



Tories at 33%, Grits at 32%; Few Canadians Want to Vote in 2009

While 47% of Canadians are satisfied with the government's reaction to the economic crisis, only 31% think it deserves credit for the recession's end.

[TORONTO – Sept. 3, 2009] – In the first poll conducted after Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff declared that his party will no longer support the Conservative minority government, it is clear that few Canadians want to vote in a new federal election before the end of this year.

The Canadian Political Pulse, conducted by Angus Reid Strategies in partnership with the *Toronto Star*, has found that 57 per cent of respondents are against the opposition parties toppling the Conservative government to trigger an election. Conversely, 32 per cent would support this move.

The online survey of a representative national sample shows that 37 per cent of Canadians who voted for the Liberal Party in the last election oppose the notion of toppling the government. The same is true for 41 per cent of New Democratic Party (NDP) voters, 33 per cent of Bloc Québécois voters, and 49 per cent of Green Party voters.

Despite the low support for holding an early election, the poll also found that 42 per cent of

KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: Con. 33%, Lib. 32%, NDP 19%, BQ 9%, Grn. 7%**
- **32% support the opposition parties toppling the Conservative government; 57% are opposed**
- **42% think it is time for a change of government; 34% would keep the Conservatives in power**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From September 1 to September 2, 2009, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among 1,007 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.

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com

Canadians think it is time for a change in the federal government, meaning that a new party should be elected into power. Conversely, 34 per cent of Canadians think the Conservatives should stay in office.

Voting Intention

If an election were held today, the Tories (33%) and the Liberals (32%) would be in a statistical tie. The NDP is in third place with 19 per cent, followed by the Bloc with nine per cent, and the Greens with seven per cent.

Support for the Conservatives is down one point since late August, while the Grits have improved by two points.

The Conservatives are leading the Liberals by at least 10 points in BC (34% to 24%), Alberta (49% to 22%), and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (51% to 12%). In BC, however, the Tories are practically tied with the NDP (33%).

The Liberals are up in Ontario by a small margin (40% compared to 37% for the Tories), and lead the NDP and the Conservatives in Atlantic Canada (39% Lib., 29% NDP and 28% Con.). In Quebec, the Liberals are second to the Bloc (35% BQ, 31% Libs) with the Tories in third place (18%).

Support for the Green Party is notably high in Alberta (12%) and BC (9%).

The numbers suggest that neither the Conservatives nor the Liberals would be able to win a majority government if an election took place today.

Handling the Economy

Almost half of Canadians (47%) are satisfied with the way the federal government has handled the ongoing economic crisis, while 45 per cent are unhappy with their actions.

The Canadian economy grew for the first time in 11 months in June, marking the end of the recession. However, only 19 per cent of Canadians think the country is really out of the economic recession, whereas 56 per cent disagree.

A small proportion of Canadians (31%) think Prime Minister Stephen Harper's administration deserves credit for the official end of the recession; 61 per cent say it does not deserve the credit.

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Canadian Political Pulse - TREND

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Sept. 1-2	Aug. 25-26	2008 Election
Conservative Party	33%	34%	37.6%
Liberal Party	32%	30%	26.2%
New Democratic Party	19%	18%	18.2%
Bloc Québécois	9%	8%	10.0%
Green Party	7%	9%	6.8%
Other party	1%	0%	1.2%

Canadian Political Pulse - REGIONS

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Conservative Party	33%	34%	49%	51%	37%	18%	28%
Liberal Party	32%	24%	22%	12%	40%	31%	39%
New Democratic Party	19%	33%	16%	35%	14%	10%	29%
Bloc Québécois	9%	--	--	--	--	35%	--
Green Party	7%	9%	12%	2%	8%	6%	5%
Other party	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%

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Canadian Political Pulse – TOPPLING THE GOVERNMENT

Do you support or oppose the opposition parties in the House of Commons toppling the government to force a new federal election this year?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Strongly support	14%	10%	7%	11%	12%	18%	25%
Moderately support	18%	17%	19%	12%	19%	16%	22%
Moderately oppose	16%	21%	16%	8%	16%	17%	9%
Strongly oppose	41%	41%	49%	61%	43%	31%	35%
Not sure	11%	11%	10%	8%	9%	17%	10%

Canadian Political Pulse – TOPPLING THE GOVERNMENT

Do you support or oppose the opposition parties in the House of Commons toppling the government to force a new federal election this year?

	Voted Last					
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Grn
Strongly support	14%	2%	24%	22%	35%	18%
Moderately support	18%	3%	34%	27%	24%	26%
Moderately oppose	16%	10%	20%	18%	13%	22%
Strongly oppose	41%	81%	16%	23%	20%	26%
Not sure	11%	4%	5%	10%	9%	8%

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Canadian Political Pulse – CHANGE

Thinking about Canada, which one of these two statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
It is time for a change in government in Canada—a different federal party should be elected into power	42%	40%	37%	44%	40%	41%	58%
It is not time for a change in government in Canada—the Conservative Party should be re-elected	34%	37%	43%	42%	37%	28%	26%
Not sure	24%	23%	21%	14%	24%	31%	15%

Canadian Political Pulse – RECESSION

Do you personally believe that Canada is out of recession?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Yes	19%	15%	11%	21%	20%	15%	40%
No	56%	61%	70%	52%	55%	56%	47%
Not sure	24%	24%	20%	28%	24%	29%	13%

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Canadian Political Pulse – REACTION TO CRISIS

How satisfied are you with the reaction of the federal government to the economic crisis?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Very satisfied	9%	11%	9%	10%	9%	5%	13%
Moderately satisfied	38%	32%	41%	45%	40%	37%	33%
Moderately dissatisfied	26%	31%	25%	21%	28%	25%	19%
Very dissatisfied	18%	21%	19%	18%	15%	20%	27%
Not sure	9%	6%	5%	5%	8%	13%	8%

Canadian Political Pulse – END OF THE RECESSION

As you may know, the Canadian economy grew for the first time in 11 months in June, marking the end of the recession. How much credit do you think the federal government deserves over the end of the recession?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
All of the credit	4%	2%	1%	3%	5%	4%	3%
Some credit	27%	28%	32%	29%	28%	23%	26%
A little credit	33%	28%	31%	21%	34%	38%	29%
No credit at all	28%	33%	32%	43%	25%	21%	38%
Not sure	8%	10%	3%	4%	7%	14%	4%

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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.

*http://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2008.03.28_Anniversary_1.pdf
http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2008.12.09_QuebecElection.pdf
http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2009.05.13_BCElection.pdf
http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2009.06.10_NSElection.pdf*

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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