

**CARP Winter Poll Report  
January 24, 2013**

**Key Findings**

**As many as one third of CARP members suffered from the Christmas ice storms, most from power outages. While most claim to be well prepared and all have emergency supplies on hand, a significant proportion had no support network in place during the storm, and some had medical conditions that made life without power difficult.**

**Food preparation and storage is a problem for some, and power, heat and water are seen to be the most important utilities lost, which may explain why a significant minority of members own generators.**

**Most find winter not very severe, most deal with it well and few have Seasonal Affective Disorder, but more than half know someone who needs assistance getting through winter, especially shoveling snow and going grocery shopping.**

**Members are equally likely to say free municipal snow shoveling, activity centres, tax credits on fuel and free shopping shuttles are services which would make winter easier for aging Canadians.**

**The Liberals and The Conservatives have settled into a consistent one-two relationship with the Liberals in the lead. The NDP trails both.**

## Detailed Findings

Just more than one third of members were inconvenienced by the ice storm in Eastern Canada over the holidays (37%), relatively equal proportions losing power for days (10%), hours (15%) or not at all (12%). One third of members, or about half of those who live in the affected area, were not inconvenienced by the storm (33%).

***Were you affected by the ice storms in Eastern Canada which caused power outages throughout the holidays?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Lost power for hours</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Lost power for days</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Did not lose power</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>DON'T LIVE IN EASTERN CANADA</b>	<b>30%</b>

One third in total had a support network in place for the storm (31%), equally likely to be children (13%) or neighbours (10%). One tenth, or about a fifth of those affected by the storm had no support network (12%).

***Did you have a support network in place for the ice storm?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Neighbours</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Spouse</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>City/town/social services</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>No support network</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>WASN'T AFFECTED BY ICE STORM</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>DON'T LIVE IN EASTERN CANADA</b>	<b>30%</b>

Power outages (19%) and downed trees (7%) were the most common problems with the storm.

***In what way were you affected most by the ice storm?***

<b>Power out</b>	19%
<b>Trees down/property damage</b>	7%
<b>Cancelled holidays/travel</b>	3%
<b>Spoiled food</b>	1%
<b>Personal injury</b>	1%
<b>Spoiled food</b>	1%
<b>Other</b>	6%
<b>WASN'T AFFECTED BY ICE STORM</b>	35%
<b>DON'T LIVE IN EASTERN CANADA</b>	30%

On half of members say they are well prepared for emergencies (52%), mostly just "well prepared" (40%). This is slightly higher than when we asked a year ago (46% prepared)

***How prepared would you say you are for a major natural or man-made disaster?***

	<b>December 2012</b>	<b>January 2014</b>
<b>WELL PREPARED</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>52%</b>
Extremely well prepared	1%	2%
Very well prepared	9%	10%
Well prepared	36%	40%
<b>NOT WELL PREPARED</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>48%</b>
Not very well prepared	47%	43%
Not at all well prepared	8%	5%

Members are less prepared now to spend four or five days without utilities (48%) than they were a year ago (65% - before most had experienced an ice storm), and although half are willing to stay (49%), more don't know if they are willing (16%) than don't know if they're prepared (10%).

***Are you prepared/Do you have the preparations in place to live in your home without power or heat or air conditioning for up to four or five days/Are you WILLING to live in your home without power or heat or air conditioning for up to four or five days?***

	<b>Prepared 2012</b>	<b>Prepared 2014</b>	<b>Willing 2014</b>
<b>Yes</b>	65%	48%	49%
<b>No</b>	20%	42%	36%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	15%	10%	16%

One quarter are acquainted with someone whose medical needs rule out staying in a home with no power (25%) and this is more likely to be someone known to the respondent (21%) than the member (4%).

***Do you or does anyone you know have medical requirements that would make it impossible to live at home without power for even one day?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Me</b>	4%
<b>Someone I know</b>	21%
<b>No</b>	74%

The slight minority would have problems with food (40%), primarily spoilage (23%), whereas the majority who wouldn't have problems (55%) are most likely to have gas cooking equipment (26%).

***If the power went down for up to four or five days, would obtaining, preparing, storing and refrigerating food be a severe obstacle?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Food would spoil</b>	23%
<b>Unable to cook</b>	13%
<b>Unable to obtain food</b>	4%
<b>NO</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Have gas stove/emergency stove</b>	26%
<b>Would be able to obtain food</b>	16%
<b>Would use non-perishable food/order in</b>	13%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	5%

Power is seen to be the most important utility (45%), followed by heat (28% - the two are obviously connected) and water (22%).

