

# **HARPER POISED TO BE P.M. WITH STRONG MINORITY**

*Seat Projection Model Suggests Conservatives Take 123-127  
Seats, Liberals 95-99, NDP 22-26, Bloc Quebecois 60-64 -- If Vote  
Held Tomorrow*

*But, Almost A Third Of Potential Votes Could Change With  
Outcome Of Debates*

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Point) Continue To Be Deadlocked... NDP (17%, Up 1 Point),  
Bloc Quebecois (48% In Quebec Vs. 28% Liberal)*



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**Toronto, ON** – According to a new Ipsos-Reid/CTV/Globe and Mail poll released tonight, Stephen Harper and the Conservatives are poised to win a strong minority government if an election were held tomorrow. An exclusive seat model prepared by Ipsos-Reid for the Globe and Mail and CTV shows that if a federal election were held tomorrow, the Conservatives would take a potential 123-127 seats, the Liberals would take a potential 95-99 seats, the NDP a potential 22-26 seats, and the Bloc Quebecois a potential 60-64 seats.

But, the upcoming French and English televised leadership debates will “be a critical factor in determining” how three in ten eligible voters in Canada (30%) will cast their ballot come election day on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Among all eligible voters in Canada, six in ten (63%, up 4 points) are “absolutely certain” they will vote in the up-coming federal election, while 27% are likely to vote (17% “very likely”, 9% “somewhat likely”), and 10% are not likely to vote (3% “not very likely”, 7% “not likely at all”).



When considering the major party leaders that will participate in these debates, one-third (33%) of Canadians believe that Paul Martin, leader of the Federal Liberal Party, will win the debate, 28% believe Stephen Harper, leader of the Conservative Party, will win the debate, and 12% believe Jack Layton, leader of the New Democratic Party, will win the debate. In Quebec, 23% believe that Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Quebecois, will win the debate (nationally Gilles Duceppe is picked as the probable winner by 7% of respondents).

As mentioned earlier, the televised leaders debates will take place at a particularly crucial junction in this election campaign, as this poll indicates that the Conservatives (32%, up 1 point) and the Liberals (31%, down 1 point) remain deadlocked in vote support levels – both parties having remained essentially static over the past couple of weeks.

Meanwhile, Jack Layton and the New Democratic Party (17%, up 1 point) and Jim Harris and the Green Party (6%, down 1 point) have not moved in the national polls, while 3% of decided voters would cast their support for some “other” party.

In the province of Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois (48%, down 2 points) continue to control the largest portion of federal vote support, leading the Liberals (28%, up 4 points) by 20 points in this province.

Among all Canadians, 11% would be undecided if an election were held tomorrow.

Ontario continues to be a tightly fought battleground for the Conservatives and Liberals, with both sitting at 36% and 34% decided vote support respectively (Conservatives up 1 point, Liberals down 6 points).

When it comes to the vote driving question of whether the “Federal Liberals deserve to be re-elected under the new leadership of Paul Martin” the numbers are unchanged. Three in ten



(29%) Canadians answer that they are deserving (unchanged) – compared to 65% of Canadians who say “the Liberal Party does not deserve to be re-elected and it’s time for another Federal political party to be given a chance to govern the country” (up 1 point).

When considering the momentum of the various parties and their leaders, Canadians give Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party +19 (up 5 points) the highest gap momentum score (calculated by subtracting those who say their opinion has worsened from those who say their opinion has improved), followed very closely by Jack Layton and the New Democratic Party (+18, up 3 points). Paul Martin and the Liberal Party have somewhat stemmed their negative momentum slide coming in 10 points higher than the last sounding with a gap momentum score of -25.

In Quebec, Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois continue to have a strong momentum score of +21 (up 5 points).

Just under half of Canadians (46%) agree with the statement “Stephen Harper is too extreme to be Canada’s Prime Minister” (21% “strongly agree”, 25% “somewhat agree”).

