

**CARP Post Budget Poll Report
May 5, 2015**

Key Findings

CARP members are equally likely to think the federal budget is good for older Canadians or not good for them. They personally appreciate the changes to TFSAs and RRIFs, but they recognize many Canadians will not benefit from these changes. They see the budget as an electoral political document, but would have liked it much better if it had included health care reform and CPP expansion.

While most say the budget ignores those with the greatest need, they do not agree it favours older Canadians. They are split, however, on whether seniors are rewarded in budgets because they are more likely than youth to vote.

Members are slightly more likely to say a balanced budget is important to them than one that maintains services they rely on. Separately, only a minority see enough in this budget to support it wholeheartedly, in the absence of more action on health care, chronic care, dementia care, pharmacare and CPP expansion, but especially, improving seniors' income supports and returning the age for OAS to 65 from 67.

Members disagree with the tactic of balancing the budget by selling GM shares at a loss and depleting the contingency fund. Members are equally likely to want the budget surplus spent on debt reduction or not spent at all, and they clearly prefer across-the-board tax cuts to targeted tax credits as a way of getting the surplus back to taxpayers.

The key budget measures we tested are all very popular, including RRIF changes, caregiver leave expansion and the home renovation tax credit. The TFSA limit change is popular as well. It is clearly preferred that caregiver leave be extended beyond those caring for terminal patients.

The Ontario provincial budget is not well-liked by Ontario members and is not seen to be good for the economy.

The Liberals continue to lead in member voting preference, trailed by the Conservatives. The NDP is in third place.

Detailed Findings

There is an even split in opinion on whether the federal budget is good for older Canadians (47%) or not (49%).

The federal budget was tabled on April 21. Is this a good budget or not a good budget for older Canadians?

GOOD	47%
Very good	11%
Good	36%
NOT GOOD	49%
Not very good	31%
Not good at all	18%
DON'T KNOW	5%

Members see the changes to TFSAs and RRIFs as the most beneficial to themselves (34% each), while they recognize income splitting and the increase in the child care benefit will benefit the largest group of Canadians the most (17%) followed by doubling the TFSA limit (14%).

Which of the following measures included in the budget will benefit you personally the most/benefit the largest number of Canadians the most?

	You	Canadians
Double TFSA limit	34%	14%
Decrease RRIF withdrawals	34%	11%
Home reno tax credit	5%	2%
Doubling EI caregiver benefit	1%	5%
Small business tax reduction	1%	8%
Income splitting	*	17%
Universal Child Care Benefit	*	17%
SOMETHING ELSE	1%	2%
NOTHING	22%	14%
DON'T KNOW	5%	10%

Is this budget a genuine attempt to address the needs of the largest number of Canadians or is it a basket of election giveaways targeted at key voting blocs?

Giveaways to target key voters	74%
Genuine attempts to help most Canadians	17%
Neither	6%
DON'T KNOW	3%

Health care reform, including palliative care, is seen as the most pressing measure which was not included in the budget (30%), followed by funding for home and chronic care (17%) and expansion of CPP (16%). Members also want to see the federal government take a bigger role in national health care (11%).

Which one measure would you have liked to see in the budget that was not included?

Health care/palliative care reform	30%
Funding for home care and chronic care	17%
CPP expansion	16%
Increased federal role in health care	11%
Anti-poverty strategy	9%
National dementia strategy	5%
Investor protection	3%
Action against elder abuse	1%
SOMETHING ELSE	6%
DON'T KNOW	2%

Fully two thirds of members agree the budget doesn't address the needs of those with the most urgent requirements (63%), but at the same time, don't agree that the budget rewards seniors disproportionately (33%). However, there is a split in opinion as to whether seniors are rewarded disproportionately because they vote disproportionately (42%) or not (47%).

Critics say this budget rewards those who don't need it and ignores those who do. Do you agree or disagree with this viewpoint/Do you agree or disagree the budget rewards older Canadians disproportionately to other Canadians/Critics say this budget rewards older Canadians disproportionately to other Canadians because they vote disproportionately to other Canadians. Do you agree or disagree with this viewpoint?

	Ignores those in need	Rewards seniors disproportionately	Rewards seniors voting
AGREE	63%	33%	42%
Agree strongly	35%	7%	12%
Agree	28%	26%	30%
DISAGREE	33%	60%	47%
Disagree	22%	45%	36%
Disagree strongly	11%	15%	11%
DON'T KNOW	4%	7%	11%

Members are slightly more likely to say they want to see the budget balanced and the deficit eliminated (33%) than say they want better services and infrastructure (21%). Jobs and growth come in third (12%).

