

OF GOVERNMENT'S LIST OF FIVE PRIORITIES, CANADIANS RATE "PATIENT WAIT TIMES GUARANTEE" AT THE TOP

*Most (54%) Want Government To Give Money For Co-Operative
Child Care Programs Vs. 39% Who Feel Government Should Give
\$1,200 Credit To Families*



Ipsos Reid

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Toronto, ON- According to a new Ipsos Reid survey conducted for CanWest/Global News, of the five priorities that the Conservatives have said they will be focussing their government, "work with the provinces to establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee" is chosen by the largest percentage of Canadians as the priority that the government should focus on "first" (28%) and the one they should "spend the most time on" (29%).

Government's Priorities For Canadians

	To Focus On First	To Spend <u>Most</u> Time On
Work with the provinces to establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee	28%	29%
Make our streets and communities safe by cracking down on crime	24%	24%
Clean up government by passing the federal accountability act	20%	19%
Help parents with the cost of raising their children	16%	16%
Cut the GST by 1% in the first year of their mandate	10%	9%
Don't know/Refused	2%	3%

When it comes to the government's role in dealing with child care, most Canadians are of the opinion that in order to help families cope with expenses of raising children the government should "pay employers and communities to create child care spaces in the workplace or through co-operative or community associations" (54%) versus 39% who believe the



government should “give families \$1200 per year for each child under six to pay for whatever childcare arrangement they feel is appropriate for their child”. Seven percent “don’t know” which of these opinions is closer to their own.

- Support for a co-operatively funded child care system is highest in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (65%) and Atlantic Canada (60%).
- Support for giving families a \$1,200 credit to choose which child care arrangement they want is highest in Quebec (44%) and Alberta (41%), and among residents of rural regions (50%), men (44%), and those with less than a high school education (46%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from February 14th to February 16th, 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 ± 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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