

CARP Pre-Throne Speech Poll Report
October 4, 2013

Key Findings

The vast majority of members agree the latest Parliament had not finished critical business when it was prorogued, that key promises from the election were not kept, including ending senior poverty and pension and health care reform. Priorities members want to see addressed in the next Parliament include CPP enhancement and a set of national standards for health care devised by the provinces and the federal government.

In terms of the consumer protection priorities which are actually expected to be in the Throne Speech, none are initially seen to be particularly popular, although there is wide agreement they are appropriate priorities for a government, especially a financial services users' bill of rights, mandating clear language forms. Members expect to see more law and order measures, but don't see the need for them.

Members are most likely to say an ideal government provides health care, security, opportunity (and an income) to it's citizens. Few adopt a severely conservative or libertarian view of a strictly limited government. Members are hopeful about the establishment of a National Securities Regulator but think more needs to be done now on this front.

In terms of fallout from the last election, most say that downloading of health care responsibilities to the provinces has led to worse health care, and only the minority expect the income-splitting and physical activity tax credit promises to be kept when the deficit is eliminated. The majority agree income-splitting is a good way to relieve the tax burden on the middle class, but few agree with the physical activity tax credit.

The Liberal Party's policy on marijuana legalization convinces a sizeable minority to vote the party in the next election, whereas fewer say this policy will lead them to vote against the Liberals, and this is reflected in a sharp surge in Liberal electoral support one month ago coinciding with the announcement of the party policy.

Detailed Findings

The vast majority of members disagree Parliament's business was completed when it was prorogued (87%).

When Parliament was prorogued on September 16, this implied all the Parliamentary business initiated after the 2011 election had been completed and no more could be done, including measures to help seniors. Do you agree or disagree this parliament's business is done?

AGREE	9%
Agree strongly	2%
Agree	7%
DISAGREE	87%
Disagree	49%
Disagree strongly	38%
DON'T KNOW	4%

Pension reform (19%), health care reform (18%) and ending senior poverty (23%) are most commonly mentioned as the election promises the government hasn't kept yet, followed by CPP enhancement (11%).

Which of the government's election promises from 2011 received the least attention in this Parliament?

Ending senior poverty	23%
Pension reform	19%
Health care reform	18%
Modest CPP enhancement	11%
Growing economy/creating jobs	7%
Reforming immigration/clearing backlog	3%
Rebuilding the armed forces	3%
Completing free trade treaties	3%
Improving Canada's image abroad	3%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	11%

CPP enhancement is the one priority members would like to see in the Throne Speech (22%) along with creating national health care standards (21%). A comprehensive home care strategy (15%) and a National Pharmacare Plan (11%) are also mentioned.

Parliament will return from prorogation with the Throne Speech on October 16. The purpose of the Throne Speech is to lay out the government’s legislative roadmap for this session of Parliament. Which one priority would you most like to see addressed in the Throne Speech?

CPP enhancement	22%
Set national health standards	21%
Comprehensive home care strategy	15%
National Pharmacare Plan	11%
Legalized assisted suicide	8%
Supplementary Universal Pension Plan (UPP)	6%
Long Term Care insurance	5%
Refundable caregiver tax credit	3%
Catastrophic drug insurance	2%
OTHER/DON’T KNOW	6%

In terms of actual expected Throne Speech priorities, members are most interested in a wireless Bill of Rights (17%), followed by a financial services Bill of Rights (15%) and spending cuts (15%). Fixing the F-35 snafu and prosecuting child pornographers are also expected (12% each), along with a credit card Bill of Rights (10%)

These are some of the issues the government is expected to deal with in this Parliament. Which one of these priorities would you most like to see addressed in the Throne Speech?

Regulation of wireless pricing	17%
Financial services code requiring plain language forms	15%
Spending cuts	15%
Resolve F-35 procurement	12%
Stiffer sentences for child abusers/pornographers	12%
Credit card fee limits	10%
Law and order measures	6%
New supply ships for the navy	3%
Airline passenger bill of rights	1%
OTHER/DON’T KNOW	10%

The largest proportion of members see the ideal society as providing health care, opportunity, security and income for all (34%) and just fewer see the same vision minus income (25%). This indicates a very communitarian view of society, compared to the relatively few who see a more Libertarian model (15% in total).

Which of the following best describes your view of the ideal role of government in society?

Small as possible/defense, foreign affairs, no more	11%
Oversee/regulate public sector only	4%
Oversee/regulate public/private sector	8%
Opportunity for all	3%
Health care for all	4%
Opportunity/security for all	5%
Health care/opportunity/security for all	25%
Health care/opportunity/security/income for all	34%
Something else	4%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	2%

Just less than half expect new law and order measures to be in the Throne Speech (44%)

Do you expect that new measures to combat crime will be a priority of this Throne Speech?

Yes	44%
No	38%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	18%

Two thirds disagree law and order measures should be a priority in the budget (64%).

With crime at its lowest levels in 40 years, do you agree or disagree new measures to combat crime should be a priority of this Throne Speech?

AGREE	31%
Agree strongly	6%
Agree	25%
DISAGREE	64%
Disagree	33%
Disagree strongly	31%
DON'T KNOW	5%

Of the expected consumer protection measures in the Throne Speech, members favour new rules in the financial services sector the most (90%), followed by a wireless Bill of Rights (83%), a credit card Bill of Rights (80%) and an airline passenger Bill of Rights (69%).

One of the government's priorities in this parliament is expected to be bringing in legislation requiring financial services companies to use plain language on their forms and to institute protections for borrowers and other customers/Another priority may be a new set of rules for wireless providers, governing rates, roaming charges and data fees, as well as the role of foreign companies in the Canadian marketplace/ Another priority may be a credit card customer bill of rights, requiring credit card issuers to provide clear information on rates and changes to policy/ Another priority may be an airline passenger bill of rights, requiring airlines to provide timely and accurate information on schedules and to fairly compensate passengers whose trips are interrupted. Do you agree or disagree that this should be a priority for this parliament?

