

CARP LGBT/Budget Poll Report

March 7, 2013

Key Findings

LGBT

While very few CARP members identify as LGBT, a wide majority, however, know someone, in their family, a friend or an acquaintance, who is gay. In line with national studies, about one half of those who are gay are in same sex marriages. The majority of members, more even than are directly exposed to it, support same sex marriage and very few oppose it strongly.

Members believe gay seniors are no different in the obstacles they face than all seniors, but close to one-third of members believe that LGBT seniors face unique challenges including discrimination, marginalization, isolation and lack of appropriate LGBT facilities.

Members are split on whether being gay hinders or makes no differences to a politician's career (few think it helps) and the vast majority say a politician's gender identity would have no effect on their vote. Members are split on whether being gay hinders or makes no differences to a politician's career (few think it helps) and the vast majority say a politician's gender identity would have no effect on their vote.

Three quarters agree that human rights should be a criterion in selecting an Olympic host country, and a majority agree the Olympic ideals were tarnished by being held in Russia because of anti-gay legislation.

Federal Budget

Two thirds disagree the federal budget was good for older Canadians, and many would like to have seen CPP expansion, help for low income seniors, or home care funding or a national dementia action plan included.

Members believe that seniors are not a priority for this government, and this explains why the budget ignored important CARP advocacy issues. They also believe politicians are too focused on eliminating the deficit, and don't care for seniors' problems because they have good pensions themselves.

While most think the budget is neither good nor bad for Canada, those who think it's bad outnumber those who think it's good two to one.

Electoral Preference

The Liberals maintain their lead over the Conservatives in our latest wave of polling, while the NDP remain a distant third.

Detailed Findings - LGBT

Eight-in-ten members know someone who is LGBT (79%) or are LGBT themselves (2%). This is about half the proportion noted in national studies (5%). In summary, one fiftieth are gay (2%), one eight are gay or have a gay family member (16%), and as many as one third are gay, have a gay family member or a gay friend (16% - 32% in total). Thus, one third of CARP members are closely familiar with gay people.

Are you or is someone you know lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered (LGBT)?

YES	79%
Me	2%
Family member	14%
Friend	16%
Someone I know	31%
More than one of these	17%
No	21%

In line with national studies, about one half the proportion who are gay are married (1% member, 6% family member, 12% friend, 21% someone I know, 7% more than one of these, for a total of just less than half (45%). Of these, a total of one fifth (129%) are closely familiar with a married gay person.

Have you, or has anyone you know, married a person of the same sex?

YES	45%
Me	1%
Family member	6%
Friend	12%
Someone I know	21%
More than one of these	7%
No	55%

Half again as many members as know someone in a same sex marriage, or two thirds, approve of this (64%), one quarter “strongly” (24%). Just one quarter do not approve of same sex marriage (26%).

Do you support or oppose same sex marriage

SUPPORT	64%
Support strongly	24%
Support	40%
DISAGREE	26%
Oppose	15%
Oppose strongly	11%
DON'T KNOW	9%

The majority of members don't believe special problems apply to gay seniors (60%), and the one most frequently mentioned is discrimination (10%).

What is the biggest obstacle facing LGBT seniors as they age?

SAME PROBLEMS AS OTHER SENIORS	60%
Discrimination	10%
Lack of LGBT-friendly care facilities	7%
Isolation	5%
Economic marginalization	4%
Lack of LGBT-friendly housing	1%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	13%

Members are evenly split on whether being gay hinders (43%) or makes no difference to a politician's career (42%). Few think it helps (7%).

Do you believe it helps or hinders a politician's election chances to be openly LGBT?

HELPS	7%
A great deal	2%
Somewhat	5%
NEITHER HELPS NOR HINDERS	42%
HINDERS	43%
Somewhat	37%
A great deal	6%
DON'T KNOW	8%

Very few are more likely to vote for a gay politician (1%), and few will not vote for one (16%). The vast majority of members say a politician's gender identity has no effect on their vote (80%).

Does a politician's sexual orientation make any difference to your vote?

More likely to vote for LGBT politician	1%
Makes no difference	80%
Less likely to vote for LGBT politician	16%
MARGIN IN FAVOUR OF "MORE LIKELY"	-15
DON'T KNOW	2%

Three quarters agree human rights should be taken into account when awarding the Olympics (77%).

Do you agree or disagree human rights issues should be taken into account when awarding the Olympic games to a country?

AGREE	77%
Agree strongly	37%
Agree	40%
DISAGREE	19%
Disagree	14%
Disagree strongly	5%
DON'T KNOW	4%

Just more than half agree holding the Olympics in Russia sullied the Olympic ideals because of that country's homophobic legislation (52%). Four-in-ten disagree (40%).

Do you agree or disagree that Olympic ideals were compromised by holding the winter games in Russia, which has passed homophobic legislation?

AGREE	52%
Agree strongly	20%
Agree	32%
DISAGREE	40%
Disagree	31%
Disagree strongly	9%
DON'T KNOW	8%

Federal Budget

Two thirds of members disagree the recent federal budget was a good one for seniors (63%).

The federal budget was tabled last week. Do you agree or disagree this was a good budget for older Canadians?

AGREE	12%
Agree strongly	1%
Agree	11%
DISAGREE	63%
Disagree	40%
Disagree strongly	23%
DON'T KNOW	24%

CPP expansion is the one item most members would have like to have seen in the budget (23%), followed by help for low income seniors (16%), home care funding (14%) and a national action plan on dementia (11%).

What would you most have liked to see in this budget that was not there?

CPP expansion	23%
Help for low income seniors	16%
Funding for home care	14%
National action plan on dementia	11%
National pharmacare	7%
Caregiver support	7%
National fire safety standards for nursing homes	5%
Investor protection	4%
Programs for older workers	3%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	9%

One third of members say the government doesn't hold seniors as a priority when explaining lack of action on CARP's advocacy items (35%), while fewer think it is because politicians are focused on deficit reduction. Others think politicians' good pensions blind them to the needs of seniors (15%), that they take the senior vote for granted (11%) or that this is just an election budget (10%).

CARP advocated for real pension reform, access to affordable drugs, national investor protection, home care and caregiver support and other issues in advance of this budget, none of which were delivered. Why do you think this is?

Seniors not a priority for this govt	35%
Politicians focused on deficit reduction	22%
Politicians have good pensions/don't see need	15%
Politicians take senior vote for granted/don't work for it	11%
Just an election budget	10%
Politicians think enough done on these issues	5%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	4%

One half think the budget is neither good nor bad for the economy (52%), but twice as many think it bad (23%) as think it good (12%).

Overall, do you think this budget is good or bad for the economy?

Good	12%
Neither good nor bad	52%
Bad	23%
MARGIN IN FAVOUR OF "GOOD"	-11
DON'T KNOW	13%

Electoral Preference

Since the surge in Liberal popularity noted five months ago, when they peaked at 49%, the Conservatives and the Liberals have converged again, and then diverged, with the Liberals in the lead at 46% and the Conservatives in second at 32%. The NDP are the third party at 16%.

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are needed to see this picture.

More than 3100 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between February 21 and 23, 2014. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20