

**CARP Political Poll II Report
July 26, 2013**

Key Findings

While members approve of the recent cabinet shuffle, few think it will make any difference to how the government treats older Canadians because Stephen Harper is the only minister who counts.

Members think it very important leaders visit disaster sites but admit they do so only for photo ops.

The recent spate of resignations and departures from the government benches is seen as a clear indication of trouble coming, not a natural progression of talent to the top.

The Liberals are seen to be more ready to govern than the NDP, who are seen to spend too much time posturing in the media, while the Liberals are more likely to be seen as an ineffective opposition.

More than half suggest it's time for the Prime Minister to retire, and most suggest he will do so because he won't win the next election in a second half-term full of trouble. Jim Flaherty, Jason Kenney and John Baird are seen as his most likely successors.

The recent Senate expenses scandal is seen to be the most damaging in Canada's history, outstripping even the Sponsorship Scandal.

Top issues to members include the economy, an aging society, the debt, income inequality and the environment. The ones they feel the government ignores most are an aging society and health care reform, followed by the debt, income inequality and pension reform. The reason these issues are ignored is because politicians are out of touch with seniors, party priorities don't reflect personal priorities and because politicians, who are always campaigning, pick easy wins.

Increasing transparency in government is best done by banning omnibus bills, banning whipped votes and posting all expenses online. Neither Proportional Representation (PR) nor the Alternate Vote (AV) is strongly preferred to our current First Past The Post (FPTP) electoral system.

The Liberals and Conservatives are tied in first place, and the NDP are deep in second.

Detailed Findings

Two thirds of members approve of the recent cabinet shuffle (66%).

It is expected that Prime Minister Stephen Harper will shuffle his cabinet. Do you approve or disapprove of this move?

APPROVE	66%
Approve strongly	21%
Approve	45%
DISAPPROVE	9%
Disapprove	6%
Disapprove strongly	3%
DON'T KNOW	25%

Despite enthusiasm for the shuffle, few think it will make any difference to older Canadians (15%).

How much difference will this new cabinet make to how the government deals with older Canadians?

MAKE A DIFFERENCE	15%
A great deal of difference	2%
Some difference	13%
NO DIFFERENCE	73%
Not much difference	34%
No difference at all	39%
DON'T KNOW	12%

The largest group of members think the cabinet shuffle will have no effect because PM Harper is the only cabinet minister who counts (38%), a third of this proportion think it's either an unhelpful move or a necessary strategic realignment (11% each).

What do you think the effect of this cabinet shuffle will be?

Nothing will change, PM is only minister that matters	38%
Doesn't help solve country's problems	11%
Necessary strategic mid-term realignment	11%
Not enough to rehabilitate government	9%
Government needs new image/leaders	9%
Promising newcomers being given their chance	8%
New focus/energy to government	7%
Leadership in difficult times	3%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	4%

The vast majority of members say it is important that political leaders visit the scene of disasters (81%).

How important is it that political leaders visit the sites of disasters or catastrophes such as the Calgary floods or the Lac-Megantic train wreck?

IMPORTANT	81%
Very important	43%
Important	38%
NOT IMPORTANT	17%
No important	11%
Not important at all	6%
DON'T KNOW	2%

While most think these visits constitute a photo op, no more (32%), a quarter see them as raising victim morale (25%) and demonstrating empathy (23%).

Why do you think politicians visit disaster and catastrophe sites?

Just a photo op	32%
Raise morale among victims	25%
Demonstrate empathy	23%
Government supporters like it	6%
Distract from underfunding of emergency response	5%
Help direct recovery efforts	5%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	4%

Members are most likely to believe the spate of recent departures from cabinet is evidence of losses coming (52%), rather than a natural progression (29%).

A number of senior cabinet ministers and other MPs left or retired from federal politics recently. What do you think is the reason for this?

Leaving in advance of defeat	52%
Natural progression, older retire, younger move up	29%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	19%

The Liberals are seen to be more qualified to govern (37%) than are the NDP (28%).

Do you agree or disagree the federal NDP/federal Liberals have demonstrated the qualifications for governing?

	NDP	Liberals
AGREE	28%%	37%
Agree strongly	5%	7%
Agree	23%	30%
DISAGREE	62%	52%
Disagree	33%	32%
Disagree strongly	29%	20%
DON'T KNOW	10%	12%

The NDP are more likely to be seen to be posturing for the media than the Liberals (22% to 16%) while the Liberals are more likely to be seen as ineffective (23% to 14%) or to have good bench strength (14% to 9%).

How would you describe the NDP's/Liberals' performance in opposition?

	NDP	Liberals
Too much time posturing in media	22%	16%
Effective opposition	19%	16%
Inexperienced MPs	15%	11%
Ineffective opposition	14%	23%
Regional party only	9%	4%
Good bench strength	9%	14%
Needs new leader	5%	7%
Government in waiting	2%	4%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	5%	5%

More than half our members agree it's time for the PM to retire (53%), while just more than a third disagree (38%).

Long-time leaders of political parties often retire mid-term to allow a successor the chance to settle in. Do you agree or disagree the Prime Minister should retire now?

AGREE	53%
Agree strongly	36%
Agree	17%
DISAGREE	38%
Disagree	25%
Disagree strongly	13%
DON'T KNOW	9%

Members are equally likely to say the PM will retire because he doesn't want to lose the next election (23%) and because trouble is coming in the second half of his term (27%).

Why might he retire?

Trouble coming in second half of term	27%
Doesn't want to lose next election	23%
Leave at the top of his game	9%
Party needs new blood	9%
Good succession planning	9%
PM has achieved his goals	5%
Give another leader a chance	2%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	17%

Jim Flaherty is seen as the best successor to PM Harper (15% of those with an opinion), followed by Jason Kenney (14%) and John Baird (11%). Close to half select someone other than the candidates listed (47%).

