

Amidst Deepening Economic Concern, Majority (55%) Still Believes Canada on Right Track

*Tories (39%) Continue to Lead Grits (28%), NDP (15%),
Green (9%) and Bloc (8%)*

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Ipsos Reid

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Toronto, ON – Amidst deepening economic concern, a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted exclusively on behalf of Canwest News Service and Global Television has revealed that a majority (55%) of Canadians still believe that Canada is ‘moving in the right track’, the proportion of which is unchanged since late May of last year. On the flip side, nearly four in ten (37%) Canadians believe Canada is ‘headed in the wrong direction’, a decrease of two points. One in ten (9%) doesn’t know what to think about where Canada is headed going forward.

As Canadians eagerly await Finance Minister Jim Flaherty’s budget at the end of the month, the results of the poll indicate that Stephen Harper and the Conservatives (39%, down 6 points) continue to hold a solid lead over Michael Ignatieff and the Liberals (28%, up 2 points), although the Tories have eased off significantly from their high of 46% support in December, during the threat of a coalition led by former Liberal Leader Stephane Dion.

If an election were to be held tomorrow, the NDP would receive the support of 15% (up 3 points) of decided voters, and the Green Party would garner 9% (up 2 points) of the vote. Support for the Bloc sits at 8% nationally (down 2 point), 35% in Quebec (down 4 points).

Support for the major parties varies by region:

- In **British Columbia**, the Tories (52%) lead by a substantial margin over the Liberals (20%), NDP (13%) and Green Party (13%).
- In **Alberta**, the Conservatives (69%) continue to dominate the landscape over the rival Liberals (19%), NDP (9%) and Green Party (2%).
- In **Saskatchewan and Manitoba**, the Conservative's (35%) lead over the Liberals (29%) NDP (27%) and Green Party (8%) has been diminished.
- In seat-rich **Ontario**, the Tories (38%) enjoy a modest lead over the Grits (32%), NDP (20%) and Green Party (10%).
- In **Quebec**, the Bloc leads (35%), but the Liberals (32%) continue to show a relatively strong performance when compared to the Conservatives (19%). The NDP (7%) and Green Party (7%) lag.
- In volatile **Atlantic Canada**, the Conservatives (40%) lead, while the NDP (26%) and the Liberals (25%) are statistically tied for second-place. The Green Party (9%) trails.

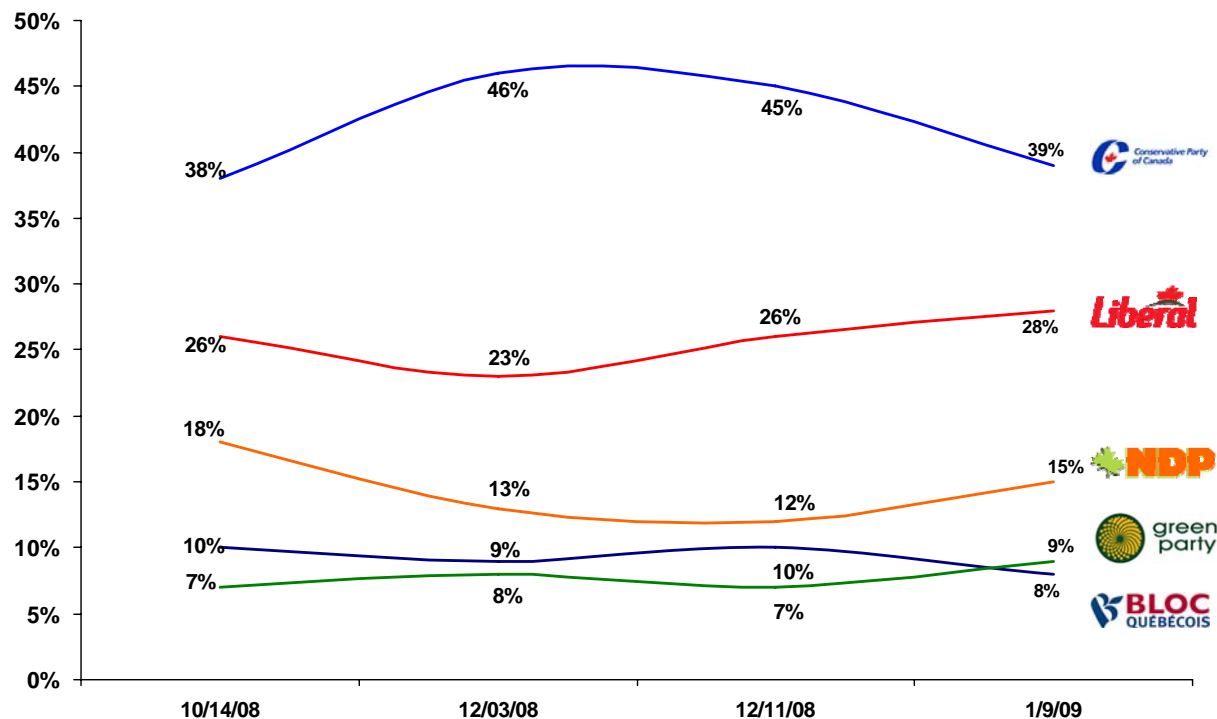
These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted January 6 to 8, 2009 for Canwest News Service and Global Television. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1,000 adult Canadians was interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult population of Canada been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were weighted to ensure that the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data.



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Federal Vote Support

January 9, 2009, percentage of decided voters.



CanWest /Global News Ipsos Reid Survey, January 6-8, 2009. Decided voters including leaners (n=891).

6% of all Canadian adults (n=1000) are undecided

For more information on this news release, please contact:

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- 3 -

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