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104-108, Bloc Quebecois 61-65, NDP 21-25 -- If Vote Held
Tomorrow***

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Tomorrow, But Majority (61%) Is Opposed To A Potential
Conservative/Bloc Minority Union***



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Conservatives Could Form A Minority Government If Vote Held Tomorrow, But Majority (61%) Is Opposed To A Potential Conservative/Bloc Minority Union

Toronto, ON – A new Ipsos-Reid/CTV/Globe and Mail poll released today shows that at the mid-point of the election campaign the horse-race between the two major parties is neck-and-neck with the Federal Liberals at 32% and the new Conservatives at 31% (both unchanged from Ipsos-Reid's last sounding).

Meanwhile, the federal NDP comes in with 16% of the decided vote (down 1 point) and the Green Party comes in with 7% (up 1 point). A very small portion (3%) of decided voters would cast their support for some "other" party.

In Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois attracts 50% of the decided vote (up 5 points), leading the Liberals (24%, down 4 points) by an impressive 26 point margin.

However, when the seat projection model is applied, the new numbers show that the potential of a minority Conservative government is in the offing with the Conservatives having between 114-118 seats compared to the Liberals having between 104-108 seats.



The Ontario electorate still appears extremely volatile – in this substantive poll the Liberals now lead with 40% support compared to 35% for the Conservatives, as the NDP slump to 17% in the province. It would appear, at this stage, that polarization is taking place.

Another part of the poll indicates that while the Conservatives may be first past the post with a minority there is considerable resistance to the idea of a potential Conservative/Bloc union that would solidify a minority government – a majority (61%) are opposed to this scenario. But a majority (57%) would be accepting of a Liberal led minority government supported by the NDP.

When thinking of the up-coming federal election, most Canadians (59%) are “absolutely certain” they will vote (up slightly from 56% three weeks ago). Of note, is the higher proportion of decided Liberal voters (67%, up 12 points from 55%) who now say they are “absolutely certain” they will vote in the upcoming election compared to three weeks ago.

Fewer Canadians today (55%, down 17 points from 72%) believe the Liberals will form Canada’s next government than thought so at the last sounding. Conversely, substantially more Canadians now believe the Conservatives will form Canada’s next government (31%, up 13 points from 18%).

Four in ten Canadians (38%, down 9 points from 47%) choose Paul Martin, leader of the federal Liberal Party, as the major federal party leader that would make the best Prime Minister of Canada, while 30% (up 7 points from 23%) believe Stephen Harper, leader of the new Conservative Party, and 14% believe Jack Layton, leader of the New Democratic Party, would make the best Prime Minister of Canada (up 1 point from 13%).



These are the findings of two Ipsos-Reid/CTV/Globe and Mail polls conducted between June 4th and June 8th, 2004. For the questions regarding vote intentions, a representative randomly selected sample of 2000 adult Canadians was interviewed between June 4th and June 8th, 2004. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within ± 2.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. For all other attitudinal questions, a representative randomly selected sample of 1000 adult Canadians was interviewed between June 4th and June 7th, 2004. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error for each of these surveys will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to the 2001 Census data.

Liberals (32%) and Conservatives (31%) Essentially Tied...

If a federal election were held tomorrow the Liberals would garner 32% of the decided vote (unchanged) and the Conservatives would garner 31% (unchanged).

Meanwhile, the federal NDP would come in with 16% of the decided vote (down 1 point) and the Green Party would come in with 7% (up 1 point). A very small portion (3%) of decided voters would cast their support for some "other" party.

In Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois would attract 50% of the decided vote (up 5 points), leading the Liberals (24%, down 4 points) by an impressive 26 point margin.

Among all Canadians, 12% are undecided or would not vote if a federal election were held tomorrow.



