

# **TORIES HEADING SOUTH FOR THE SUMMER?**

*Conservative Support Droops, Though Liberals Remain Flat;  
Bloc Maintains Edge in Quebec*



**Ipsos Reid**

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## **TORIES HEADING SOUTH FOR THE SUMMER?**

### ***Conservative Support Droops, Though Liberals Remain Flat; Bloc Maintains Edge in Quebec***

**Toronto, ON** – Facing a rebellion within his own party in Atlantic Canada, the threat of lawsuits over oil revenues from three provinces and charges during the G8 Summit that his government is too close to U.S. President George Bush on global warming, the sweet days of spring have been sour indeed for Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives. And it shows. Since May 24, the Conservatives have seen their support erode from 37% to 32%, according to the latest poll conducted by Ipsos Reid for CanWest and Global TV.

However, these results may be little more than a temporary slump. There is little to suggest that the three other main federal parties pose a formidable challenge to the Harper government. As Conservative support has declined, Liberal support has remained at 31 percent since May 24 – just one point better than their 2006 electoral turnout. NDP support has recovered from 13 percent support during December and January to remain stable at 16% since May 24, but still shy of their 17 percent turnout during the 2006 contest.

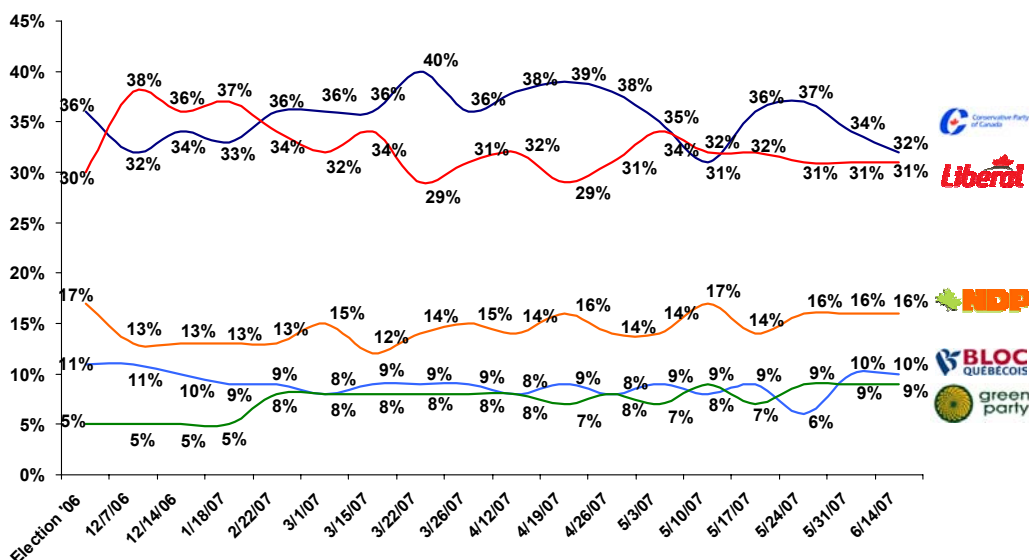
After a disappointing provincial election for the separatists, the Bloc Quebecois continue to recover, maintaining support of 37 percent in Quebec (10% nationally) since May 31, after a sharp but temporary drop to 24 percent (6% nationally) recorded May 24. Still, support for the Bloc remains softer than their 2006 turnout of 42 percent (11 percent nationally).

So, what is causing the Conservative slump? The only party showing any positive momentum since the 2006 contest remains the Green Party. With nine percent national support since May 24, the Greens continue to demonstrate support nearly double that of their five percent turnout during the 2006 contest. The numbers also show how important Quebec is to the Conservatives. With a seven-point deficit against the Liberals in Ontario, the Conservatives can ill afford to lose their position as a strong federal alternative in Quebec to a resurgent Bloc.

Nine percent of voters nationwide remain undecided.

## Federal Vote Support

June 14, 2007. Percentage of decided voters more likely to choose party first or second.

