



FEDERAL POLITICS

CANADIANS AND LIBERAL VOTERS DOUBT DION WILL BECOME PRIME MINISTER

**Two-thirds of Canadians (69%) and Liberal voters (66%)
believe Stéphane Dion will probably
never form a government**

**Canadians (58%) and Liberal voters (55%) say the former
governing party has weakened over the past year**

**Dion is fourth when Canadians assess the four finalists of
the last Liberal leadership race; Ignatieff ahead among all
Canadians (16%) and Liberal voters (22%)**

**Liberal voters (54%) expect their party to govern once
again; but only a quarter of Canadians (26%) concur**

From October 3 to October 4, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,019 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.

[VANCOUVER - Oct. 11, 2007] - Both Canadians and supporters of the country's "natural" governing political organization believe the Liberal Party will not be able to form a government under its current leader, an Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 69 per cent of Canadian respondents—and 66 per cent of people who voted for the Liberals in the 2006 federal election—think Stéphane Dion will probably never form a government as leader. In addition, 58 per cent of Canadians—and 55 per cent of Liberal voters—think the federal Grits have weakened over the course of the past year.

Large majorities of Liberal voters believe it is important for Canada to have a strong Liberal Party (90%) and think the political organization remains relevant in Canada at this time (75%). Among all Canadians, roughly half also want a strong Grit federal presence (49%), and 46 per cent think the party is relevant.

The survey asked Canadians what they think will happen to the Liberals within the next five years. A third of national respondents (32%) expect the party to remain as the official opposition, while 26 per cent believe it will grow stronger and form the government, and 25 per cent foresee a further decline in Liberal fortunes. Grit supporters were markedly optimistic, with 54 per cent predicting a new Liberal government before 2012.

When asked who is responsible for the loss of influence of the Liberals in Canadian politics, 44 per cent of Canadians said both the sponsorship scandal and Dion's leadership are to blame, with a further 22 per cent pointing the finger exclusively at the advertising scheme, and 13 per cent claiming Dion is responsible. Among Liberal voters, 33 per cent blame both the scandal and Dion, while roughly a quarter selects either option.

Finally, the survey asked respondents to express their preference for any of the four politicians who had the best showing at last year's Liberal leadership convention. Michael Ignatieff was first among all Canadians (16%) and Liberals (22%), followed by Bob Rae (11% all, 20% Grits) and Gerard Kennedy (9% all, 16% Grits). Dion finished in fourth place, with the support of five per cent of Canadians, and nine per cent of Liberal voters. A third of Liberal supporters (34%) either pick none of these men for the leadership, or remain undecided.

58% say Liberal Party has weakened over the past year

Q. Next, we'd like to ask you some questions about the Liberal Party of Canada.

Do you think the Liberal Party has strengthened, remained the same, or weakened over the past year?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Strengthened	10%	13%	18%	6%	11%	4%	7%	10%	9%
Remained the same	22%	27%	15%	22%	22%	17%	34%	18%	25%
Weakened	58%	48%	56%	59%	57%	72%	41%	67%	50%
Not sure	10%	12%	11%	13%	10%	7%	18%	5%	15%

	Age				Household Income			Education		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
Strengthened	10%	14%	10%	5%	10%	8%	13%	8%	9%	13%
Remained the same	22%	21%	24%	19%	22%	24%	15%	22%	23%	19%
Weakened	58%	47%	54%	75%	55%	59%	66%	55%	59%	61%
Not sure	10%	17%	12%	2%	12%	9%	7%	15%	9%	6%

	Vote in last federal election				
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ
Strengthened	10%	6%	13%	11%	3%
Remained the same	22%	18%	28%	19%	17%
Weakened	58%	70%	55%	66%	76%
Not sure	10%	6%	4%	4%	5%

46% say Liberal Party remains relevant in Canada

Q. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
The Liberal Party remains relevant in Canada at this time	46%	62%	38%	51%	54%	24%	62%	49%	43%
The Liberal Party is no longer relevant in Canada at this time	35%	22%	40%	30%	28%	55%	17%	40%	30%
Not sure	19%	16%	22%	19%	17%	21%	21%	10%	27%

