

While Most (57%) Believe Elections Canada Will Get to Bottom of Robo-Calling Allegations, Full Majority (75%) Supports Independent Judicial Inquiry

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While Most (57%) Believe Elections Canada Will Get to Bottom of Robo-Calling Allegations, Full Majority (75%) Supports Independent Judicial Inquiry

Toronto, ON – While most (57%) believe that Elections Canada will get to the bottom of recent robo-calling allegations, a full majority (75%) supports an independent judicial inquiry into the matter, according to a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television.

There have been accusations recently that in the last federal election people working for the Conservative Party made calls to supporters of other parties and either pretended to represent their party of choice and deliberately harassed them or deliberately confused them about which polling stations to vote at on election day. Prime Minister Harper and senior members of the Federal Conservative Party have said they had nothing to do with these calls.

Nearly six in ten (57%) Canadians ‘agree’ (18% strongly/39% somewhat) that ‘Elections Canada will actually get to the bottom of these allegations and we will know the answers’ of what really happened. However, with few strongly agreeing, it appears that most feel Canadians won’t ever know the full story if the investigation rests solely with Elections Canada. Moreover, four in ten (42%) ‘disagree’ (14% strongly/27% somewhat) that Elections Canada will get to the bottom of the scandal, while 1% don’t know.

In search of the truth, three quarters (75%) of Canadians ‘agree’ – with 42% strongly agreeing and 33% somewhat agreeing – that ‘a special, independent commission of inquiry with judicial powers should be established to find out what happened in the past election and



make recommendations on our future election rules and structure'. In fact, a majority of supporters of every party, including 62% of Conservative supporters, believe a judicial inquiry should be initiated. In contrast, just one quarter (24%) 'disagree' (11% strongly/13% somewhat) that there should be a judicial inquiry into the robo-calling scandal.

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Postmedia News and Global News from March 6 to 8, 2011. For the survey, a representative randomly-selected sample of 1,001 adult Canadians was interviewed by telephone, and 2,153 interviews were conducted online via the Ipsos I-say panel. Ipsos merged the two sample sources and employed weighting to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflected that of the adult population according to Census data. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of sample of ± 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error would be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to, methodology change, coverage error and measurement error.

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