***Which of the following is most important to you, that is, which would you miss the most if it were shut off?***

<b>Power</b>	45%
<b>Heat</b>	28%
<b>Water</b>	22%
<b>Lights</b>	2%
<b>NONE OF THESE</b>	2%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	1%

Virtually all members keep emergency supplies on hand (92%) and this proportion has increased in a year (December 2012 - 80%).

***Do you keep emergency supplies such as a flashlight, batteries, water, food and blankets on hand?***

	<b>December 2012</b>	<b>January 2014</b>
<b>Yes</b>	80%	92%
<b>No</b>	20%	8%

One eight of members, a significant minority, have a generator (16%).

***Do you have a generator?***

<b>Yes</b>	16%
<b>No</b>	84%

Among those affected by the ice storm, twice as many say their local community government handled it well (37%) as say it was not well-handled (14%).

***How well do you think your local government handled the ice storm?***

<b>WELL</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Extremely well</b>	2%
<b>Very well</b>	11%
<b>Well</b>	24%
<b>NOT WELL</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Not very well</b>	11%
<b>Not at all well</b>	3%
<b>WASN'T AFFECTED BY ICE STORM</b>	21%
<b>DON'T LIVE IN EASTERN CANADA</b>	28%

The slight minority finds their Canadian winters severe (42%), but few say very or extremely severe. The majority say winters in their part of Canada are not severe (59%), primarily not very severe (47%).

***How severe do you find the winters in your part of Canada?***

<b>SEVERE</b>	<b>42%</b>
Extremely severe	2%
Very severe	7%
Severe	33%
<b>NOT SEVERE</b>	<b>59%</b>
Not very severe	47%
Not at all severe	12%

The vast majority of members say they handle winter well (92%), split between “well” (42%) and “very well” (40%).

***And how do you think you cope with the winters in your part of Canada?***

<b>WELL</b>	<b>92%</b>
Extremely well	10%
Very well	40%
Well	42%
<b>NOT WELL</b>	<b>8%</b>
Not very well	7%
Not at all well	1%

The majority know someone who needs help getting through winter (59%), primarily someone they know (44%), but a significant proportion of members as well (15%).

***Do you or does anyone you know require assistance from others to get through winter?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>59%</b>
Me	15%
Someone I know	44%
<b>No</b>	<b>41%</b>

The most common form of assistance needed in winter is shoveling snow (39%), followed by grocery shopping (14%).

***What kind of assistance is this most likely to be?***

<b>Shovel drive/walk</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Deliver groceries/shopping</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Accompanying on shopping trips</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Medical visits by a nurse or physician</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Companionship visits</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Garbage/recycling</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Financial aid for utilities/etc</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>24%</b>

The majority of members stay very active in winter, going out at least once a day.

***How do you deal with winter in Canada?***

<b>Leave home once a day/very active</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Leave home once a week/active</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Stay home most of the time/not active</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>6%</b>

One eight of members believe they have Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

***Would you say you have Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD, where the shortened days and reduced light of winter can cause a form of depression?***

<b>Yes</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>15%</b>

Members are relatively equally likely to support municipal snow-shoveling (26%), activity centres (22%), tax credits for fuel (17%) and a free shopping shuttle (17%) as the best things local government could do for seniors in winter.

***What kind of public services do you think would be most helpful in allowing older Canadians to deal with winter?***

<b>City/town to shovel drives/walks</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Activity/community centres to combat isolation</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Tax credit for heating fuel</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Free shopping shuttle into town</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Tax credit for renovating/winterizing home</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>11%</b>

One half of members do not think there will be letter carriers to act as sentinels (47%), but, among the rest, about one half, or one quarter in total (22%) are interested in a postal route safety check program by trained letter carriers, primarily for someone they know (15%).

***Would you or would anyone you know benefit from or be interested in enrolling in a “Postal Route” safety check program, where the Canada Post letter carrier would check on those enrolled during power outages and other emergencies?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Me</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Someone I know</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>NO</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>No interest</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>No more letter carriers</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>10%</b>



## **Electoral Preference**

Since the surge in Liberal popularity noted four months ago, when they peaked at 49%, the Conservatives and the Liberals converged again, and now the parties maintain a consistent one-two ranking, with the Liberals in the lead at 41% and the Conservatives in second at 36%. The NDP are the third party at 18%.

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decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

***More than 2700 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between January 11 and 14, 2014. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20***