

**As Financial Faceoff Over Budget Looms Closer,
Harper's Tories (39%) Solidify Lead over
Ignatieff's Grits (25%)
NDP (18%), Green (10%), Bloc (9%) Trail Behind**

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Ipsos Reid

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Toronto, ON - Despite the antics and pre-election rhetoric occurring outside the House of Commons, the return to Parliament this month has been relatively sedate and uneventful. Perhaps it's the calm before the storm next month which will see the Government face off against the opposition parties over the budget. In the context of relative calm at home juxtaposed against protest, strife and revolution overseas, a new Ipsos Reid poll has revealed that Harper's Tories have widened their lead over Ignatieff and the Grits.

If an election were held tomorrow, Prime Minister Harper and the governing Conservatives would receive support from 39% of decided voters, up 5 points from earlier in February. Michael Ignatieff and the Liberals, however, have dipped 4 points and would receive 25% of the popular vote among decided voters.

Jack Layton and the NDP would receive 18% of the vote (up 2 points), while the Green Party, led by Elizabeth May, would garner 10% of the vote (unchanged). The Bloc would receive 9% of the vote nationally, which translates into 37% in Quebec (down 2 nationally, down 5 provincially). Nearly one in ten (8%) Canadians remain undecided.

The widening gulf between the Tories and Liberals is largely a function of improving fortunes for the Conservatives in Ontario who now lead the Liberals by ten points. The Tories



would receive 42% of the vote, compared to 32% for the Liberals, 15% for the NDP and 11% for the Green Party.

In Quebec, the Bloc (37%) continues to have a solid lead over all the other parties, including the Conservatives (21%), Liberals (17%), NDP (15%) and Green Party (9%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television from February 8 to 10, 2011. For the survey, a representative randomly-selected sample of 1,001 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. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.

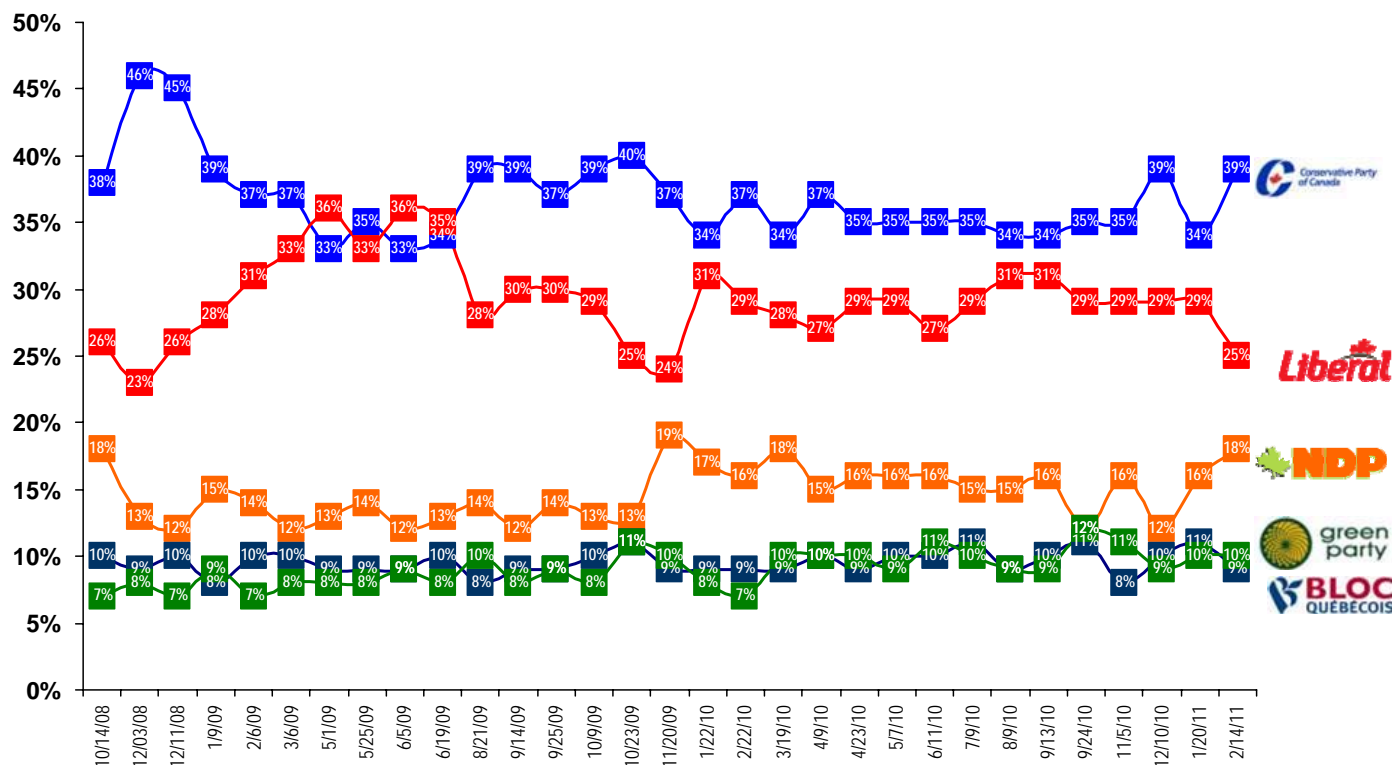
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Federal Vote Support

February 14, 2011, percentage of decided voters.



Postmedia News /Global TV Ipsos Reid Survey, Feb 8-10, 2011. Decided voters including leaners (n=879).

8% of all Canadian adults (n=1,001) are undecided