

DAILY TRACKING

NATIONAL PARTIES ALL SHORT OF THEIR GOALS AS LEADERS PREPARE FOR DEBATES

[OTTAWA – October 1, 2008] – As the party leaders prepare for their debates, in French tonight and English tomorrow night, only Gilles Duceppe can claim to have met his objectives in the campaign so far.

The Conservatives – Stephen Harper’s Conservatives established an early lead and have held it, often at wide margins over the second-place Liberals. But while a majority seemed tantalizingly close at times, it is once again seemingly slipping away. He needs to revive his party’s standing in Quebec – so strong at the beginning of the campaign; the Tories are now in a dogfight with the Liberals for a weak second place in the province. Meanwhile in Ontario, the party has lost the edge it has enjoyed at times over the Liberals, and even in British Columbia, its commanding lead is looking less formidable than it did just two weeks ago.

The Liberals – Stéphane Dion’s first job was to save the furniture and at best he has saved some of it. The Liberal vote has stabilized and crept up a bit. In Ontario, the Liberal Party is giving the Conservatives a race, but no better, in its traditional heartland. In Quebec, the Liberals have staged a modest revival and are fighting it out with the Conservatives for second place (though still well behind the BQ). Even in B.C. and the West, the party is creeping back up behind the NDP. However, the party remains well short of being a real competitor with the Conservatives to win the election, and shockingly short of what would have been considered its core support just a few years ago.

The New Democrats – Jack Layton has lifted his party up to the top of its traditional range of support. But it is not yet in Broadbent territory. The party is running very well in British Columbia, particularly in Vancouver, and continues to benefit in Ontario not only from healthy support, but also from a three-way fight in that province. But the New Democrats have yet to break through to become a contender for power – their stated aim – or even to displace the Liberals as the natural alternative to the Conservatives, which many regard as their real strategic goal.

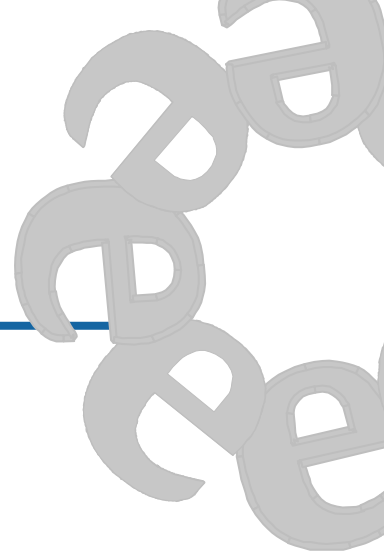
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Daily national federal vote intention numbers: CPC 34%, Liberal 25%, NDP 20%, Green Party 11%, and the BQ 10%.**

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.

The Greens – Elizabeth May has led the Greens on an exceptionally successful campaign by their historical standards. They are at more than twice the level of support they enjoyed in the last election, and have at times peaked near triple their support in 2006. However, that support is broad but thin, and in many parts of the country they will have trouble mounting an on-the-ground campaign that is competitive. May accomplished a major interim objective getting included in the debate. But even at the party’s peak, in the second week of the campaign, it probably would not have won a single seat. A lot rides now on May’s debate performance.

The Bloc Québécois – Gilles Duceppe started the campaign confronted with a widespread impression that the sovereigntist movement in Quebec was dead or dying, and that whatever support had not already been lost to the Tories might start bleeding to the national parties on the left. Publicly, Duceppe framed his campaign as a crusade to deny Stephen Harper a majority. So far, so good. The Bloc revival in Quebec, since the campaign began, mostly at the Tories’ expense, has put the BQ back on track to win the majority of seats in Quebec, and that in itself is one very good reason why the Tories now seem to be tracking short of majority territory.



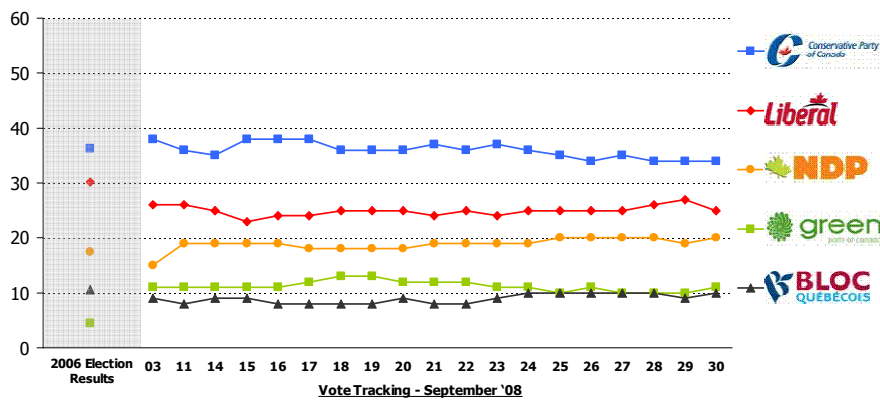
Detailed Tables:

