

## **CARP Politics Report September 21, 2012**

### **KEY FINDINGS**

**CARP members are very politically engaged, all voted in the last federal election, all will vote in the next federal election and very few claim they are not interested in politics. While the majority plan to vote for the same party they did last time, a significant minority do not know if they will.**

**Two thirds think the expansion of parliament by 30 new BC, Alberta and Ontario seats is a good thing for democracy, and most find themselves most engaged in federal or provincial politics, or both.**

**While the Conservatives are preferred for being competent, offering a vision for a prosperous Canada and protecting the interests of consumers and investors, the NDP is seen to be the most likely to fight for all of CARP's core advocacy issues, including home care, end-of-life care, CPP enhancement, OAS protection, ethical government behaviour, caring about average Canadians, a national drug coverage plan, national standards and accessibility for health care and ending elder abuse.**

**Despite this ringing endorsement of the NDP's commitment to core CARP values, most members say they will support the Conservative Party if an election were held tomorrow. While they recognize that the NDP's social equality agenda will best align with CARP's positions, their voting decision may be more dependant on the economic stewardship they see in the Conservatives, and for which they gave them high marks in this poll. Conservative supporters are more enthusiastic about voting for their party than other party supporters.**

**An important phenomenon to note is the extent to which the Liberal Party has disappeared from member consideration.**

**The Conservatives are in the lead in voter support, as mentioned, with the NDP in second place and catching up. The Liberals are firmly in third place and falling back.**

## DETAILED FINDINGS

Almost every CARP member polled claims to have voted in the last federal election (98%).

### *Did you vote in the last federal election of May, 2011?*

<b>Yes</b>	98%
<b>No</b>	2%

An equally universal proportion claim to be certain or almost certain to vote in the next federal election (96%).

### *How likely are you to vote in the next federal election, scheduled for May, 2015?*

<b>CERTAIN/ALMOST CERTAIN</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Certain</b>	89%
<b>Almost certain</b>	7%
<b>Extremely likely</b>	1%
<b>Very likely</b>	1%
<b>Somewhat likely</b>	1%
<b>Might or might not</b>	1%
<b>Not likely</b>	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	*

While the majority will vote next time for the same party they did last time (59%), a significant minority don't know if they will (32%) or will not (8%).

### *Will you vote for the same party in 2015 as you did in 2011?*

<b>Yes</b>	59%
<b>No</b>	8%
<b>PROBABLY WON'T VOTE</b>	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	32%

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is seen by members to be the most trustworthy of the party leaders (30%) and the best for PM (38%). He is tied with opposition leader Tom Mulcair for having the interests of older Canadians at heart (21% each).

***Which of the party leaders do you think is the most trustworthy?/And which do you think is most fit to be Prime Minister?/And which of them has the best interests of older Canadians most to heart?***

	<b>Best PM</b>	<b>Trustworthy</b>	<b>Older Cdns</b>
<b>Stephen Harper</b>	38%	30%	21%
<b>Tom Mulcair</b>	19%	15%	21%
<b>Bob Rae</b>	17%	16%	17%
<b>Elizabeth May</b>	4%	17%	8%
<b>NONE OF THEM</b>	13%	13%	13%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	10%	9%	19%

Two thirds of members think the expansion of parliament is good for democracy in Canada (62%).

***Due to growth in some Canadian regions, parliament will gain 30 new seats for the next election. These seats will mostly be in BC, Alberta and Ontario. How much of a good thing do you think this is for Canadian democracy?***

<b>GOOD THING</b>	<b>62%</b>
Very good thing	26%
Good thing	36%
<b>NOT A GOOD THING</b>	<b>28%</b>
Not such a good thing	15%
Not a good thing at all	13%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	10%

Members are politically engaged, and most follow all three levels of politics with equal interest (35%). For the rest, federal (20%) and federal and provincial politics occupy their interest (23%). Few are uninterested in politics (3%).

***Which level of politics engages you the most, that is, excites and interests you?***

<b>All three levels equally</b>	35%
<b>Federal/provincial equally</b>	23%
<b>Federal</b>	20%
<b>Provincial</b>	8%
<b>Municipal</b>	4%
<b>Municipal/provincially equally</b>	4%
<b>Federal/municipal equally</b>	3%
<b>NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS</b>	3%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	1%

The NDP is seen as the national party most likely to care about the interests of average Canadians (41%) and is thought to be the most ethical and democratic of the four national parties (31%), but the Conservatives are seen to be the most competent and efficient (38%) and to offer the best vision for a prosperous Canada (32%). The Liberals are seen to be at a distinct disadvantage on all these dimensions.