	Age			Household Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
The Liberal Party remains relevant in Canada at this time	46%	44%	49%	44%	40%	56%	48%	35%	44%	63%
The Liberal Party is no longer relevant in Canada at this time	35%	34%	29%	44%	36%	31%	37%	40%	36%	27%
Not sure	19%	22%	22%	12%	24%	13%	15%	25%	20%	10%

	Vote in last federal election				
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ
The Liberal Party remains relevant in Canada at this time	46%	35%	75%	46%	26%
The Liberal Party is no longer relevant in Canada at this time	35%	51%	16%	36%	54%
Not sure	19%	14%	8%	18%	20%

49% say a strong Liberal Party is important in Canada

Q. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
It is important for Canada to have a strong Liberal Party	49%	56%	43%	47%	58%	31%	62%	51%	47%
It is not important for Canada to have a strong Liberal Party	31%	22%	36%	37%	24%	48%	15%	37%	27%
Not sure	20%	22%	21%	16%	18%	21%	22%	13%	26%

	Age				Household Income			Education		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
It is important for Canada to have a strong Liberal Party	49%	38%	51%	56%	43%	56%	52%	37%	49%	64%
It is not important for Canada to have a strong Liberal Party	31%	37%	26%	34%	33%	29%	34%	40%	28%	26%
Not sure	20%	25%	22%	11%	25%	15%	13%	24%	23%	10%

	Vote in last federal election				
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ
It is important for Canada to have a strong Liberal Party	49%	33%	90%	51%	29%
It is not important for Canada to have a strong Liberal Party	31%	52%	3%	36%	54%
Not sure	20%	15%	8%	13%	17%

44% blame scandal and Dion for the Liberal Party's loss of influence

Q. Some people say the Liberal Party has lost influence in Canadian politics because of the sponsorship scandal, while others say the Liberal Party has lost influence in Canadian politics because of the leadership of Stéphane Dion. Which side do you tend to agree with??

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
The Liberal Party has lost influence in Canadian politics because of the sponsorship scandal	22%	27%	30%	28%	19%	19%	22%	22%	22%
The Liberal Party has lost influence in Canadian politics because of the leadership of Stéphane Dion	13%	9%	4%	16%	18%	11%	15%	17%	10%
Both equally	44%	38%	46%	39%	42%	55%	31%	45%	44%
Neither	10%	10%	6%	8%	10%	9%	19%	10%	10%
Not sure	10%	15%	15%	8%	11%	6%	13%	6%	15%

	Age				Household Income			Education		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
The Liberal Party has lost influence in Canadian politics because of the sponsorship scandal	22%	26%	19%	23%	23%	21%	22%	20%	24%	21%
The Liberal Party has lost influence in Canadian politics because of the leadership of Stéphane Dion	13%	12%	14%	13%	12%	14%	15%	9%	13%	19%
Both equally	44%	33%	43%	57%	42%	47%	49%	48%	43%	42%
Neither	10%	11%	13%	5%	11%	8%	10%	9%	9%	13%
Not sure	10%	18%	10%	3%	12%	10%	5%	13%	11%	6%

	Vote in last federal election				
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ
The Liberal Party has lost influence in Canadian politics because of the sponsorship scandal	22%	22%	24%	27%	17%
The Liberal Party has lost influence in Canadian politics because of the leadership of Stéphane Dion	13%	11%	26%	9%	8%
Both equally	44%	59%	33%	46%	64%
Neither	10%	4%	13%	15%	7%
Not sure	10%	5%	5%	4%	3%

26% predict Liberal government in the next five years

Q. What do you think will happen to the Liberal Party within the next five years?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
The Liberal Party will grow stronger, and will once again form the federal government	26%	31%	15%	21%	33%	12%	47%	31%	21%
The Liberal Party will remain as it is now, as Canada's official opposition	32%	31%	39%	39%	30%	32%	19%	35%	28%
The Liberal Party will grow weaker, and lose its role as the official opposition	25%	17%	23%	20%	17%	44%	14%	25%	25%
Not sure	18%	20%	23%	20%	20%	12%	20%	10%	26%