One-quarter of Canadians (27%) say that they are likely to change their mind and vote for another party on Election Day (19% “somewhat likely”, 8% “very likely”).

*These are the findings of an Ipsos-Reid/CTV/Globe and Mail poll conducted between June 11<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004. For the telephone survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1000 adult Canadians was interviewed. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within  $\pm$  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 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.*

### ***Three In Ten Canadians (30%) Believe Outcomes Of Debates Will Be Critical In Determining Their Vote...***

Three in ten Canadians (30%) are of the opinion that the outcome of the debates will “be a critical factor in determining who will get your vote because you could still change your mind”. In comparison, 64% of Canadians agree with the statement that the outcome of the debates “will not matter since you’ve made up your mind and nothing will change it”. Of the remaining Canadians surveyed, 5% believe that the debate will have “neither” of the mentioned effects on their vote, and 1% “don’t know” how the debate will effect their vote.

- Agreement that the outcome of the debates will be a critical factor in determining their vote is relatively equal across the country, with the highest agreement in Atlantic Canada (36%), followed very closely by British Columbia (33%), Alberta (30%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (29%), Ontario (29%), and Quebec (27%).
- Agreement that the outcome of the debates will not matter because they’ve made up their mind is also relatively equal across the country, with the highest agreement in Quebec (69%), Ontario (65%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (64%), British Columbia (61%), Alberta (60%), and Atlantic Canada (59%).
- Agreement that the debates will be a critical factor in determining their vote is significantly higher among younger Canadians aged 18-34 than among older Canadians aged 35 and over (38% vs. 27%).



- Four in ten (39%) decided NDP supporters say the debates will be a critical factor in determining who gets their vote, compared to 30% of decided Liberal supporters, 26% of decided Conservative supporters, and 18% of decided Bloc Quebecois supporters.

### ***Most Canadians (63%, Up 4 Points) Absolutely Certain They Will Vote in Up-Coming Federal Election...***

When thinking of the up-coming federal election, most Canadians (63%, up 4 points) are “absolutely certain” they will vote. This compares to 27% who say they are likely to vote (17% “very likely”, 9% “somewhat likely”), and 10% who say they are not likely to vote (3% “not very likely”, 7% “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 British Columbia (68%), followed by Ontario (64%), Quebec (63%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (62%), Atlantic Canada (59%) and Alberta (57%).
- Approximately seven in ten Conservative supporters (71% up 5 points), 65% of NDP supporters (unchanged), and 62% of Liberal supporters (down 5 points), are “absolutely certain” they will vote in the up-coming federal election. Seven in ten (68%, up 10 points) Bloc Quebecois supporters are “absolutely certain” they will vote in the up-coming federal election.

### ***One-Third Of Canadians (33%) Pick Paul Martin As Probable Winner Of The Election Debates, Stephen Harper Is Second Highest Pick With 28%...***

Considering the upcoming televised debate among the major party leaders, no clear favourite emerges. The largest portion of Canadians (33%) pick Paul Martin, leader of the Federal



Liberal Party, as the leader who they think will “win” the debates. Stephen Harper, leader of the Conservative Party, is picked as the probable debates winner by 28% of Canadians, with Jack Layton, leader of the Federal New Democratic Party, getting picked by 12% of Canadians.

In Quebec, 23% choose Gilles Duceppe, leader of the Bloc Quebecois, as the candidate who will “win” the debates (7% choose Mr. Duceppe nationally).

Among all Canadians, 20% “don’t know” who they think will win the election debates.