	Financial	Wireless	Credit Card	Airline
AGREE	90%	83%	80%	69%
Agree strongly	33%	34%	26%	17%
Agree	57%	49%	54%	52%
DISAGREE	9%	13%	18%	28%
Disagree	8%	12%	16%	24%
Disagree strongly	1%	1%	2%	2%
DON'T KNOW	2%	4%	2%	5%

One third of members think the new Common Securities Regulator is a good first step (37%), and a similar proportion think more needs to be done (32%). Half this proportion think it's just an empty gesture (17%).

The federal government just announced, along with BC and Ontario, a Common Securities Regulator to govern investing in those two provinces, which account for most of the securities activity in Canada. Investor protection is mentioned but no implementation is described. What is your reaction to this?

Good first step	37%
More needs to be done protecting investors	32%
This is just lip service to investor protection	17%
This is not an important issue	5%
Legacy achievement for Finance Minister	4%
Two large provinces is enough	1%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	5%

The plurality of members say provincial health care is worse since the federal government exited (42%), while very few say it is better (5%). One third say nothing has changed (37%).

Last year, instead of renewing the national Health Accords, the federal government said it was getting out of health care and leaving it up to the provinces by funding them on a simple per capita formula. Has this resulted in better or worse health care in the provinces?

BETTER	5%
Much better	1%
Somewhat better	4%
Neither better nor worse	37
WORSE	42%
Somewhat worse	28%
Much worse	14%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	17%

The majority do not expect the government to keep promises it made in the last election which were to be instituted when the deficit was eliminated (55%).

In the last election, the government made two promises which would come into effect once the deficit was eliminated - income splitting for couples and families, and a physical activity or fitness tax credit. Do you expect these promises to be kept when the deficit is eliminated?

Yes	30%
No	55%
DON'T KNOW	15%

The majority agree income splitting is a good way to relieve the burden on middle class families (59%).

Do you agree that income splitting an appropriate way to provide tax relief to the middle class?

YES	59%
Give middle class families relief	32%
Returns tax revenue to Canada	21%
OTHER	6%
NO	34%
Ignores single taxpayers	18%
Only for high income households	14%
OTHER	2%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	7%

Two thirds disagree a physical fitness tax is a good way to provide middle class relief (62%).

Do you agree that a physical activity and fitness tax credit an appropriate way to provide tax relief to the middle class?

Yes	28%
No	62%
DON'T KNOW	10%

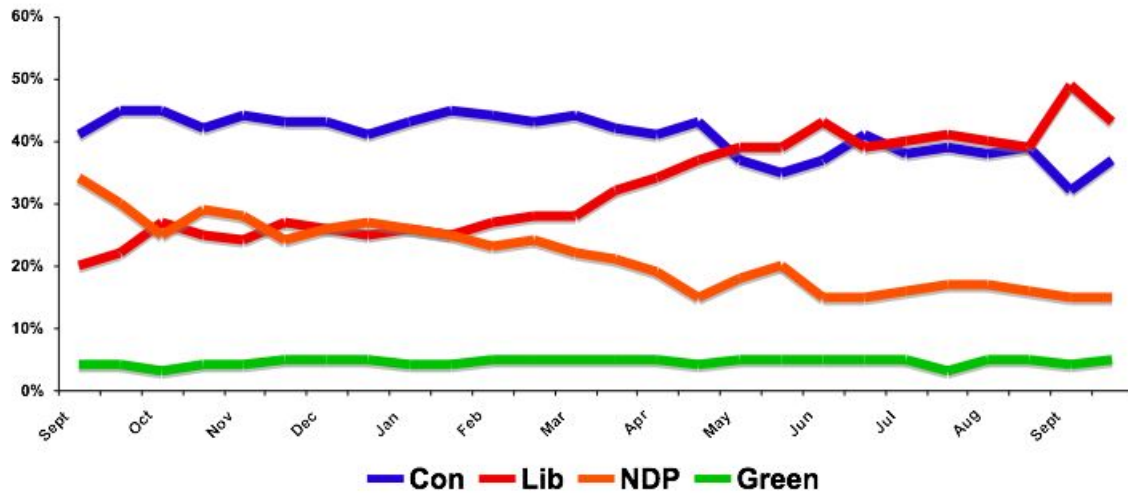
The plurality of members say they will be more likely to vote Liberal (or will vote Liberal anyway) as a result of the Liberals' policy of marijuana legalization (37%). The next biggest group say this will make no difference (35%), while just one quarter say they will not vote (or are less likely to vote) Liberal (25%). Those who are "more likely" (25%) are twice as numerous as those who say "less likely" (11%).

The Liberal Party has adopted a policy that marijuana should be legalized and taxed. Does this policy make you more likely, less likely or neither more nor less likely to vote Liberal in the next election?

WILL VOTE LIBERAL	37%
More likely to vote Liberal	25%
Will vote Liberal anyway	12%
Neither more nor less likely	35%
WILL NOT VOTE LIBERAL	25%
Less likely to vote Liberal	11%
Would never vote Liberal	14%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	3%

Electoral Preference

Since the last wave of polling, the Liberals have undergone a dramatic 10 point increase in our poll, to 49%, well past majority territory, while the Conservatives have suffered a commensurate decline, all the way to 32%. In the following week, the Liberal vote subsided to 43% and the Conservatives had bounced back to 37%. The cause of this brief surge in popularity is thought to be the announcement of the Liberal policy on legalizing marijuana.



More than 1500 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between September 20 and 24, 2013. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 3%, 19 times out of 20