

CONSERVATIVES SURGE TO 43% SUPPORT NATIONALLY –LEVEL NOT SEEN SINCE MULRONEY GOVERNMENT IN NOVEMBER OF 1988

*In Quebec Conservatives (33%) Are Gaining On The Bloc
Quebecois (38%), While Liberals (14%) Remain Below Their
Historic Core*



Ipsos Reid

Ipsos Reid Posting Public Release Date: -Tuesday, May 23rd, 2006 – 6:00 a.m. (EDT)

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



CONSERVATIVES SURGE TO 43% SUPPORT NATIONALLY – LEVEL NOT SEEN SINCE MULRONEY GOVERNMENT IN NOVEMBER OF 1988

In Quebec Conservatives (33%) Are Gaining On The Bloc Quebecois (38%), While Liberals (14%) Remain Below Their Historic Core

Toronto, ON – According to a new Ipsos Reid survey conducted on behalf of CanWest/Global, the current Conservative Party government is enjoying their highest levels of federal vote support in nearly 20 years, since Brian Mulroney's majority in November of 1988.

Currently, 43% of federal voters support the Conservative Party (+5 points since a mid-March Ipsos Reid poll), giving them an impressive 18-point lead over their chief federal rival, the Liberal Party (25%, -3 points). The NDP (15%, -4 points) trail the Liberals, while the Green Party (5%, unchanged) remains much further back.

- In the Province of Quebec, the once mighty Liberals now attract 14% of the federal vote (-6 points). The Liberals are bleeding support to the Conservatives (33%, +6 points) who now only trail the Bloc Quebecois (38%, unchanged) by a narrow 5-point margin.
- In the traditional Liberal stronghold of Ontario, the Conservatives (42%, +5 points) now lead the Liberals (38%, +4 points), while NDP support has plummeted (11%, -11 points).

*Federal Vote Support*

Parties	Election '06	Feb 14-16, '06	Mar 21-23, '06	May 16-18, '06	Latest Movement	Movement Since Election
The Conservative Party	36%	39%	38%	43%	5%	7%
The Liberals	30%	27%	28%	25%	-3%	-5%
The New Democratic Party	17%	20%	19%	15%	-4%	-2%
The Bloc Quebecois	11%	8%	9%	9%	0%	-2%
The Green Party	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%

Among all Canadians, 11% are undecided, refused to say whom they would vote for, or don't know.

Regional Vote Tables...

Atlantic Canada	Mar 21-23, '06	May 16-18, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	41%	50%	9%
The Liberals	29%	19%	-10%
The New Democratic Party	28%	20%	-8%
The Green Party	1%	4%	3%

Quebec	Mar 21-23, '06	May 16-18, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	27%	33%	6%
The Liberals	20%	14%	-6%
The New Democratic Party	11%	9%	-2%
The Bloc Quebecois	38%	38%	0%
The Green Party	4%	4%	0%



Ontario	Mar 21-23, '06	May 16-18, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	37%	42%	5%
The Liberals	34%	38%	4%
The New Democratic Party	22%	11%	-11%
The Green Party	6%	7%	1%

Sask/Man	Mar 21-23, '06	May 16-18, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	41%	45%	-7%
The Liberals	31%	24%	7%
The New Democratic Party	22%	20%	-2%
The Green Party	6%	1%	3%

Alberta	Mar 21-23, '06	May 16-18, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	55%	59%	4%
The Liberals	20%	18%	-2%
The New Democratic Party	19%	19%	0%
The Green Party	5%	3%	-2%

British Columbia	Mar 21-23, '06	May 16-18, '06	Movement
The Conservative Party	43%	48%	5%
The Liberals	29%	20%	-9%
The New Democratic Party	20%	26%	6%
The Green Party	7%	6%	-1%

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from May 16-May 18th, 2006. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1003 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	1003	140	97	67	386	237	76
Margin of Error +/-%	3.1	8.3	10.0	12	5.0	6.4	11.2

-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/>