

**Post Election Poll Report  
October 21, 2011**

**KEY FINDINGS**

**CARP members in all three provinces which recently had elections (PEI, Manitoba and Ontario) agree unanimously that their respective new governments must move promptly to fulfill promises they made to older voters, but only a minority are confident this will in fact happen.**

**CARP members in Ontario came closest in their voting patterns to the final result (a slim Liberal plurality), followed by those in Manitoba, but in every other respect, members in all three provinces say the same thing - it is very urgent that their respective governments act on the promises they made but only about a third are confident this will happen.**

**Members are presented with a number of ideas for democratic reform in Canada, and react most positively to mandatory voting and online voting. Surprisingly, proportional representation (PR) is slightly preferred to the Westminster style of government under which Canada operates now.**

	<b>Percent Agree</b>
<b>Mandatory voting</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Online voting</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Proportional representation (PR)</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Westminster system</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Canadian-born Head of State</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Alternate vote (AV)</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Multiple vote</b>	<b>7%</b>

**Members prefer fixed election dates to open elections, and are closely split on whether to reform the senate or abolish it.**

**Intimations of the mortality of the Liberal Party are premature among CARP members, and the party has enjoyed a renaissance lately, posting solid second place results to the leading Conservatives, and well ahead of the third place NDP.**

## Ontario Election

Our members split their vote between the Liberals and the Conservatives in Ontario (41% each) which is very similar to the actual result (Liberals 38%, Conservatives 35%).

### *How did you vote in the Ontario election?*

	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>Liberal</b>	41%	38%
<b>Conservative</b>	41%	35%
<b>NDP</b>	14%	23%
<b>Green</b>	3%	3%

Agreement is very strong that the Ontario government must act promptly on its promises to older Ontarians (90%).

*During the campaign, Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty promised older Ontarians a number of benefits, including funding for house calls for seniors, funding for 3 million new hours of home care, a \$1500 annual home renovation credit, job-protected leave for family caregivers and Health Care Coordinators to help recently discharged patients navigate the system. Now that the Liberals have won, how much do you agree the government must take action on these promises and not pay them lip service only?*

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	55%
<b>Agree</b>	35%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	4%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	4%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

Less than a third of Ontario members are confident this will, in fact, happen (29%).

***How confident are you the new government will take action promptly on these priorities?***

<b>CONFIDENT</b>	<b>29%</b>
Very confident	3%
Confident	26%
<b>NOT CONFIDENT</b>	<b>69%</b>
Not very confident	42%
Not at all confident	28%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>1%</b>

## Manitoba Election

Members in Manitoba are most likely to have voted Conservative (45%), followed by the NDP (41%), which is essentially identical to the final result with the margin of error for this provincial subsample..

### *How did you vote in the Manitoba election?*

	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>Conservative</b>	45%	44%
<b>NDP</b>	41%	46%
<b>Liberal</b>	12%	8%
<b>Green</b>	2%	3%

Once again, there is universal agreement the government must act on its promises (92%), with more than half using the strongest terms (“agree strongly” - 58%)..

*During the campaign, NDP leader Greg Selinger promised older Manitobans a number of benefits, including hiring 200 more doctors and 2000 more nurses, opening 3 more QuikCare clinics and 3 more ACCESS Centres and eliminating school taxes for seniors. Now that the NDP have won, how much do you agree the government must take action on these promises and not pay them lip service only?*

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	58%
<b>Agree</b>	33%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	1%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	5%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	3%

Just more than a quarter of our Manitoba members are confident the government will take speedy action on their promises (27%).

***How confident are you the new government will take action promptly on these priorities?***

<b>CONFIDENT</b>	<b>27%</b>
Very confident	9%
Confident	19%
<b>NOT CONFIDENT</b>	<b>67%</b>
Not very confident	44%
Not at all confident	23%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>6%</b>

## PEI Election

Our members in PEI were most likely to vote for the Conservatives (58%), followed by the Liberals (30%), which is a reverse of the actual election result (40% and 51%, respectively). Sample sizes for PEI (and Manitoba) are very small and findings should be used with caution.