- In Ontario, the Liberals are up 8 points to 40% of the decided vote, while the Conservatives have remained static with 35% support (unchanged). Trailing further behind the pack are the NDP with the support of approximately one in five decided Ontario voters, and the Green Party with the support of approximately one in twenty.
- In Quebec, a 26 point margin separates the Bloc Quebecois (50%, up 5 points) from the Liberals (24%, down 4 points). The Conservatives, the NDP, and the Green Party register low on the federal radar screen in this province.
- In British Columbia, the Conservatives (34%, up 3 points) have a slight lead on the Liberals (30%, down 2 points) while the NDP attracts 20% of decided voter support (down 3 points). The Green Party has 13% of decided votes in this province (unchanged).
- In Alberta, the Conservatives (59%, up 9 points) hold a whopping 39 point lead over the Liberals (20%, down 7 points). The NDP and the Green Party trail further behind with the support of one in ten decided voters.
- In Saskatchewan/Manitoba the Conservatives (31%, down 14 points), the NDP (31%, up 18 points), and the Liberals (30%, down 8 points) are in a three-way tie. The Green Party registers with the support of approximately one in twenty decided voters.
- In Atlantic Canada the Liberals (34%, down 12 points), the Conservatives (32%, up 1 point), and the NDP (26%, up 5 points) are in a close heat.

If Faced With A Minority Federal Government: Most Canadians (61%) Would Find A Conservative/Bloc Union Unacceptable, But Most Would Be Accepting (57%) Of A Liberal/NDP Union

If Canada has a minority government after the next election most Canadians (61%) say that “a Conservative-led minority supported by the Bloc Quebecois” would be unacceptable to them (20% “somewhat unacceptable”, 41% “very unacceptable”), while 33% would find such a union acceptable (26% “somewhat acceptable”, 8% “very acceptable”). The remaining 6% of Canadian’s “don’t know” if they would find this arrangement acceptable or not.

- Those most likely to find a Conservative-led minority supported by the Bloc Quebecois unacceptable are residents of Atlantic Canada (72%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (71%), British Columbia (71%), and Ontario (69%), followed by Alberta (56%), and Quebec (39%).
- Those most likely to find a Conservative-led minority supported by the Bloc Quebecois acceptable are residents of Quebec (53%), Alberta (42%), British Columbia (26%), Ontario (25%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (24%), and Atlantic Canada (23%).
- Among decided Conservative supporters, 45% would find such an arrangement acceptable (53% unacceptable), while 74% of decided Bloc Quebecois supporters would find this acceptable (25% unacceptable).
- One in five decided Liberal (21%) and NDP supporters (20%) would find this arrangement acceptable (Liberal: 77% unacceptable, NDP: 79% unacceptable).

However, when considering a possible “Liberal-led minority government supported by the NDP” Canadians are far more receptive – close to six in ten (57%) say that such an



arrangement would be acceptable to them (38% “somewhat acceptable”, 18% “very acceptable”). In comparison, 37% of Canadians say that this would be unacceptable (16% “somewhat unacceptable”, 21% “very unacceptable”). The remaining 6% of Canadians “don’t know” if they would find this type of government acceptable or not.

- Those most likely to find a Liberal-led minority supported by the NDP acceptable are residents of Atlantic Canada (67%), followed by Saskatchewan/Manitoba (63%), Ontario (62%), British Columbia (52%), Quebec (52%), and Alberta (40%).
- Those most likely to find a Liberal-led minority supported by the NDP unacceptable are residents of Alberta (57%), followed by British Columbia (46%), Quebec (38%), Ontario (33%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (30%), and Atlantic Canada (26%).
- Among decided Liberal supporters, 74% would find such an arrangement acceptable (23% unacceptable), this compares to 82% among decided NDP supporters who would find this acceptable (18% unacceptable).
- Half (53%) of Bloc Quebecois supporters would find such an arrangement acceptable (43% unacceptable), compared to 32% of Conservative supporters (67% unacceptable).

Most Canadians (59%) Absolutely Certain They Will Vote in Up-Coming Federal Election... Liberals (67%, Up 12 Points) Are Getting The Vote Out...

When thinking of the up-coming federal election, most Canadians (59%) are “absolutely certain” they will vote (up slightly from 56% three weeks ago), this compares to 26% who say they are likely to vote (16% “very likely”, 10% “somewhat likely”), and 13% who say they are not likely to vote (4% “not very likely”, 10% “not likely at all”). The remaining 1% of Canadians “don’t know” if they will vote in the up-coming federal election.



