
**SOCIÉTÉ RADIO-CANADA/
ANGUS REID GROUP SURVEY**

**- VOTING INTENTIONS IN QUEBEC AND THE
POPULARITY OF LEADERS -
- THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND REFERENDUM ISSUES IN
QUEBEC -**



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This Société Radio-Canada / Angus Reid Group survey of 1,000 Quebec adults aged 18 and over was conducted between November 28th and December 6th.

The information obtained is statistically representative of the geographic and demographic distribution of the Quebec population.

With a sampling this size, the results obtained are representative of the Quebec population $\pm 3.1\%$, 19 times out of 20.

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Montreal – The following are the highlights of a SRC/Angus Reid Group Survey released on Tuesday, December 09, 1997. The survey of 1,000 Quebec adults aged 18 and over was conducted between November 28th and December 6th.

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PROVINCIAL VOTING INTENTIONS IN QUEBEC

The Parti Québécois would have won the election

If a provincial election had been held in Quebec in early December, the Parti Québécois would have received 46% of votes, as compared to 37% for the provincial Liberal Party, 10% for the P.A.D., and 2% for the Equality Party. Such a lead would normally be enough to guarantee a majority government for the PQ. (See Chart 1)

With Jean Charest as leader, the Liberals would have won the election

If Daniel Johnson were to leave his position as leader of the Liberal Party, and be replaced by Federal PC Leader Jean Charest, the Liberal Party of Quebec would receive 47% of the vote, well ahead of the Parti Québécois (33%), the P.A.D. (12%) and the Equality Party (6%). (See Chart 2)

FEDERAL VOTING INTENTIONS IN QUEBEC

The Bloc Québécois (37%) and the federal Liberal Party (38%) enjoy nearly identical levels of support among decided voters in Québec. The federal Progressive Conservative Party (13%) is the only other federal party with significant levels of support in the province. The Reform party (1%) and NDP (4%) garner very little support among decided voters. (See Chart 3)

POPULARITY OF PARTY LEADERS

Provincial Leaders

When Quebecers are asked to rate the performance of each party leader, Premier Lucien Bouchard receives a favourable rating from 58% of respondents (16% strongly approve and 43% moderately approve), while Daniel Johnson, leader of the Official Opposition, receives a favourable rating from 39% of respondents (5% strongly approve and 33% moderately approve). Mario Dumont, leader of the P.A.D., receives a favorable rating from 62% of Quebecers (17% strongly approve and 45% moderately approve). (See Chart 4)

Federal Leaders

Among the leaders of federal parties with seats in Québec, Progressive Conservative Leader Jean Charest receives the highest approval rating at 61% (20% strongly approve and 42% moderately approve). Prime Minister Jean Chrétien receives approval from 51% of Quebecers (9% strongly approve and 42% moderately approve). Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Québécois receives a favorable rating of 38% from respondents (6% strongly approve and 32% moderately approve). (See Chart 4)

PROMOTING AND DEFENDING QUEBEC INTERESTS

When asked "which political party would be most likely to promote the interests of Quebec in Ottawa, 45% of Quebecers identify the Bloc Québécois, while 23% say it would be the Liberals, and 13% say it would be the Conservatives. The NDP and the Reform Party are each mentioned by only 1% of Quebecers. Nine percent of respondents feel that none of the parties would be likely to promote Quebec interests. Similarly, 54% of respondents felt that the Bloc Québécois are most likely to defend the interests of Québec in Ottawa, while 20% believe the Liberals would be most likely to defend the interests of Quebec. Ten percent feel the Conservatives are most likely to fulfil this role. The NDP and Reform are each mentioned by 1% of Quebecers in this context, and 7% of Quebecers feel that none of the parties would be most likely able defend Quebec's interests in Ottawa. (See Chart 5)

CONSTITUTIONAL FATIGUE

More than 6 out of 10 Quebecers (61%) believe that the PQ government should not hold a referendum on sovereignty if re-elected for a second mandate, while 36% of Quebecers are of the alternative view. (See Chart 6) A total of 86% of respondents agreed with the statement: "I am tired of all the talk about referendums and the Constitution" – with 14% being in the alternative. (See Chart 7)

SOVEREIGNTY-PARTNERSHIP AND INDEPENDENCE

When asked whether they would vote YES or NO in a sovereignty referendum if it "were accompanied by a partnership with the rest of Canada," 55% of the respondents said that they would vote YES, while 45% said they would vote NO. This formulation of the question, however, identifies partnership as a reality, and not as "a possibility". The YES support is proportionally higher among respondents under the age of 55, and among men. (See Chart 8).