- Agreement that Paul Martin, leader of the Federal Liberal Party, will win the debates is highest in Atlantic Canada (47%), followed by Ontario (37%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (33%), Alberta (33%), British Columbia (31%), and Quebec (25%).
- Two-thirds of decided Liberal voters (65%) believe Paul Martin will win the debates, compared to 26% among decided NDP supporters, 19% among Conservative supporters, and 12% among Bloc Quebecois supporters.
- Agreement that Stephen Harper, leader of the Conservative Party, will win the debates is highest in Alberta (36%), followed by British Columbia (32%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (31%), Ontario (30%), Quebec (21%) and Atlantic Canada (17%).
- Six in ten decided Conservative supporters (58%) believe Stephen Harper and the Conservatives will win the debates, compared to 24% of decided Bloc Quebecois supporters, 18% of decided NDP supporters, and 12% of decided Liberal supporters.



- Agreement that Jack Layton, leader of the Federal New Democratic Party, will win the debates is highest in Ontario (15%) and Atlantic Canada (15%), followed by British Columbia (14%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (10%), Quebec (9%), and Alberta (8%).
- One-third of decided NDP supporters (35%) believe Jack Layton will win the debates, compared to 8% of decided Liberal supporters, 6% of decided Bloc Quebecois supporters, and 5% of decided Conservative supporters.
- Four in ten decided Bloc Quebecois supporters (38%) believe Gilles Duceppe will win the debates, compared to 4% of decided NDP supporters, 4% of Conservative supporters, and 2% of decided Liberal supporters.

***Conservatives (32%, Up 1 Point) And Liberals (31%, Down 1 Point) Continue To Be Deadlocked... NDP (17%, Up 1 Point), Bloc Quebecois (48% In Quebec Vs. 28% Liberal)...***

If a federal election were held tomorrow, Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party would garner 32% of the decided vote (up 1 point), while Paul Martin and the Liberal Party would garner 31% of the decided vote (down 1 point). Meanwhile, Jack Layton and the New Democratic Party (17%, up 1 point) and Jim Harris and the Green Party (6%, down 1 point) hold steady in this most recent national poll, while 3% of decided voters would cast their support for some “other” party.

In the province of Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois attracts 48% of decided votes (down 2 points), leading the Liberals (28%, down 4 point) by 20 points in this province.

Among all Canadians, 11% are undecided or would not vote if an election were held tomorrow.





- The Conservatives have 36% of decided voter's support (up 1 point) in Ontario, while the Liberals have 34% of decided voter's support (down 6 points). The NDP trail further behind the pack with 22% of the decided vote (up 5 points), and the Green Party follows distantly with the support of 4% (down 2 points).
- In Quebec, a 20 point margin separates the Bloc Quebecois (48%, down 2 points) from the Liberals (28%, up 4 points). The Conservatives (11%, up 2 points) the NDP (7%, down 1 point), and the Green Party (5%, unchanged) register lower on the federal radar screen in this province.
- In British Columbia, the Conservatives (37%, up 3 points) lead the Liberals (27%, down 3 points) by 10 points, while the NDP trails the pack with 23% of the decided vote (up 3 points). The Green Party has 12% of the decided votes in this province (down 1 point).
- In Alberta, the Conservatives (53%, down 6 points) hold a 26 point lead over the Liberals (27%, up 7 points). The NDP trails far behind with 12% of the decided vote (up 4 points), and the Green Party with 7% (down 3 points).
- In Saskatchewan/Manitoba the Conservatives (56%, up 25 points) have built their lead to 35 points over the Liberals (21%, down 9 points). The NDP has fallen back from the pack with 16% support (down 15 points), and the Green Party attracts 4% of the decided vote (down 1 point).
- In Atlantic Canada the Liberals hold a commanding 17 point lead with 44% of the decided vote (up 10 points) the Conservatives are running in second with 27% (down 5 points) of decided voter support, the NDP come in third with 24% of decided voter



support (down 2 points), and the Green Party comes last with 5% of decided voter support (up 3 points).

