

**Bounces and Blunders: NDP (33%) Surges from Post-
Convention Momentum, Tories (34%) Stumble
amid Controversies**

Harper Approval Rating Drops 6 Points to 42%

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Toronto, ON – The NDP and newly-elected leader Thomas Mulcair are enjoying their honeymoon following the NDP leadership convention, while Stephen Harper and the Tories stumble from multiple controversies, according to a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted for Postmedia News and Global Television.

If an election were held tomorrow, Stephen Harper and the Conservatives would receive 34% of the decided vote, down three points since last month, likely a result of multiple controversies including ballooning jet-fighter costs, changes to the old-age security benefit, the robo-call scandal and a weak budget that more people thought was bad than good. In contrast, the NDP under Thomas Mulcair would receive 33% support among decided voters, up 4 points since last month, enjoying a boost from their recent high-profile convention.

The Liberals, under interim leader Bob Rae would receive 21% support (down 2 points), while the Green Party led by Elizabeth May would garner 4% of the vote (unchanged). Nationally, Daniel Paillé and the Bloc would receive 7% support, or 28% in Quebec. One percent (1%) of Canadians would vote for some other party.

- In Ontario, the Tories (41%) hold a comfortable lead over the sparring Liberals (27%) and NDP (27%), while the Green Party (6%) trails behind.
- In Quebec, the NDP (41%) have a solid lead over the Bloc (28%), Conservatives (15%) and Liberals (15%). The Green Party (1%) lags.

Not only has Conservative support declined in the last month relative to other parties, but Stephen Harper's own approval rating has dropped as well. Four in ten (42%) Canadians currently 'approve' (13% strongly/29% somewhat) of the way Stephen Harper is handling his job as Prime Minister (down 6 points), while six in ten (57%) 'disapprove' (27% strongly/30% somewhat) of his job as Prime Minister (up 6 points). Two percent (2%) don't know.

Regionally, Harper's approval ratings are highest in Alberta (62%), followed by those living in Ontario (45%), Saskatchewan and Manitoba (44%), British Columbia (44%), Atlantic Canada (33%) and Quebec (29%). Those in Quebec (69%) are most likely to disapprove of his performance, followed by those living in Atlantic Canada (66%), Saskatchewan and Manitoba (56%), British Columbia (55%), Ontario (53%) and Alberta (36%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television from April 3 to 5, 2011. For the survey, a representative randomly-selected sample of 1,000 adult Canadians was interviewed by telephone, and 1,008 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.

For more information on this news release, please contact:

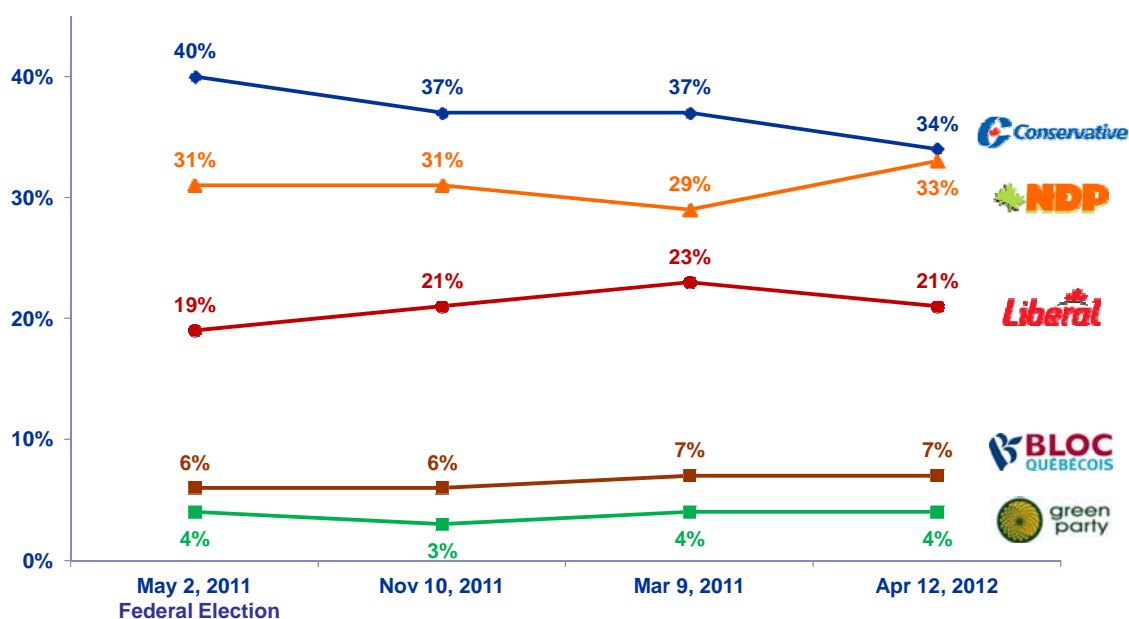
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2012 Federal Vote Support

Apr 12, 2012, percentage of decided voters.



Postmedia News / Global TV Ipsos Reid Survey, April 3 to 5. Decided voters including leaners (n=1,644).

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