### *How did you vote in the PEI election?*

	<b>Poll</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>Conservative</b>	58%	40%
<b>Liberal</b>	30%	51%
<b>NDP</b>	7%	3%
<b>Green</b>	2%	4%
<b>OTHER</b>	2%	1%

There is universal agreement that the Liberals should move immediately on their promises to older Islanders (94%), and one half express this in the strongest terms (“agree strongly” - 50%).

*During the campaign, Liberal leader Robert Ghiz promised older Islanders a number of benefits, including a \$4 million, 4 year investment in home care, a \$5000 seniors home renovation grant, \$1 million over 2 years to help seniors with drug costs, 75 new long term care beds and a new palliative care centre. Now that the Liberals have won, how much do you agree the government must take action promptly on these promises and not pay them lip service only?*

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	50%
<b>Agree</b>	44%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	2%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	2%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

Despite the high priority they place on fast action on these promises, only one third of members are confident the government will act promptly on them (32%).

***How confident are you the new government will take action promptly on these priorities?***

<b>CONFIDENT</b>	<b>32%</b>
Very confident	4%
Confident	28%
<b>NOT CONFIDENT</b>	<b>66%</b>
Not very confident	46%
Not at all confident	20%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>2%</b>

## Democratic Reform

Members are presented with a number of ideas for democratic reform in Canada, and react most positively to mandatory voting and online voting. Surprisingly, proportional representation (PR) is slightly preferred to the Westminster style of government under which Canada operates now.

	Percent Agree
<b>Mandatory voting</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Online voting</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Proportional representation (PR)</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Westminster system</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Canadian-born Head of State</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Alternate vote (AV)</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Multiple vote</b>	<b>7%</b>

Almost three quarters of members agree with mandatory voting (70%) as is the case in Australia.

***In Australia, voting is mandatory, and those who don't vote are fined. How much do you agree voting should be mandatory in Canada?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	36%
<b>Agree</b>	34%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	20%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	7%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	3%

Two thirds of members agree online voting would boost turnout (65%).

***A number of experts have suggested voter turnout would increase with internet, or online voting. How much do you agree you would rather cast your ballot at home from your computer rather than at a polling station?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	29%
<b>Agree</b>	36%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	19%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	11%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	6%



More than one half of members agree with proportional representation (PR - 59%).

***Another idea that is often discussed is proportional representation in Parliament, where each party receives the percentage of seats which matches its percentage of the total vote. How much do you agree with the idea of proportional representation?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	26%
<b>Agree</b>	33%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	18%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	13%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	10%

Just one half of members agree with the Westminster system of democratic government, under which Canada currently operates (51%)

***Under the current Westminster parliamentary system, the party which wins the most seats becomes the government, regardless of whether they have won the most votes. How much do you agree with the Westminster parliamentary system?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	12%
<b>Agree</b>	39%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	32%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	11%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	6%

Fewer than half (and fewer than disagree) agree Canada should have its own Canadian-born Head of State (42%).

***Some politicians think Canada should have its own, home grown Head of State, a Canadian selected by Canadians. How much do you agree with this?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	16%
<b>Agree</b>	26%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	31%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	16%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	11%

Just 4-in-10 agree with the alternate vote (AV), or instant run-off system popular in party leadership races (40%).

***Under another system, called Alternate Vote, which was used in the Liberal and Alberta leadership contests, voters list their first, second and third choices for a candidate. If no one candidate achieves 50% of the votes, second and third choice votes are taken from losing candidates' tallies and added in until someone has a majority. How much do you agree with Alternate Vote?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	7%
<b>Agree</b>	33%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	29%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	15%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	16%

Very few agree with the idea of the Multiple Vote, popularized by author Nevil Shute in his novel “In The Wet” (7%).

