

**With Spring Election Speculation Building,  
Four in Ten (42%) Think Harper Government Deserves  
Re-Election, Four in Ten (40%) Want an Election  
*Canadians Split on Whether the Minority  
Government is Working***

**Public Release Date: Saturday, December 18, 2010, 6:00 AM EST**



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**Toronto, ON** – With Ipsos Reid’s latest political horserace poll showing a ten-point lead for the federal Conservatives, speculation for a spring election is building. But a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted exclusively for Postmedia News and Global Television has revealed that four in ten (42%) Canadians believe that ‘the Conservative Party under Stephen Harper has done a good job and deserves re-election’. While this is not a majority of Canadians, under Canada’s first-past-the-post electoral system, this proportion is likely large enough to give the Harper Conservatives another minority victory at the polls. In contrast, six in ten (58%) Canadians more closely believe that ‘the Conservative party does not deserve to be re-elected and its time for another federal party to be given a chance to govern the country’.

Four in ten (40%) Canadians want an election, believing that ‘parliament and our federal political process is hopelessly deadlocked right now and that we really need an election to clear the air’. To put this number in perspective, in August of 2008 – just two months before the fall federal election – the same proportion (40%) of Canadians thought there should be an election at that time. In contrast, six in ten (60%) Canadians are closer to the opinion that ‘the federal political process is operating just fine at the moment and there’s no need for an election’, a similar proportion (56%) who believed the same in the summer of 2008.



Furthermore, Canadians are split on the effectiveness of parliament. One half (48%) 'agrees' (8% strongly/40% somewhat) that 'the minority government in Ottawa is working well' (up 3 points from December of 2009), while the other half (52%) of Canadians 'disagree' (18% strongly/34% somewhat) that it is working well (down 3 points). Important to note is that the proportion who strongly disagrees is more than double the proportion who strongly agrees.

Ipsos Reid's year end political polling has also tracked Canadians' political mood in general, and it appears that Canadians might be getting tired with our current crop of leaders. One half (49%) of Canadians 'agree' (13% strongly/36% somewhat) that 'if we elect a new set of political leaders to the federal parliament things will be better', the proportion of whom has risen by 11 points since this time last year. In contrast, one half (51%) 'disagrees' (17% strongly/33% somewhat) that a new set of leaders would be better, down 11 points.

Perhaps they have someone in mind to take on the challenge of public office: four in ten (44%) 'agree' (10% strongly/34% somewhat) that they 'would encourage any family member to run for public office because it is a noble calling', up 10 points from last year. A majority (56%), though, still 'disagrees' (22% strongly/33% somewhat) with this sentiment, down 10 points.

A significant proportion of the country remains completely disinterested with politics and the political process. One in three (32%) Canadians 'agree' (11% strongly/21% somewhat) that they have 'tuned out any kind of political activity, including voting', unchanged from last year. Two in three (68%), on the other hand, 'disagree' (42% strongly/26% somewhat) that they've tuned out anything political.

*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between December 9 and 14, 2010, on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television. For this survey, a sample of 1,044 adults from Ipsos'*



*Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of +/-3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what the results would have been had the entire population of adults in Canada been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.*

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