

## ***ATTITUDES TO COALITIONS & ALLIANCES***

### *CANADIANS SAY "NO" TO PARTY ALLIANCES*

[OTTAWA – October 2, 2008] – Although most Canadians expect a minority government, they are not inclined to see formal alliances or coalitions emerge after the election. In many democracies where majorities are uncommon, in Europe for example, smaller parties forge coalitions of several parties to secure a majority.

But that's not how Canadians like it.

Fewer than one in five Canadians say they favour this kind of formal arrangement, which has not been seen in Canada on the national level for more than half a century, though it has happened in some provinces.

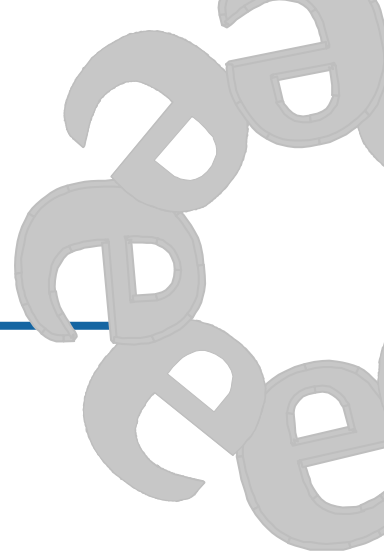
Seventy-three percent of Canadians prefer less formal arrangements, where different collections of parties get together on particular pieces of legislation – the "system" that has prevailed during the Martin and Harper minorities.

When forced to choose a particular alliance they would prefer, the most popular was a Liberal-NDP alliance, though support even for that was tepid: 33%. No other combination of parties won support from even a fifth of Canadians.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- **In the event of a minority government situation, Canadians would prefer to see parties ally across issues rather than form official coalitions or alliances.**

*Please note that the methodology and detailed tables of these and other results discussed in this release are provided at the end of this document.*



## Detailed Tables:

### Attitudes To Alliances & Coalitions

*Q. In the eventuality of a minority government, there will be a need for coalitions and alliances to retain power in Ottawa. Which of the following two options would you prefer? 1) A more flexible approach where different parties ally in different ways across issues OR 2) Formal party alliances such as the NDP-LPC or the CPC-BQ?*

	CANADA		Region					
	Election 2004	Current	BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL
BASE: Canadians n=	1237	<b>1496</b>	244	124	108	569	298	153
Margin of error (+/-)	2.8	<b>2.5</b>	6.2	8.8	9.4	4.1	5.7	7.9
Formal party alliances	30	<b>18</b>	18	6	19	20	20	21
More flexible approach	64	<b>73</b>	77	82	74	73	70	65
Do not know/No response	6	<b>9</b>	6	13	7	7	9	14

### Preferred Formal Alliances (forced choice)

*Q. In your view, which alliance do you think would be best?*

	CANADA		Region					
	Election 2004	Current	BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL
BASE: Canadians n=	1237	<b>1496</b>	244	124	108	569	298	153
Margin of error (+/-)	2.7	<b>2.5</b>	6.2	8.8	9.4	4.1	5.7	7.9
LPC-NDP	26	<b>33</b>	41	17	34	40	25	37
CPC-NDP	20	<b>18</b>	16	22	16	17	18	27
LPC-CPC	18	<b>11</b>	11	16	12	12	6	11
CPC-BQ	14	<b>7</b>	4	5	9	4	14	3
LPC-BQ	7	<b>5</b>	2	2	2	2	14	1
None of the above	8	<b>17</b>	14	31	17	15	17	11
Don't know/No response	8	<b>9</b>	12	7	9	9	8	10

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## Methodology:

Today's poll was conducted using EKOS' unique hybrid internet-telephone research panel, *Probit*<sup>®</sup>. This panel is **randomly** recruited from the general population, meaning that, the only way to be included in *Probit*<sup>®</sup> is through random selection. Unlike opt-in internet-only research panels, *Probit*<sup>®</sup> supports confidence intervals and error testing.

The field dates for this survey are September 29 to October 1, 2008. In total, a random sample of 1,496 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey. A sample of this size provides a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as regions).

All the data were statistically weighted to ensure the samples composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.