

CARP Election Promises Poll Report December 17, 2015

Key Findings

Members are very pleased with the election's outcome, although they are less convinced the new government will be able to keep all its promises on schedule, the most important of which, overall, are seen to be the \$4 billion promised for home and palliative care and the promised middle class tax cut.

In terms of CARP-advocated issues, the highest priorities are seen to be indexing OAS and GIS to the cost of living, the \$4 billion in care spending mentioned above, buying drugs in bulk to lower prices and the overall promise to spend \$20 billion on infrastructure which would include seniors housing. Expansion of CPP is seen as a top priority, with or without the ORPP.

Members are eager to see the government legislate on assisted death sooner rather than later, they agree quite strongly with the legalization of marijuana and most think the government should take on electoral reform. Of the options tested, Proportional Representation (PR) is preferred. Members prefer deficit spending to austerity and paying down debt in difficult economic times.

In general, members are positive about the changes already made to the senate (elimination of partisan allegiance) and those proposed, but there is not so much enthusiasm for the revisions to the TFSA limits. There is virtually unanimous agreement the federal government has a role in health care, and also that it must work with other parties to take their policies and ideas into account.

The Liberals have half the vote preference (a spot formerly held by the Conservatives), the Conservatives have a third of the vote and the NDP have their lowest vote share we have ever recorded, in the mid-single digits.

Detailed Findings

Two thirds of members are pleased with the outcome of the federal election (64%) and half are “very pleased” (49%).

Were you pleased or displeased by the outcome of the recent federal election?

PLEASED	64%
Very pleased	49%
Somewhat pleased	15%
NOT PLEASED	35%
Not very pleased	12%
Not at all pleased	23%
DON'T KNOW	1%

There are mixed opinions on whether the new Liberal government will be able to keep all its promises (43%) or not (49%).

Do you agree or disagree the new Liberal government will be able to keep all the promises made in the election campaign?

AGREE	43%
Agree strongly	5%
Agree	38%
DISAGREE	49%
Disagree	29%
Disagree strongly	20%
DON'T KNOW	8%

The two liberal promises about which members have the highest anticipation are the middle class tax cut (23%) and investing \$4 billion in home care, palliative care and caregiver support (29%).

Here is a list of some key Liberal promises. Which of these do you think has the highest priority?

\$4 billion for home, palliative care, caregivers	29%
Tax cut for the middle class	23%
Amend Bill C-51	9%
Electoral reform	7%
Reforming the senate	6%
Bring back long form census	6%
Legalized assisted dying	5%
Murdered and missing indigenous women	4%
Legalized marijuana	3%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	8%

CARP issues which are seen to have the highest priority include indexing OAS and GIS to the cost of living (25%) and returning the age for OAS back to 65 (21%). Other issues with high priorities are bulk purchase of drugs (13%) and the \$20 billion infrastructure program including housing for seniors (12%).

The Liberal Party ran their campaign on a number of core CARP advocacy issues. Which of the following Liberal promises on CARP issues should receive the highest priority?

Index OAS/GIS to CPI	25%
\$4 billion for palliative/home care, caregivers	21%
Join provinces to buy drugs in bulk	13%
\$20 billion in social infrastructure/seniors housing	12%
Increase GIS for low income seniors	9%
Return OAS age limit to 65	7%
Meet to expand CPP with provinces within 3 months	7%
Extend compassionate care leave for caregivers	1%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	4%

One half see meeting with the provinces to discuss CPP expansion as an urgent priority for the new Prime Minister (52%).

Prime Minister Trudeau has also promised to meet with the provinces within 3 months to discuss how to expand CPP contributions and benefits. How urgent a priority should this be?

URGENT	52%
Most urgent priority	4%
One of the most urgent priorities	21%
An urgent priority	27%
NOT URGENT	47%
A priority	32%
Not a priority	15%
DON'T KNOW	2%

The plurality, one third, think Ontario's ORPP should be created, then folded into CPP when that program is expanded (34%) and about a quarter think ORPP should be abandoned pending CPP expansion (26%). One sixth see no need for the ORPP (14%) or for CPP expansion (1%).

