CARP ORPP Poll Report
October 31, 2014

Key Findings

Only about one half of members are familiar with PRPPs and few agree they are a good solution to Canada's pension problem or that they would enroll (or would have enrolled) in a PRPP.

There is wide agreement the ORPP is an effective solution for the pension problem and, while DC with mandatory employment contribution and DB plans are seen to be comparable to the ORPP for substitution purposes, the PRPP is not. On the other hand, they are seen to be just another group savings vehicle like an RRSP.

Many think CPP needs to be expanded to bridge the gap between current CPP, ORPP and the 70% pre-retirement income target. Members think those with incomes below about $24,000 should be excused from the ORPP.

It is expected that both the Liberals and the NDP will seek to expand CPP in their mandate, while a Conservative government would not act on pensions. Pension reform is a ballot box question for 4-in-10. However, there is little hope for ORPP's widespread success or adoption.

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 sixth or so will vote NDP.

Detailed Findings

Just more than one half of members are familiar with a PRPP (57%).

Do you know what a Pooled Registered Pension Plan, or PRPP is?

Yes	57%
No	43%

Just one third agree PRPPs are a good solution to the pension problem (32%), and more than half disagree (53%).

The federal government's planned PRPPs are voluntary pension plans similar to defined contribution plans which allow employers to offer pooled plans to their employees. No employer contribution is required and employees can opt out. Do you agree or disagree PRPPs are a good way to solve Canada's pension problem?

AGREE	**32%**
Agree strongly	6%
Agree	26%
DISAGREE	**53%**
Disagree	27%
Disagree strongly	26%
DON'T KNOW	17%

More say they would not enroll in a PRPP (42%) than say they would (28%), but many don't know (20%) or have never heard of a PRPP (10%).

Would you enroll in PRPPs if your employer made them available, or would you have enrolled if they had been available when you were working?

Yes	28%
No	42%
DON'T KNOW	20%
NEVER HEARD OF PRPPs	10%

Three quarters agree the ORPP is a good tool for to solve the retirement problem (73%), and few disagree (18%).

Ontario's Retirement Pension Plan, or ORPP, closely resembles CARP's proposed Universal Pension Plan and would require mandatory contributions from employers and employees to provide an additional 15% of pre-retirement income to supplement CPP. Do you agree or disagree the ORPP is a good way to solve Canada's pension problem?

AGREE	73%
Agree strongly	25%
Agree	48%
DISAGREE	18%
Disagree	9%
Disagree strongly	9%
DON'T KNOW	9%

When asked what a "comparable" plan to the ORPP might be, most mention a DC plan with mandatory contributions (35%) or a DB plan (25%).

The ORPP proposal exempts employers who offer a "comparable plan" to the ORPP from having to participate in the ORPP. What would you consider a comparable plan to the ORPP?

DC plan with mandatory employer contribution	35%
DB plan	25%
DC plan	7%
PRPP with mandatory employer contribution	7%
RRSP	3%
PRPP	2%
Any other group savings plan	3%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	20%

Very few agree a PRPP is comparable to the OTPP (15%) and more than half disagree (54%).

Do you agree or disagree PRPPs are "comparable" to the ORPP?

AGREE	15%
Agree strongly	1%
Agree	14%
DISAGREE	54%
Disagree	34%
Disagree strongly	20%
DON'T KNOW	33%

Two thirds consider PRPPs to be a voluntary savings plan (65%) rather than a "core" pension plan (13%).

Do you consider PRPPs to be "core" pension plans like defined benefit plans or the CPP, or voluntary savings plans like an RRSP or TFSA?

Core pension plan	13
Voluntary savings account	65
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	22

Members are equally likely to say the way to top-up retirement funds to the recommended 70% of pre-retirement earnings is to expand CPP significantly or have retirees save more effectively (26% each), while somewhat fewer say we need a supplementary Universal Pension Plan (16%) or a modest expansion of CPP (15%).

The ORPP is designed to replace about 15% of pre-retirement income. CPP is designed to replace another 25%. This is a total of 40% of pre-retirement income. Many experts say retirees should have about 70% of pre-retirement income to maintain their standard of living. What needs to be done to bridge the gap between the two amounts?

Expand CPP significantly	26%
Retirees to save/more effectively	26%
National supplementary Universal Pension Plan	16%
Expand CPP modestly	15%
Provinces to participate in ORPP	4%
Provinces to enact PRPP legislation	3%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	10%

On average, members think those with incomes below about $24,000 should be excluded from the plan. One third thinks no one should be excluded (36%).

