

**CARP Pre-Budget Poll Report  
April 3, 2012**

**KEY FINDINGS**

**Both mothballing our submarine fleet and reducing our order of fighter jets are seen as more acceptable cost-cutting measures than raising the age of eligibility for OAS from 65 to 67**

**Members are most likely to support taxing the wealthy or reducing the civil service as budget-cutting measures, and are far more likely to suggest these than changing OAS.**

**Those who believe changes to OAS are inevitable (close to one half) are evenly split between softening the impact through a provision for single seniors or decoupling OAS and GIS. Most opt for lowering the eligibility threshold income of \$121,000 when specifying a cost-savings measure for OAS.**

**Two thirds agree the budget should include stimulus to provide job growth for youth, and even more support more apprenticeships for youth or more difficult targets like keeping high value jobs in Canada as a solution to youth employment. There is wide agreement these measures will do more to secure the future for youth than altering OAS.**

**The vast majority of members agree that military budgets must be subject to the same scrutiny as domestic budgets, and that Canadians can support the military and responsible military budgeting at the same time.**

**Members aren't convinced there is enough access to hospice care in their provinces and the vast majority agree this should be covered under the Canada Health Act.**

**While the majority of members agree only generic drugs should be covered when a brand name is available too, they do not agree only one medication should be covered for each condition. Thus, they want choice in types of therapies, but don't care about brands.**

**The vast majority are aware of the move to stiffer sentencing for elder abuse, close to half have seen or heard CARP mentioned in the media in the past two weeks and four-in-ten have seen or heard mention of Susan Eng during that period. Recall is primarily of changes to OAS, and also of stiffer sentencing for elder abuse. This must be considered very high awareness and message penetration and recall, even given the extremely involved audience.**

**The Conservative party has improved its standings, as has the NDP, while the Liberal Party has declined in voter affection. The Conservatives still dominate, the Liberals are in second place and the NDP are third.**

## FEDERAL BUDGET

While only about one tenth of members say the government's plans to change OAS would make them more likely to vote for the government (14%), far more say mothballing the submarine fleet (38%) or reducing the F-35 jet order would make them more likely to vote that way (41%). In fact, results for "more likely" and "less likely" are inverted between the first case and the two subsequent ones.

***The federal budget will be tabled on Thursday, March 29. It is expected the government will announce they are raising the age of eligibility for OAS from 65 to 67. Would this make you more likely, less likely or neither more nor less likely to vote for the government in the next election?/ It is also expected the government will announce plans to mothball our fleet of second-hand submarines to save hundreds of millions of dollars. Would this make you more likely, less likely or neither more nor less likely to vote for the government in the next election?/ It is also expected the government will announce plans to reduce or re-tender their planned purchase of 65 F-35 fighter jets. Would this make you more likely, less likely or neither more nor less likely to vote for the government in the next election?***

	OAS	Subs	F-35s
More likely	14%	38%	41%
Neither more nor less	38%	47%	43%
Less likely	47%	11%	12%
MARGIN FOR "MORE"	-33	+27	+29
DON'T KNOW	2%	4%	4%

One third of members want to see revenues raised through taxes on the wealthy (36%), followed by those who want to see a smaller civil service (20%), fewer or less costly fighter jets (11%) or national bulk purchase of pharmaceuticals (10%).

***Which ONE of the following steps would you most like to see to reduce federal spending in the upcoming budget?***

<b>Increase taxes on those earning \$250K+</b>	36%
<b>Significantly reduce civil service</b>	20%
<b>Buy fewer/less costly fighter jets</b>	11%
<b>National bulk purchase of prescription drugs</b>	10%
<b>Sell crown corporations like VIA, CBC, Canada Post</b>	8%
<b>Mothball submarine fleet</b>	5%
<b>Raise GST back to 7%</b>	4%
<b>Raise OAS age from 65 to 67</b>	3%
<b>OTHER</b>	2%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

While the largest group of members reject changing OAS (44%), those who do give the solution some consideration are evenly split between those who want to see special provisions for single seniors (22%) and those who want to see GIS decoupled from OAS (22%).