- Those Canadians most likely to be “absolutely certain” that they will vote in the upcoming federal election are residents of Atlantic Canada (68%), followed closely by Alberta (65%), Ontario (62%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (58%), British Columbia (58%), and Quebec (52%).
- Approximately two-thirds of decided Liberal supporters (67%, up 12 points from 55%), Conservative supporters (66%, unchanged from 67%), and NDP supporters (65%, up 6 points from 59%) are “absolutely certain” they will vote in the up-coming federal election. Six in ten (58%) Bloc Quebecois are “absolutely certain” they will vote in the up-coming federal election.

Fewer Canadians (55%, Down 17 Points From 72%) Now Believe Liberals Will Form Canada’s Next Government...

The percentage of Canadians who believe the Liberals will form Canada’s next government has dropped from 72% just three weeks ago to 55% today (down 17 points). Conversely, substantially more Canadians believe the Conservatives will form Canada’s next government than did at this last sounding (31%, up 13 points from 18%).

A very small portion of Canadians (5%, up 1 point from 4%) continues to believe the NDP will form Canada’s next government.

- Agreement that the Liberals will win the upcoming election is highest in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (62%), followed by British Columbia (59%), Atlantic Canada (58%), Quebec (57%), Alberta (56%), and Ontario (51%). Among decided Liberal supporters, 79% believe the Liberals will win the upcoming election (down 11 points from 90%), compared to 60% among decided NDP supporters (down 7 points from 67%), and 40% among decided Conservative supporters (down 16 points from 56%).



- Agreement that the Conservatives will win the upcoming election is highest in Ontario (36%) and Alberta (35%), followed by British Columbia (30%), Quebec (28%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (23%), and Atlantic Canada (20%). Among decided Conservative supporters, 55% believe the Conservatives will win the upcoming election (up 15 points from 40%), compared to 22% among decided NDP supporters (up 7 points from 15%), and 15% among decided Liberal supporters (up 10 points from 5%).
- Agreement that the NDP will win the upcoming election is consistently very low throughout all regions of Canada. Among decided NDP supporters, 12% believe the NDP will win the upcoming election (down 1 point from 13%), compared to 3% among decided Liberal supporters (unchanged) and none among decided Conservative supporters.

Fewer Canadians (38%, Down From 47%) Point To Paul Martin As Major Federal Party Leader That Will Make Best Prime Minister -- Stephen Harper (30%, Up From 23%) Closes In ...

After being asked to disregard the major federal political parties and what they stand for and to forget which party they might be supporting, Canadians were asked “which of the major federal party’s leader do you think will make the best Prime Minister of Canada”.

The largest portion of Canadians (38%, down 9 points from 47%) choose Paul Martin, leader of the federal Liberal Party, as the major federal party leader that would make the best Prime Minister of Canada, followed by Stephen Harper, leader of the new Conservative Party (30%, up 7 points from 23%), and Jack Layton, leader of the New Democratic Party (14%, up 1 point from 13%). One in ten 12% of Canadians “don’t know” which leader would make the best Prime Minister.

In Quebec, 20% choose Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Quebecois, as the party leader who will make the best Prime Minister of Canada (down 6 points from 26%). This compares to 30% who point to Paul Martin and the Liberals, 20% who point to Stephen Harper and the Conservatives, and 12% who point to Jack Layton and the NDP as the leaders which would make the best Prime Minister - the remaining 19% of Quebec residents “don’t know”.

