



BC MLA Compensation Poll Final Results – May 4, 2007

Methodology – Long Version

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Global BC. The poll was fielded May 3-4, 2007 with a representative sample of 450 adult British Columbians. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within ± 4.6 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult population of BC been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual BC population according to 2001 Census data.

The polling was conducted using Ipsos Reid's "Voice of the West Interactive Forum" – an online panel of more than 1,300 British Columbians who have been randomly recruited to match the overall characteristics of the adult BC population.

Methodology – Short Version

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Global BC. The survey was fielded on May 3-4, 2007 with a random sample of 450 adult British Columbians. The survey has a margin of error of ± 4.6 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Ipsos Reid Contact

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RESULTS

Overall Views on Panel Recommendations

Q1. As you may know, an independent panel was established (January 2007) to conduct a fair and impartial review of compensation and pension arrangements for British Columbia MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly). There has been no significant increase in MLA compensation for a decade.

The main recommendations of the panel were as follows:

- *A 29% increase in each MLA's basic salary (from \$76,100 to \$98,000).*
- *Higher salaries for those MLAs who perform additional duties (e.g. Cabinet Minister), including a 53% increase in the Premier's compensation (from \$121,100 to \$186,200).*
- *Reinstatement of a defined benefit pension plan.*
- *Future annual salary adjustments based on BC's rate of inflation.*

Overall, do you support or oppose implementing the recommendations of the independent panel?

Comments: Two-thirds (67%) of British Columbians say they oppose implementing the recommendations of the independent panel. Nearly half (48%) of residents say they "strongly oppose" implementing the recommendations.

Men are more likely than women to support implementing the recommendations (39% of men vs. 27% of women).

	Total (n=450) %	By Region		By Sex	
		Lower Mainland (n=258) %	Rest of BC (n=192) %	Men (n=218) %	Women (n=232) %
Support strongly	8	10	5	12	4
Support somewhat	25	26	23	26	23
Oppose somewhat	20	17	23	17	22
Oppose strongly	48	46	49	44	51
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total Support</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Total Oppose</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>73</i>

Preferred MLA Compensation Increase

Q2. As mentioned, the independent panel report recommended an increase of 29% in each MLA's basic salary (from \$76,100 to \$98,000). If it were up to you, which of the following increases would you recommend?

Comments: Most British Columbians (84%) believe MLAs deserve at least some type of raise. The most popular raise amount is 5% or 10% (52%). Roughly one-third (32%) say that MLAs deserve a raise of 15% or higher. Only 15% believe that MLAs should get nothing (or less than nothing).

Men are more likely than women to say that MLAs should get a raise of 15% or more (38% of men vs. 26% of women).

Categories Collapsed	Total (n=450) %	By Region		By Sex	
		Lower Mainland (n=258) %	Rest of BC (n=192) %	Men (n=218) %	Women (n=232) %
29% or more	17	20	11	25	8
15% or 20%	15	14	17	13	18
5% or 10%	52	52	53	47	57
0%	12	10	14	8	15
Their pay should be reduced	3	2	5	5	2
Don't know	1	2	1	3	0

MLAs Make Sacrifices

Q3. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement. **"Most MLAs work long hours and make significant personal and family sacrifices."**

Comments: Seven-in-ten (69%) British Columbians agree that most MLAs work long hours and make significant personal and family sacrifices.

	Total (n=450) %	By Region		By Sex	
		Lower Mainland (n=258) %	Rest of BC (n=192) %	Men (n=218) %	Women (n=232) %
Agree strongly	20	21	19	23	18
Agree somewhat	49	51	45	47	50
Disagree somewhat	21	19	23	16	25
Disagree strongly	7	5	11	10	5
Don't know	3	4	2	4	3
<i>Total Agree</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Total Disagree</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>30</i>

MLAs Could Make More in Private Sector

Q4. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement. **"Most MLAs could be making more money working in the private sector."**

Comments: British Columbians are split on the argument that most MLAs could be making more money working in the private sector. About half (46%) agree that MLAs could make more in the private sector, while half (45%) disagree.

	Total (n=450) %	By Region		By Sex	
		Lower Mainland (n=258) %	Rest of BC (n=192) %	Men (n=218) %	Women (n=232) %
Agree strongly	14	17	11	17	11
Agree somewhat	32	31	33	33	31
Disagree somewhat	32	31	33	27	37
Disagree strongly	13	11	15	14	11
Don't know	9	11	7	9	9
<i>Total Agree</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Total Disagree</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>48</i>

Pay Increase Required for Quality Candidates

Q5. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement. **"MLA pay must go up in order to attract quality candidates to run for political office."**

Comments: The argument that MLA pay must go up in order to attract quality candidates to run for political office is not persuasive for most British Columbians. Six-in-ten (59%) say they disagree that MLA pay must go up for this reason.

Men (51% vs. 32% of women) and Lower Mainland residents (46% vs. 33% in Rest of BC) are much more likely to be persuaded by this argument for raising MLA pay.

	Total (n=450) %	By Region		By Sex	
		Lower Mainland (n=258) %	Rest of BC (n=192) %	Men (n=218) %	Women (n=232) %
Agree strongly	14	16	12	19	10
Agree somewhat	26	30	21	32	21
Disagree somewhat	30	28	34	23	37
Disagree strongly	29	26	33	26	31
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total Agree</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Total Disagree</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>68</i>

Impact on Future Vote

Q6. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement. **"I would be much less likely to vote for any politician who supports a 29% pay increase."**

Comments: British Columbians say they will remember the MLA compensation issue during the next election. Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) agree they would be much less likely to vote for any politician who supports a 29% pay increase.

Women are more likely than men to say they would be much less likely to vote for a candidate who supports a 29% pay increase (77% of women vs. 59% of men).

	Total (n=450) %	By Region		By Sex	
		Lower Mainland (n=258) %	Rest of BC (n=192) %	Men (n=218) %	Women (n=232) %
Agree strongly	52	51	53	46	57
Agree somewhat	16	16	17	13	19
Disagree somewhat	13	11	16	16	10
Disagree strongly	16	20	11	23	9
Don't know	3	2	4	1	4
<i>Total Agree</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>77</i>
<i>Total Disagree</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>19</i>