

FEDERAL POLITICAL LANDSCAPE: CALM AMIDST THE INCOME TRUST STORM

Conservatives (37%, -1 Point), Liberals (29%, Unchanged), NDP (19%, +2 Points) - In Quebec Bloc At 38% (-5 Points) Vs. 21% Conservatives (-1 Point) And 22% Liberals (+3 Points)



Ipsos Reid

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Toronto, ON – An Ipsos Reid survey conducted during a week which saw Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and the Conservative government allegedly flip-flop on an election promise and introduce new controversial tax measures on income trust funds reports that the Conservative government is not (yet) being punished in the polls for their actions.

The survey, conducted among a sample of 1003 adult Canadians on behalf of *CanWest/Global*, paints the federal political horizon as calm and stable despite the apparent income trust storm. Currently 37% of decided voters back the Stephen Harper led Conservative party (-1 point from an August 22-24th, 2006 Ipsos Reid survey), 29% support the Liberals (unchanged), 19% support the NDP (+2 points) and 5% support the Green Party (unchanged). In the Province of Quebec, the Bloc Quebecois (38%, -5 points) holds a strong lead over both the Liberals (22%, +3 points) and the Conservatives (21%, -1 point) who are both essentially tied for second.

Meanwhile, half of Canadians (54%) agree with the statement that “Canada is better off today than it was one year ago” (15% strongly agree).

But the same proportion (54%) feel that “no matter which party wins the next election, I expect it will have very little impact on Canada’s economy” (20% strongly agree).



These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from October 31st to November 2nd, 2006. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1002 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	142	96	67	385	237	76
Margin of Error +/-%	3.1	8.3	10.0	12	5.0	6.4	11.2

The Federal Vote: Conservatives Command 8 Point Lead...

Federal Vote Support

Parties	Election '06	May 16-18, 06	July 24-26, 06	Aug 22-24, 06	Oct 31-Nov 2, 06	Latest Movement	Movement Since Election
The Conservative Party	36%	43%	39%	38%	37%	-1%	1%
The Liberals	30%	25%	27%	29%	29%	0%	-1%
The New Democratic Party	17%	15%	17%	17%	19%	2%	2%
The Bloc Quebecois	11%	9%	10%	10%	9%	-1%	-2%
The Green Party	5%	5%	7%	5%	5%	0%	0%

In Quebec: Bloc Quebecois leads with 38% of federal votes (-5 points), followed by the Liberals (22%, +3 points), the Conservatives (21%, -1 point) and the NDP (14%, +2 points).

Among all Canadians, 12% are undecided, refused to say whom they would vote for, or don't know.

Notable regional movements:

- Liberal support is down notably in British Columbia (-13 points), and Alberta (-7 points), and is up in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (+9 points) and Atlantic Canada (+5 points).
- Conservative support has dropped sharply in Atlantic Canada (-15 points).

Full regional tables showing voter movement are located at the end of this factum report.

- Conservative support has remained stable among those ages 55 and older, currently at 42% - essentially unchanged from 45% in late August.

Half (54%) Agree: “Canada Is Better Off Today Than It Was One Year Ago”...

Half (54%) agree with the statement that “Canada is better off today than it was one year ago” (15% strongly agree). Forty-three percent disagree (14% strongly disagree) and the remaining 3% “don’t know”.

- Agreement is highest among residents of Alberta (81%), followed distantly by those in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (64%), British Columbia (57%), Atlantic Canada (55%), Ontario (51%), and Quebec (43%).
- Eight in ten Conservative supporters (79%) agree with this statement vs. just 44% among both Liberal and NDP supporters - 37% of Bloc Quebecois supporters agree with this statement.

And, Same Proportion (54%) Feel That Whichever Party Is Elected It Will Not Impact Canada’s Economy...

Fifty-four percent of Canadians agree with the statement “no matter which party wins the next election, I expect it will have very little impact on Canada’s economy” (20% strongly agree). Forty-two percent disagree with this statement (20% strongly disagree). The remaining 3% “don’t know”.

- Residents of Quebec (60%) are the most likely to agree with this statement, followed by those in Atlantic Canada (59%), and British Columbia (55%).
- Bloc Quebecois (67%) and Liberal (57%) supporters are the most likely to agree with this statement.

Among Those Who Feel The Elected Party Will Make An Economic Difference: Largest Proportion (41%) Point To Conservatives As The Party That Would Be Best For The Economy, Liberals (26%), NDP (13%)...

Regional Vote Tables

Atlantic Canada	Aug 22-24, 06	Oct 31-Nov 2, 06	Movement
The Conservative Party	43%	28%	-15%
The Liberals	34%	39%	5%
The New Democratic Party	23%	28%	5%
The Green Party	1%	1%	0%

Quebec	Aug 22-24, 06	Oct 31-Nov 2, 06	Movement
The Conservative Party	22%	21%	-1%
The Liberals	19%	22%	3%
The New Democratic Party	12%	14%	2%
The Bloc Quebecois	43%	38%	-5%
The Green Party	4%	3%	-1%

Ontario	Aug 22-24, 06	Oct 31-Nov 2, 06	Movement
The Conservative Party	39%	38%	-1%
The Liberals	35%	36%	1%
The New Democratic Party	17%	18%	1%
The Green Party	7%	5%	-2%



Sask/Man	Aug 22- 24, 06	Oct 31- Nov 2, 06	Movement
The Conservative Party	43%	40%	-3%
The Liberals	22%	31%	9%
The New Democratic Party	30%	26%	-4%
The Green Party	6%	3%	-3%

Alberta	Aug 22- 24, 06	Oct 31- Nov 2, 06	Movement
The Conservative Party	64%	71%	7%
The Liberals	21%	14%	-7%
The New Democratic Party	9%	12%	3%
The Green Party	6%	2%	-4%

British Columbia	Aug 22- 24, 06	Oct 31- Nov 2, 06	Movement
The Conservative Party	36%	39%	3%
The Liberals	34%	21%	-13%
The New Democratic Party	21%	28%	7%
The Green Party	7%	9%	2%

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