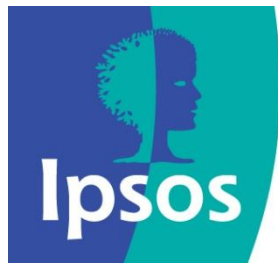


# Nearly Half (45%) Believe That NDP is Ready to be Canada's Next Government

*Mulcair's Approval Rating as Leader of Opposition (44%)*

*Rivals Harper's as Prime Minister (45%)*

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### Canada's Next Government

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**Toronto, ON** – The NDP's lustre as Canada's official opposition party has not yet dulled, and many believe the party is ready for the next step – to govern the country – according to a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television. Nearly half (45%) of Canadians 'agree' (13% strongly/31% somewhat) that they think 'the NDP is ready to be Canada's next governing party'. Six in ten (55%), however, 'disagree' (26% strongly/29% somewhat) that they think the NDP is ready to assume the role of Canada's next government. For a party that until the most recent election could not shake third-party status, the fact that nearly half of Canadians believe they're ready to govern is a significant realignment in Canadian politics, which began under the leadership of the late Jack Layton. Quebecers (56%), who significantly helped launch the NDP into role of Official Opposition in the 2011 federal election, 'agree' most with the notion that the NDP is ready to be Canada's next governing party, ahead of Ontarians (45%), British Columbians (42%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (42%), Atlantic Canadians (39%), and Albertans (24%). By comparison, Albertans (76%) are most likely to 'disagree' that the NDP is ready to be Canada's next government, followed by Atlantic Canadians (61%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (58%), British Columbians (58%), Ontarians (55%), and Quebecers (44%).

### *Thomas Mulcair's Approval Rating...*

Nearly half (44%) 'approve' (6% strongly/38% somewhat) of the job that Mulcair has been doing as leader of the opposition, while 56% 'disapprove' (14% strongly/41% somewhat). This approval rating is on par with the 45% of Canadians who approve of the job done by Prime Minister Stephen Harper from a similar study recently released, suggesting that he is just as popular as the Prime Minister on a national scale.

Two-thirds (64%) of Quebecers 'approve' of Mulcair's performance as leader of the Official Opposition, followed by Atlantic Canadians (44%), Ontarians (41%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (36%), British Columbians (32%), and Albertans (31%). Seven in ten (69%) Albertans 'disapprove' of Thomas Mulcair's performance, ahead of British Columbians (68%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (64%), Ontarians (59%), Atlantic Canadians (56%), and Quebecers (36%).

### *Sharing Mulcair and NDP Values...*

An even larger proportion, however, say they share similar values to the NDP and its leader. Half (51%) of Canadians 'agree' (12% strongly/39% somewhat) that 'they share Mulcair and the NDP's values when it comes to where Canada should be headed', while the other half (49%) 'disagree' (22% strongly/27% somewhat) that they share such values. The proportion of Canadians who 'agree' with this statement is 7 points higher than those who say they share the values of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Conservatives (as released in an Ipsos Reid survey two days ago).

Quebecers (69%) are most likely to 'agree' that they share NDP Leader Mulcair and the NDP's values when it comes to Canada's direction, ahead of Atlantic Canadians (52%),

Ontarians (50%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (46%), British Columbians (42%), and Albertans (28%). Conversely, Albertans (72%) 'disagree' most with the notion that they share the same values as Thomas Mulcair and the NDP regarding where Canada should be headed, followed by British Columbians (58%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (54%), Ontarians (50%), Atlantic Canadians (48%), and Quebecers (31%).

Half (50%) of Canadians 'agree' (11% strongly/39% somewhat) that 'they trust Thomas Mulcair and the NDP to do a good job of managing Canada's economy', while the other half (50%) of Canadians 'disagree' (23% strongly/27% somewhat). Quebecers (71%) are most likely to 'agree' that they trust Mulcair and the NDP to do a good job managing the nation's economy, ahead of Ontarians (50%), Atlantic Canadians (44%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (39%), British Columbians (39%), and Albertans (28%). Conversely, Albertans (72%) most 'disagree' that they trust Mulcair and the NDP to do a good job managing Canada's economy, followed by British Columbians (61%), residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (61%), Atlantic Canadians (56%), Ontarians (50%), and Quebecers (29%).

*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between December 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 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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