

**CARP Vision/Budget Poll Report**  
**April 5, 2013**

**KEY FINDINGS**

**While members expect the government's budget to promote a vision of a fiscally responsible Canada, they are eager to see this but also a vision for a sustainable Canada and one that cares for the vulnerable. Most see a change in government as the way to achieve this vision, along with those who envision a citizens' movement. On the other hand, some want the government to keep winning majorities.**

**Eliminating government waste is seen to be the way to pay for the member's vision of Canada, along with job growth revenue. The strong majority agree their vision for the country is politically achievable. In line with overall voting preferences, most see the Conservatives as best able to deliver their vision of Canada, but all three parties are seen to be able to deliver a more caring country.**

**Members agree retirement security and seniors' poverty are not priorities for the current government and this was displayed in the recent budget. In addition, the government is seen to ignore the best advice on retirement and the needs of its citizens.**

**Most disagree that the budget as presented will solve the problems it was intended to, and that face seniors. What most would have liked to have seen in the budget is an end to mandatory RRIF withdrawals and a national pharmacare program. Just one half agree the budget is good for Canada.**

**Most members feel the government ignores scientific data in policy-making, preferring political ideology, and they don't agree with this. They also disagree with the end to funding for the Experimental Lakes Area and the mandatory long-form census.**

**Members agree the next Parliamentary Budget Officer must be independent and unafraid, rather than a consensus builder.**

**The Liberals are steadily increasing in members voting preference, while the NDP are steadily declining. The Conservatives, while still leading, are also in a decline.**

## Detailed Findings - Vision For Canada

Most members expect the budget to promote a vision of a fiscally stable country (41%), while many would have preferred a budget promoting a sustainable society (22%) or a caring society (16%) in addition to a fiscally responsible society (26%).

***Canada's Finance Minister tabled the federal budget for 2013 yesterday. A federal budget is a blueprint which describes a government's vision for the country. Which of the following visions for Canada do you think yesterday's budget is most likely to promote?/And what kind of vision for Canada do you wish this budget had promoted the most?***

	<b>Likely</b>	<b>Want</b>
<b>Fiscally responsible society, pays debts</b>	41	26%
<b>Sustainable society, uses resources wisely, conserves</b>	5%	22%
<b>Caring society, cares for most vulnerable</b>	1%	16%
<b>Fair society, all have access to same services everywhere</b>	1%	9%
<b>Healthy society, can age at home in good health</b>	1%	7%
<b>Supportive society, helps citizens care for family</b>	1%	1%
<b>Secure society, no one retires in poverty</b>	1%	10%
<b>Compassionate society, quality care at end of life</b>	1%	2%
<b>OTHER VISION</b>	36%	4%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	13%	2%

Most members think a change of government will lead to their ideal vision of Canada (30%), followed by those who call for a citizen uprising (21%). On the other side of the coin, one fifth want to eliminate the debt and deficit (19%) and half this proportion want continued Conservative majorities (11%).

***What is the one thing you think needs to happen in order to build a Canada that fulfills your vision for the country?***

<b>Change of government</b>	30%
<b>Citizens uniting to convince government</b>	21%
<b>Eliminate deficit, pay down debt</b>	19%
<b>Conservatives win majorities</b>	11%
<b>Comprehensive health care reform</b>	5%
<b>End of the recession</b>	4%
<b>Comprehensive pension reform</b>	3%
<b>Improvements to education</b>	2%
<b>More religious observance/prayer</b>	2%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

The chimera of managing waste and inefficiency is mentioned first as a way of paying for this vision of Canada (41%), while about half this proportion mention increased job growth revenues (18%) or increased corporate taxes (18%).

***What is the best way to fund your vision of Canada?***

<b>Eliminate waste/inefficiency</b>	41%
<b>Increased revenue from job growth</b>	18%
<b>Increased corporate taxes</b>	17%
<b>Cut budgets elsewhere</b>	8%
<b>Increase GST/HST</b>	7%
<b>Enhance CPP contributions</b>	2%
<b>User fees/surcharges</b>	2%
<b>Increased personal taxes</b>	1%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	5%

The wide majority agree their vision of Canada is politically achievable (80%).

