

LIBERALS (34% VS. 30% TORIES) HOLD SLIM LEAD ON EVE OF ELECTION CALL AS CANADIANS WARM TO IDEA OF POTENTIAL HARPER MINORITY



Ipsos Reid

Public Release Date: - Saturday November 26th, 2005 – 6:00 a.m. (EST)

Ipsos Reid is Canada's market intelligence leader and the country's leading provider of public opinion research. With operations in eight cities, Ipsos Reid employs more than 300 researcher professionals and support staff in Canada. The company has the biggest network of telephone call centres in Canada, as well as the largest pre-recruited household and on-line panels. Ipsos Reid's

Canadian marketing research and public affairs practices are staffed with seasoned research consultants with extensive industry-specific backgrounds, offering the premier suite of research vehicles in Canada—including the Ipsos Trend Report, the leading source of public opinion in the country—all of which provide clients with actionable and relevant information. Ipsos Reid is an Ipsos company, a leading global survey-based market research group. To learn more, visit

www.ipsos.ca

For copies of other news releases, please visit

<http://www.ipsos-na.com/news/>

© Ipsos Reid

*Washington • New York • Chicago • Minneapolis • Seattle • San Francisco
Vancouver • Edmonton • Calgary • Winnipeg • Toronto • Ottawa • Montreal*



LIBERALS (34% VS. 30% TORIES) HOLD SLIM LEAD ON EVE OF ELECTION CALL AS CANADIANS WARM TO IDEA OF POTENTIAL HARPER MINORITY

Toronto, ON – According to the latest Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News, the governing Liberal Party, with 34% of voter support (-2 points from a poll conducted last week), holds a slim lead over their chief rivals, the Conservatives (30%, +3 points). Meanwhile, the NDP at 16% (unchanged) and the Green Party (5%, -1 point) hold steady. And in Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois is up 9 points and now hold 59% of federal votes in this province versus 23% for the federal Liberals (-5 points).

And while the horse-race in vote support between the two leading parties is tight heading into next week's expected election call, it would appear that the Liberals may become more vulnerable to defeat as Canadians seem to be warming to the idea of a Conservative minority government: Forty-two percent of Canadians (up 3 points from 39% last week) agree with the statement that "I'd be comfortable voting for Stephen Harper and the Conservatives to form the government in the next election because we'll probably have another minority government which will keep them in check".

Further, six in ten (62%, essentially unchanged from 58% a month ago) continue to feel that 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.

When it comes to Party Momentum:

- Momentum for Paul Martin and the Liberal Party, while still strongly negative (-38 points), has improved 6 points;



- Stephen Harper and the Conservatives maintain slightly negative (-8 points) momentum – unchanged from earlier this month;
- Momentum for Jack Layton and the NDP is now negative (-7 points) down 11 points;
- Momentum for Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois is very strongly positive (+34 points) – up 25 points from the last survey.

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from November 22nd to November 24th 2005. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1000 adult Canadians were interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the aggregate 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 will be larger within each sub-grouping 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 (34%, -2 Points) Have Marginal Lead Over Conservatives (30%, +3 Points)...

If a federal election were held tomorrow, 34% of decided voters would cast their ballot for the federal Liberals (-2 points from a November 15th poll), 30% would vote Conservative (+3 points), 16% would vote NDP (unchanged), and 5% would vote for the Green Party (-1 point).

In Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois is up 9 points to 59% versus 23% support for the federal Liberals (-5 points).

Among all Canadians, 9% are undecided, refused to say whom they would vote for, or don't know.



Parties	Election Results						Movement From Last Poll	Since 2004 Election
	June 28, 2004	Oct 25-27, 2005	Nov 1-2, 2005	Nov 8-10, 2005	Nov 13-15, 2005	Nov 22-24, 2005		
The Conservative Party	30%	26%	30%	28%	27%	30%	3%	0%
The Liberals	37%	38%	31%	34%	36%	34%	-2%	-3%
The New Democratic Party	16%	18%	19%	19%	16%	16%	0%	0%
The Bloc Quebecois	12%	11%	13%	14%	13%	15%	2%	3%
The Green Party	4%	5%	5%	4%	6%	5%	-1%	1%

Regional Highlights:

- The Bloc Quebecois is up 9 points in Quebec to 59% versus 23% support for the federal Liberals (-5 points).
- The Liberal Party is down sharply in British Columbia (26%, -18 points) while the Conservatives (33%, +14 points) have moved in to fill this vacuum.
- The Conservatives have made strong gains in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (46%, +16 points).