Asked for their opinion on Quebec independence, 62% of Quebecers said that they would vote NO in a referendum on independence, while 38% said that they would vote YES. Proportionally speaking, those aged younger than 35 were the most in favor of independence. (See Chart 9)

THE CALGARY ACCORD

Two statements in the survey addressed the Calgary Accord. The first asked whether the respondent was in favor of the provinces and the Federal Government recognizing the unique character of Quebec, while affirming the principle of equality between the provinces; the second question asked if the respondent believed it possible for this type of reform to take place.

A total of 80% of respondents said that it would be preferable for the provinces and the Federal Government to recognize the unique character of Quebec, while affirming the principle of equality between the provinces, while 19% felt that this would not be a desirable option. (See Chart 10)

Seven in ten (69%) respondents were in agreement with the following statement: "It is possible to reform the Canadian Federation based on two principles (unique character and equality between the provinces)", while 27% disagreed. (See Chart 11)

ECONOMIC FUTURE

Nearly 2 out of 3 respondents (64%) agreed that "Quebec's economic future would be more promising if Quebec stayed in Canada", while 30% of respondents disagreed. (See Chart 12)

SOVEREIGNTY VOTE IMPACT

A slightly lower percentage (58%) agreed with the statement “voting YES to sovereignty could create a real crisis in Quebec”, while 39% disagreed. (See Chart 13)

For more information on this news release:

Christian Bourque
Senior Research Manager
Angus Reid Group
(514) 877-5550

Bob Richardson
Senior Vice President
Angus Reid Group
(416) 324-2900

Visit our Website: www.angusreid.com

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Chart 1

PROVINCIAL VOTING INTENTIONS IN QUEBEC

“Thinking about provincial politics and the way you feel right now, which provincial party’s candidate would you be most likely to support if provincial elections were held tomorrow?” (READ LIST)									
Decided voters only		Sex		Age			Household income		
(n=1000)	Total	Male	female	18-34	35-54	55+	- \$30,000	\$30,000 - \$59,999	+ \$60,000
Parti Québécois	46	48	45	49	51	29	44	50	47
Liberal Party	37	35	40	34	32	58	39	34	37
P.A.D.	10	12	9	11	10	8	10	11	10
Equality Party	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	1	2
Others	4	4	4	3	5	2	4	3	5

Chart 2

PROVINCIAL VOTING INTENTIONS IN QUEBEC IF JEAN CHAREST WERE THE LIBERAL PARTY LEADER

“Now, imagine that Daniel Johnson stepped down as the leader of the Liberal Party and was replaced by Jean Charest. If a provincial election was held tomorrow, would you be more likely to vote for (ROTATE) the PQ led by Lucien Bouchard, the Liberal Party led by Jean Charest, or the Action Démocratique led by Mario Dumont?”									
Decided voters only		Sex		Age			Household income		
(n=1000)	Total	Male	female	18-34	35-54	55+	- \$30,000	\$30,000 - \$59,999	+ \$60,000
Parti Québécois	33	36	30	37	34	21	33	37	33
Liberal Party	47	47	48	42	47	60	45	46	52
P.A.D.	12	10	14	13	12	9	14	13	10
Equality Party	6	5	6	5	5	7	8	4	4
Others	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	1

Chart 3

FEDERAL VOTE INTENT

“Thinking of federal politics, based on how you feel now, which party would you support if a federal election was held tomorrow?” (READ LIST)									
Decided voters only		Sex		Age			Household income		
(n=1000)	Total	Male	female	18-34	35-54	55+	- \$30,000	\$30,000 - \$59,999	+ \$60,000
Bloc Québécois	37	38	36	42	38	20	37	39	36
Liberal Party	38	35	40	33	36	55	39	33	40
Progressive Conservative	13	15	11	13	12	17	11	15	13
Reform	1	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
NDP	4	3	5	4	5	3	4	4	4
Others	8	7	8	7	9	4	7	8	7