***Do you agree or disagree your vision of Canada is politically achievable?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	22%
<b>Agree</b>	58%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	9%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	2%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	9%

Most think the Conservatives best able to achieve their personal vision of Canada (35%), followed closely by the Liberals (27%). The three major parties are seen to be much closer on who can build a just, compassionate and caring society (Conservatives - 29%, Liberals - 26%, NDP - 24%).

***Which of the federalist parties do you think is best able to achieve your vision of Canada if they were in power?/And which of the federalist parties is best able to achieve the vision of a compassionate, caring, healthy and economically secure society?***

	<b>Your Vision</b>	<b>Ideal Society</b>
<b>Conservatives</b>	35%	29%
<b>Liberals</b>	27%	26%
<b>NDP</b>	17%	24%
<b>Greens</b>	4%	4%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	17%	17%

## The Budget

Most members believe retirement security is not a priority for this government (37%), while many say the government rejects expert advice saying PRPPs are not sufficient (22%). Others see no need , or say we can't afford retirement security (11% each).

***CARP advocates for a Universal Pension Plan (UPP) to ensure retirement security for all, modeled on the CPP payroll deduction system. The budget offered nothing new on the UPP issue, just reiterated the PRPPs. What is your reaction to the exclusion of this from the budget?***

<b>Retirement security not priority for government</b>	37%
<b>Government rejects expert advice on PRPP/UPP</b>	22%
<b>We can't afford increased employer contributions</b>	11%
<b>No need for this</b>	11%
<b>Give PRPPs a chance</b>	8%
<b>Provinces should set up their own PRPPs</b>	4%
<b>OTHER</b>	3%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	6%

One third of members claim senior poverty is not a government priority (33%), while one quarter say the government must act, poor seniors have no choice (22%). Others say we can't afford enhanced retirement security in this economy (13%) or because people are living longer (12%).

***CARP advocates for enhancements to OAS and GIS, as well as federal funding to replace OAS and GIS for those between 65 and 67 who cannot wait the extra two years, as a way of guaranteeing no senior lives in poverty. The budget offered nothing on this issue. What is your reaction to the exclusion of this from the budget?***

<b>Senior poverty not a government priority</b>	33%
<b>Must change, no option for poor seniors</b>	22%
<b>Can't afford in deficit economy</b>	13%
<b>Can't afford, people living longer</b>	12%
<b>Will transfer burden to provinces</b>	9%
<b>Principled decision by government</b>	7%
<b>Senior poverty not the government's business</b>	2%
<b>OTHER</b>	2%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

One half disagree that the government's offer of funds for home care is sufficient (51%), and one fifth disagree in the strongest terms (disagree strongly - 21%).

***CARP advocates for stable funding and national standards for home care, long term care and end-of-life care, to ensure the highest quality of life for all Canadians. The budget offered a GST/HST exemption for publicly funded personal care services, in addition to the exemption for publicly-funded home care. This could be worth up to \$5 million a year in total among all the provinces provided they purchase and provide more personal care services. Do you agree or disagree this will meet the needs of an aging society as well as CARP's proposal?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	7%
<b>Agree</b>	27%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	30%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	21%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	15%

Members say Canada can do better when it comes to drug costs (17%), that seniors continue to suffer (18%), that it shows lack of leadership (16%) and that bulk purchase saves money (15%) when explaining why the government needs to act on drug costs. Others say this is not a federal responsibility (14%) or that the government doesn't care about seniors (10%).