What is the most important goal of this year's budget for you?

Balance budget/reduce debt	33%
Better services/infrastructure	21%
Jobs and growth	12%
Present a vision for Canada	9%
SOMETHING ELSE	13%
DON'T KNOW	11%

Fewer than one quarter say they will support this budget as it stands (22%) and the majority say they will not support it until specific seniors' needs are addressed (54%). The smallest group accepts the budget as a good start (16%).

Does this budget meet the needs you see for older Canadians enough to earn your support at the ballot box, or should it go further

Not enough to earn my support	54%
Will earn my support as is	22%
Good start, should include more for seniors	16%
DON'T KNOW	10%

A variety of measures would be required for members to fully support the budget, including a national strategy for home care, chronic care, and dementia care (15%), a national drug plan (14%), CPP expansion (13%) or an increase to OAS and GIS (10%).

What would need to be included in this budget for you to support it fully?

National home/chronic/dementia care	15%
National pharmacare	14%
Pension reform/ CPP expansion	13%
Increase OAS/GIS	10%
Anti-poverty strategy	9%
Palliative/end-of-life care	5%
Reduce age for OAS back to 65	4%
SOMETHING ELSE	9%
I SUPPORT BUDGET AS IS	16%
DON'T KNOW	4%

More than two thirds of members disagree with the tactics of balancing the budget by depleting the contingency fund (69%) or selling the government's GM shares at a loss (70%).

This budget has produced a surplus of \$1.4 billion, partly by reducing the \$3 billion contingency fund to \$1 billion a year for the next three years. Do you agree or disagree with this method of balancing the budget/The government also sold its GM shares, on which it lost more than \$2 billion, in order to balance the budget. Do you agree or disagree with this method of balancing the budget?

	Contingency fund	GM shares
AGREE	25%	25%
Agree strongly	4%	5%
Agree	21%	20%
DISAGREE	69%	70%
Disagree	29%	31%
Disagree strongly	40%	39%
DON'T KNOW	7%	5%

While a balanced budget is seen to be important to two thirds (67%), virtually all members agree a budget which maintains services is important, and almost half describe it as "extremely important" (45%).

How important is a balanced budget to you/how important is it that the budget maintains the services Canadians rely on?

	Balanced budget	Maintain services
IMPORTANT	67%	98%
Extremely important	10%	45%
Very important	20%	33%
Important	37%	20%
NOT IMPORTANT	32%	2%
Not very important	26%	2%
Not at all important	6%	*
DON'T KNOW	1%	*

The largest single group thinks the \$1.4 billion surplus should not be spent but saved for a rainy day (25%), but a similar proportion want it spent on debt reduction (23%) while somewhat fewer want it spent on infrastructure (15%) or health care (12%). Few want it returned as tax cuts or credits (6%).

How do you think the \$1.4 billion surplus should be spent?

Don't spend/save for rainy day	25%
Debt reduction	23%
Infrastructure	15%
Health care	12%
Poverty reduction	7%
Return to taxpayers as tax cuts/credits	6%
Pension expansion	5%
Social services	3%
SOMETHING ELSE	2%
DON'T KNOW	1%

Across-the-board tax cuts are 3 times more popular (39%) than targeted tax credits (13%), although more than a third insists tax cuts are not the answer, that tax revenue is needed (38%).

Which way of returning funds to the taxpayer do you prefer, targeted tax credits for specific groups or an across-the-board income tax cut for all Canadians?

Across-the-board tax cuts	39%
Targeted tax credits	13%
SOMETHING ELSE	6%
TAX REVENUE NEEDED/NO TAX CUTS	38%
DON'T KNOW	4%

Two thirds approve of the change to the TFSA contribution limit (64%), while close to a unanimity of members approve of the RRIF changes (87%), the increase in caregiver leave (87%) or the home accessibility renovation tax credit (90%). The RRIF changes are especially well-liked, with 4-in-10 saying they approve strongly (40%).

Do you approve or disapprove of the budget measure which doubles the limit for TFSA contributions/reduces the amount seniors must withdraw from their RRIF after 71/increases EI caregiver leave from 6 weeks to 6 months/provides a tax credit of up to \$1500 a year towards home accessibility renovations?