For full regional tables please refer to last page of report.

Six In Ten (62%) Feel It's Time For A Change In Federal Government...

Six in ten Canadians (62%, essentially unchanged from 58% a month ago) feel that 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. Thirty-three percent, however, say that the Liberal Party deserves to be re-elected under the leadership of Paul Martin.

There are no notable demographic or attitudinal variances with respect to this question.



	June 13th, 2004	April 10th, 2005	Oct 27th, 2005	Nov 22-24, 2005	Change
The Federal Liberal Party deserves to be re-elected	29%	30%	34%	33%	-1%
It's time for a change	65%	65%	58%	62%	4%

Forty-Two Percent (Up 3 Points) Feel Comfortable Voting For Conservatives Because Minority Government Will Keep Them In Check...

Forty-two percent of Canadians (up from 39% last week) agree with the statement that “I'd be comfortable voting for Stephen Harper and the Conservatives to form the government in the next election because we'll probably have another minority which will keep them in check” (12% strongly agree). Half (53%) of Canadians disagree with this statement (33% strongly disagree), and five percent say they “don't know”.

- Agreement with this statement has risen most sharply in British Columbia (41%, +11 points) and Atlantic Canada (43%, +11 points), and is up notably in Ontario (45%, +6 points).

		TOTAL	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL
% That Agree	November 15th, 2005	39%	30%	62%	52%	39%	33%	32%
	November 24th, 2005	42%	41%	57%	47%	45%	31%	43%
	Change	3%	11%	-5%	-5%	6%	-2%	11%

Party and Party Leader Momentum...

As part of the survey, Ipsos-Reid asked Canadians whether their opinions of the various major parties and their leaders has improved, stayed the same, or worsened over the last few



weeks.¹ The results from this question were used to track changes in “momentum” from previous national surveys.

Momentum For Paul Martin And The Liberal Party, While Still Strongly Negative (-38 Points), Has Improved 6 Points...

When Canadians are asked whether their impression of Paul Martin and the Liberal has improved or worsened over the last few weeks:

- 15% say their impression has improved;
- 53% say their impression has worsened; and
- 27% say their impression has stayed the same.

Five percent of Canadians “don’t know”.

Paul Martin and the Liberals have a strongly negative momentum score (-38 points),² but their score has improved 6 points from -44 points earlier this month.

The Liberal party and their leader have made the biggest momentum gains in Alberta and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (both +14 points), and have made some headway in Ontario (+7 points).

Paul Martin and the Liberal Party	REGION							VOTE INTENTION				
	TOTAL	BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	QUE	AT	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
Momentum November 10, 2005	-44%	-39%	-61%	-42%	-37%	-58%	-24%	-77%	4%	-53%	-81%	-42%
Momentum November 24, 2005	-38%	-36%	-47%	-28%	-30%	-53%	-25%	-71%	12%	-49%	-79%	-36%
Change	6%	3%	14%	14%	7%	5%	-1%	6%	8%	4%	2%	6%

¹ In previous tracked surveys Ipsos Reid asked whether respondents’ impression had improved/worsened over the last few months. Because election campaigns introduce week to week volatility when it comes to momentum, this metric has been changed to a shorter time-frame of last few weeks.

² Momentum score is calculated by subtracting the percentage who say their impression has worsened from the percentage who say their impression has improved.



Stephen Harper And The Conservatives Maintain Slightly Negative (-8 Points) Momentum – Unchanged From Earlier This Month...

When Canadians are asked whether their impression of Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party has improved or worsened over the last few weeks:

- 24% say their impression has improved;
- 32% say their impression has worsened; and
- 34% say their impression has stayed the same.

Ten percent of Canadians “don’t know”.

Stephen Harper and the Conservatives have a slightly negative momentum score (-8 points), which is unchanged from earlier this month.

Momentum for Stephen Harper and the Conservative party is up strongly in Alberta (+12 points), British Columbia (+11 points) and Atlantic Canada (+11 points). But, momentum is down sharply in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (-23 points).

Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party	REGION							VOTE INTENTION				
	TOTAL	BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	QUE	AT	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
Momentum November 10, 2005	-8%	-15%	-2%	2%	-7%	-12%	-8%	44%	-34%	-34%	-14%	-30%
Momentum November 24, 2005	-8%	-4%	10%	-21%	-11%	-12%	3%	45%	-37%	-39%	-8%	-25%
Change	0%	11%	12%	-23%	-4%	0%	11%	1%	-3%	-5%	6%	5%

Momentum For Jack Layton And The NDP Is Now Negative (-7 Points) Down 11 Points...