Chart 4

THE POPULARITY OF PARTY LEADERS

"Thinking of (INSERT PARTY LEADER), would you say you generally approve or disapprove of the way he/she has performed as (READ THE APPROPRIATE DESCRIPTION)? Do you strongly or moderately approve or disapprove? (RANDOMIZE)"									
(n=1000)	Total	Sex		Age			Household Income		
		male	female	18-34	35-54	55+	- \$30,000	\$30,000 - \$59,999	+ \$60,000
Provincial Leaders - Strongly and moderately approve combined-									
Lucien Bouchard	58	62	54	58	62	45	52	60	62
Mario Dumont	62	60	63	64	62	56	63	63	59
Daniel Johnson	39	34	43	38	36	46	46	33	35
Federal Leaders (of parties with seats in Quebec) - Strongly and moderately approve combined -									
Jean Charest	61	62	60	57	63	66	59	62	64
Jean Chrétien	51	52	50	49	49	61	50	50	50
Gilles Duceppe	38	36	40	40	39	30	35	41	37

Chart 5

PROMOTING AND DEFENDING QUEBEC'S INTERESTS IN OTTAWA

"Which of the following political parties is most likely to <u>promote</u> Quebec's interests in Ottawa?" (READ AND ROTATE LIST)							
"And which of these parties is most likely to <u>defend</u> Quebec's interests in Ottawa?" (READ LIST IF NECESSARY)							
(n=1000)	Liberal	Bloq Quebécois	Progressive Conservative	NDP	Reform	None	Don't know
Promote	23	45	13	1	1	9	7
Defend	20	54	10	1	1	7	6

Chart 6

Should the Provincial Government Hold Another Referendum?

"In your opinion, should the PQ government hold another referendum during its next mandate if it is re-elected?"						
(n=1000)	total	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
YES	36	40	32	42	34	23
NO	61	58	64	54	63	73
Don't know	3	2	4	4	3	4

Chart 7

Constitutional Fatigue

"Agree or disagree: "I am tired of all the talk about referendums and the constitution?"						
		Gender		Age		
(n=1000)	Total	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly agree	62	59	64	56	64	71
Moderately agree	24	25	23	27	23	18
Moderately disagree	6	6	5	7	6	3
Strongly disagree	8	8	7	9	7	7
Total Agree	86	84	87	83	87	89
Total Disagree	14	14	12	16	13	10

Chart 8

Sovereignty with Partnership

"If a referendum were held today, would you vote YES or NO to sovereignty if it were accompanied by a partnership with the rest of Canada?"						
Decided Voters Only		Gender		Age		
(n=1000)	Total	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	55	56	54	57	59	52
No	45	44	46	43	41	48

Chart 9

Québec Independence

"If a referendum were held today, would you vote YES or NO to Québec becoming a country separate from Canada?"						
Decided Voters Only		Gender		Age		
(n=1000)	Total	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	38	51	35	45	37	36
No	62	49	65	55	63	36

Chart 10

Support for the Calgary Accord

"Agree or disagree: The Federal Parliament and the provincial legislatures should recognize the unique character of Québec, based on its institutions and culture, while affirming the principle that all provinces are equal."						
		Gender		Age		
(n=1000)	Total	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly agree	48	48	49	46	47	56
Moderately agree	32	28	35	33	32	26
Moderately disagree	9	9	9	11	7	5
Strongly disagree	10	14	5	9	11	9

Chart 11

The Calgary Accord: A Viable Solution?

“Agree or Disagree: I believe it is possible to reform the Canadian federation based on these two principles.”						
		Gender		Age		
(n=1000)	Total	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly agree	31	31	31	22	34	46
Moderately agree	38	35	41	45	36	30
Moderately disagree	12	11	14	17	10	5
Strongly disagree	15	21	9	14	16	13

Chart 12

Sovereignty and Québec's Economic Future

“Agree or Disagree: I believe that Québec's economic future is more promising if it stays in Canada”						
		Gender		Age		
(n=1000)	Total	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly agree	43	42	44	36	41	65
Moderately agree	21	21	21	23	22	14
Moderately disagree	15	14	15	16	16	7
Strongly disagree	15	17	14	18	15	9

Chart 13

Would a 'Yes' Vote cause a Crisis?

“Agree or disagree: A YES vote for sovereignty could cause a serious crisis in Québec.”						
		Gender		Age		
(n=1000)	Total	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly agree	35	33	37	34	30	51
Moderately agree	23	22	24	21	28	14
Moderately disagree	19	18	19	20	20	13
Strongly disagree	20	23	17	21	19	19