

**Opinions of Stephen Harper Hold Steady since Last Year:
Approval of Prime Minister's Performance at 45% (Down 3 Pts);
44% (Down 2 Pts) Believe Majority Government Working Well**

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Ipsos Reid

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44% (Down 2 Pts) Believe Majority Government Working Well**

Toronto, ON – Prime Minister Stephen Harper has an approval rating of 45%, only a modest decline since last year, according to a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Postmedia News. Nearly half (45%) 'approve' (11% strongly/33% somewhat) of the 'the way Stephen Harper is handling his job as Prime Minister', while a majority (55%) of Canadians 'disapprove' (26% strongly/29% somewhat) of Harper's ability to handle the top job in Canada. But in a country where it doesn't take a majority of the popular vote to secure a majority government, if most of those who approve of the Prime Minister's party support his candidates in the next election, the Conservatives would be likely to have another strong showing on Election Day in 2015.

A similar proportion of Canadians 'agree' (9% strongly/35% somewhat) that 'the majority government in Ottawa is working well', which is only down slightly (2 points) since last year. Conversely, six in ten (56%) 'disagree' (20% strongly/35% somewhat) that 'the majority government in Ottawa is working well'. It appears that as Canada enters the New Year, Stephen Harper has maintained a reasonably steady core of support as the head of a majority government, and the opposition parties haven't done much to change Canadians' minds about the Harper government in the past year.

Harper's Approach and Values...

Nearly half of Canadians (48%) 'agree' (12% strongly/36% somewhat) that 'Prime Minister Harper's approach to politics has been **good for Canada**', although the other half (52%) 'disagree' (25% strongly/28% somewhat). Fewer Canadians (44%) 'agree' (11% strongly/33% somewhat) that 'Prime Minister Harper's approach to politics has been **good for Parliament**', while more Canadians (56%) 'disagree' (26% strongly/30% somewhat) that Harper's political approach is good for Parliament.

Four in ten (44%) Canadians 'agree' (12% strongly/31% somewhat) that 'they **share Prime Minister Harper's values** when it comes to where Canada should be headed', although another majority (56%) 'disagree' (28% strongly/29% somewhat). A similar proportion (43%) 'agree' (16% strongly/28% somewhat) that 'Prime Minister Harper **should run for office again** during the next election set for 2015', while majority (57%) 'disagree' (32% strongly/25% somewhat) that Harper should run for re-election in 2015. But if those who want him to run end up supporting Conservative candidates as a result, the Prime Minister could be destined for a strong showing.

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between December 7th to 12th, 2012, on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television. For this survey, a sample of 1,021 Canadians 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. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case the poll is accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points of the entire Canadian adult population. 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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- 3 -

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