National Federal Vote Intention¹

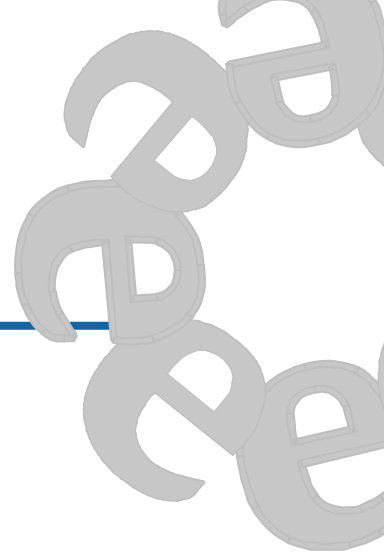
Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

BASE: Decided Voters	CANADA	BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL
n=	2752	474	164	171	833	906	204
Margin of error (+/-)=	1.9	4.5	7.6	7.5	3.4	3.3	6.9
	34	38	55	44	35	20	34
	25	22	14	23	33	19	35
	20	28	18	23	20	14	24
	11	13	13	10	13	8	7
	10	0	0	0	0	40	0

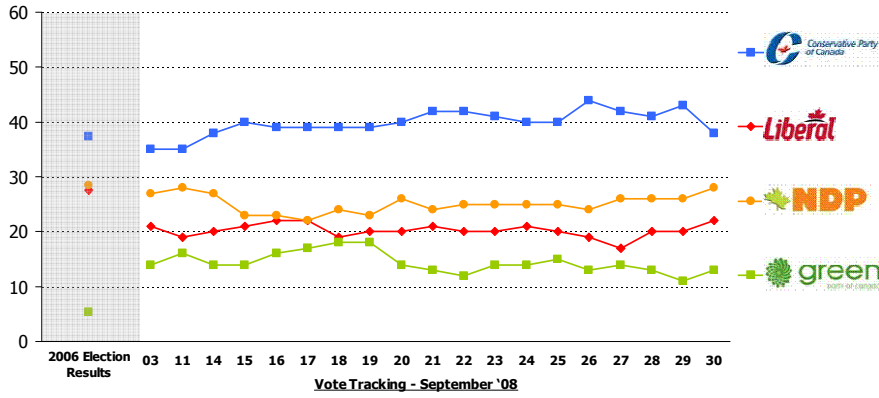
Tracking Federal Vote Intention



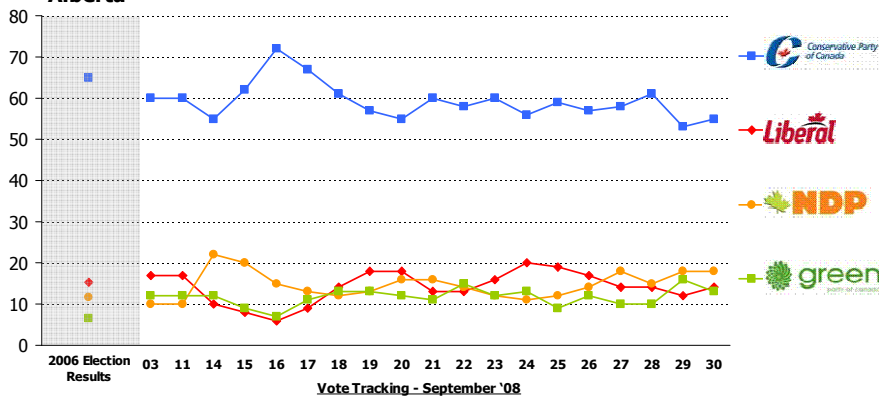
¹ The data presented in this and our other tables on federal vote intention are based on decided voters only. Our survey also finds that 8% of Canadians say they are undecided and 5% say they do not plan to vote on October 14th.