***CARP advocates for equitable access to affordable drugs, regardless of province, to ensure the high cost of pharmaceuticals isn't an obstacle to health. The budget offered nothing on this issue. What is your reaction to the exclusion of this from the budget?***

<b>Low income/seniors continue to suffer</b>	18%
<b>Other countries can do it, Canada can</b>	17%
<b>Shows lack of leadership</b>	16%
<b>Bulk purchase easy/saves money</b>	15%
<b>Provincial, not federal responsibility</b>	14%
<b>Not government priority in this economy</b>	10%
<b>Industry lobbies against pharmacare</b>	6%
<b>Not the business of federal government</b>	3%
<b>OTHER</b>	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

Three quarters do not agree the budgets plans for palliative care training met the needs of Canadians (72%), and one third adopt the strongest position (disagree strongly - 32%).

***CARP advocates for universal access to comprehensive and compassionate end-of-life and palliative care. The budget offered funding for palliative care training amounting to \$3 million over 3 years but no funding for additional care staff positions. Do you agree or disagree this will meet the needs of the oldest Canadians as well as CARP's proposal?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>18%</b>
Agree strongly	4%
Agree	14%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>72%</b>
Disagree	40%
Disagree strongly	32%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>10%</b>

One half disagree the government's provisions on awareness-building on financial fraud was adequate (52%), while one third agree with this provision (34%).

***CARP advocates for a National Investor Protection Agency with investigative, prosecutorial and reimbursement powers to protect the interests of small investors. The budget offered plans for consultation and awareness-raising on financial fraud and financial literacy for seniors. Do you agree or disagree this will meet the needs of older Canadians who are investors as well as CARP's plan?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>34%</b>
Agree strongly	7%
Agree	27%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>52%</b>
Disagree	33%
Disagree strongly	19%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>14%</b>

One half disagree that the budgets provision for workplace training is sufficient to deal with older workers (49%), while one third agree it is (34%).

***CARP advocates for job opportunities for older workers through mentorship programs, job fairs and job matching and accommodations for older workers in the workplace. The budget proposes a Canada Job Grant program for all age groups matching up to \$5000 per employee, of any funds paid by the employer and the province. Do you agree or disagree this will meet the needs of older workers as well as CARP's proposal?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>34%</b>
Agree strongly	5%
Agree	29%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>49%</b>
Disagree	33%
Disagree strongly	16%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>19%</b>

When asked what they would have liked to have seen in the budget, most members cite an end to RRIF withdrawals (21%) and a national pharmacare plan (19%), followed by an increase in OAS/GIS or enhanced CPP contributions and benefits (14% each).

***Which of the following is the most important thing you would have liked to have seen in the budget for older Canadians which was not in it?***

<b>Eliminate mandatory RRIF withdrawals</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>National pharmacare plan</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Increase OAS/GIS</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Enhance CPP contributions/benefits</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Refundable tax credit for family caregivers</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Reverse OAS ruling on age</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Make PRPPs more like CPP</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>National Investor Protection Agency</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Fund OAS from 65 to 67</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>5%</b>



One half disagree the budget is good for Canada (49%), while more than a third agree it is a good budget (38%).

***Overall, do you agree or disagree this budget is good for Canada?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	6%
<b>Agree</b>	32%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	33%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	16%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	13%

## Scientific Evidence In Government

While crime is decreasing, and has been for years, one third of members continue to believe it is increasing (32%) despite being told this is not the case.

***Many people feel from personal experience that crime is increasing, yet statistics show that crime has been decreasing steadily for years. Do you believe crime is increasing or decreasing?***

<b>Increasing</b>	32%
<b>Neither</b>	18%
<b>Decreasing</b>	42%
<b>INDEX IN FAVOUR OF "INCREASING"</b>	<b>-10</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	7%

More than half our members believe this government makes decisions based on politics (57%) not scientific evidence (2%), where close to half think decisions should be made based on science (45%) or on both science and politics (49%).

***As far as you know, does this government make decisions based on scientific evidence, based on political ideals or based on both?/Do you believe governments should make decisions based on scientific evidence, based on political ideals or based on both?***

	<b>Does</b>	<b>Should</b>
<b>Scientific evidence</b>	2%	45%
<b>Political ideals</b>	57%	1%
<b>Both</b>	25%	49%
<b>Neither</b>	12%	3%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	4%	2%

Two thirds disagree with the government's decision to vote down an extension of funding for the Experimental Lakes Area (63%), most very strongly (disagree strongly - 42%).