Lower income employees and others may not be able to afford to save for retirement. Below what income cut-off should employees NOT have to pay ORPP premiums and NOT receive ORPP benefits?

AVG. AMOUNT	**$24,400**
NO ONE SHOULD BE EXCLUDED	36%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	16%

Members are more likely to agree employers should have an increased tax deduction for the contributions they pay to employee pensions (53%) than to say this should not be the case (36%)

Employers receive a tax deduction for the contributions they make to employee pensions, reducing the cost to them by up to half. Do you agree or disagree employers should have an increased tax deduction for contributions made for low-wage workers or some other incentive to reduce their costs?

AGREE	**53%**
Strongly agree	17%
Agree	36%
DISAGREE	**36%**
Disagree	20%
Strongly disagree	16%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	13%

There is a bias towards income supports being increased (40%) over pension subsidies (26%) as a way of making it easier for those in low income brackets to save.

Low income employees may have difficulty saving for retirement. Which of the following is the best solution to this dilemma?

Increases income supports	40%
Subsidize pension contributions	26%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	34%

When asked what the three parties will do with respect to retirement and pensions, most expect the Conservatives to do nothing (32%), the NDP to expand CPP significantly (52%) and the Liberals to expand CPP modestly (33%).

In the next election, what position do you expect the federal Conservatives/Liberals/NDP to take on pensions?

	Con	Lib	NDP
Call for provinces to enact PRPPs	18%	9%	5%
Call for more study	18%	13%	7%
Call for expanding CPP modestly	16%	33%	17%
Call for expanding CPP significantly	5%	17%	52%
Call for provinces to join ORPP	4%	9%	6%
Do nothing	32%	7%	4%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	8%	12%	9%

Most expect either just the NDP to return the retirement age to 65 (25%) or for both the Liberals and the NDP to do so (25%).

Which parties do you expect to ACTUALLY return the OAS eligibility age to 65?

NDP, Liberals	25%
NDP	25%
Liberals	2%
Liberals, NDP, Conservatives	2%
Conservatives	1%
Liberals, Conservatives	1%
NDP, Conservatives	1%
NONE OF THEM	41%
DON'T KNOW	6%

Close to 4-in-10 say significant pension reform is a ballot box issue for them, and they would change their voting pattern to support it (39%). More disagree, however (46%).

Would you change the way you normally vote in order to vote for a party which promised real, significant pension reform and CPP expansion?

No	46%
Yes	39%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	15%

One half disagree other provinces will participate in the ORPP (50%), and fewer than a quarter think they will (23%).

Do you agree or disagree Ontario will succeed in convincing most provinces to join or participate in the ORPP, making it a national program?

| **AGREE**	**23%**
Agree strongly	1%
Agree	22%
DISAGREE	**50%**
Disagree	38%
Disagree strongly	12%
DON'T KNOW	27%

There is a mix of opinions on whether ORPP will be a success (29%) or not (32%), or whether it's unknown (38%).

Do you think the ORPP will be regarded as a success?

Yes	29%
No	32%
DON'T KNOW	38%

Electoral Preference

The Liberals (46%) are still in first place and the Conservatives in second (34%)
The NDP (15%) remain in third place.
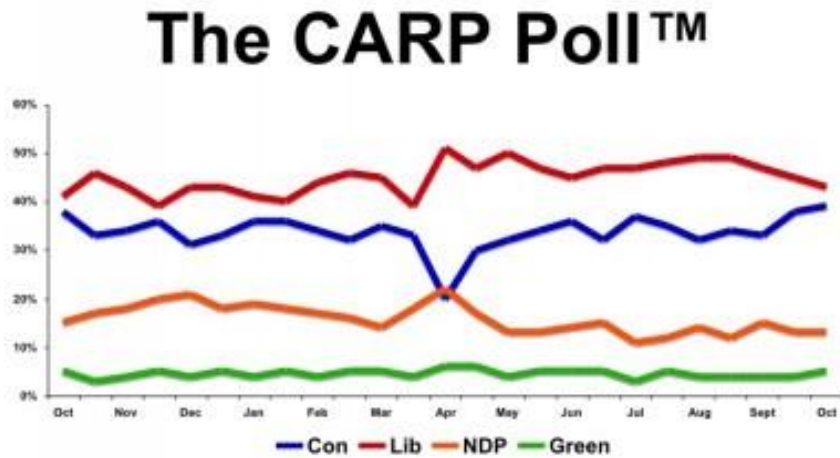
The CARP Poll™

Almost 1400 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between October 17 and 20, 2014. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 3%, 19 times out of 20