

**Political/Charitable Giving Poll Report
January 13, 2012**

KEY FINDINGS

A majority of members feel majority governments should take the concerns of the opposition into account when drafting legislation, and a majority disagree a majority government has the right to pass any legislation it wants, regardless of opposition input.

Members strongly favour fixed election dates, primarily because they take power out of government hands and because they permit long term planning.

Members are equally likely to say they would rather spend the \$19 billion the Omnibus Crime bill will cost on lifting every Canadian out of poverty or reducing the deficit. Fewer say they want to see the money spent on the crime bill.

Members are evenly split on whether they agree with a national guaranteed minimum annual income. Those who see drawbacks mention creating a permanent welfare class and disincentivizing work, while those in favour mention justice, better health, an end to poverty and savings.

Two thirds of members disagree the government should be able to make a change as significant as raising the eligibility age for OAS without having run on it, and close to two thirds say majority governments should be able to enact legislation they didn't run on only if it is in everyone's benefit.

Virtually all members give to charity or volunteer and most get a tax receipt, a third say they are giving more now than in the past and social welfare and disease research charities are favoured. Members agree private charity has little or no role in maintaining public social services.

When they assess this newsletter, members are most likely to say they are interested in health care topics and pension topics, they agree they read "News You Can Use" first, three quarters say they read all or most issues and virtually all find it interesting. Members would like to see more material on how current affairs affect older Canadians, which demonstrates our members' relentlessly outward focus.

Members think the CBC should be restricted to news, information and documentaries or to Canadian content, rather than presenting the same fare as private media, but they think the optimal revenue model is the current one, in which the network competes with private media for advertising and content.

While the Conservative Party draws the support of one half of members, one quarter support the Liberals and just one fifth supports the NDP.

POLITICAL ISSUES

The majority of members (56%) agree that a majority government should take opposition concerns into consideration when drafting legislation, while about half this proportion (23%) believe the opposition should actually be consulted first. Fewer than this (16%) think opposition amendments should be included in legislation, whereas very few think a majority government should pass legislation without any input (5%).

What do you think is the most appropriate way for a majority government to govern?

Take opposition into account drafting legislation	56%
Consult opposition before passage of legislation	23%
Include opposition amendments in legislation	16%
Use majority to pass regardless of opposition input	5%
OTHER	*
DON'T KNOW	1%

The majority of members disagree (58%) that a majority government has the right to pass any legislation it wants, regardless of the opposition. Nevertheless, four-in-ten agree that a majority government can do this.

How much do you agree a majority government has the right to pass any legislation it wants to regardless of opposition input?

AGREE	41%
Agree strongly	8%
Agree	33%
DISAGREE	58%
Disagree	31%
Disagree strongly	27%
DON'T KNOW	1%

Three quarters of members think fixed election dates are a good idea, equally because they take power out of the government's hands and because they allow multi-year planning. Few (14%) think they are a bad idea.

Many provinces now have fixed election dates every four years, instead of the parliamentary system, where the government chooses when to go to the polls. What is your opinion of having federal elections on fixed dates every four years?

GOOD IDEA	77%
Takes power out of government hands	27%
Makes it easier to plan multi-year programs	27%
More predictable	18%
OTHER	4%
Neither good nor bad idea	8%
BAD IDEA	14%
Leads to never-ending election campaigns	7%
Governments stay longer than they're wanted	5%
OTHER	2%
DON'T KNOW	2%

When asked what they would like to see the \$19 billion the Omnibus Crime bill will cost spent on, about a quarter say lifting every Canadian out of poverty (24%) and about a fifth say reducing the deficit (20%). A similar proportion think the funds should be spent on the crime bill as intended (19%) or on a national home care/long term care strategy (17%).

The Parliamentary Budget Officer just announced the government's Omnibus Crime Bill and prison building program will cost the federal and provincial governments \$19 billion. What do you think this sum could best be spent on?

Bringing every Canadian out of poverty	24%
Reducing the deficit	20%
Omnibus crime bill, as intended	19%
National home care/long term care strategy	17%
National pharmacare program	9%
Remediate impoverished First Nations reserves	4%
National daycare program	3%
New F35 jets and frigates	1%
OTHER	4%

Members are equally split on whether they agree (44%) or disagree (42%) with the idea of a national minimum income allowance.

Some experts have suggested replacing Canada's social welfare payment system with a National Guaranteed Minimum Income, under which all Canadians would receive a guaranteed monthly minimum income sufficient to live on. This sum would be clawed back in taxes from those above a certain annual income. How much do you agree with this idea?

AGREE	44%
Agree strongly	11%
Agree	33%
DISAGREE	42%
Disagree	29%
Disagree strongly	14%
DON'T KNOW	14%

Drawbacks (58%) outweigh perceived benefits in this system (38%), and are centred on creating a permanent welfare class (17%) and disincentivizing work (16%). Benefits are seen to be better health outcomes and an end to poverty (15%) and being the just thing to do (13%) and saving money (10%).

