CARP Political Poll Report
October 3, 2014

Key Findings

Members are evenly distributed across the political spectrum, converging near the centre. They see the defining issues of the Conservatives to be deficit reduction, of the NDP, poverty reduction and of the Liberals, marijuana legalization.

The issue most would like to see discussed at their doorsteps by candidates for office are home care and long term care, as well as CPP expansion and national pharmacare.

Members see the Liberals as the most credible party on seniors' issues as well as the party most likely to take CARP's views into consideration when making policy.

May, Trudeau and Mulcair all have the approval of half or more members, while just more than a third approve of Stephen Harper. Harper is seen to be the best at dealing with the economy and at being PM, Trudeau is seen to have the best vision for the country and Mulcair is seen to be the most sensitive to seniors' issues.

Electoral Preference

Just less than half of members will vote Liberal if the election were held today, while just more than one third would vote Conservative. One tenth or so will vote NDP.

Detailed Findings

Members are very slightly more likely to place themselves on the left end of the political spectrum (38%) than the right (33%). The largest single group is small "l" liberals (27%), followed by small "c" conservatives (25%).

How would you describe your political orientation?

RIGHT	**33%**
Right wing	8%
Small "c" conservative	25%
Moderate/centrist	21%
LEFT	**38%**
Small "l" liberal	27%
Left wing	11%
Libertarian	2%
Something else	2%
DON'T KNOW	4%

The defining issue of the Conservative party is most likely to be seen as deficit reduction (27%), whereas for the Liberals it's legalizing marijuana (27%) and reducing poverty (20%) and for the New Democrats, reducing poverty (44%).

In your view, what are the defining issues of the three main parties?

	Cons	**Libs**	**NDP**
Eliminate deficit/jobs/growth	27%	12%	5%
Federal role in health care	16%	8%	9%
Tough on crime	13%	*	*
Return OAS age limit to 65	13%	1%	5%
Legalize/decriminalize marijuana	10%	27%	2%
Reducing poverty	4%	20%	44%
Senate reform	3%	2%	3%
National seniors' strategy	2%	2%	3%
Pension reform	2%	2%	3%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	10%	26%	26%

Home care and long term care is the most important doorstep issue in the election for members (36%), followed by expanding CPP (14%) and establishing a national pharmacare program (13%).

Which of the following issues do you want candidates to discuss on your doorstep in the 2015 election?

Home care and long term care	36%
Expanding CPP	14%
National pharmacare plan	13%
End-of-life care	9%
Affordable housing	7%
Canada Post door-to-door delivery	5%
Better dementia care	3%
Return OAS age limit to 65	3%
Elder abuse	1%
DOTHER/ON'T KNOW	10%

The Liberals are seen to be the best party for dealing with seniors' issues (25%) and for taking CARP views into consideration when formulating policy (32%).

Which of the four federal parties has the best record on seniors' issues?/would be most likely to take the views of CARP into consideration when formulating policy?

	Seniors Issues	CARP's Views
Conservatives	20%	16%
Liberals	25%	32%
NDP	20%	28%
Greens	2%	4%
Another party	*	1%
DON'T KNOW	33%	18%

Elizabeth May draws the highest approval (55%) followed by Trudeau (52%) and Mulcair (50%). Harper trails considerably (37%).

Do you approve or disapprove of the four party leaders?

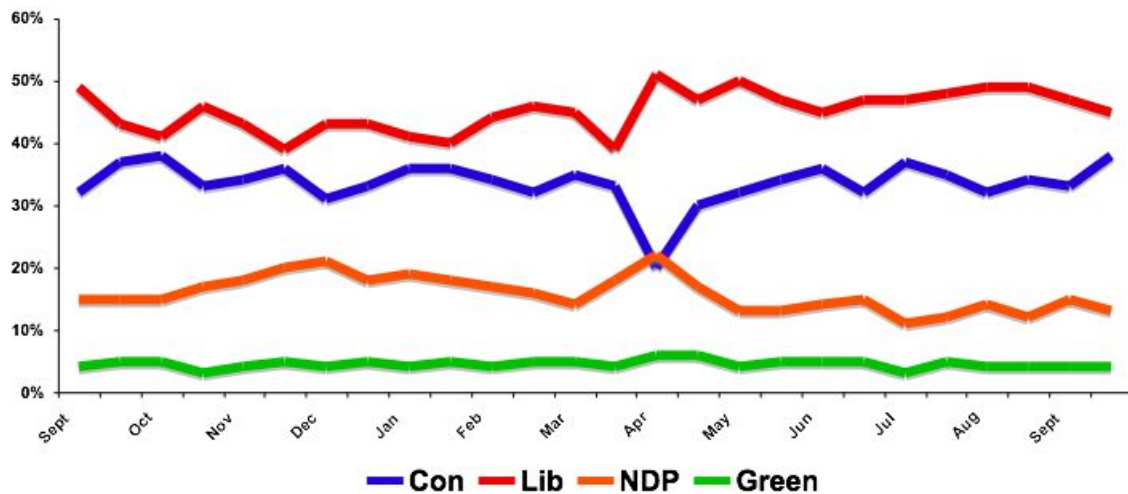|	Harper	Trudeau	Mulcair	May
APPROVE	**37%**	**52%**	**50%**	**55%**
Approve strongly	15%	15%	5%	16%
Approve	22%	37%	45%	39%
DISAPPROVE	**61%**	**40%**	**40%**	**28%**
Disapprove	17%	15%	28%	17%
Disapprove strongly	44%	25%	12%	11%
DON'T KNOW	2%	7%	9%	17%

Harper is seen to be the best leader for handling the economy (42%) and the best PM (34%). He is matched with Trudeau for the best vision for Canada 30% and 31%, respectively), while Mulcair is seen to be the best for dealing with seniors' issues (23%). Of note, 4-in-10 think none is good for seniors or don't know (41%).

Which of the four leaders would handle the Canadian economy the best/would make the best Prime Minister/has the best vision for Canada/has the most credibility on seniors' issues?

	Economy	Best PM	Vision	Seniors
Harper	42%	34%	30%	17%
Trudeau	23%	31%	31%	14%
Mulcair	10%	13%	11%	23%
May	4%	6%	9%	6%
None of these	11%	9%	9%	19%
DON'T KNOW	10%	7%	10%	22%

Electoral Preference

The Liberals (45%) are still in first place, but members are more likely this month to favour the Conservatives than recently (38%) The NDP (13%) remain in third place.

Almost 4000 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between September 25 and 28 , 2014. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20