

HONEYMOON OFFICIALLY OVER FOR STELMACH GOVERNMENT

*All Major Parties Back to Support Levels Seen
in November 2004 Election*

PCs Lose Most Ground in Calgary

*Overall Approval Ratings Also Down With Bare Majority
Approving of Premier Stelmach's Performance To Date*

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Calgary - A new Ipsos Reid poll finds a substantial decline in support for the Ed Stelmach-led Progressive Conservatives. The Progressive Conservatives currently have the backing of 47% of Alberta's decided voters, down 12 points from 59% just two months ago (April). This returns the Progressive Conservatives to the same level of voter support they achieved in the 2004 Alberta provincial election. In fact, all four major parties have returned to exactly where they stood in the last election. Among decided voters, 29% say they would vote Liberal, 10% would vote New Democrat and 9% would vote for the Alberta Alliance Party.

A look at voter support by region produces some telling results for the Progressive Conservatives. In Calgary, Stelmach's party has the support of 42% of decided voters. This is a decline of 8-points from the 50% support the Progressive Conservatives achieved in the last election. In contrast, the Progressive Conservatives are up 12 points in the Edmonton CMA (47% today vs. 35% in election) and up 2-points in the rest of Alberta (53% today vs. 51% in election).

One explanation for the Progressive Conservatives' Calgary problems is highlighted by a poll question that asked Albertans to assess the performance of the Stelmach government at "addressing the needs of your city or region." Only one-third (33%) of Calgary voters say they approve of the provincial government's performance at addressing the needs of their city. This compares to six-in-ten Edmonton voters (58%) and rural voters (61%).

Ed Stelmach's approval rating as Premier has also moved downward. A bare majority (54%) of Albertans say they approve of the job he is doing as Premier, down 12 points from April. Stelmach's approval rating is much lower in Calgary (42%) than in either Edmonton (58%) or the rest of Alberta (63%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll fielded between June 12 and June 17, 2007 and is based on a randomly selected sample of 801 adult Albertans. Results based on a sample size of 801 are considered accurate to within ± 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult Albertan population been polled. Data was statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Alberta population according to the 2001 Census.

All Major Parties Back to Support Levels Seen in November 2004 Election

Six months into his term as the most recent leader of the Alberta Progressive Conservatives – and the freshly minted Premier of Alberta – voter support for Ed Stelmach and his Conservatives has seen a noteworthy dip. The Stelmach-led Progressive Conservatives now have 47% of Alberta's decided vote, down 12 percentage-points from April (59%).

This returns the Progressive Conservatives to the same level of voter support they achieved in the 2004 Alberta provincial election. Moreover, all four major provincial parties' standings have returned to exactly where they were in the last election. Among decided voters, 29% say they would vote Liberal, 10% would vote New Democrat and 9% would vote for the Alberta Alliance Party.

The Kevin Taft-led Liberals maintain a distant second place, with three-in-ten (29%) stating voter support. This marks a gain from the results obtained September and November of 2006 (22%), and up 11 percentage-points from this time last year (18%). The Alberta New Democrats received support from one-in-ten (10%), seeing a four point increase from last December (6%), a drop of three percentage-points from this time last year (13%), and no change from April 2007. The Alberta Alliance (9%) again sees a slight increase (up 3%) and the Green Party (5%) overall sees little change from April (5%), December 2006 (4%), and this time last year (5%).

If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties' candidate would you, yourself, be most likely to support, or lean towards?

	June 2007	April 2007	Dec 2006	Nov 2006	Sept 2006	Jun 2006	Mar 2006
Progressive Conservatives	47	59	68	58	57	57	58
The Liberals	29	20	18	22	22	22	18
The New Democrats	10	10	6	10	11	10	13
Alberta Alliance Party	9	6	3	4	5	6	5
The Green Party	5	5	4	4	3	3	5
Social Credit	0	0	1	2	2	1	1

Decided voters only

PCs Lose Most Ground in Calgary

On closer examination, Tory support by region yields significant findings. In Calgary, the Stelmach-led PCs garner the support of 42% of decided voters, marking a modest 8-point dip from the last provincial election (50%). In contrast, the Progressive Conservatives are up 12 points in the Edmonton CMA (47% today vs. 35% in election) and up 2-points in the rest of Alberta (53% today vs. 51% in election).

Some light may be shed on these results by the poll question that asked Albertans to assess the Stelmach government's performance at "addressing the needs of your city or region." Only one-third (33%) of Calgary voters say they approve of the provincial government's performance at addressing the needs of their city, compared to six-in-ten Edmonton voters (58%) and rural voters (61%).

Overall, one-half (51%) of Albertans as a whole "approve" of the government's performance at "addressing the needs of your city or region" (12% "strongly approve," 38% "moderately approve") while more than four-in-ten (44%) "disapprove" (21% "strongly disapprove," 24% "moderately disapprove").

Now, I'd like you to rate the performance of the Progressive Conservative provincial government led by Premier Ed Stelmach. Based upon what you're seen so far do you approve or disapprove of the provincial government's actions with regard to addressing the needs of your city or region?

	Total	Calgary	Edmonton	Northern Alberta	Central Alberta	Southern Alberta
Strongly Approve	12	6	11	20	16	27
Moderately Approve	38	28	47	37	43	43
Moderately Disapprove	24	30	23	20	19	13
Strongly Disapprove	21	32	15	15	14	14
DK/NS	5	5	4	9	8	4
Strongly/Moderately Approve	51	33	58	56	59	70
Strongly/Moderately Disapprove	44	62	38	35	33	27

Overall Approval Ratings Also Down With Bare Majority Approving of Premier Stelmach's Performance To Date

Premier Stelmach's own approval ratings have slipped from our last sounding, with a bare majority (54%) of Albertans saying they approve of his performance as Premier, down 12 percentage-points from April. Of that, 15% "strongly approve" (down 6-points) while 39% "moderately approve" (down 6-points). Conversely, less than one-third (33%, up 17-points) disapprove of his performance (14% "strongly" and 20% "moderately disapprove"), while slightly more than one-in-ten (13%) are unsure of his performance, indicating that many Albertans may be reserving judgment until the new Premier has been in tenure for more than six months. Notably, Stelmach's approval rating is much lower in Calgary (42%) than in either Edmonton (58%) or the rest of Alberta (63%).

I'd like you to think about the leaders of Alberta's political parties. Thinking about [...], would you say you generally approve or disapprove of the way he/she has performed as [...]?

	June 07	April 07	Nov 06	Sep 06	Jun 06	Mar 06
Ed Stelmach - Premier of Alberta (2006)	54	66	-	-	-	-
Ralph Klein – Premier of Alberta	-	-	71	72	74	65
Kevin Taft – Leader of the Official Opposition Liberals	49	44	54	56	54	51
Brian Mason - Leader of the New Democrats	39	35	57	52	48	48
Paul Hinman - Leader of the Alberta Alliance Party	29	24	32	33	35	36

n=801 / ± 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20

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