What would you consider the primary benefit or drawback of this system?

BENEFITS	38%
Better health outcomes/eliminate poverty	15%
Just, fair thing to do	13%
Simplify welfare/save money	10%
DRAWBACKS	54%
Would create permanent welfare class	17%
Would discourage people from working	16%
Not fair to reward some for doing nothing	11%
Can't afford it	9%
OTHER	2%
DON'T KNOW	7%

Two thirds of members disagree the government should be able to raise the OAS eligibility age without having run on it (66%), and they are equally split between those who disagree (33%) and those who disagree strongly (34%).

Suggestions have been made that this government will raise the eligibility age for OAS, despite the fact they did not run on this policy. How much do you agree the government should be able to enact such a significant policy change without campaigning on it?

AGREE	29%
Agree strongly	4%
Agree	25%
DISAGREE	66%
Disagree	33%
Disagree strongly	34%
DON'T KNOW	5%

Close to two thirds of members (61%) think governments can enact legislation they didn't run on if it's in everyone's benefit, while one fifth think it's permitted if there is no opposition. Just one tenth take the strictest position ("governments should only enact legislation they ran on" - 10%).

Governments in the past have brought in legislation which was not part of their campaign, such as the HST in BC. Which of the following best reflects your opinion of this?

Governments can do this if in everyone's benefit	61%
Governments can do this if no opposition	21%
Governments should only enact what they ran on	10%
Governments can enact anything they want	4%
OTHER	2%
DON'T KNOW	2%

CHARITABLE GIVING

Virtually all members gave to charity or volunteered, both last year (98%) and this year (97%). Almost all get a tax receipt.

Have you made a donation to an organization or charity this year? This could include volunteering/Did you make a charitable donation to an organization last year? This could include volunteering

	Last Year	This Year
YES	98%	97%
Tax receipt	85%	83%
No tax receipt	12%	13%
NO	3%	3%

In 2011, 3-in-10 say they are doing more giving or volunteering this year (29%), down from two thirds who said this in 2010 (32%).

How does your charitable giving and volunteering compare this year to last year?

	Last Year	This Year
Doing more giving/volunteering	32%	29%
No change	53%	56%
Doing less giving/volunteering	14%	14%
INDEX IN FAVOUR OF "MORE"	+16	+15
DO NOT GIVE/VOLUNTEER	1%	1%

Social welfare charities, like Salvation Army and AA are the most popular this year (25%) and last (31%), while disease research (Heart and Stroke, MS, Juvenile Diabetes) are also popular (26% last year, 25% this year). In third place are colleges or religious institutions (12% and 18%). It appears that some money formerly flowing to social welfare charities is now flowing to colleges and religious groups.

Which ONE type of organizations do you prefer to give to?

	Last Year	This Year
Social welfare	31%	25%
Disease research	26%	25%
College or religious organizations	12%	18%
Umbrella charity organizations	6%	6%
Children’s charities	5%	5%
Global issues	4%	5%
Animal welfare	3%	5%
OTHER	11%	10%
DO NOT GIVE/VOLUNTEER	1%	2%

One half of members believe private charity has a small or no role in maintaining public social services (51%), while one third believe both private charity and the public purse have a role in maintaining social services (35%).

Which of the following statements best describes your attitude to charitable giving and social services?

PRIVATE CHARITY HAS LITTLE/NO ROLE	51%
Private charity good/no role in public services	15%
Private charity has role/public must fund services	36%
Private charity/public have equal role to play	35%
PRIVATE CHARITY HAS SOME/ONLY ROLE	3%
Private charity to guarantee services/limited public role	2%
Private charity all that’s needed/no role for public	2%
DON’T KNOW	11%

CARP NEWSLETTER

When asked what advocacy topics interested them in the ActionOnline newsletter, members are equally interested in health care issues (30%) and pension issues (28%), followed by financial issues (11%) and long term/home care issues (10%).

Which of the advocacy topics CARP covers in this newsletter do you find the most interesting?

Health care issues	30%
Pension issues	28%
Financial issues	11%
Home care/long term care issues	10%
Political or electoral issues	8%
Ethics in government issues	7%
Older worker issues	2%
Affordable housing issues	1%
Elder abuse issues	1%
OTHER	3%

Members agree (44%) they read News You Can Use first, followed by those who say they read the CARP Poll™ Report (14%) or the leading editorial (11%) first.

Which items in the newsletter do you read first?

News You Can Use	44%
The CARP Poll™ Report	14%
Leading editorial	11%
CARP In The News	10%
Features by guest writer	5%
CARP In The Corridors Of Power	4%
Caregiver's Diary	2%
Letters to members from politicians	2%
Chapter News	1%
OTHER	8%

More than three quarters of members read “every” or “most” issues (78%), close to 4-in-10 say they read “every issue” (38%).

How often do you read the issues of the newsletter you are sent?

Every issue	38%
Most issues	40%
Some issues	16%
Few issues	5%
JUST STARTED READING/RECEIVING	2%

Virtually all members find the newsletter interesting, and close to a quarter find it “very interesting” (22%).

