

**CARP Bill C-38 Poll Report
May 25 2012**

KEY FINDINGS

The vast majority of CARP members disagree with bundling so many controversial pieces of legislation in one Omnibus Budget Bill and also disagree with time allocation being applied to the bill. They agree it should be split into separate parts

Members agree majority governments should take opposition concerns into account when drafting legislation, consult the opposition before passage and also consult with voters as well as politicians.

Fully one half do not expect the government to survive the next election, and those who do are fewer than those who say they support the government

While few expect a successor government to repeal OAS changes, the majority want this to happen

The clear majority, or five times as many, say they will vote against the government if it proceeds with Bill C-38 as say they will vote for the government in the next election, and the government stands to lose a significant tranche of it's core support because of this issue.

For the first time in four years of CARP member polling, a party other than the Conservatives leads in electoral preference, and the NDP's lead is substantial, not marginal

Detailed Findings

The vast majority of CARP members do not agree with the passage of Bill C-38 (85%), and as many as three quarters express their opinion in the strongest terms (disagree strongly - 74%).

Parliament will vote on Bill C-38, the Omnibus Budget Bill, on Monday. This bill covers, among other issues, raising the age of OAS from 65 to 67, revamping Canada's immigration rules, streamlining environmental assessments, reducing Fisheries Canada's powers as well as routine budget matters. How much do you agree so many different issues should be included in one piece of legislation?

AGREE	14%
Agree strongly	6%
Agree	8%
DISAGREE	85%
Disagree	11%
Disagree strongly	74%
DON'T KNOW	1%

The vast majority disagree with time allocation being assigned to the Omnibus bill (82%).

The government has imposed time allocation on this bill, meaning the opposition's opportunities to debate legislation are strictly limited. How much do you agree with this legislative tactic?

AGREE	17%
Agree strongly	6%
Agree	11%
DISAGREE	82%
Disagree	16%
Disagree strongly	66%
DON'T KNOW	1%

The vast majority agree the Omnibus bill should be split into separate parts (87%).

Both opposition parties want to see Bill C-38 split up into five separate pieces of legislation, dealing separately with the budget, OAS, immigration, the environment and Fisheries Canada. How much do you agree with this idea?

AGREE	87%
Agree strongly	71%
Agree	16%
DISAGREE	12%
Disagree	7%
Disagree strongly	6%
DON'T KNOW	1%

More than one half (both now and in January) say that majority governments should take opposition concerns into account when drafting legislation (January - 56%, May - 54%), while about one quarter say the opposition should be consulted before passage of the bill (January - 23%, May - 21%). Fewer believe opposition amendments need to be included before passage (January - 16%, May 19%).

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

	January 2012	May 2012
Opposition concerns into account	56%	54%
Consult opposition before passing	23%	21%
Include opposition amendments	16%	19%
Pass any legislation they want	5%	5%
DON'T KNOW	1%	

Almost all members agree majority governments must seek input from citizens as well as the opposition before passing legislation (96%).

How much do you agree it is important for a majority government to seek input from and act on the concerns of citizens as well as politicians when passing legislation?

AGREE	96%
Agree strongly	71%
Agree	25%
DISAGREE	4%
Disagree	3%
Disagree strongly	1%
DON'T KNOW	1%

Twice as many members say the current government will lose the next election (49%) as say it will win (26%). It must be noted fewer members think the Conservatives will win than actually support them (31%).

It is unlikely we will have a federal election before spring 2015. Do you expect the current government to be re-elected in that election?

Yes	26%
No	49%
DON'T KNOW	26%

While only one quarter expect a successor government to repeal OAS changes (27%), more than half want this to occur (56%). Few think the current government will be re-elected

If the current government is not re-elected in 2015, do you EXPECT the winning party or parties to reverse this government's decision on raising the age for OAS from 65 to 67? If the current government is not re-elected in 2015, do you WANT the winning party or parties to reverse this government's decision on raising the age for OAS from 65 to 67?

	Expect	Want
Yes	27%	56%
No	45%	26%
DON'T KNOW	22%	13%
GOVT. WILL BE RE-ELECTED	6%	5%

More than one half agree governments shouldn't try to pass binding legislation which won't take effect for more than one writ (54%), and just one third agree with this position (33%).

The budget provision raising the age for OAS from 65 to 67 won't start to take effect for 10 years. How much do you agree governments should attempt to pass binding legislation that won't take effect for at least two elections?

AGREE	33%
Agree strongly	10%
Agree	23%
DISAGREE	54%
Disagree	24%
Disagree strongly	30%
DON'T KNOW	14%

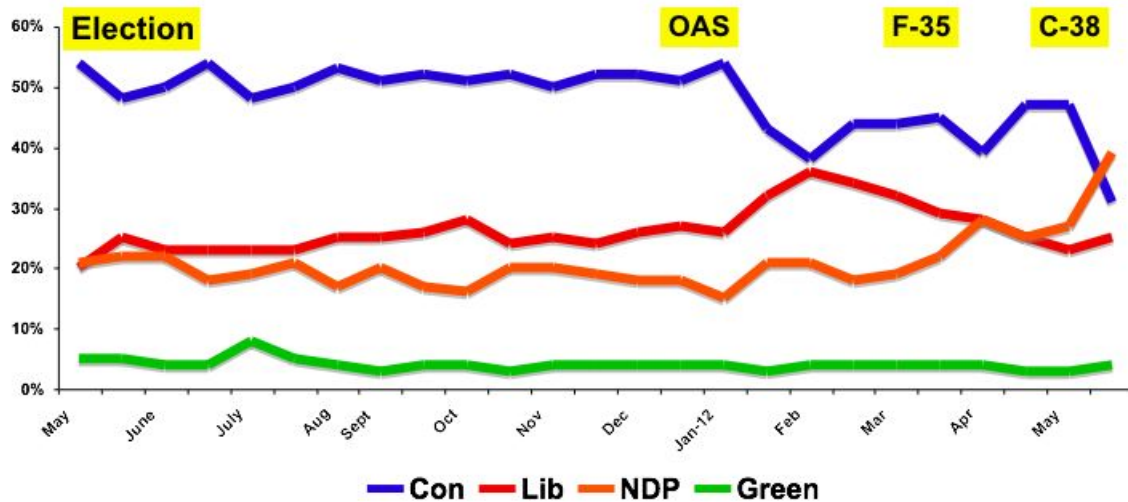
Members are five times more likely to say they won't vote for the government (42%) or are less likely to do so (28%; 70% in total) than are willing to say they will support the government (15%). Once again, this is less than half the party's stated electoral support (31%).

Would you be more likely, neither more nor less likely or less likely to vote for the current government in 2015 if they proceed to pass Bill C-38 as planned, without splitting it up and after limiting debate?

WILL VOTE FOR GOVERNMENT	15%
Would have voted for government anyway	10%
More likely to vote for government	5%
Neither more nor less likely	12%
WILL NOT VOTE FOR GOVERNMENT	70%
Would not have voted for government anyway	42%
Less likely to vote for government	28%
DON'T KNOW	3%

Electoral Preference

For the first time since CARP started polling its members at the election of October, 2008, the NDP leads in voter preference (decided voters - 39%), significantly ahead of the Conservatives (31%). Considering the Conservatives have scored at 50% or better for most of the past year (and since before the 2011 election), this is a significant but not unexpected shift. The Prime Minister's surprise announcement of the change to OAS at Davos in January began a steady decline in the government's popularity which recent events have just exacerbated.



More than 4000 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll on May 9 and 25. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is plus or minus 1.6%, 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 3%, either up or down, of the results shown here, 95% of the time