***While it is expected the government will raise the eligibility age for OAS in the budget, they may also soften the impact by protecting the poorest seniors with measures such as decoupling GIS from OAS eligibility or making a special allowance for low income single seniors. Which of the following would you prefer?***

<b>Do not raise age for OAS</b>	44%
<b>Raise OAS age/make provision for single seniors</b>	22%
<b>Raise OAS age/decouple GIS</b>	22%
<b>OTHER</b>	4%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	8%

One quarter of members suggest lower the eligibility income threshold for OAS from \$121,000 as a way of lowering costs, followed by those who call for an increase in the age of eligibility from 65 to 67 (16%). CPP is also mentioned (17%). About one fifth think costs do not need to be lowered for OAS (22%).

***Which ONE of the following would you prefer for lowering the overall cost of OAS?***

<b>Lowering eligibility threshold from \$121,000</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Increase CPP</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Increase eligibility age from 65 to 67</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Lower claw back threshold from \$69,000</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>SOMETHING ELSE</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>OAS COSTS DO NOT NEED LOWERING</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>7%</b>

Two thirds of members agree more stimulus is needed to create jobs for youth (69%), and almost all agree apprenticeships are good (96%). The somewhat less definable goal of keeping high value jobs in Canada also attracts high approval (95%).

***How much do you agree the government should include stimulus spending in the upcoming budget to promote job growth for youth?/How much do you agree the government should support more apprenticeships and on-the-job training for youth in Canada?/ How much do you agree the government should increase its efforts to keep high value jobs in Canada to provide employment for youth?***

	<b>Stimulus</b>	<b>Apprenticeship</b>	<b>Hi Value Jobs</b>
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>

There is wide agreement that these three measures for youth employment are better ways to secure the future for youth than changing OAS (82%).

***How much do you agree that the foregoing measures; apprenticeships, job investment and keeping good jobs in Canada are better solutions for guaranteeing security for youth than changing eligibility for OAS?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>82%</b>
Agree strongly	48%
Agree	33%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>11%</b>
Disagree	8%
Disagree strongly	3%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>7%</b>

There is wide agreement military budgets should be subject to the same scrutiny as domestic budgets (89%) and almost universal agreement that Canadians can support both the troops and responsible military budgeting (96%).

***How much do you agree that military budgeting should be subject to the same scrutiny and accountability as social services and health budgets in order to achieve fairness in deficit reduction?/ How much do you agree Canadians can be strong supporters of our troops, yet also be in favour of responsible and accountable military budgeting?***

	<b>Scrutiny For Budgets</b>	<b>Support The Troops</b>
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>96%</b>
Agree strongly	52%	58%
Agree	37%	38%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Disagree	7%	3%
Disagree strongly	1%	*
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1</b>

## ELDER ABUSE/HOSPICE CARE

Two thirds of members are aware of the move to stiffer sentencing for elder abuse (64%).

***Justice Minister Rob Nicholson announced stiffer sentencing for elder abuse convictions this week. Were you aware of this?***

<b>Yes</b>	64%
<b>No</b>	36%

The largest group of members (39%) are unsure whether their province has adequate access to hospice care, but fewer think this is the case (24%) than think it is not (38%).

***Do the residents of your province have access to adequate hospice care, that is, supportive end-of-life care in a non-hospital setting?***

<b>Yes</b>	24%
<b>No</b>	38%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	39%

There is almost universal agreement hospice care should be covered under the Canada Health Act (91%), and one half express this agreement in the strongest terms ("agree strongly" - 49%).

***How much do you agree hospice care should be covered under the Canada Health Act?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	49%
<b>Agree</b>	42%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	3%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	6%

## NURSING HOMES/DRUG BENEFITS

The vast majority of members live in their own homes (94%).

### *Where do you live?*

<b>In my own home</b>	94%
<b>Retirement residence with no care facilities</b>	1%
<b>With family</b>	1%
<b>Assisted living facility with care facilities</b>	*
<b>OTHER</b>	4%

There is an even split between those who live in retirement residences with sprinkler systems (47%) and those without (53%).

### *If you live in a retirement residence or an assisted living facility, does it have a sprinkler system in every room?*

<b>Yes</b>	47%
<b>No</b>	53%

Just one quarter agree that only one drug should be covered for each medical condition (28%), whereas more than half of members agree only generic drugs should be covered when both a generic and a brand name are available. Thus, while choice is important in types of drugs, it is not in brands of drugs.