- Paul Martin receives the strongest support as the candidate who will make the best Prime Minister in Atlantic Canada (47%), followed by Ontario (43%), British Columbia (40%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (35%), Alberta (33%), and Quebec (30%). Among Liberal supporters, 84% choose Paul Martin as the candidate who will make the best Prime Minister, compared to 25% among NDP supporters and 14% among Conservative supporters. One in five Bloc Quebecois supporters (18%) believe Paul Martin would make the best Prime Minister.
- Stephen Harper receives the strongest support as the candidate who will make the best Prime Minister in Alberta (53%), followed by British Columbia (37%), Ontario (30%), Atlantic Canada (29%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (25%), and Quebec (20%). Among Conservative supporters 80% choose Stephen Harper as the candidate who will make the best Prime Minister, compared to 13% among NDP supporters and 5% among Liberal supporters. One in five Bloc Quebecois supporters (18%) believe Stephen Harper would make the best Prime Minister.
- Jack Layton receives the strongest support as the candidate who will make the best Prime Minister in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (22%), followed by Ontario (15%) and Atlantic Canada (15%), Quebec (12%), and Alberta (6%). Among NDP supporters 51% choose Jack Layton as the candidate who will make the best Prime Minister, compared to 5% among Liberal supporters and 3% among Conservative



supporters. One in seven Bloc Quebecois supporters (16%) believe Jack Layton would make the best Prime Minister.

- Among Bloc Quebecois supporters, 36% believe Gilles Duceppe leader of the Bloc Quebecois would make the best Prime Minister.

Stephen Harper Receives Highest Approval Rating (51%), Jack Layton (46%), Paul Martin (41%)... Gilles Duceppe Has High Approval (58%) In Quebec ...

Canadians were asked to consider whether they generally approve or disapprove of the way each of the major federal party leaders has performed in their role. When ranked according to the highest percentage of approval:

- Stephen Harper scores highest, with 51% approving of the way he has performed as leader of the new Conservative Party (compared to 34% who disapprove and 15% who “don’t know”), followed by;
- Jack Layton with 46% approving of the way he has performed as leader of the New Democratic Party (compared to 30% who disapprove and 24% who “don’t know”), and;
- Paul Martin with 41% approving of the way he has performed as leader of the federal Liberal Party (compared to 52% who say they disapprove and 7% who “don’t know”).

In Quebec, 58% say they generally approve of the way Gilles Duceppe has performed as leader of the Bloc Quebecois, compared to 28% who say they disapprove. The remaining 15% of Quebec residents “don’t know” if they approve or disapprove of Gilles Duceppe’s performance as leader of the Bloc Quebecois.



- Stephen Harper receives the highest approval for the way he has performed as leader of the new Conservative Party in Alberta (67%), followed by British Columbia (57%), Atlantic Canada (54%), Ontario (50%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (49%), and Quebec (40%). And, 90% of decided Conservative supporters approve of his performance, compared to 39% of decided Liberal supporters, and 33% of decided NDP supporters.
- Jack Layton receives the highest approval for the way he has performed as leader of the New Democratic Party in Atlantic Canada (66%), followed by Saskatchewan/Manitoba (55%), Ontario (49%), British Columbia (47%), Alberta (38%), and Quebec (35%). And, 85% of decided NDP supporters approve of his performance, compared to 48% of decided Liberal supporters, and 37% of decided Conservative supporters.
- Paul Martin receives the highest approval for the way he has performed as leader of the federal Liberal Party in Atlantic Canada (52%), followed by British Columbia (45%), Ontario (44%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (43%), Alberta (42%), and Quebec (31%). And, 81% of decided Liberal supporters approve of his performance, compared to 27% of decided NDP supporters, and 25% of decided Conservative supporters.
- In Quebec, 90% of Bloc Quebecois supporters approve of the way Gilles Duceppe has performed as leader of the Bloc Quebecois, compared to 41% of Liberal supporters, 38% of Conservative supporters, and 29% of NDP supporters.

Seat Projection Model Suggests Conservatives 114-118, Liberals 104-108, Bloc Quebecois 61-65, NDP 21-25 -- If Vote Held Tomorrow ...

In an exclusive seat projection model provided to CTV and The Globe and Mail, if a vote were held tomorrow, the Conservatives would have a potential of 114-118 seats, the Liberals would have a potential of 104-108 seats, the NDP would have a potential of 21-25 seats, and



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the Bloc Quebecois would have a potential of 61-65 seats. In order to achieve a majority government, a party needs a minimum of 155 seats in the House of Commons.

For explanation of the projected seat range model please visit:

<http://www.ipsos-na.com/news/pressrelease.cfm?id=2197>

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For more information on this news release, please contact:

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