

# Majority (53%) Sides With Running Major Deficit of at Least \$30 to \$40 Billion in Coming Budget to Stimulate Economy

*Four in ten (41%) Say Major Deficit is a 'Waste of Money',  
Will do Little to Get Country out of Recession*

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**Ipsos Reid**

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## **Majority (53%) Sides With Running Major Deficit of at Least \$30 to \$40 Billion in Coming Budget to Stimulate Economy**

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Will do Little to Get Country out of Recession***

**Toronto, ON** – As speculation mounts that Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's budget next week will post a deficit of \$34 Billion in 2009 and another \$30 Billion next year in order to spur a flagging economy, a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Canwest News Service and Global Television reveals that a slim majority (53%) of Canadians believe the government must run a major deficit of at least \$30 to \$40 Billion in order to 'stimulate the economy and get us out of this recession'.

On the other hand, four in ten (41%) are closer to the opinion that 'the federal government should not run a major deficit because it is a waste of money that will do little to get us out of this recession'. Six percent (6%) don't know which of these points of view best represents their own.

- British Columbians (57%), Atlantic Canadians (57%) and Ontarians (56%) are the most likely to support a major budgetary deficit, while a majority (51%) of Quebecers also supports it. Less than half of Albertans (48%) and residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (40%) believe that major deficits are the way to go.



- Those aged 55+ are more likely (57%) than 35-54 year olds (53%) and those under the age of 35 (49%) to support a major deficit.
- City dwellers (54%) are more likely than rural Canadians (45%) to support this approach.
- Those with a university education (64%) are considerably more likely than those with some post-secondary education (55%), a high school diploma (53%) or no diploma (33%) to agree with this position.

*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted January 20 to 22, 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  $\pm 3.1$  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.*

***For more information on this news release, please contact:***

***Darrell Bricker  
President and CEO  
Ipsos Reid Public Affairs  
(416) 324-2001***

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