In Ontario, Premier Kathleen Wynne created the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) when the federal government refused to expand CPP. What should be done about the ORPP now that there is a willing partner for pension reform in Ottawa?

Start ORPP/fold into CPP when expanded	34%
Abandon ORPP/wait for CPP expansion	26%
Start ORPP/keep it after CPP expanded	5%
No need for ORPP	14%
No need for ORPP/ CPP expansion	1%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	15%

On the complex problem of assisted dying legislation, the plurality, one third of members, want the government to abide by the Supreme Court's original schedule and prepare new legislation by the February, 2016 deadline (32%), followed by about a quarter who think a short extension (up to six months) is appropriate (23%). A significant minority think no legislation is necessary and decisions should be left to patients and doctors (13%). One tenth do not agree with any form of assisted dying (10%).

The Supreme Court has ruled that physician assisted dying is legal in Canada, within some broad guidelines. The federal government must enact these and any other guidelines into law by February 2016. Among the issues to be decided are protection of seniors and the disabled, both to provide access and to prevent undue influence. What should the federal government do about physician assisted dying?

Consult/enact legislation by February 2016	32%
Ask Supreme Court for extension (<6 months)	23%
Ask Supreme Court for extension (6 months+)	7%
Lapse deadline/consult/craft legislation	10%
Lapse deadline/leave decision to patients/doctors	13%
DON'T AGREE WITH ASSISTED DYING	10%
DON'T KNOW	6%

Two thirds of members agree marijuana should be legalized (63%), and one fifth agree strongly (20%).

Do you agree or disagree marijuana should be legalized, regulated and taxed in Canada?

AGREE	63%
Agree strongly	20%
Agree	43%
DISAGREE	32%
Disagree	15%
Disagree strongly	17%
DON'T KNOW	5%

Three quarters agree the new government should take on electoral reform (72%), one quarter agreeing strongly (26%).

Do you agree or disagree the new government should tackle electoral reform?

AGREE	72%
Agree strongly	26%
Agree	46%
DISAGREE	19%
Disagree	12%
Disagree strongly	7%
DON'T KNOW	9%

Just fewer, two thirds, agree that our First Past The Post system needs reforming (65%), but one quarter still say they agree (27%).

Do you agree or disagree Canada's electoral system, currently First Past The Post, needs to be reformed?

AGREE	65%
Agree strongly	27%
Agree	38%
DISAGREE	21%
Disagree	13%
Disagree strongly	8%
DON'T KNOW	14%

When asked their preference for the three major types of electoral systems, Proportional Representation is favoured (37%), followed by First Past The Post (24%) and finally Ranked Ballot (20%).

In First Past The Post, the party that wins the most votes wins the riding, and the party that wins the most ridings is given the first chance to govern, even if there is no majority. In Ranked Ballots, voters make a first, second, third, etc, choice, and all these are counted until a majority is achieved. In Proportional Representation, or PR, each party is given the same percentage of seats as their percentage of the popular vote. Which of these electoral systems do you prefer?

Proportional Representation	37%
First Past The Post	24%
Ranked Ballot	20%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	19%

More than half of members say deficit spending is the key in hard economic times (57%), rather than austerity (2%)>

Which of the following is the best economic strategy during times of recession and low interest rates?

Deficit spending/stimulate growth	57%
Austerity/retire deficit/debt	22%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	21%

To reinforce this comparative finding, fully two thirds approve in general of deficit spending to support infrastructure and social supports (65%).

Do you approve or disapprove in general of deficit spending to support infrastructure and social programs?

APPROVE	65%
Approve strongly	14%
Approve	51%
DISAPPROVE	31%
Disapprove	21%
Disapprove strongly	10%
DON'T KNOW	4%

More than half say current proposals for reforming the senate go far enough (58%), while one third disagree with this (33%).

The new government has proposed a number of reforms to Canada's Senate that do not require constitutional changes, including dismissing Senators from party caucus and setting up a panel of distinguished Canadians to recommend merit-based Senate appointments. Do you agree or disagree these changes go far enough in reforming the Senate?