***An opposition motion calling for free and open exchange of scientific information among federal government scientists and extension of funding for the Experimental Lakes research centre was voted down by government MPs this week. How much do you agree with the government decision?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>14%</b>
Agree strongly	5%
Agree	9%
Neither agree nor disagree	13%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>63%</b>
Disagree	21%
Disagree strongly	42%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>11%</b>

Two thirds disagree the government values long-term data for planning (62%), one third strongly (disagree strongly - 34%).

***Long-term government planning requires reliable data. Do you agree or disagree this government values reliable data for government planning?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>30%</b>
Agree strongly	7%
Agree	23%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>62%</b>
Disagree	28%
Disagree strongly	34%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>8%</b>

Two thirds also disagree with the elimination of the long-form census (67%).

***Do you agree or disagree with the elimination of the compulsory long-form census?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>26%</b>
Agree strongly	7%
Agree	19%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>67%</b>
Disagree	29%
Disagree strongly	38%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>7%</b>

## Parliamentary Budget Officer

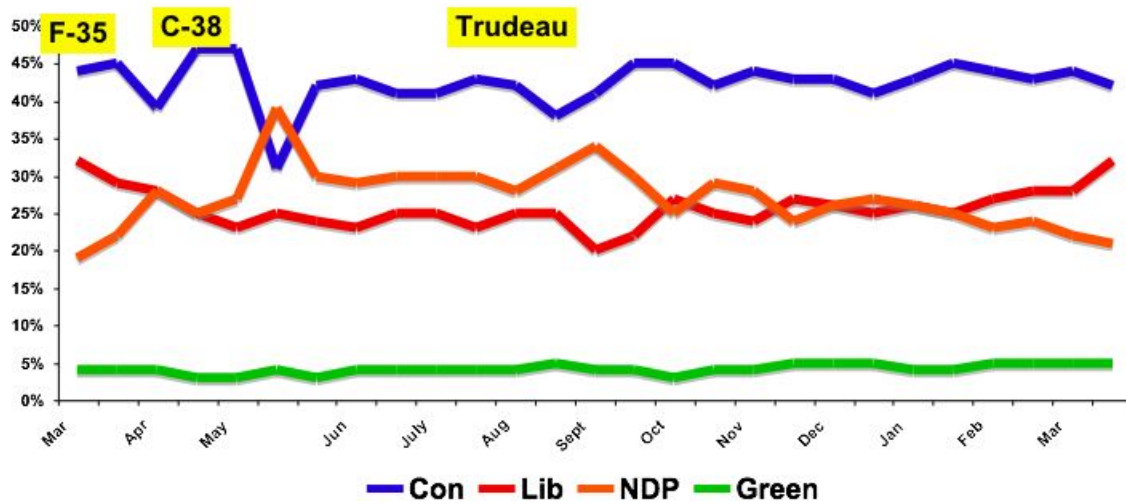
The wide majority agree that PBO Kevin Page's vision for his replacement is the correct one (79%), compared to the government's more conciliatory vision (11%).

***The Parliamentary Budget Officer, Kevin Page, ends his term soon. He says the country needs a fiercely independent PBO who can confront the government. The government says it is looking for a PBO who can arrive at consensus between stakeholders and avoid conflict. Which vision for the PBO do you think is best?***

<b>PBO's vision</b>	79%
<b>Government's vision</b>	11%
<b>Neither</b>	5%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	5%%

## Electoral Preference

The Liberals now lead the NDP, 32% to 21% for second place, but the Conservatives remain comfortably in first (42%). However, the Conservatives have started to decline along with the NDP, and the Liberals are on the rise..



***More than 1300 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between March 22 and 25, 2013. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 3%, 19 times out of 20***