### *How much do you agree that prescription drug benefits should cover only one medication for each medical condition, judged to be the most effective by an impartial authority?/ How much do you agree prescription drug benefits should only cover the generic drug, when both a brand name and a generic drug are available for a medical condition?*

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	7%	20%
<b>Agree</b>	22%	38%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	34%	26%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	23%	11%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	15%	6%



## **AWARENESS OF CARP IN THE MEDIA**

Close to one half of members saw or heard CARP mentioned in the media in the two weeks previous to this poll (March 9 to 23 - 48%), and just slightly fewer heard or saw mentions of Susan Eng (41%). This must be considered a very high level of awareness penetration.

***Have you seen or heard CARP mentioned in the media in the past 2 weeks?/ Have you seen or heard CARP's Vice President of Advocacy Susan Eng mentioned or quoted in the media in the past 2 weeks?***

	<b>CARP</b>	<b>Susan Eng</b>
<b>Yes</b>	48%	41%
<b>No</b>	52%	59%

In the majority of cases, the media mention recalled was about OAS (60%), while a minority recall stiffer sentencing for elder abuse (28%). This effectively mirrors the distribution of CARP's advocacy measures during this period.

***What was the topic of the mention of CARP you saw or heard?***

<b>Raising age for OAS</b>	60%
<b>Stiffening sentencing for elder abuse</b>	28%
<b>Some other topic</b>	9%
<b>More than one topic</b>	13%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	7%

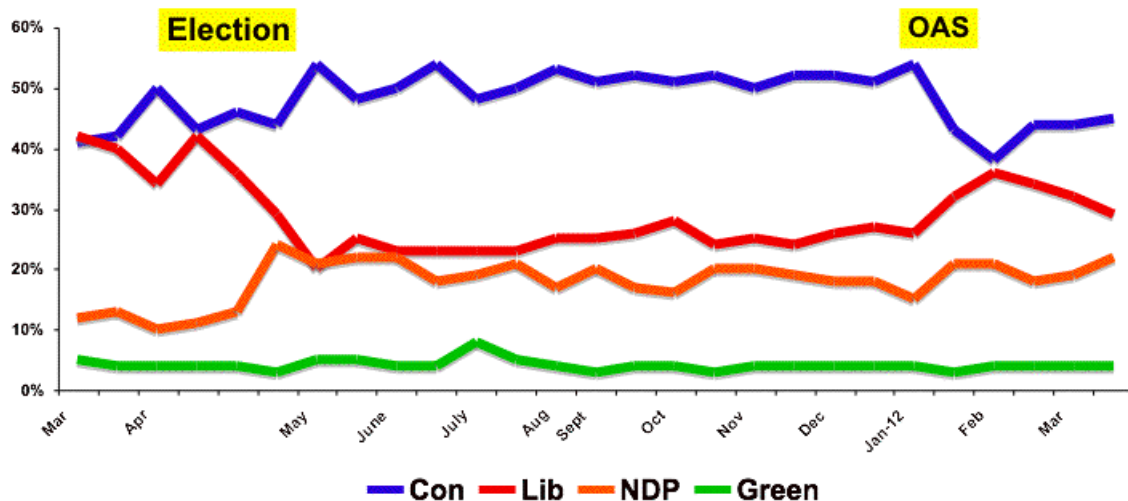
The largest group of those who recall media mentions saw or heard them on TV (46%), followed by online (17%) and on the radio (16%) and magazines (11%). It is probable that radio recalled is The New Classical 96.3 FM and Zoomer Radio 740 AM, and the magazine recall is probably from Zoomer.

***Where did you see or hear mentions of CARP in the media?***

<b>TV</b>	45%
<b>Online</b>	17%
<b>Radio</b>	16%
<b>Magazine</b>	11%
<b>OTHER</b>	7%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

## ELECTORAL PREFERENCE

After being tied with the resurgent Liberals (38% to 36%) in previous waves of polling, the Conservatives have improved their position (45%) at the expense of the Liberals (29%). The NDP, while having increased its voter preference recently (to 22%) is now firmly seen as the third party among our members. The Green Party is steady at 4%



***More than 2700 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between March 23 and 25. The margin of error for a probability 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***