***A Majority Of Canadians (65%, Up 1 Point) Believe It Is Time For A Change In Government, 29% (Unchanged) Believe Liberals Deserve To Be Re-Elected...***

A majority of Canadians (65%, up 1 point) believe the statement “the Liberal Party does not deserve to be re-elected and it’s time for another Federal political party to be given a chance to govern the country” is closest to their own opinion, compared to 29% (unchanged) who believe the statement “the Liberal Party deserves to be re-elected under the new leadership of Paul Martin” is closest to their own opinion. The remaining 6% of Canadians “don’t know” which statement is closest to their own opinion.

- Agreement with the statement “the Liberal Party does not deserve to be re-elected and it’s time for another Federal political party to be given a chance to govern the country” is highest in Alberta (74%), followed by Saskatchewan/Manitoba (69%), British Columbia (68%), Quebec (67%), Ontario (61%), and Atlantic Canada (51%).
- Agreement with the statement “the Liberal Party deserves to be re-elected under the new leadership of Paul Martin” is highest in Atlantic Canada (38%), followed closely by Ontario (32%), British Columbia (27%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (26%) Quebec (26%), and Alberta (22%).
- One in seven decided Liberal supporters (16%) believe it’s time for a change in government, compared to 93% of Conservative supporters, 82% of NDP supporters, and 89% of Bloc Quebecois supporters.

***Stephen Harper (+19, Up 5 Points) And Jack Layton (+18, Up 3 Points) Continue To Lead With Momentum... Paul Martin (-25, Up***



## ***10 Points) Starts To Stem Bleeding... In Quebec, Gilles Duceppe +21 (Up 5 Points)...***

Canadians were asked whether their opinions of the various major parties and their leaders has improved, stayed the same, or worsened over the last few weeks:

- One third of Canadians (36%) say their opinion of Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party has improved over the last few weeks (13% “strongly improved”, 23% “somewhat improved”), 40% say their opinion has “stayed the same”, and 17% say their opinion has worsened (9% “somewhat worsened”, 8% “strongly worsened”). The remaining 7% of Canadians “don’t know” if their opinion has changed.
- Three in ten (29%) say their opinion of Jack Layton and the New Democratic Party has improved over the last few weeks (7% “strongly improved”, 21% “somewhat improved”), 50% of Canadians say their opinion has “stayed the same”, and 11% say their opinion has worsened (6% “somewhat worsened”, 6% “strongly worsened”). The remaining 10% of Canadians “don’t know” if their opinion has changed.
- One in ten Canadians (12%) say their opinion of Paul Martin and the Liberal Party has improved over the last few weeks (2% “strongly improved”, 10% “somewhat improved”), 47% say that it has “stayed the same”, and 37% say it has worsened (19% “strongly worsened”, 18% “somewhat worsened”). The remaining 4% of Canadians “don’t know” if their opinion has changed.
- In Quebec, three in ten (28%) say their opinion of Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois has improved (11% “strongly improved”, 17% “somewhat improved”), 60% say their opinion has stayed the same, and 7% say their opinion has worsened



(4% “somewhat worsened”, 3% “strongly worsened”). The remaining 5% of Quebecers “don’t know” if their opinion has changed.

When considering the gap momentum scores (calculated by subtracting the percentage who say their opinion of the party and leader has worsened over the last few weeks from the percentage who say their opinion has improved over the past few weeks) Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party score the highest (+19, up 5 points), as Jack Layton and the New Democratic Party (+18, up 3 points) trail closely. Paul Martin and the Liberals continue to have negative momentum, however they appear to have stemmed some of the bleeding, coming in with a gap momentum score of -25 (up 10 points).

In Quebec, Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois score a gap momentum score of +21 (up 5 points).

