

# TORIES EDGE AHEAD OF GRITS BUT STILL A STALEMATE AS ONLY MINORITY GOVERNMENT VIALE

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Quebec Liberals Close in on BQ as Provincial Contest Likely  
Gives Boost to Fortunes*



**Ipsos Reid**

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## TORIES EDGE AHEAD OF GRITS BUT STILL A STALEMATE AS ONLY MINORITY GOVERNMENT VIABLE

*No Apparent Advantage for Any Party to Go to Polls Early, But  
Quebec Liberals Close in on BQ as Provincial Contest Likely Gives  
Boost to Fortunes*

**Toronto, ON** – The latest CanWest News Service/Global News Ipsos Reid national survey pegs the Federal Conservatives with 36% support (unchanged) and the Liberals with 32% support (-2 points from a February survey). Trailing further behind the front-runners are the NDP with 15% support (+2 points), the Bloc Quebecois with 8% nationally (-1 point) and the Green Party with 8% (unchanged).

Currently, this likely adds up to a continuing Minority government stalemate with no early election advantage for any party.

### *The Federal Vote...*

#### *Federal Vote Support (Major Parties)*

Parties	Election '06	Dec 5-7, 06	Dec 12-14, 06	Jan 16-18, 07	Feb 20-22, 07	Feb 28-Mar 1, 07	Latest Movement	Movement Since Election
The Conservative Party	36%	32%	34%	33%	36%	36%	0	0
The Liberals	30%	38%	36%	37%	34%	32%	-2	+2
The New Democratic Party	17%	13%	13%	13%	13%	15%	+2	-2
The Bloc Quebecois	11%	11%	10%	9%	9%	8%	-1	-3
The Green Party	5%	5%	5%	5%	8%	8%	0	+3

*Eleven percent is undecided, or would not vote.*



The closest race in the country is currently in seat rich Ontario, with the Liberals (39%, -2 points) just slightly ahead of the Conservatives (36%, -2 points), and the NDP up to 19%.

But it is in the province of Quebec where the real movement has taken place, with the Liberals (29%, +4 points) likely getting a bounce from their leading provincial Liberal counterparts in the early stages of the Quebec election, as the Bloc Quebecois (34%, -4 points) likely suffer the opposite effect with a concurrent decline in popularity of the PQ.

And, despite Prime Minister Harper's continued overtures to Premier Charest in hopes of wooing Quebec voters, the Conservatives have actually dropped in strength (18%, -3 points).

In Saskatchewan/Manitoba and British Columbia, the Liberals (21% and 25% respectively) and the NDP (23% and 25% respectively) are vying for second spot, while the Conservatives (50% and 38% respectively) in both provinces continue to enjoy a wide lead.

### *Regional Vote Tables (Major Parties)*

<b>Atlantic Canada</b>	<b>Feb 20-22, 07</b>	<b>Feb 28- Mar 1, 07</b>	<b>Movement</b>
<b>The Conservative Party</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>-15%</b>
<b>The Liberals</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>The New Democratic Party</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>The Green Party</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

<b>Quebec</b>	<b>Feb 20-22, 07</b>	<b>Feb 28- Mar 1, 07</b>	<b>Movement</b>
<b>The Conservative Party</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>The Liberals</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>The New Democratic Party</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>The Bloc Quebecois</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>The Green Party</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Feb 20-22, 07</b>	<b>Feb 28- Mar 1, 07</b>	<b>Movement</b>
<b>The Conservative Party</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>The Liberals</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>The New Democratic Party</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>The Green Party</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1%</b>



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Sask/Man	Feb 20-22, 07	Feb 28- Mar 1, 07	Movement
The Conservative Party	50%	50%	0%
The Liberals	31%	21%	-10%
The New Democratic Party	16%	23%	-7%
The Green Party	4%	6%	2%

Alberta	Feb 20-22, 07	Feb 28- Mar 1, 07	Movement
The Conservative Party	61%	55%	-6%
The Liberals	23%	27%	4%
The New Democratic Party	5%	9%	4%
The Green Party	8%	8%	0%

British Columbia	Feb 20-22, 07	Feb 28- Mar 1, 07	Movement
The Conservative Party	33%	38%	5%
The Liberals	33%	25%	-8%
The New Democratic Party	22%	25%	3%
The Green Party	11%	10%	-1%

*These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from February 28<sup>th</sup>- March 1, 2007. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1001 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	1001	138	96	69	385	238	76
Margin of Error +/-%	3.1	8.3	10.0	12	5.0	6.4	11.2

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