Who would make the best Prime Minister and party leader?

Jim Flaherty	15%
Jason Kenney	14%
John Baird	11%
Brad Wall	6%
Tony Clement	3%
Lisa Raitt	1%
Michelle Rempel	1%
Kellie Leitch	1%
SOMEONE ELSE	47%

The Senate expenses scandal is seen as the most damaging in Canada (49%), compared to just a fifth who say the Robocall scandal (20%) or even the Sponsorship scandal (14%).

Which has been the most serious and damaging Canadian political scandal?

Senate expense scandal	49%
Robocall/election tampering	20%
Sponsorship scandal	14%
F-35 affair	6%
Airbus bribes/Karlheinz Schreiber	4%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	7%

Top issues of concern to members include the economy (21%), an aging society (19%), the debt and deficit (15%), income inequality (13%), the environment and healthy care reform (10% each). Issues the government is avoiding the most, however, include an aging society (27%), followed by health care reform (12%), income inequality, the environment and pension reform (11% each).

What is the one most critical issue facing Canada today/What is the one issue facing Canada today which politicians ignore??

	Top Issues	Ignored Issues
Economy/unemployment	21%	6%
Aging society	19%	27%
Debt/deficit	15%	9%
Income inequality	13%	11%
Environment	10%	11%
Health care reform	10%	12%
Pension reform	5%	11%
Canada's image abroad	3%	6%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	3%	7%

Most members think the reason politicians don't focus on issues which matter to them is because politicians are well-paid with good pensions and are out of touch with the issues which face seniors (25%), followed by those who say party priorities don't match theirs (17%), that politicians are too busy campaigning or that they only pick easy wins (14% each), or that seniors are taken for granted by politicians (11%).

Why do you think politicians don't spend time on issues which matter to you?

Have good pensions/well paid/out of touch	25%
Party priorities not my priorities	17%
Too busy campaigning all the time	14%
Politicians pick easy wins	14%
Politicians take seniors for granted	11%
Seniors not seen as important voting bloc	9%
My issues aren't nationally important	4%
Lack of exposure/awareness of issues	2%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	5%

Banning bundled legislation is seen as the best step to greater government transparency (35%), followed by expenses posting online by all politicians (27%) and eliminating whipped votes (24%).

What single step do you think would do the most for more government transparency?

No omnibus/"bundled" bills	35%
All MPs/Senators to post expenses online	27%
No whipped votes/all free votes	24%
No time allocation	4%
Cameras in caucus meetings	4%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	7%

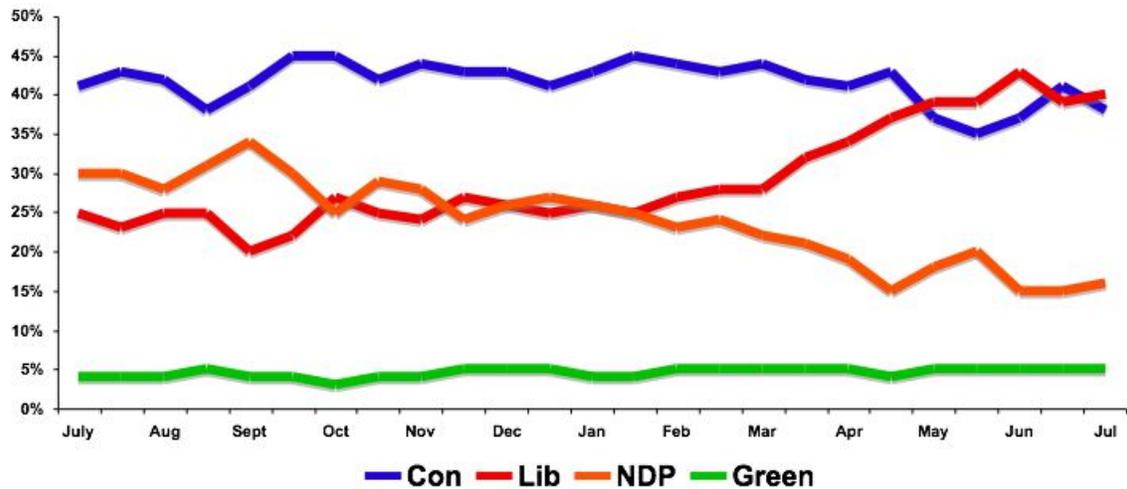
Neither Proportional Representation (PR) or the Alternate Vote (AV) is seen to be strongly preferred to the current First Past The Post (FPTP) system (42% and 45% agree they are better), although AV is less likely to be rejected than PR (33% to 43%)

Proportional Representation (PR) is an electoral system where each party is assigned the same number of seats as their share of the popular vote. This leads to many smaller parties, with the need for coalition governments/Alternate Vote (AV) is an electoral system where voters rank candidates on the ballot, and the second place votes are added to the first place votes, then the third place votes, and so on, until a majority of 50% or more is achieved. This leads to popular majority governments in every case. Do you agree or disagree this is preferable to our FPTP system?

	PR	AV
AGREE	42%	45%
Agree strongly	18%	14%
Agree	24%	31%
DISAGREE	43%	33%
Disagree	24%	21%
Disagree strongly	19%	12%
DON'T KNOW	16%	23%

Electoral Preference

The Liberals surpassed the NDP as second place party in CARP members' electoral preference in February, and passed the Conservatives as first place party in the past month, only to have the Conservatives catch up again. The Liberals are now at 40%, the Conservatives at 38%, the NDP at 16%, and the Greens at 5%.



More than 2300 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between July 12 and 15, 2013. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20