

# FEDERAL VOTE SUPPORT REMAINS STABLE, BUT APPROVAL RATING FOR HARPER GOVERNMENT CLIMBS

*Conservatives (38%, -1 Point), Liberals 28% (+1 Point), NDP 19%  
(-1 Point) – Bloc Quebecois (38% In Quebec, +2 Points)*

*Government Approval Rises 8 Points To 62% -- Driven Largely  
By Improved Impressions In British Columbia*



**Ipsos Reid**

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**Toronto, ON** – Leading into the return of Parliament, a new Ipsos Reid national survey conducted on behalf of CanWest News Service/Global News shows a stable federal political landscape.

However, while media commentary may have suggested that Stephen Harper's Conservative Party stumbled out of the blocks after being elected, the government's approval rating has improved 8 points since early February to 62%. Further, this rise in approval has been driven largely by residents of British Columbia (+21 points) - the province most affected by the controversial cabinet appointment of David Emerson.

At the national level, the Conservatives now attract 38% of federal vote support (-1 point since the last Ipsos Reid survey), the Liberals 28% (+1 point), the NDP 19% (-1 point), and the Green Party 5% (unchanged).

In the province of Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois garner 38% support (+2 points) versus 27% support for the Conservatives (-7 points) and 20% support for the Liberals (+6 points).

### Federal Vote Support

Parties	Election '06	Feb 14-16, '06	Mar 21-23, '06	Latest Movement	Movement Since Election
The Conservative Party	36%	39%	38%	-1%	2%
The Liberals	30%	27%	28%	1%	-2%
The New Democratic Party	17%	20%	19%	-1%	2%
The Bloc Quebecois	11%	8%	9%	1%	-2%
The Green Party	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%

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

Currently, six in ten (62%) Canadians approve of the performance of Stephen Harper's Conservative government so far -16% "strongly approve". This is up markedly (+8 points) from the 54% approval rating given to Mr. Harper's party just after their election victory. This rise in approval rating has come almost exclusively from those Canadians who are offering 'soft support' for the government, as 46% now say they "somewhat approve" of the government's approval vs. 36% who said they "somewhat approved" the last time we asked this question.

Thirty percent of Canadians disapprove of the government's performance (12% strongly disapprove).

### Federal Government Approval

Approval Rating	National	BC	Alb	Sk/Mn	Ont	Que	Atl
Feb 7-9, '06	54%	45%	67%	57%	49%	61%	49%
Mar 21-23, '06	62%	66%	69%	53%	55%	68%	69%
Movement	8%	21%	2%	-4%	6%	7%	20%

- Approval for the government is up sharply in British Columbia (+21 point) and Atlantic Canada (+20 points).

*Regional Vote Tables...*

Atlantic Canada	Feb 14-16, '06	Mar 21-23, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	41%	41%	0%
The Liberals	33%	29%	-4%
The New Democratic Party	25%	28%	3%
The Green Party	1%	1%	0%

Quebec	Feb 14-16, '06	Mar 21-23, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	34%	27%	-7%
The Liberals	14%	20%	6%
The New Democratic Party	11%	11%	0%
The Bloc Quebecois	36%	38%	2%
The Green Party	4%	4%	0%

Ontario	Feb 14-16, '06	Mar 21-23, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	34%	37%	3%
The Liberals	36%	34%	-2%
The New Democratic Party	22%	22%	0%
The Green Party	6%	6%	0%

Sask/Man	Feb 14-16, '06	Mar 21-23, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	48%	41%	-7%
The Liberals	24%	31%	7%
The New Democratic Party	24%	22%	-2%
The Green Party	3%	6%	3%



Alberta	Feb 14-16, '06	Mar 21-23, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	62%	55%	-7%
The Liberals	16%	20%	4%
The New Democratic Party	15%	19%	4%
The Green Party	7%	5%	-2%

British Columbia	Feb 14-16, '06	Mar 21-23, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	35%	43%	8%
The Liberals	27%	29%	2%
The New Democratic Party	26%	20%	-6%
The Green Party	10%	7%	-3%

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from March 21<sup>st</sup> to March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1000 adult Canadians was interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the aggregate 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 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 Census data.

	Total	British Columbia	Alberta	Sask/Man	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
Sample	1000	139	96	67	385	237	76
Margin of Error +/- %	3.1	8.3	10.0	12	5.0	6.4	11.2

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