

VOTING

Canadians Express Fondness for Parliamentary System

Few respondents would consent to allowing teenagers to vote in federal, provincial or municipal elections.

[VANCOUVER – Aug. 26, 2009] – Canadians are mostly content with their existing political system, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,001 Canadian adults, 44 per cent of respondents say they prefer the current parliamentary system, with the prime minister and cabinet exercising power.

Conversely, 12 per cent of Canadians would prefer to have a presidential system, with an executive branch that is separate from the legislature.

One-in-ten Canadians (10%) would rather institute a semi-presidential system, with a president in charge of foreign policy and the prime minister in charge of domestic policy. This idea is more popular in Quebec (15%) than in any other province.

Level of Engagement

Overall, a large majority of respondents feel their vote makes a difference in federal elections (64%), provincial elections (69%) and municipal elections (75%).

Giving Teens the Vote

Support for giving 16-17 year olds the right to vote goes from a low of 27 per cent for federal elections, to a high of 32 per cent for municipal elections.

KEY FINDINGS

- **44% prefer the current parliamentary system, with the prime minister and cabinet exercising power.**
- **At least 64% believe their vote makes a difference in elections**
- **At least 65% oppose allowing 16-17 year olds to vote in elections**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From August 13 to August 14, 2009 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,001 adult Canadians who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. 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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Voting

Different countries have different political systems. Which of these political systems do you think would be best for Canada?

	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
The current parliamentary system, with the prime minister and cabinet exercising power	44%	48%	45%	62%	49%	32%	40%
A semi-presidential system, with a president in charge of foreign policy and the prime minister in charge of domestic policy	10%	11%	6%	6%	9%	15%	10%
A presidential system, with an executive branch that is separate from the legislature	12%	15%	17%	1%	8%	17%	9%
Not sure	34%	26%	31%	31%	33%	37%	41%

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Different countries have different political systems. Which of these political systems do you think would be best for Canada?

	Gender		Age		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
The current parliamentary system, with the prime minister and cabinet exercising power	50%	39%	48%	41%	46%
A semi-presidential system, with a president in charge of foreign policy and the prime minister in charge of domestic policy	11%	10%	15%	9%	7%
A presidential system, with an executive branch that is separate from the legislature	16%	8%	7%	13%	14%
Not sure	24%	43%	30%	36%	33%

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Voting			
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?			
	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
In Federal Elections, my vote makes a difference	64%	30%	5%
In Provincial Elections, my vote makes a difference	69%	25%	5%
In Municipal Elections, my vote makes a difference	75%	19%	6%

Voting			
Thinking now about elections, do you support or oppose each of the following proposals?			
	Support	Oppose	Not sure
Allowing 16-17 year olds to vote in Federal Elections (House of Commons)	27%	69%	4%
Allowing 16-17 year olds to vote in Provincial Elections (Provincial Legislatures)	28%	68%	4%
Allowing 16-17 year olds to vote in Municipal Elections (Mayors, Councils)	32%	65%	3%

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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 (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panels are maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. These premier online survey platforms present 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://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2008.10.15_Election.pdf

Since 2006, Angus Reid Strategies has covered eight 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.

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http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2008.12.09_QuebecElection.pdf

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