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*Debates Come Against Backdrop Of 40% Of Canadians Saying
They Still Haven't Made Up Their Mind On Who To Vote For
Most Canadians (55%) Express A Lack Of Interest In On-Going
Election*

*One-third (34%) Say They Feel "More Cynical And Discouraged
About Voting" Than In Elections Past*



Ipsos Reid

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Debates Come Against Backdrop Of 40% Of Canadians Saying They Still Haven't Made Up Their Mind On Who To Vote For

Most Canadians (55%) Express A Lack Of Interest In On-Going Election

One-third (34%) Say They Feel "More Cynical And Discouraged About Voting" Than In Elections Past

Toronto, ON – Six in ten Canadians (57%) say they intend to watch the first set of debates between the major party leaders this week, according to the latest Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News, 39% however, say they do not intend to watch them.

The debates come at a time in the election campaign when a considerable portion of Canadians (40%) say they "have not made up my mind on who to vote for" and that they "intend to park my vote until closer to Election Day in the New Year". Half of Canadians (47%), though, say they "have absolutely made up my mind as to who I am going to vote for and nothing will change my mind".

But are Canadians really engaged in this election campaign? Most (55%) say they have "only some" (36%) or "no interest at all" (19%) in the on-going federal election. Forty-four percent express either "quite a bit" (25%) or "a great deal" (19%) of interest in the campaign.

Compared to other federal elections in the past, 34% of Canadians say they feel "more cynical and discouraged about voting". Half (50%) say there is no real difference to previous elections, and 14% say they are "more excited and interested in voting" this time around.



These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from December 9th to December 11th 2005. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1,000 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.

Six In Ten (57%) Intend to Watch The Leaders Debate...

Six in ten Canadians (57%) say they intend to watch the first set of debates among the major party leaders this week. Thirty-nine percent say they do not intend to watch them.

	TOTAL	Region							Vote Intention			
		BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
Yes	57%	55%	52%	49%	63%	50%	58%	66%	60%	54%	53%	55%
No	39%	42%	40%	48%	32%	48%	37%	29%	37%	41%	45%	43%

- Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (49%), Quebec (50%), and Alberta (52%) are the least likely of Canadians to say they intend to watch the debates.
- NDP (54%) and Bloc Quebecois (53%) supporters are the least likely to intend to watch the debates.

Four In Ten Canadians Have Not Made Up Their Mind And Intend To "Park" Their Vote Until Closer To Election Day...

Half of Canadians (47%) say they "have absolutely made up my mind as to who I am going to vote for and nothing will change my mind", 40% say "have not made up my mind on who to vote for and I intend to park my vote until closer to Election Day in the New Year", and 12% say they "really don't care about the election and I probably will not go out and vote so it doesn't matter what the politicians are saying or doing".

	TOTAL	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
I have absolutely made up my mind as to who I am going to vote for and nothing will change my mind	47%	46%	41%	54%	44%	53%	43%	63%	49%	45%	67%	33%
I have not made up my mind on who to vote for and I intend to park my vote until closer to Election Day in the New Year	40%	40%	47%	36%	43%	31%	42%	35%	41%	43%	24%	61%
I really don't care about the election and I probably will not go out and vote so it doesn't matter what the politicians are saying or doing	12%	11%	11%	11%	11%	14%	13%	2%	10%	12%	8%	7%

Those most likely to say they have absolutely made up their mind as to who they are going to vote for are:

- Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (54%) and Quebec (53%), and
- Bloc Quebecois (67%) and Conservative Party (63%) supporters.

Those most likely to say they have parked their vote and will make a decision closer to Election Day are:

- Residents of Alberta (47%); and
- Green Party supporters (61%).

Forty-four Percent Have Interest in Campaign, 55% Don't...

When Canadians are asked how much interest they have in the on-going federal election campaign, 55% say they have “only some” (36%) or “no interest at all” (19%). Forty-four percent express either “quite a bit” (25%) or “a great deal” (19%) of interest in the campaign.

	TOTAL	BC	ALB	Region				Vote Intention				
				SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
Top 2: A great deal/Quite a bit	44%	52%	45%	35%	47%	41%	35%	58%	44%	45%	47%	43%
Bottom 2: Only some/No interest at all	55%	47%	53%	62%	53%	58%	63%	42%	54%	54%	53%	57%
A great deal	19%	16%	17%	16%	22%	19%	15%	25%	19%	14%	22%	28%
Quite a bit	25%	36%	28%	19%	25%	22%	20%	33%	25%	31%	25%	15%
Only some	36%	34%	35%	46%	35%	34%	39%	34%	36%	41%	38%	32%
No interest at all	19%	13%	18%	16%	18%	24%	24%	8%	18%	13%	15%	25%

- Interest in the election is strongest among residents of British Columbia (52%) and Ontario (47%), and among Conservative Party supporters (58%).
- Disinterest in the election is strongest among residents of Atlantic Canada (63%) and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (62%).

One-Third (34%) Of Canadians Feel More Cynical And Discouraged About Voting...

Compared to other federal elections in the past, 34% of Canadians say they feel “more cynical and discouraged about voting”. But, 14% say they are “more excited and interested in voting”, and half (50%) say there is no real difference either way.

	Region								Vote Intentions			
	TOTAL	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL	CP	LIB	NDP	BQ	Green
More excited and interested in voting	14%	17%	13%	6%	14%	17%	8%	20%	13%	10%	20%	12%
More cynical and discouraged about voting	34%	31%	37%	25%	40%	28%	31%	30%	32%	43%	27%	41%
No real difference either way	50%	50%	48%	67%	44%	53%	58%	49%	52%	45%	51%	47%

Those most likely to say they are more cynical and discouraged about voting are:

- Residents of Ontario (40%) and Alberta (37%); and
- Supporters of the NDP (43%).



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