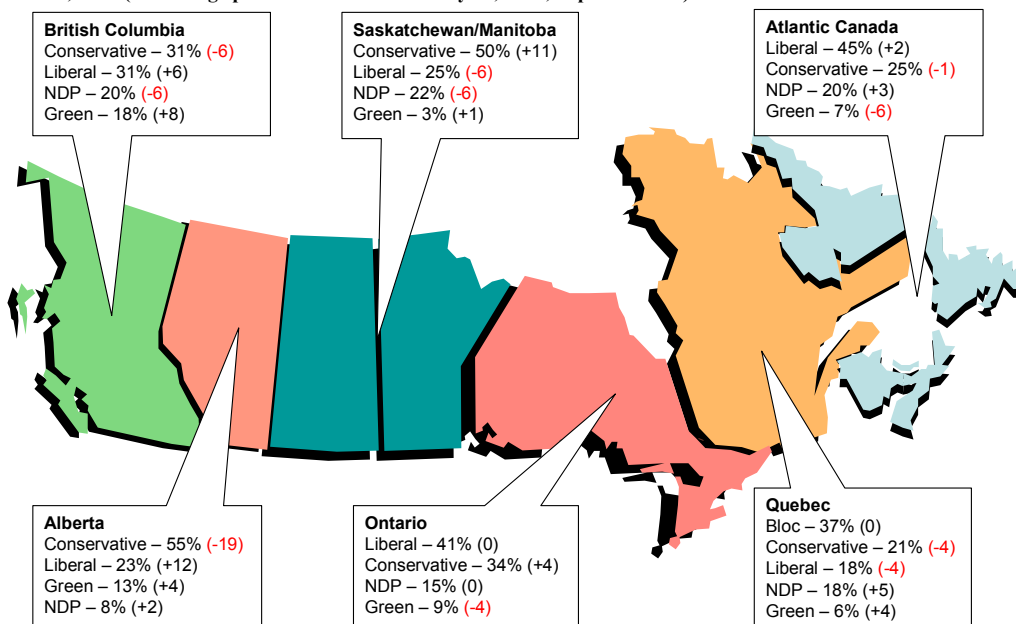


CanWest News Service/ Global News IpsosReid Survey, June 12-14, 2007. Decided voters including leaners (n=838).

9% of all Canadian adults (n=1,002) are undecided

## Regional Party Support

June 14, 2007 (Percentage point movement since May 31, 2007, in parenthesis.)



CanWest News Service/ Global News Ipsos Reid Survey, June 12-14, 2007. Decided voters including leaners (n=838).

Regionally, Conservatives support remains highest in Alberta, although it has dropped significantly from 74 percent on May 31 to 55 percent this week. Tory support is higher Saskatchewan and Manitoba (up 11 points to 50%), but lower in British Columbia (down six points since May 31, and 10 points since May 24 to 31%) where they are tied with the Liberals (31%). The Conservatives look somewhat better in Ontario, improving by four points to 34 percent since May 31, but still trailing seven points behind the Liberals (at 41%). In Quebec, the Conservatives hold a narrow lead among the federalist parties at 21 percent (down four points) compared to 18 percent for the Liberals. Support for the Bloc Quebecois has remained at 37 percent since May 31.

The Liberals lead in both Atlantic Canada (up two points since May 31 to 45%) and Ontario (flat since May 31 to 41%). The Liberals trail the Conservatives in Alberta (up 12 points to 25%) and Saskatchewan and Manitoba (down six points to 25%).

The NDP enjoy their highest level of support in Saskatchewan and Manitoba (down six points since May 31 to 22%), British Columbia (down six points to 20%) and Atlantic Canada (up three points to 20%). Support for the NDP is stronger in Quebec since May 31 (up five points to 18%), while flat in Ontario (15%). NDP support is lowest in Alberta (up two points to 8%).

Green Party support is strongest in British Columbia (up eight points since May 31 to 18%), Alberta (up four points to 13%) and Ontario (down four points to 9%), while it is lower in Atlantic Canada (down six points to 7%), Quebec (up four points to 6%) and Saskatchewan and Manitoba (up one point to 3%).

By gender, men favour the Conservatives (35%) over the Liberals (29%) by a 6-point margin, while women prefer the Liberals (34%) over the Conservatives (29%) by a five-point margin. The NDP draws equal support among men (16%) and women (16%), as does the Green Party (men: 9%; women: 9%). The Bloc Quebecois draws higher support among women (11%) than men (9%).



By age, Conservatives continue to enjoy an advantage among respondents 55 years and older (35%) as compared to the 18-to-34-year-old cohort (29%). The Liberals also enjoy greater support among those 55 years and older (37%) than among Canadians 18 to 34 years of age (28%). The NDP draws higher support among those 18 to 34 years of age (21%) than among those 35 to 54 years of age (16%) or 55 years and older (13%). Support for the Green Party is higher among those 18 to 34 years of age (11%) and 35 to 54 years (10%) than among those 55 years and older (6%). Support for the Bloc is highest among those 35 to 54 years of age (12%), while lower among those 18 to 34 (9%) and those 55 and older (7%).

*These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from June 12 -14, 2007. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1,002 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
<b>Sample</b>	1,002	132	104	65	381	250	70
<b>Margin of Error <math>\pm</math> %</b>	3.1	8.6	9.6	12.2	5.0	6.2	11.7

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