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## Gap between Conservatives and Liberals narrows to three points, poll shows

### **Toronto**

The gap between the federal Conservatives and Liberals has narrowed since May, according to a national poll of eligible voters conducted by Environics and released by the CBC. The new poll shows the Conservatives with the support of 35 percent of decided voters, down one point from a similar Environics poll conducted in May. The Liberals hold 32 percent of the decided vote, up two points, and the NDP remains at 15 percent, unchanged. Support for the Green Party stands at six percent, down one point, and three percent would vote for other parties. Nine percent would vote for the Bloc Québécois nationally, which translates into 37 percent support in Quebec, down four points from May.

The telephone poll of 1,918 eligible voters was conducted from July 5 to 8 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.2 percent nineteen times out of twenty.

Indecision, however, remains high in the poll; over one third of eligible voters either do not know which party they would vote for (31%) or would not vote at all (8%).

### **Regional patterns**

Ontario is the main battleground between the two major parties with the Liberals now holding 38 percent of decided voters compared to 36 percent for the Conservatives and 15 percent for the New Democrats. In Quebec, the Bloc Québécois leads with 37 percent over the second place Liberals at 26 percent, while the Conservatives and NDP trail with 19 and 12 percent respectively. The Conservatives remain dominant in Alberta (59%) and in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (43%). The Liberals lead in Atlantic Canada (40%). In British Columbia, the Conservatives lead with 38 percent, while the Liberals (27%) and NDP (27%) are tied for second place.

| <b>Federal Vote Decided Voters July 2010 – by Region</b> |            |            |            |           |              |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
|  | <b>CON</b> | <b>LIB</b> | <b>NDP</b> | <b>BQ</b> | <b>Green</b> |
| <b>CANADA</b>  | <b>35</b>  | <b>32</b>  | <b>15</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b>6</b>     |
| Atlantic   | 30         | 40         | 22         | –         | 6            |
| Quebec   | 19         | 26         | 12         | 37        | 3            |
| Ontario  | 36         | 38         | 15         | –         | 7            |
| Manitoba/Sask  | 43         | 28         | 15         | –         | 12           |
| Alberta  | 59         | 27         | 6          | –         | 8            |
| British Columbia   | 38         | 27         | 27         | –         | 7            |

### Gender gap

The “gender gap” between the political preferences of Canadian men and women remains significant. Conservative support is ten points higher among men than it is among women, while Liberal support is 11 points higher among women than it is among men.

| <b>Federal Vote Decided Voters - by Gender</b> |              |            |              |
|--|--------------|------------|--------------|
|  | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>Men</b> | <b>Women</b> |
| Conservative                                   | 35           | 39         | 29           |
| Liberal  | 32           | 27         | 38           |
| NDP  | 15           | 15         | 16           |
| Bloc Quebecois                                 | 9            | 8          | 9            |
| Green  | 6            | 7          | 6            |
| Other  | 3            | 3          | 2            |

*For further information, please contact:*

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### Methodology

Results for this research are based on 1918 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 July 5 and 8, 2010.

Questions (English):

Environics posed an “open-ended” question on federal vote intention which did not include reading the names of the political parties. The question is followed by the “leaning” question, and the results for party support combine the findings from both questions.

*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?*