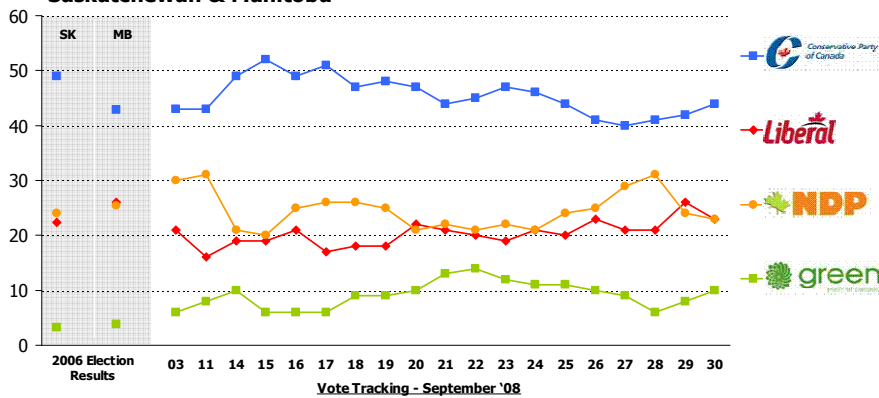
British Columbia

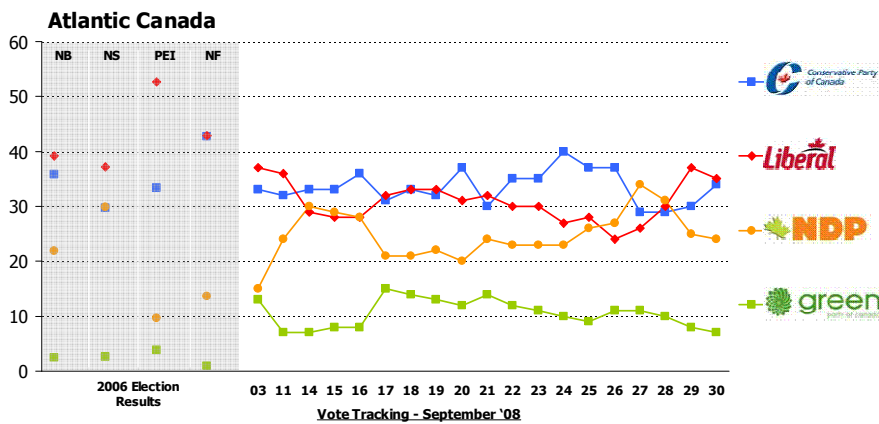
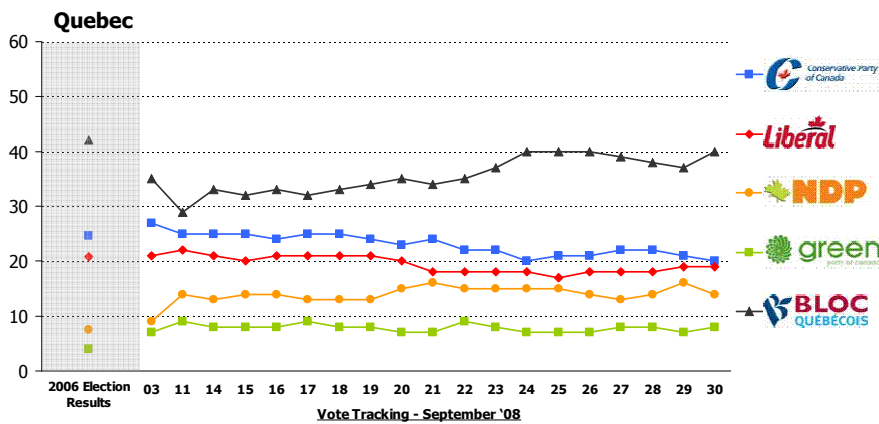
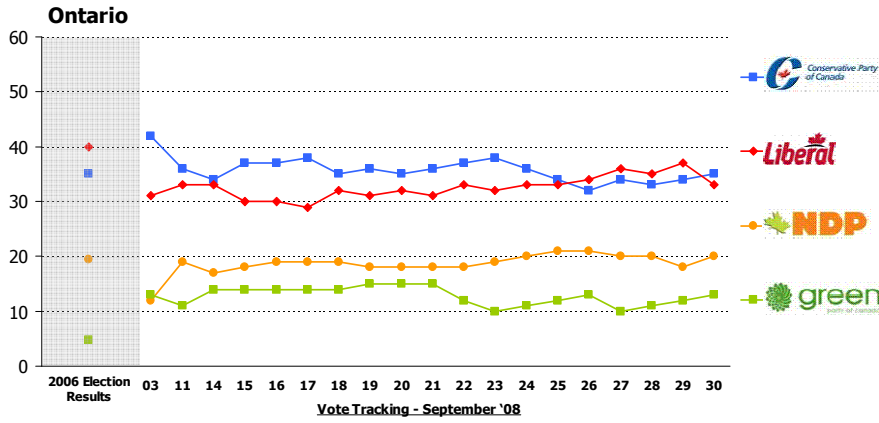
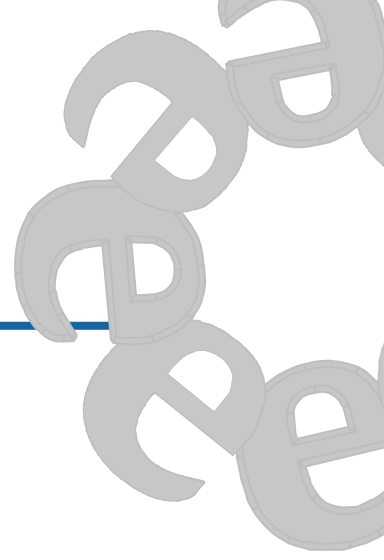