***In the 1950s, social scientists suggested the multiple vote, where voters receive additional votes for life achievements, such as higher education, travel and military service. How much do you agree with the Multiple Vote?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	2%
<b>Agree</b>	5%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	36%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	52%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	6%

Members prefer fixed election dates (55%) to traditional open elections (40%).

***Some provinces have fixed election dates, usually every four years in the Fall. Others allow governments to fall and elections to occur through the parliamentary process. Do you prefer a system of fixed election dates, or the traditional parliamentary system, where an election can occur at any time, due to circumstances?***

<b>Fixed election dates</b>	55%
<b>Traditional open elections</b>	40%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	5%

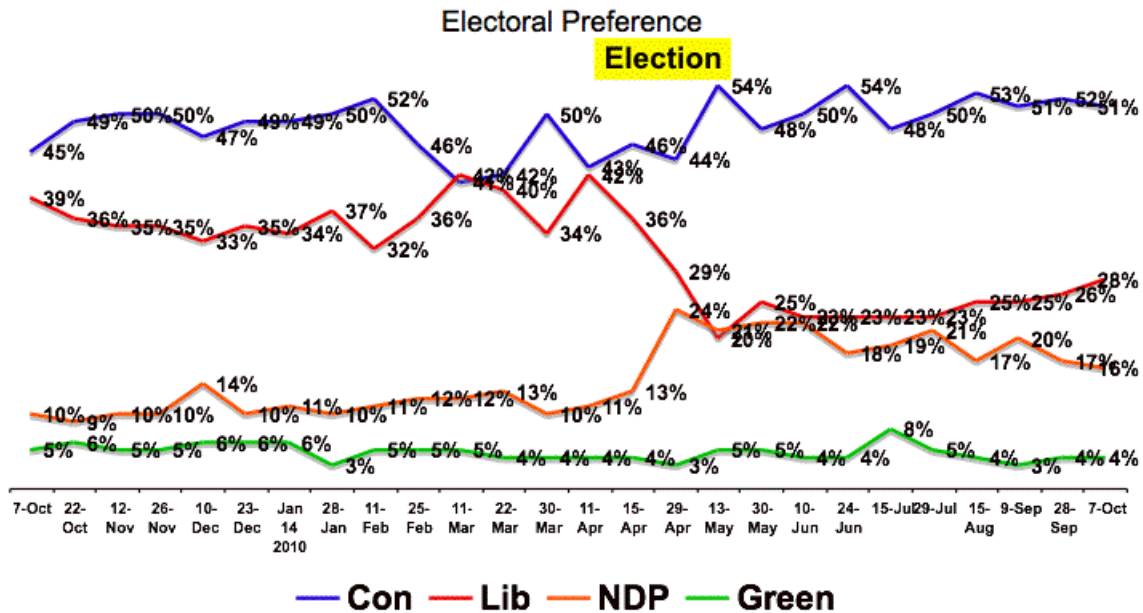
Members are very slightly more likely to say they want a reformed “Triple E” senate (43%) than they are to say they want it abolished (38%).

***Some politicians want to reform the Canadian Senate, and some want to abolish it. What do you think should be done with the Senate?***

<b>Reform it to be equal, effective and elected (Triple E)</b>	43%
<b>Abolish it, don't need two houses of parliament</b>	38%
<b>Leave it as it is</b>	10%
<b>Replace with body of distinguished Canadians (OC)</b>	3%
<b>OTHER</b>	2%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	4%

## ELECTORAL PREFERENCE

While the Conservative Party remains dominant (51%), the Liberals (28%) have drawn ahead of the NDP (16%) and now occupy second place on their own. The NDP are now firmly in third place again and any death knells for the Liberal Party among CARP members are premature.



***Close to 1900 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between October 7 and 9. The margin of error for a sample this size is plus or minus 2.2%, 19 times out of 20. That is, if you asked all members of the CARP Poll™ panel the identical questions, their responses would be within 2%, either up or down, of the results shown here, 95% of the time***