- Stephen Harper and the Conservatives have the strongest momentum in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (+27, up 22 points), followed by Alberta (+21, down 3 points), Quebec (+21, up 6 points), Ontario (+18, up 1 point), British Columbia (+16, up 8 points), and Atlantic Canada (+7, down 5 points). Among Conservative decided vote supporters, Stephen Harper and the Conservatives score a +61 (down 5 points).
- Jack Layton and the New Democratic Party have the strongest momentum in Ontario (+26, up 8 points), followed by Quebec (+17, up 8 points), Atlantic Canada (+16, down 19 points), British Columbia (+11, down 1 point), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (+6, up 8 points), and Alberta (+3, down 6 points). Among NDP decided vote supporters, Jack Layton and the NDP score a +54 (down 4 points).
- Paul Martin and the federal Liberal Party have negative momentum in every region of the country: Atlantic Canada (-13, up 17 points), British Columbia (-15, up 17 points),



Ontario (-20, up 18 points), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (-23, down 10 points), Alberta (-28, down 33 points), and Quebec (-40, down 1 points). Among Liberal decided vote supporters, Paul Martin and the Liberals score a +4 (down 5 points).

- Gilles Duceppe scores a +21 in Quebec (up 5 points), and among Bloc Quebecois decided vote supporters Mr. Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois score +39 (up 6 points).

### ***Just Under Half Of Canadians (46%) Agree Stephen Harper Is Too Extreme To Be Canada's Prime Minister...***

Just under half of Canadians (46%) agree with the statement "Stephen Harper is too extreme to be Canada's Prime Minister" (21% "strongly agree", 25% "somewhat agree"). This compares against 44% of Canadians who disagree with this statement (26% "somewhat disagree", 18% "strongly disagree"). The remaining 9% of Canadians "don't know" if they agree or disagree with this statement.

- Agreement that Stephen Harper is too extreme to be Prime Minister is highest in Ontario (51%), followed by Quebec (48%), Atlantic Canada (45%), British Columbia (42%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (41%), and Alberta (33%).
- Disagreement with the statement "Stephen Harper is too extreme to be Canada's Prime Minister" is highest in Alberta (59%), British Columbia (50%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (48%), Atlantic Canada (44%), Ontario (43%), and Quebec (37%).
- Liberal supporters (71%) are the most likely to agree that Stephen Harper is too extreme to be Canada's Prime Minister, followed by NDP supporters (61%), and Bloc Quebecois (54%). Among Conservative supporters, 17% believe that Stephen Harper is too extreme to be Canada's next Prime Minister.



- Men are significantly more likely than women to disagree that Stephen Harper is too extreme to be Canada's Prime Minister (49% vs. 40%).

## ***One Quarter (27%) Of Canadians Are Likely To Change Their Mind Before Election Day...***

When thinking of the party they plan to vote for right now, one-quarter (27%) of Canadians think they are likely to change their mind and vote for another party on Election Day (19% "somewhat likely", 8% "very likely"). This is juxtaposed against 71% of Canadians who think they are not likely to change their vote before Election Day (18% "not very likely", 53% "not likely at all"). The remaining 2% of Canadians "don't know" if they are likely to change their mind and vote for another party or not.

- Those most apt to believe they are likely to change their mind and vote for another party are residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (34%), Alberta (31%), British Columbia (28%), Ontario (27%), Quebec (23%) and Atlantic Canada (23%).
- Those most prone to believe that they are not likely to change their mind and vote for another party are residents of Quebec (74%) and Atlantic Canada (74%), followed by residents of British Columbia (71%) and Ontario (71%), then Alberta (68%) and lastly Saskatchewan/Manitoba (64%).
- Decided NDP supporters (35%) are the most apt to say that they are likely to change their mind and vote for another party, while 26% of decided Conservative supporters, 23% of decided Liberal supporters, and 18% of decided Bloc Quebecois supporters say they are likely to change their mind and vote for another party on election day.



## ***Seat Projection Model Suggests Conservatives Take 123-127 Seats, Liberals 95-99, NDP 22-26, Bloc Quebecois 60-64 -- 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 123-127 seats, the Liberals would have a potential of 95-99 seats, the NDP would have a potential of 22-26 seats, and the Bloc Quebecois would have a potential of 60-64 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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