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Conservatives lead Liberals by six points A third of Canadians are non-committal

Toronto

The federal Conservatives have regained a modest lead over the Liberals as a third of Canadians express no preference as to who they would vote for, according to a new poll released by Environics Research. The telephone poll of 2,064 eligible voters was conducted from May 18 to 26 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.2 percent nineteen times out of twenty.

The Conservatives, with the support of 36 percent of decided voters, now have a six-point lead over the opposition Liberals, who have the support of 30 percent of decided voters. Support for the NDP stands at 15 percent and support for the Green Party stands at 7 percent and two percent would vote for other parties. Ten percent would vote for the Bloc Québécois nationally, which translates into 41-percent support in Quebec.

A notable finding of this poll is the high level of indecision among Canadians as one third (33%) do either not know which party they would vote for (27%) or would not vote at all (6%).

Environics posed a question on federal vote intention which did not include any prompting of the names of the political parties. Eligible voters taking part in the survey were asked which party's candidate they would support if a federal election were to be held today and had to spontaneously volunteer the name of the party they would support.

Regional patterns

In Ontario, the Conservatives now hold 40 percent of the vote compared to 35 percent for the Liberals and 14 percent for the New Democrats. In Quebec, the Bloc Québécois leads with 41 percent over the second place Liberals at 24 percent, while the Conservatives and NDP trail with 19 and 12 percent respectively. The Conservatives remain dominant in Alberta (57%) and in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (47%). The Liberals lead in Atlantic Canada (47%). In British Columbia, the Conservatives lead with 39 percent, while the Liberals (25%) and NDP (24%) are in a virtual tie for second place.

Gender gap

The “gender gap” between the political preferences of Canadian men and women is very wide. Conservative support is ten points higher among men than it is among women, while Liberal support is significantly higher among women than it is among men. Women are also more likely to be undecided as to who they would vote for.

Federal Vote By Gender			
	TOTAL	Men	Women
Conservative	36	41	31
Liberal	30	26	33
NDP	15	15	16
Bloc Quebecois	10	9	11
Green	7	7	7
Other	2	2	1
<i>Undecided</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>37</i>

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Methodology

- Results for this research are based on 2,064 telephone interviews with a random sample of Canadians aged 18 years and older who are eligible to vote. A sample of this size produces results considered accurate to within +/- 2.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margins of error are larger for the regional sub-samples.
- Interviews were conducted between May 18 and 26, 2010.

Questions (English):

If a Canadian federal election were to be held today, which party's candidate would you vote for?

[If “Undecided” ask] Perhaps you have not yet made up your mind; is there nevertheless a party you might be inclined to support?