
**- VOTING INTENTIONS IN QUEBEC AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS
THE TWO MAIN POLITICAL LEADERS IN QUEBEC -**

- Jean Charest's Liberals still ahead in vote and major policies-
 - Seven in 10 don't want another referendum if PQ win a second mandate: a majority of PQ supporters share the same view-
-



© Angus Reid Group, Inc.
Publication: Monday June 8 1998, 10:30 PM EDT

This Angus Reid Group survey was conducted by telephone between May 24 and June 7, 1998 with a sample of 1000 Quebec citizens from across the province.

The data presented here is representative of the Quebec population according to all major demographic indicators and geographic distribution of the population.

A sample of this size is said to yield an optimal margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$, 19 times out of 20.

VOTING INTENTIONS IN QUEBEC

Jean Charest's Liberals still in the lead

If a provincial election were to have taken place between May 24 and June 7, Quebec voters would have cast the following ballot: 48% for the Liberals, 40% for the Parti Québécois and 8% for the l'Action Démocratique. (See Table 1)

Those supporting the Charest Liberals are more likely to be female (51%), older (64%), and a plurality of youth (44%). Those supporting the Parti Québécois are more likely to be male (42%), and aged 35 to 54 (48%).

Approval Rating Of Provincial Leaders And Satisfaction With The Provincial Government

Lucien Bouchard and Jean Charest both benefit from similarly high levels of approval

In total, 59% of Quebecers approve of Lucien Bouchard's performance as Premier (a decline of 6% compared to March 1998), while 60% approve of Jean Charest as Liberal leader, and 63% have a favorable impression of Mario Dumont, leader of the Action Démocratique. (See Table 2)

As well, 52% of Quebecers are satisfied with the provincial government's performance, 8% lower than the March 1998 figure of 60%, while 47% are dissatisfied with the Bouchard government. (See Table 3)

Strengths And Weaknesses Of The Main Leaders In Different Policy Areas

A plurality (47%) choose Jean Charest over Lucien Bouchard (42%) as the leader that has “the necessary qualities to lead Quebec into the next millennium”. (See Table 4).

As well, Jean Charest is viewed as better than Lucien Bouchard in dealing with healthcare, education, job creation, economic growth and fighting poverty.

Alternately, Lucien Bouchard is viewed as better than Jean Charest in dealing with regional development and defending Quebec’s interest with the rest of Canada.

Mr. Charest has a lead of 11% over Lucien Bouchard in healthcare management, a lead of 8% on job creation, is 4% ahead with respect to dealing with economic prosperity, has a lead of 6% on the fight against poverty and an edge of 1% in managing the education system. Mr. Bouchard, however, leads Mr. Charest by 11% in defending Quebec’s interests in the rest of Canada and a 1% lead in the area of regional development. (See Table 4).

THE REFERENDUM ISSUE

In total, 68% of Quebecers believe that, if re-elected, a PQ government should not hold a referendum on sovereignty, as opposed to 31% who feel a referendum should take place. (See Table 5)

Placed in front of a scenario where Mr. Charest were to become premier, 27% of respondent feel he should “benefit from his win and start constitutional talks”, while 71% prefer he “leave the constitutional file alone for a few years”. Under the same scenario, and in the event that a constitutional deal was struck with in Canada, 62% of Quebecers believe such a deal should absolutely have to be submitted to popular consultation through a referendum, while 33% believe the deal could be adopted through a vote in the provincial legislature alone. (See Table 6)

For more information:

Christian Bourque
Senior Research Director
Angus Reid Group
(514) 877-5550
See our website: www.angusreid.com

– 30 –

Table 1

VOTING INTENTIONS IN QUEBEC

“If a provincial election were held today, which party’s candidate would you vote for?” (READ LIST)

Decided only (n=1000)	total	Gender		Age			Mother tongue		
		male	female	18-34	35-54	55+	Franco	Anglo	Allo
Parti Québécois	40	42	38	41	48	27	47	6	10
Parti Libéral	48	46	51	44	40	64	40	90	84
Action	8	8	9	10	9	5	10	1	2
Démocratique									
Other	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	4

Table 2

APPROVAL RATING: PROVINCIAL LEADERS

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way (INSERT NAME) has performed as (INSERT DESCRIPTION)? Is that strongly or moderately approve/disapprove? (READ AND ROTATE)”

			Gender		Age			Mother
								tongue
	(n=1000)	total	male	female	18-34	35-54	55+	Franco
- strongly and moderately combined -								
Lucien	Approve	59	60	58	56	63	59	65
Bouchard	Disapprove	40	39	41	38	35	48	33
	Do not know	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Jean Charest	Approve	60	59	61	60	54	69	56
	Disapprove	29	29	29	30	31	25	33
	Do not know	11	12	11	9	14	9	11
Mario Dumont	Approve	63	63	63	65	62	62	68
	Disapprove	25	26	24	26	25	24	23
	Do not know	12	10	14	9	13	14	9

Tableau 3
SATISFACTION WITH THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

“Overall, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the provincial government? Is that strongly or moderately satisfied/dissatisfied?”

	Total	Franco	Anglo/Allo.	December 97	March 98	June 98
Satisfied	52	57	29	49	60	52
Dissatisfied	47	42	70	49	39	47

Tableau 4
CHOICE OF LEADER IN DIFFERENT POLICY AREAS

“In your view, which of (IN ROTATION) Lucien Bouchard or Jean Charest would do better at...”

	Bouchard	Charest	Neither/Not sure
Lead Quebec into the next millennium	42	47	11
Defend Quebec's interest in the Rest of Canada	53	42	5
Insure economic growth	44	48	8
Insure job creation	40	48	11
Fight poverty	39	45	16
Manage the health care system	39	50	12
Manage the education system	43	44	13
Insure regional development	45	44	11

Table 5

THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER REFERENDUM ON SOVEREIGNTY

“In your view, should a PQ government hold a referendum on sovereignty in its next mandate, if re-elected?”

	Total	Franco.	Anglo./Allo.	December 97	March 98	June 98
Yes	31	34	18	36	33	31
No	68	65	82	61	65	68

Table 6

MR. CHAREST AND THE CONSTITUTION

“In your view, if Mr. Charest were to become premier after the next provincial election, should he...”

	Total	Franco.
Benefit from his win and start new constitutional talks	27	26
Leave the constitutional file alone for a few years	71	71
“And, still according to the same scenario where Mr. Charest were to become premier, and that a constitutional deal was struck in Canada, should the Quebec Government ...		
Have to submit the constitutional deal to popular consultation through a referendum	62	64
Could adopt the new deal through a vote in the National Assembly	33	30