	Age				Household Income			Education		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
The Liberal Party will grow stronger, and will once again form the federal government	26%	24%	27%	26%	22%	33%	25%	17%	25%	38%
The Liberal Party will remain as it is now, as Canada's official opposition	32%	30%	30%	34%	28%	33%	40%	28%	33%	33%
The Liberal Party will grow weaker, and lose its role as the official opposition	25%	25%	22%	27%	29%	20%	19%	32%	23%	17%
Not sure	18%	20%	21%	12%	20%	15%	17%	23%	18%	12%

	Vote in last federal election				
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ
The Liberal Party will grow stronger, and will once again form the federal government	26%	10%	54%	30%	9%
The Liberal Party will remain as it is now, as Canada's official opposition	32%	49%	29%	22%	34%
The Liberal Party will grow weaker, and lose its role as the official opposition	25%	30%	8%	30%	49%
Not sure	18%	11%	9%	18%	8%

69% say Dion will probably never form a federal government

Q. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Stéphane Dion will probably never form a government as leader	69%	57%	75%	75%	66%	80%	52%	75%	63%
Stéphane Dion will eventually triumph and become Prime Minister	9%	13%	8%	6%	11%	4%	15%	14%	4%
Not sure	22%	30%	17%	19%	23%	16%	33%	11%	33%

	Age			Household Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
Stéphane Dion will probably never form a government as leader	69%	61%	63%	85%	66%	73%	72%	68%	70%	68%
Stéphane Dion will eventually triumph and become Prime Minister	9%	9%	10%	7%	8%	8%	13%	7%	6%	16%
Not sure	22%	30%	26%	8%	26%	18%	15%	24%	24%	17%

	Vote in last federal election				
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ
Stéphane Dion will probably never form a government as leader	69%	86%	66%	65%	85%
Stéphane Dion will eventually triumph and become Prime Minister	9%	2%	18%	13%	6%
Not sure	22%	12%	16%	22%	10%

Dion fourth among last year's Liberal Party leadership hopefuls

Q. Right now, which of these politicians would you prefer as the leader of the Liberal Party?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Michael Ignatieff	16%	14%	10%	3%	15%	28%	9%	19%	14%
Bob Rae	11%	5%	11%	15%	15%	6%	16%	14%	9%
Gerard Kennedy	9%	4%	8%	10%	15%	5%	6%	9%	9%
Stéphane Dion	5%	9%	2%	2%	4%	3%	13%	6%	3%
None of these	30%	27%	32%	34%	31%	31%	20%	34%	26%
Not sure	29%	41%	37%	36%	21%	26%	35%	18%	39%

	Age				Household Income			Education		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/tech schl	Univ+
Michael Ignatieff	16%	13%	12%	26%	16%	16%	19%	15%	18%	17%
Bob Rae	11%	8%	12%	12%	11%	12%	15%	6%	12%	17%
Gerard Kennedy	9%	10%	9%	9%	4%	11%	15%	6%	9%	13%
Stéphane Dion	5%	4%	5%	5%	6%	3%	4%	5%	3%	8%
None of these	30%	29%	30%	31%	30%	30%	30%	33%	32%	23%
Not sure	29%	37%	31%	18%	32%	28%	18%	36%	27%	22%

	Vote in last federal election				
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ
Michael Ignatieff	16%	17%	22%	13%	32%
Bob Rae	11%	9%	20%	12%	10%
Gerard Kennedy	9%	9%	16%	15%	2%
Stéphane Dion	5%	1%	9%	9%	4%
None of these	30%	40%	17%	31%	32%
Not sure	29%	24%	17%	21%	20%

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), 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 has been successful in predicting the outcome of this year's provincial elections:

In Quebec: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=37>

In Manitoba: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=56>

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_WHITE_PAPER.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**