	TFSA	RRIF	Caregiver leave	Home reno
APPROVE	64%	87%	87%	90%
Approve strongly	24%	40%	29%	26%
Approve	40%	47%	58%	64%
DISAPPROVE	32%	9%	6%	7%
Disapprove	21%	7%	5%	5%
Disapprove strongly	11%	2%	1%	2%
DON'T KNOW	4%	5%	7%	4%

Virtually all members agree that the extended caregiver leave should be granted to those who care for the chronically ill or those with dementia (81%).

While EI caregiver leave was extended, it is still restricted to those caring for a person with a terminal diagnosis with 12 months. Do you agree or disagree caregiver leave should be granted to those who care for those with dementia and other chronic conditions as well?

AGREE	81%
Agree strongly	31%
Agree	50%
NOT GOOD	10%
Disagree	9%
Disagree strongly	1%
DON'T KNOW	9%

There is little approval of the Ontario budget among members in that province (30%), and more than half disapprove of it (53%).

(ONTARIO ONLY) The Ontario budget was released on April 23rd. Do you approve or disapprove of this budget?

APPROVE	30%
Approve strongly	2%
Approve	28%
DISAPPROVE	53%
Disapprove	31%
Disapprove strongly	22%
DON'T KNOW	17%

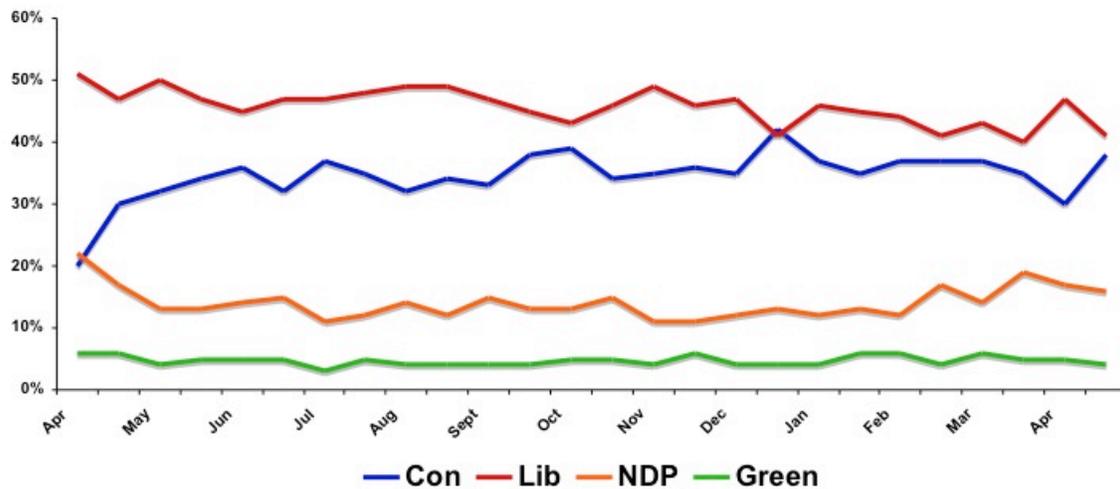
Twice as many think the Ontario budget will be bad for the economy (35%) as think I will benefit (16%) the economy. One third think it will have no effect one way or another (32%).

(ONTARIO ONLY) Will this budget be good for the economy or bad for the economy?

Good for the economy	16%
Bad for the economy	35%
Neither good nor bad for the economy	32%
DON'T KNOW	17%

Electoral Preference

After briefly tying the Liberals for first place, the Conservatives have returned to second place (30%) where they have been for a year or more, and their vote share has declined from 35%. The Liberal's lead (47%) has increased sharply (from 40%) and the NDP is in third (17%), with a recent increase (from 14%) at the expense of the other two parties.



Despite a member preference for the Liberals, most expect the Conservatives to win the next election (56%), and this trend is mostly NDP voters who realize their party will not win (5%), but who do not think the Liberals can (37%).

Which party do you EXPECT to win the next election?

	Jan 31	Feb 10	Mar 10	Mar 24	Apr 10	Apr 27
Liberal's	44%	45%	45%	40%	45%	37%
Conservatives	53%	52%	52%	54%	48%	56%
NDP	2%	2%	4%	1%	6%	5%
Green	*	*	*	*	*	*

More than 2300 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between April 24 and 27, 2015. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20

