

**CARP Political Poll Report
September 10, 2015**

Key Findings

Virtually all CARP members claim they vote, and most say they will vote for the party they 'believe' should win, rather than voting strategically for a party in order to prevent an undesirable party from winning.

The plurality of members say they will vote for the best platform and policies, followed by the best leader, the best candidate, and voting for change.

There is wide agreement the CPP must be enhanced, and a mandatory, employee/employer contribution model is strongly preferred to a voluntary option. The employer contribution is not likely to be seen as a payroll tax, but rather as retirement insurance.

There is wide dissatisfaction at the length of the 77 day election campaign and at the tactics of each of the three leaders in choosing (or not choosing) which debates to attend. All three are seen to be attempting to control the public's access to issues.

The NDP leads most qualities assessed, including their plan for health care, retirement security and their accountability and transparency.

Detailed Findings

Virtually all members say they are certain to vote (94%), and all but a minority says they are absolutely certain (84%).

How likely are you to vote in the federal election on October 19?

CERTAIN	94%
Absolutely certain, barring unforeseen emergency	84%
Certain	10%
Extremely likely	3%
Very likely	2%
Somewhat likely	1%
Not very likely	*
Not at all likely	*
DON'T KNOW	1%

Just more than one tenth say they will be voting strategically (13%), whereas three quarters will vote the party they believe in (76%).

Will you be voting for a party you believe in, or will you be voting for the party you think has the best chance of winning?

Party I believe in	76%
Party that can win	13%
Neither	7%
DON'T KNOW	4%

The plurality vote for the best platform and policies (41%), followed by the best leader (16%), best candidate (14%) or voting for change (13%).

Which one factor determines more than any other who you will vote for?

Vote for best platform/policies	41%
Vote for best leader	16%
Vote for best candidate in my riding	14%
Vote for change	13%
Vote for the party I always vote for	7%
Vote for party best able to beat another party	6%
OTHER	1%
DON'T KNOW	1%

There is wide agreement that CPP should be enhanced (81%).

Do you agree or disagree that Canada Pension Plan (CPP) contributions and benefits should be increased?

AGREE	81%
Agree strongly	37%
Agree	44%
DISAGREE	11%
Disagree	9%
Disagree strongly	2%
DON'T KNOW	7%

Two thirds prefer a mandatory employee/employer contribution plan (62%) while one quarter prefer a voluntary, employee only plan (27%).

There are two general plans from the main federal parties for CPP enhancement. The Liberals and NDP are in favour of a mandatory increase, and the Conservatives propose allowing individuals to make voluntary personal contributions. Which of these do you prefer?

Mandatory	62%
Voluntary	27%
Neither	3%
DON'T KNOW	4%
DON'T AGREE CPP NEEDS ENHANCEMENT	4%

Close to half describe employer payroll pension contributions as a “retirement plan” (45%) while just one quarter say they are a “payroll tax” (27%). Somewhat fewer call them a personal savings plan (15%).

How would you describe employer pension contributions?

Retirement insurance	45%
Payroll tax	27%
Personal savings plan	15%
Something else	4%
DON'T KNOW	9%

Three quarters disapprove of the new, longer campaign period (77%) and close to half disapprove strongly (46%).

The federal election campaign is now 11 weeks long, whereas it used to be 5 weeks long. Do you approve or disapprove of this?

APPROVE	16%
Approve strongly	2%
Approve	14%
DISAPPROVE	77%
Disapprove	31%
Disapprove strongly	46%
DON'T KNOW	7%

Seven-in-ten disapprove of Stephen Harper's refusal to take part in the broadcast consortium debates (70%) and half disapprove strongly (52%).

Conservative leader Stephen Harper has refused to take part in the traditional broadcast consortium debates by CBC, CTV and GLOBAL. Instead, he has accepted only debates from less mainstream organizations of his choosing. Do you approve or disapprove of this?

APPROVE	23%
Approve strongly	8%
Approve	15%
DISAPPROVE	70%
Disapprove	18%
Disapprove strongly	52%
DON'T KNOW	6%

Most think Mr. Harper is doing this to avoid scrutiny (54%) while some partisans think the TV nets are biased (19%) or that it's a tactic to keep opponents off balance (10%).

Why do you think Mr. Harper is doing this?

Avoiding public scrutiny	54%
TV networks are biased	19%
Wants to keep opponents off balance	10%
Wants to talk directly to supporters	8%
OTHER	2%
DON'T KNOW	7%

One half disapprove of Tom Mulcair's careful avoidance of some debates (50%).

NDP leader Tom Mulcair has refused to take part in any debate that Conservative leader Stephen Harper does not attend, resulting in the cancellation of some planned debates and limiting the number of occasions in which voters can hear from him in a broadcast debate. Do you approve or disapprove of this?

APPROVE	41%
Approve strongly	9%
Approve	32%
DISAPPROVE	50%
Disapprove	33%
Disapprove strongly	17%
DON'T KNOW	10%

Most say Mulcair will limit himself only to debates with the Prime Minister to appear prime ministerial himself (38%), or to control his image because he anticipates a victory (17%).

Why do you think Mr. Mulcair is doing this?

To appear prime ministerial by only debating PM	38%
To control image in advance of victory	17%
Front runner tactic to avoid debate	9%
Afraid May/Trudeau better debaters than PM	7%
OTHER	12%
DON'T KNOW	18%

Just more than half disapprove of Justin Trudeau's lack of commitment to debates (57%).

Liberal leader Justin Trudeau has not made a general declaration about which debates he will participate in and so voters do not know when they will next hear from him in a broadcast debate. Do you approve or disapprove of this?

APPROVE	21%
Approve strongly	3%
Approve	18%
DISAPPROVE	57%
Disapprove	44%
Disapprove strongly	13%
DON'T KNOW	22%

Many say Trudeau doesn't want to be the one cancelling debates (39%), leaving that to his opponents, while some say he just wants to be flexible (27%) or debate only if the Prime Minister is involved (12%).

Why do you think Mr. Trudeau is doing this?

Doesn't want to be the one to cancel debates	39%
To remain as flexible as possible	27%
Will agree only to debates with PM involved	12%
OTHER	4%
DON'T KNOW	18%

The NDP are preferred for most qualities probed including having the best health care plan, the best retirement plan and for being most accountable. They are tied with the Conservatives for having the best plan for seniors and the Conservatives are seen to have the advantage in leadership.

Which of the three leading parties has the best plan for older Canadians/is the most transparent and accountable/shows the best leadership/will do the most to improve retirement security/will do the most to improve access, affordability and quality of health care

	Older	Account	Leader	Retire	Health
NDP	28%	24%	33%	33%	33%
Conservatives	29%	20%	36%	25%	23%
Liberals	18%	22%	17%	19%	21%
OTHER/DK	25%	35%	14%	24%	24%

More than 3200 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between September 3 and September 7. A probability sample of this size would have a margin of error of plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20.