

EIGHT IN TEN CANADIANS (78%) SUPPORT FIXED FOUR YEAR TERMS FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

On Senate Reform: Plurality (44%) Would Like Elected Senate



Ipsos Reid

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Toronto, ON – According to the latest Ipsos Reid survey conducted on behalf of CanWest News Service/Global News, eight in ten Canadians (78%) support Prime Minister Harper's recent announcement that he would like to see Canadians vote in fixed elections every four years in October. Twenty-two percent, though, want to maintain the traditional way of having the Prime Minister call an election when they see fit during their five year mandate.

- Residents of Alberta (87%) are the most likely to support this announcement, while Ontarians (73%) are the least likely to support it.

And when it comes to the topic of Senate reform, a plurality of Canadians (44%) indicate they would like an elected Senate --many others support "doing away with the Senate completely" (31%) and "keeping it pretty much the same as an appointed body except with eight year term limits" (25%).

Regionally, there is a divide in opinion about the topic of Senate reform when it comes to the Ontario/Quebec border.

- Those West of the Quebec border are most likely to support "electing Senators" (47% Ontario, 50% Saskatchewan/Manitoba, 57% Alberta, 50% British Columbia), while those East of the Ontario border are most likely to support "doing away with the Senate completely" (50% Quebec, 43% Atlantic Canada).



These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from June 1st to June 5th, 2006. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1,108 adult Canadians were interviewed via an online survey instrument. With a sample of this size, the aggregate results are considered accurate to within ± 3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult on-line 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.

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