How interesting do you find the newsletter?

INTERESTING	95%
Very interesting	22%
Interesting	73%
NOT INTERESTING	5%
Not interesting	5%
Not at all interesting	1%

Members agree they would like to see more material on how current affairs affect older Canadians (45%), followed by about a quarter who would like to see advice and resource columns (22%). Somewhat fewer would like to see material on current events and how they relate to policy (16%).

Which of the following would you like to see more of in the newsletter?

How current affairs affect older Canadians	45%
Advice and resource columns	22%
Current events and how they relate to policy	16%
Interviews/guest columns from experts	6%
Members’ stories, how they relate to policy	3%
Photos and images to accompany stories	1%
OTHER	2%
DON’T KNOW	5%

The vast majority of members (85%) say the number of newsletters they receive is “about right” and relatively few want fewer issues (12%).

Currently, you receive this newsletter once every two weeks. Would you like to see more issues, fewer issues, or is this about the right number of issues?

More issues	2%
About right	85%
Fewer issues	12%
MARGIN IN FAVOUR OF “MORE”	-10
DON'T KNOW	1%

CBC

There is substantial agreement the CBC's mandate should be to broadcast news, documentaries and information only (41%), while 3-in-10 think it should highlight Canadian content. About one tenth think it's mandate should be the same as private media's (which is currently the case) - 12%.

What do you think the CBC's mandate should be?

News, documentaries, information	41%
Highlight Canadian content	29%
Same fare as private media	12%
Tell Canadian stories	9%
Provide citizen access to media	3%
Highlight political content	1%
Highlight educational content	1%
OTHER	3%
DON'T KNOW	3%

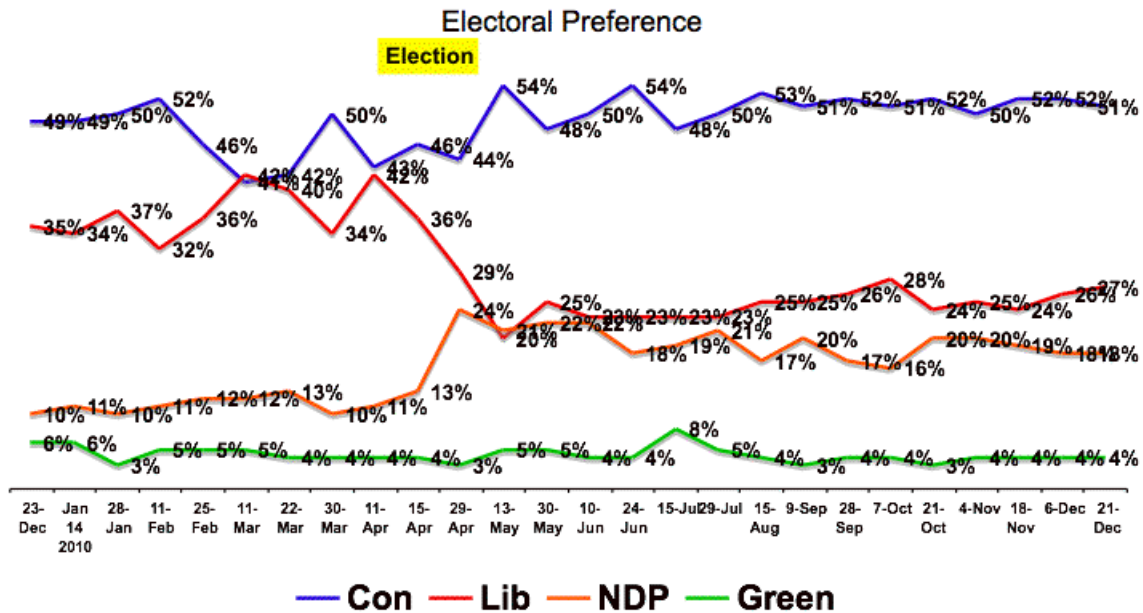
There is substantial plurality agreement that CBC should compete with private media for advertising, with some public funding (the current status - 44%). About one fifth think it should compete for advertising with no public funding (basically a private network - 20%) or, alternatively, become advertising free and subsist entirely on public funding (18%).

What do you think the CBC should do to generate revenue?

Compete advertising w/ public, some public funding	44%
Compete advertising w/ public, no funding	20%
Advertising-free, public funding	18%
Radio only, advertising-free, public funding	7%
Advertising free, private subscribers	3%
Radio only, compete advertising w/ public media	1%
OTHER	1%
DON'T KNOW	6%

ELECTORAL PREFERENCE

While the Conservative Party remains dominant among our members (51%), the Liberals are still in second place (27%) ahead of the NDP (18%), and this is a situation the national polls are only finding now. In addition, we are seeing a slight downward trend for the NDP and a slight upward trend for the Liberals.



More than 2700 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between December 20 and 24. The margin of error for a sample this size is plus or minus 1.9%, 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