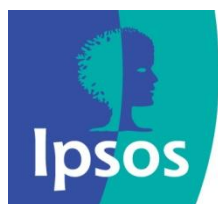


BC VIEWS ON 2013 PROVINCIAL BUDGET

Overall Reviews are Mixed with 41% Approving and 47% Disapproving

Strong Support for Increasing Taxes on Corporations, Wealthy and Smokers. Little Support for Increasing MSP Premiums.

Very Few (12%) Believe that Budget Will Actually be Balanced



Ipsos Reid

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Vancouver, BC – An Ipsos Reid poll was conducted among 1,200 British Columbians who read, saw or heard something about the new provincial budget.

Overall Budget Approval

Four-in-ten (41%) British Columbians say they generally approve of the plans in the provincial budget, while nearly half (47%) say they disapprove.

Q. Based on what you have read, seen or heard, do you generally approve or disapprove of the plans in this provincial budget?	
Approve strongly	5%
Approve somewhat	36%
Disapprove somewhat	28%
Disapprove strongly	18%
Don't know	12%
Total Approve	41%
Total Disapprove	47%

Approval of Specifics in Budget

Views of the budget vary widely by measure. There is strong public approval for increasing taxes on cigarettes (85%), increasing personal income taxes for those making over \$150,000 per year (84%), increasing corporate taxes (78%) and introducing spending restraints to keep overall spending increases to 1.5% (73%).

Approval is lower, but still a majority, for money to create new child care spaces (59%) and an annual tax benefit for children under age 6 (58%). Nearly half (49%) say they also approve of a \$1,200 education fund for children.

Approval is below the majority mark for raising MSP premiums (23%), selling provincial assets (36%) and having lower health care spending increases than in previous years (38%).

<i>Q. Do you approve or disapprove of each of the following items in the provincial budget?</i>	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
\$2 per carton increase to tax on cigarettes	85%	12%	3%
Two year increase in personal income taxes for those making over \$150,000 per year	84%	12%	4%
Increasing corporate tax rates from 10% to 11%	78%	16%	6%
Introducing government-wide spending restraints to keep overall spending increases to an average of 1.5% over next three years	73%	16%	10%
\$76 million over three years to help create new child care spaces	59%	28%	13%
An annual tax benefit per child under age 6 of up to \$660 (starting in 2015)	58%	28%	14%
\$1,200 education fund to children at age 6 that can be managed by parents instead of government (in an RESP)	49%	36%	15%
Projected health care spending increases of 2.6% per year, down from a recent average increase of 4.4% per year	38%	48%	14%
Selling more than \$800 million in provincial assets (mostly government owned land)	36%	51%	13%
4% increase to Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums	23%	73%	4%

Belief Budget will be Balanced

Very few (12%) British Columbians believe the provincial government's claim that the budget will be balanced in 2013.

<i>Q. The provincial government says the budget will be balanced in 2013 (and for the following two years). Do you believe that the budget will be balanced in 2013?</i>	
Yes	12%
No	72%
Don't know	16%

Impact of Budget on Vote

Initial reviews of the budget suggest it will not have much impact on voting intentions. Only 13% say they are more likely to vote for Christy Clark and the BC Liberals as a result of the budget. Nearly twice as many British Columbians (24%) say they would be less likely to vote for Christy Clark and the BC Liberals. The majority (59%) say the budget has no impact on their vote.

<i>Q. Overall, what impact does this provincial budget have on your likelihood of voting for Christy Clark and the BC Liberals in the provincial election to be held in May of this year?</i>	
More likely to vote for Christy Clark and the BC Liberals	13%
Less likely to vote for Christy Clark and the BC Liberals	24%
No change	59%
Don't know	4%

Would Dix do Better?

Only about one-quarter (24%) of British Columbians believe that BC's financial situation would be better today if Adrian Dix and the NDP had been running the province over the last few years. A larger number, four-in-ten (40%), think the province's financial situation would be worse under Adrian Dix and the NDP.

<i>Q. Do you think BC's financial situation would be better or worse today if Adrian Dix and the NDP had been running the province over the last few years?</i>	
Much better	5%
Somewhat better	18%
About the same	25%
Somewhat worse	15%
Much worse	25%
Don't know	11%
Total Better	24%
Total Worse	40%

Methodology

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll of 1,200 adult British Columbians who said they had read, seen or heard something about the new provincial budget introduced by Premier Christy Clark's government on Tuesday February 19th. The poll was conducted online using Ipsos Reid's online household panel between February 20 and 21, 2013. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of ± 2.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error would be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual BC population according to 2011 Census data.

Weighting Factors

The final sample of 1,200 respondents breaks down as follows before and after weighting:

- *618 men (weighted to 640) and 582 women (weighted to 560).*
- *759 Metro Vancouver residents (weighted to 637), 188 Vancouver Island residents (weighted to 234) and 253 Interior/North residents (weighted to 329).*
- *185 age 18 to 34 (weighted to 291), 465 age 35 to 54 (weighted to 417) and 550 age 55+ (weighted to 492).*

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