

Vote Gap Narrows as Grits, Not Tories, Get Post-Budget Bounce

Tory (37%) Lead Over Liberals (31%) Narrows to Six Points

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Ipsos Reid

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Toronto, ON – With the budget now passed as a result of Liberal support, and with the Conservatives put on ‘probation’ by Mr. Ignatieff, a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Canwest News Service and Global Television has revealed a narrowing of the gap between the Tories and the Grits

If an election were to be held tomorrow, Stephen Harper’s Conservatives would receive support from 37% of decided voters (down 2 points), while the Liberals under the leadership of Michael Ignatieff would garner 31% support (up 3 points). The Liberals have steadily been closing the gap between themselves and the Conservatives from 23 points at the beginning of December to just 6 points currently.

The NDP led by Jack Layton would receive 14% of the vote (down 1 point), and the Green Party under Elizabeth May would receive 7% support (down 2 points). The Bloc has the support of 42% of Quebecers (10% nationally), an increase of 7 points. Five percent (5%) of voters remain undecided.

Support for the major parties varies by region:

- In **British Columbia**, the Conservatives (48%) continue to hold a commanding lead over the Liberals (24%) and NDP (20%), while the Green Party (6%) trails behind.

- In **Alberta**, the Conservatives (70%) dominate the landscape, while the Liberals (17%), Greens (7%) and NDP (4%) are well back.
- In **Saskatchewan and Manitoba**, the Conservatives have 55% support, followed by the Liberals (22%), NDP (15%) and Green Party (8%).
- In seat-rich **Ontario**, the Liberals (39%) have overtaken the Conservatives (37%), and the NDP (14%) and Greens (10%) are far behind.
- In **Quebec**, the Bloc (42%) widens its lead over the Liberals (24%), Conservatives (18%), NDP (11%) and Green Party (10%).
- In **Atlantic Canada**, the Liberals (48%) are on top, followed by the NDP (25%) and the Conservatives (24%), while the Green Party lags (4%).

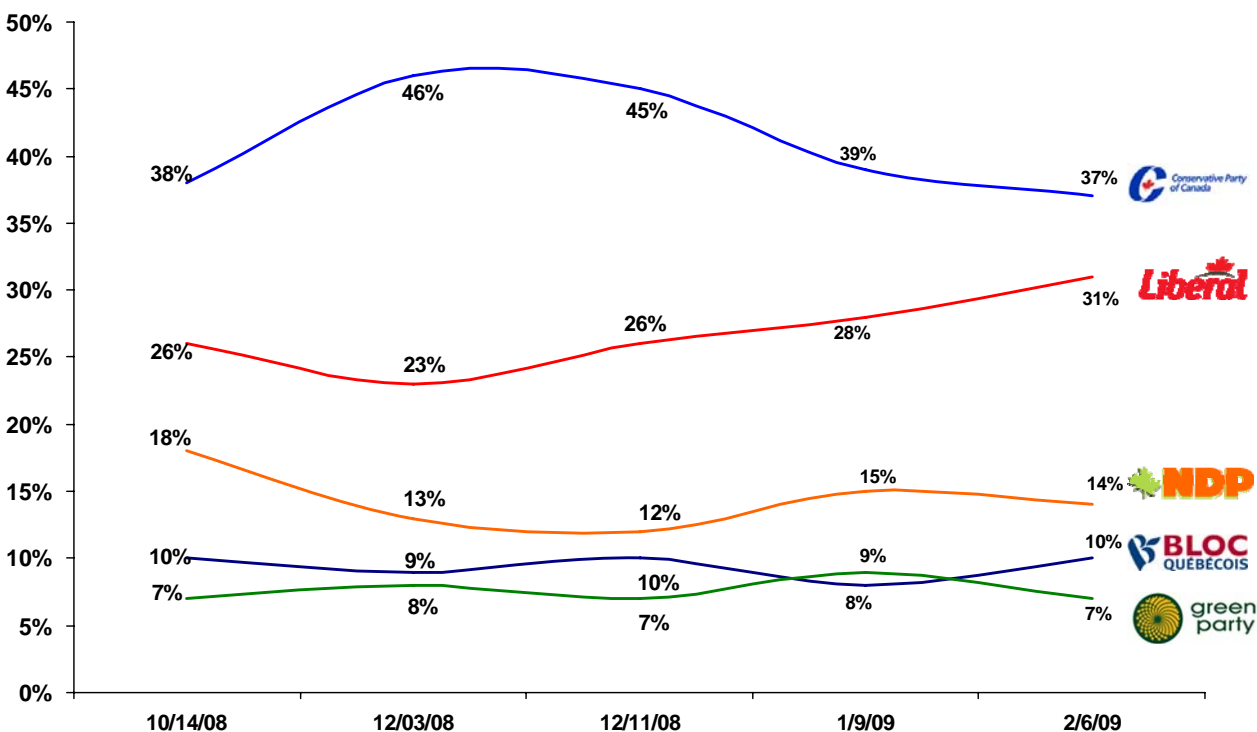
These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted February 3 to 5, 2009 for Canwest News Service and Global Television. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1,000 adult Canadians was interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the results are considered 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

February 6, 2009, percentage of decided voters.



CanWest /Global News Ipsos Reid Survey, February 3-5, 2009. Decided voters including leaners (n=877).

5% of all Canadian adults (n=1000) are undecided

For more information on this news release, please contact:

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