ballot are open to a combination involving the Grits (26% Liberal/NDP/Green; 25% Liberal/Green; 24% Liberal/NDP). At least three-in-ten NDP voters would welcome a merger with the Greens.

For their part, Green voters—who were unable to elect a member to the House of Commons—are more likely to choose the NDP as a possible partner (30%) than the Liberals (20%).

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2008 Federal Election							
Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the outcome of the Canadian federal election?							
		Region					
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Very satisfied	9%	10%	12%	13%	9%	9%	3%
Moderately satisfied	36%	40%	51%	41%	35%	28%	41%
Moderately dissatisfied	22%	24%	16%	25%	20%	24%	21%
Very dissatisfied	28%	24%	20%	22%	29%	31%	31%
Not sure	5%	2%	2%	0%	7%	7%	4%

2008 Federal Election							
Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?							
		Region					
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
On balance, another minority for the Conservatives will be good for Canada	46%	44%	43%	68%	43%	44%	50%
On balance, another minority for the Conservatives will be bad for Canada	33%	26%	37%	23%	35%	34%	33%
Not sure	22%	31%	20%	9%	22%	22%	17%

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2008 Federal Election

There has been some talk recently about starting a movement that would merge all or some of the so-called “progressive” parties. If you had your choice, which of these mergers would you prefer?

	Party supported in the 2008 federal election					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
None of these	41%	65%	20%	24%	41%	21%
NDP and Greens	19%	17%	5%	32%	14%	30%
Liberals, NDP and Greens	15%	4%	26%	19%	26%	20%
Liberals and NDP	15%	8%	24%	20%	18%	7%
Liberals and Greens	10%	6%	25%	5%	1%	22%

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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 five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. 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.

Angus Reid Strategies, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

<http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=349>

Since 2006, Angus Reid Strategies has covered five provincial 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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