AGREE	58%
Agree strongly	13%
Agree	45%
DISAGREE	33%
Disagree	23%
Disagree strongly	10%
DON'T KNOW	10%

The most commonly mentioned fix for the senate is the same merit-based, non-partisan appointment procedure envisioned by the government (33%), followed closely by abolishing it altogether (27%). One fifth want the senators elected (20%) and somewhat fewer agree with eliminating partisan identification (15%).

What should be done with the Senate?

Non-partisan, merit based appointment protocol	33%
Abolish it	27%
Make it an elected body	20%
Eliminate partisan allegiances	15%
Leave it the way it is	2%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	3%

A minority agree with the change back to the \$5500 TFSA limit (38%), and more than half disagree with this change (54%).

The new Liberal government has promised to cancel the recent expansion of Tax Free Savings Accounts, or TFSAs from \$5500 to \$10,000. Do you agree or disagree with this step?

AGREE	38%
Agree strongly	13%
Agree	25%
DISAGREE	54%
Disagree	26%
Disagree strongly	28%
DON'T KNOW	8%

There is almost universal agreement the federal government has a role in health care (89%).

The new Liberal government has promised to sit down with the provinces as in the past to discuss healthcare and update the Canada Health Accords. Is this a good way to approach health care or should it be entirely left to the provinces?

Federal government to work with provinces	89%
Leave health care to provinces	8%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	3%

There is also universal agreement on the importance of the new Liberal government working with the other parties to advance their ideas as well (96%).

How important is it for the new Liberal government to work with the other parties in Parliament to implement their ideas, as well as Liberal ideas?

IMPORTANT	96%
Extremely important	36%
Very important	36%
Important	24%
DISAGREE	3%
Not very important	2%
Not at all important	1%
DON'T KNOW	1%

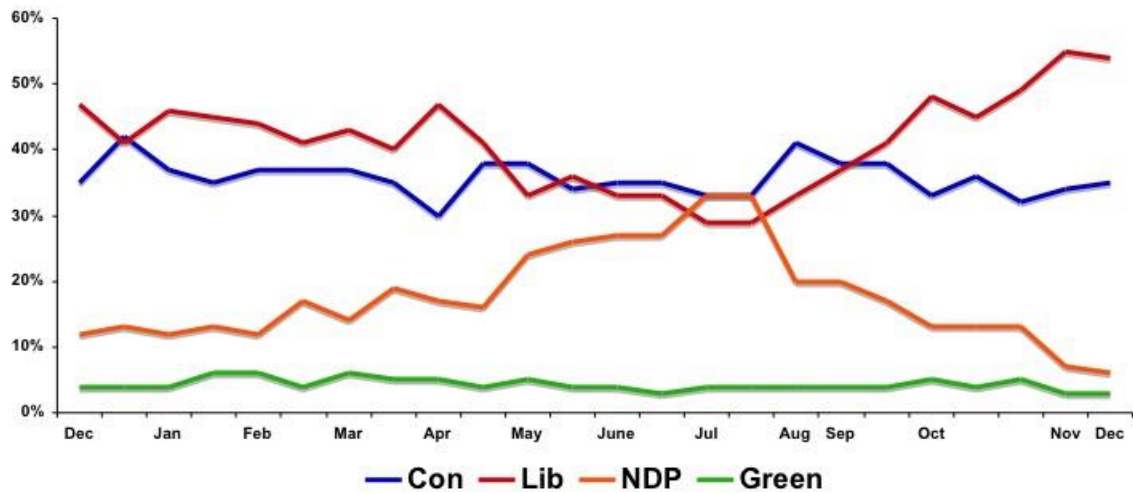
Electoral Preference

CARP's electoral projection on October 16, 3 days before the election was Liberals 45%, Conservatives 35%, NDP 13% and Greens 4%.

In our first poll after the election, members say they voted as follows: Liberals 49%, Conservatives 32%, NDP 13% and Greens 5%.

At this point, the CARP Poll™ shows Liberals at 54%, Conservatives at 35% and the NDP well down (and lower than we have tracked them in 6 years) at 6%.

The eventual, actual vote among the general population was Liberals 40%, Conservatives 32%, NDP 20% and Greens 3%.



More than 2600 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between November 24 and 26, 2015. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20