

ANGUS REID / CTV POLL

Canadians Divided on Toppling the Conservative Government

Most respondents are uneasy about Stéphane Dion at 24 Sussex, Bloc Québécois involved in the federal government, and critical of the economic management of the Tories.

[VANCOUVER – Dec. 2, 2008] - Canadians are divided on the possibility of the opposition toppling the Conservative minority government, uncomfortable with the possibility of Stéphane Dion becoming Prime Minister, and concerned about the influence of the Bloc Québécois in a federal administration, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll for CTV News has found.

The survey also shows that a majority of Canadians both express disappointment with the way the Tories have dealt with the economic crisis, and urge the implementation of a stimulus package to boost the economy.

In the online poll of a representative national sample, Canadians are split on whether their own Member of Parliament should support the confidence motion against the Conservative minority government (In favour 36%, Against 40%), on whether the opposition parties should get together and topple the federal administration headed by Stephen Harper (Yes 36%, No 41%), and on whether the Conservative Party actually deserves to stay in government (Yes 35%, No 40%).

KEY FINDINGS

- **35% believe the Conservatives deserve to continue in government; 40% disagree**
- **If the Tories fall: 37% would allow the opposition to form a coalition government; 32% would hold a new federal election**
- **57% are worried about the Bloc Québécois becoming involved in the federal government; 64% would not be comfortable with Stéphane Dion becoming Canada's Prime Minister**
- **53% believe the Tories have not done a good job in dealing with the economic crisis; 75% think the federal government should implement a stimulus package to boost the economy as soon as possible**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From December 1 to December 2, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among 1,012 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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Some striking regional references are evident when Canadians assess the Tory administration. Quebecers are clearly in favour of toppling the current government (53%), while a majority of Albertans believe the Conservatives should remain in office (53%). A slight plurality of Ontarians (39%) believes the Tories deserve to stay, while respondents in British Columbia are evenly split.

The Opposition Coalition

Respondents were provided with three choices in the event the Conservatives are defeated in the House of Commons next Monday. In all, 37 per cent of respondents would allow the opposition to form a coalition government, while 32 per cent would prefer to hold a new federal election, and seven per cent would opt for letting the opposition govern by accord.

Support for the coalition concept finds its highest level of support in Quebec (48%), BC (39%) and Atlantic Canada (36%), while Ontarians are evenly divided on the issue and respondents in Alberta (53%) and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (43%) would prefer to vote again.

Prime Minister Dion?

Only one-in-four Canadians (25%) admit that they would be comfortable with Liberal leader Stéphane Dion becoming Canada's Prime Minister, while almost two-thirds of respondents (64%) are uncomfortable with this notion.

In Canada's most populous provinces—Quebec and Ontario—three-in-five respondents (60%) are not at ease with the idea of Dion at 24 Sussex.

The Role of the Bloc

A majority of respondents (57%) are worried about the Bloc Québécois becoming involved in the federal government, while three-in-ten (30%) disagree.

Almost half of Quebecers (57%) see no problems with the sovereigntist party's participation in a coalition, but large majorities in Alberta (82%), Manitoba and Saskatchewan (74%) and British Columbia (66%) are concerned.

The Tories and the Economy

Three-in-four Canadians (75%) think the federal government should implement a stimulus package to boost the economy as soon as possible, and a majority (53%) believes the Conservatives have not done a good job in dealing with the economic crisis.

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Respondents in Quebec (86%) and BC (82%) are particularly adamant on the need for a stimulus package, and very critical of the government's economic performance.

Financing for Political Parties

One of the issues that brought about the formation of the opposition coalition—the plan to scrap public financing system for political parties—appears to resonate with Canadians. Almost half of respondents (48%) say they would switch to a system where political parties did all of their fundraising on their own, while one-third (34%) endorse the continuation of the existing public financing system.

BC (48%) and Atlantic Canada (41%) are particularly supportive of the current system, while Albertans (71%) clearly dislike it.

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A Coalition in Ottawa?

Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
The Conservative Party deserves to continue in government	35%	39%	53%	50%	35%	21%	38%
The Conservative Party does not deserve to continue in government	40%	38%	23%	39%	39%	53%	32%
Not sure	25%	23%	24%	10%	26%	26%	29%

A Coalition in Ottawa?

As you may know, the Conservative minority government faces a confidence motion on Dec. 8, which states: "This House has lost confidence in this government and is of the opinion that a viable alternative government can be formed within the present House of Commons." How would you like your own Member of Parliament to vote on this measure?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
In favour	36%	40%	22%	41%	29%	48%	38%
Against	40%	43%	52%	50%	44%	26%	41%
Not sure	24%	17%	27%	8%	27%	27%	21%

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A Coalition in Ottawa?

Should the opposition parties get together and topple the Conservative minority government headed by Stephen Harper?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Yes	36%	35%	32%	24%	34%	46%	34%
No	41%	45%	57%	46%	43%	29%	44%
Not sure	23%	20%	11%	30%	23%	25%	22%

A Coalition in Ottawa?

If the Conservative minority government is defeated, what would be your preferred solution?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Holding a new federal election	32%	28%	56%	43%	35%	19%	30%
Allowing the opposition to form a coalition government (two or more parties are represented in the cabinet)	37%	39%	17%	29%	35%	48%	36%
Allowing the opposition to govern by accord (a party is supported by one or more parties that do not have representation in the cabinet)	7%	12%	5%	2%	6%	8%	4%
Not sure	24%	21%	22%	26%	24%	26%	31%

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A Coalition in Ottawa?

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? – “I am worried about the Bloc Québécois becoming involved in the federal government.”

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Agree	57%	66%	82%	74%	58%	36%	60%
Disagree	30%	22%	9%	17%	31%	47%	21%
Not sure	13%	11%	9%	9%	11%	17%	20%

A Coalition in Ottawa?

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? – “I would be comfortable with Stéphane Dion becoming Canada's Prime Minister.”

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Agree	25%	26%	8%	15%	26%	32%	29%
Disagree	64%	66%	83%	73%	60%	60%	66%
Not sure	10%	8%	10%	11%	14%	8%	5%

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A Coalition in Ottawa?

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? – “The Conservative government has done a good job in dealing with the economic crisis.”

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Agree	36%	38%	57%	46%	38%	24%	36%
Disagree	53%	58%	24%	46%	53%	67%	47%
Not sure	10%	5%	19%	8%	9%	10%	17%

A Coalition in Ottawa?

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? – “The federal government should implement a stimulus package to boost the economy as soon as possible.”

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Agree	75%	82%	62%	51%	76%	86%	63%
Disagree	17%	15%	17%	34%	17%	6%	36%
Not sure	8%	3%	21%	15%	7%	8%	1%

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A Coalition in Ottawa?

As you may know, Canada has a system that allows for the public financing of political parties. Under the current system, each federal political party receives \$1.95 per year for each vote they receive in a federal election. The subsidy is valued at about \$30 million a year. Do you support the continuation of the existing public financing system, or would you switch to a system where political parties did all of their fundraising on their own?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Support the continuation of the existing public financing system	34%	48%	17%	15%	31%	39%	41%
Have political parties do all of their fundraising on their own	48%	33%	71%	56%	47%	46%	47%
Not sure	18%	19%	12%	29%	22%	15%	12%

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Angus Reid Strategies is a full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995.

Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

<http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=349>

Since 2006, Angus Reid Strategies has covered five provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

<http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.AR.F.WP.pdf>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**

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