

**Most (74%) Canadians Oppose Idea of Raising
Eligibility Age for Old-Age Security to 67,
Half (49%) Strongly Opposed
*Just One Quarter (26%) Support Proposed Reforms***

Public Release Date: Friday, February 3, 2012, 6:00 AM EST



Ipsos Reid

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Toronto, ON – Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Government of Canada may face a tough public relations battle on Old-Age Security reform if it moves ahead with its plans to raise the age of eligibility to 67, according to a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Global Television and Postmedia news.

Three quarters (74%) of Canadians ‘oppose’ reforming old-age security in this way, with half (49%) of Canadians ‘strongly opposed’ and one quarter (25%) ‘somewhat opposed’. In contrast, just one quarter (26%) ‘supports’ (6% strongly/20% somewhat) the move. Although the specifics of the idea have yet to be determined and the government has said that any change would be phased in over a decade, it appears that initial reaction to the plan has met with stark opposition.

Women (81%) are particularly likely to be opposed to this type of reform when compared with men (66%), while one in three (34%) men support the idea compared to just 19% of women. Those aged 35 to 54 (81%) are also most likely to be in opposition, followed by Canadians aged 55+ (73%) and 18 to 34 (64%). Young adults (36%) are more likely than older (27%) and middle-aged adults (19%) to be supportive.

Regionally, opposition is strongest in Atlantic Canada (86%), followed by those living in Saskatchewan and Manitoba (76%), Ontario (75%), Quebec (75%), British Columbia (71%)

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and Alberta (58%). Albertans (42%) are most inclined to support the idea, while fewer residents of British Columbia (29%), Ontario (25%), Quebec (25%), Saskatchewan and Manitoba (24%) and Atlantic Canada (14%) are supportive.

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between January 30 to February 1, 2012, on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television. For this survey, a sample of 1,002 adults from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to 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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