***Which of the four national parties ... ?***

	<b>NDP</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>Lib</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>DK</b>
<b>Cares about average Cdns</b>	41%	24%	12%	6%	17%
<b>Most ethical/democratic</b>	31%	24%	10%	14%	22%
<b>Is most competent/efficient</b>	20%	38%	12%	3%	27%
<b>Offers best vision</b>	30%	32%	16%	5%	17%

The NDP is seen to be the most likely national party to champion almost all of CARP's stated advocacy objectives, including national pharmacare (53%), comprehensive home care (53%), enhanced CPP (52%), national health care standards and accessibility (49%), safeguarding OAS and GIS (47%), comprehensive palliative and end-of-life care (43%) and ending elder abuse (34%). The only measure on which the NDP loses to the Conservatives is protecting consumers, including investors (24% to 34%).

***Which of the four national parties is most likely to champion...?***

	<b>NDP</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>Lib</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>DK</b>
<b>National Drug Plan</b>	53%	13%	9%	2%	22%
<b>Comprehensive home care</b>	53%	13%	10%	3%	22%
<b>Enhancing CPP</b>	52%	17%	11%	2%	19%
<b>National Health Standards</b>	49%	19%	13%	3%	17%
<b>Safeguarding OAS/GIS</b>	47%	21%	13%	2%	17%
<b>Palliative/end-of-life care</b>	43%	12%	10%	3%	32%
<b>Ending elder abuse</b>	34%	22%	11%	3%	30%
<b>Protecting investors</b>	24%	34%	17%	3%	23%

The NDP is also seen as the party most likely to take CARP's views into consideration when formulating policy (31%), although more members don't know which party would do this (40%).

***Which of the four national parties is most likely to take the views of CARP into consideration when formulating policy?***

<b>NDP</b>	31%
<b>Conservative Party</b>	13%
<b>Liberal Party</b>	11%
<b>Green Party</b>	4%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	40%

Despite finding the NDP to be the party which is best positioned to protect their core interests, members continue to express an electoral preference for the Conservative Party (41%), compared to 34% for the NDP. However, the Conservative Party is the second choice of just one tenth (10%), while one quarter would pick the NDP second (27%). This indicates that, while the Conservatives may have “topped out” their support among our members, the NDP has considerable room to grow. In terms of combined 1st and 2nd choice, both the NDP (61%) and the Liberals (57%) outstrip the Conservatives (51%).

***If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party’s candidate would you support?/and your favoured party didn’t run a candidate in your riding, which party’s candidate would be your second choice?***

	<b>1st Choice</b>	<b>2nd Choice</b>	<b>1st/2nd Choice</b>
<b>Conservatives</b>	41%	10%	51%
<b>NDP</b>	34%	27%	61%
<b>Liberals</b>	20%	37%	57%
<b>Green Party</b>	4%	21%	25%

Three quarters of members are enthusiastic about voting for their preferred parties (74%) and 4-in-10 are very enthusiastic (39%). Nevertheless, one fifth of members are not enthusiastic about voting for the parties they support (21%), and this may be why so many are unsure whether they will vote for the same party in the next election as they did in the last one (32%). Conservative supporters are more enthusiastic about voting their party (28% very enthusiastic) than are either NDP (25%) or Liberal supporters (19%).

***How enthusiastic are you about voting for your favoured party in the next election?***

<b>ENTHUSIASTIC</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Very enthusiastic</b>	39%
<b>Somewhat enthusiastic</b>	35%
<b>NOT ENTHUSIASTIC</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Not very enthusiastic</b>	14%
<b>Not at all enthusiastic</b>	7%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	5%

## **ELECTORAL PREFERENCE**

The Conservative Party, which has seen a recent uptick, leads (41%), but at a diminished level since the OAS, F-35 and Bill C-38 issues made news. After leading the Conservatives for one polling cycle immediately after the debate around the Omnibus Budget Bill C-38, the NDP (34%) are ahead of the Liberals (20%) in second place and gaining ground. The Liberals are steadily losing steam as the third party.

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decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

***More than 3600 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between September 7 and 10, 2012. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20***