When Canadians are asked whether their impression of Jack Layton and the NDP has improved or worsened over the last few weeks:



- 23% say their impression has improved;
- 30% say their impression has worsened; and
- 37% say their impression has stayed the same.

Ten percent of Canadians “don’t know”.

Jack Layton and the NDP have a slightly negative momentum score (-7 points), which is down 11 points from earlier this month.

Momentum for the NDP and their leader is down most sharply in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (-31 points), and has also gone down in Ontario (-12 points), Quebec (-10 points) and Alberta (-9 points). Among NDP supporters, momentum has slid down 12 points.

Jack Layton and the NDP	REGION								VOTE INTENTION			
	TOTAL	BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	QUE	AT	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
Momentum November 10, 2005	4%	-3%	-2%	2%	1%	9%	8%	-26%	-2%	48%	4%	13%
Momentum November 24, 2005	-7%	-3%	-11%	-29%	-11%	-1%	9%	-19%	-20%	36%	3%	-8%
Change	-11%	0%	-9%	-31%	-12%	-10%	1%	7%	-18%	-12%	-1%	-21%

Momentum For Gilles Duceppe And The Bloc Quebecois Very Strongly Positive (+34 Points) – Up 25 Points From The Last Survey...

When residents of Quebec are asked whether their impression of Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois has improved or worsened over the last few weeks:

- 48% say their impression has improved;
- 14% say their impression has worsened; and
- 31% say their impression has stayed the same.



Eight percent “don’t know”.

Overall, Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois have a very strong positive momentum score (+34 points), and are up 25 points from the last survey.

The Bloc have made particularly strong gains among Conservative Party supporters (+61 points)

Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois	REGION	VOTE INTENTION				
	QUE	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
Momentum November 10, 2005	9%	-26%	-2%	48%	4%	13%
Momentum November 24, 2005	34%	35%	-20%	15%	64%	13%
Change	25%	61%	-18%	-33%	60%	0%

Majority (67%) Regard Liberal’s Recent Spending And Trade Announcements As Cynical Attempt To Win Votes Before An Election...

When asked to consider the Liberal Government’s recent announcements ranging from the purchase of new planes for our military to special relief to the softwood lumber industry to money for training new immigrants when they come to Canada, a majority of Canadians (67%) indicated they felt the government doesn’t really care about solving things and that this is a cynical way to win votes with a looming potential election. But, a good portion (27%) feel they have been working hard for years on these matters and truly believe that these are vital issues that need to be addressed regardless of a looming potential election.

- Residents of Alberta (82%) and Quebec (76%) are the most likely to view these announcements as cynical attempt to win votes.



- Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (35%), Ontario (33%) and British Columbia (29%) are the most likely to view this as something the government wanted to address regardless of a looming potential election.

Regional Tables...

Parties	Ontario		
	November 14-15, 2005	November 22-24, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	32%	33%	1%
The Liberals	42%	44%	2%
The NDP	19%	16%	-3%
The Green Party	6%	6%	0%

Parties	Quebec		
	November 14-15, 2005	November 22-24, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	9%	10%	1%
The Liberals	28%	23%	-5%
The NDP	7%	4%	-3%
The Bloc Quebecois	50%	59%	9%
The Green Party	3%	3%	0%

Parties	British Columbia		
	November 14-15, 2005	November 22-24, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	19%	33%	14%
The Liberals	44%	26%	-18%
The NDP	27%	33%	6%
The Green Party	10%	8%	-2%

Parties	Alberta		
	November 14-15, 2005	November 22-24, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	61%	53%	-8%
The Liberals	19%	27%	8%
The NDP	12%	15%	3%
The Green Party	8%	4%	-4%



Parties	Saskatchewan/Manitoba		
	November 14-15, 2005	November 22-24, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	30%	46%	16%
The Liberals	37%	31%	-6%
The NDP	25%	21%	-4%
The Green Party	8%	2%	-6%

Parties	Atlantic Canada		
	November 14-15, 2005	November 22-24, 2005	Change
The Conservative Party	34%	35%	1%
The Liberals	43%	46%	3%
The NDP	16%	19%	3%
The Green Party	6%	1%	-5%

-30-

For more information on this news release, please contact:

*Dr. Darrell Bricker
President & COO
Ipsos-Reid Public Affairs
(416) 324-2900*

For full tabular results, please visit our website at www.ipsos.ca. News Releases are available at: <http://www.ipsos-na.com/news/>