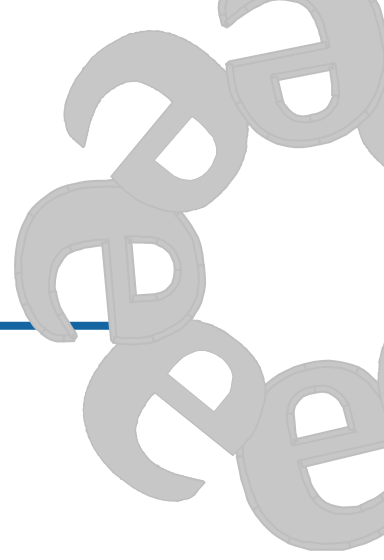
Alberta



Saskatchewan & Manitoba








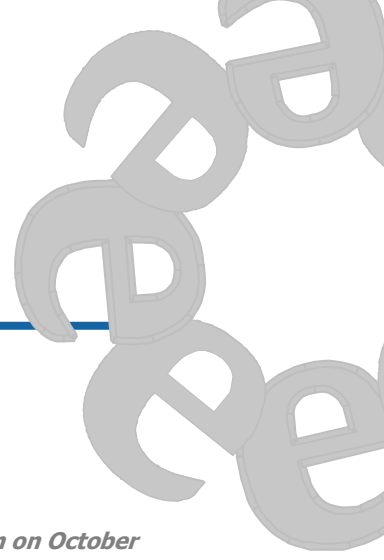




National Federal Vote Intention

Q. If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

BASE: Decided Voters	CANADA	Sex		Age				Income		
		M	F	<25	25-44	45-64	65+	<\$40 K	\$40-80K	+\$80 K
n=	2752	1267	1485	204	893	1085	570	927	1007	818
Margin of error=	1.9	2.7	2.5	6.7	3.3	3.0	4.1	3.2	3.1	3.4
	34	38	30	24	33	34	42	28	35	38
	25	25	26	21	24	26	29	26	24	27
	20	17	22	20	21	20	16	22	20	17
	11	10	12	22	12	10	6	12	10	11
	10	9	10	14	10	10	7	12	10	7

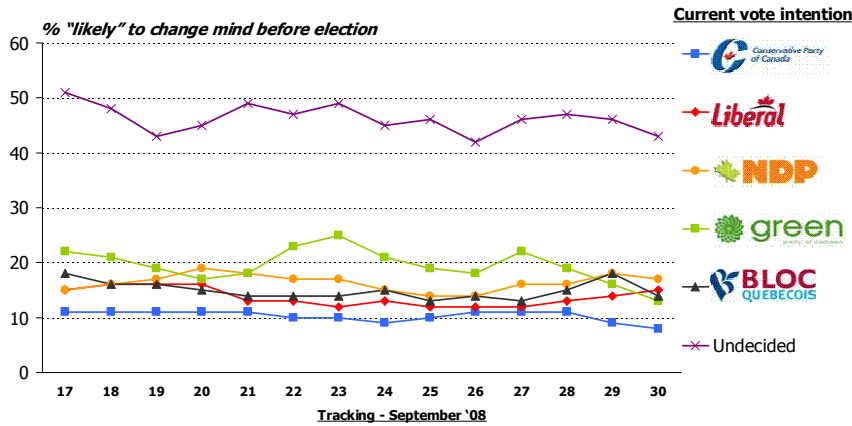


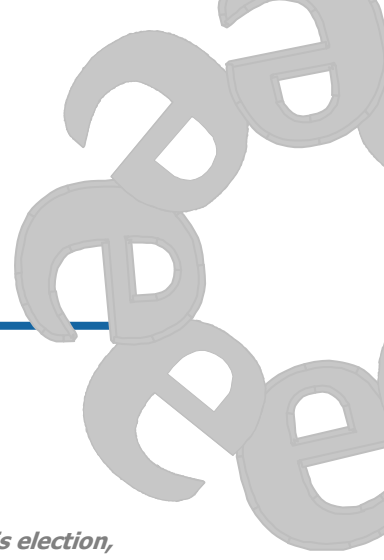
Likelihood of Changing Vote Intention

Q. How likely is it that you will change your mind between now and the federal election on October 14?

BASE: Canadians	Current Vote Intention						
	CANADA	CPC	LPC	NDP	GP	BQ	Undecided
Not likely (1-3)	78	88	77	75	79	81	44
Somewhat likely (4)	7	4	9	8	8	5	13
Likely (5-7)	15	8	15	17	13	14	43

Tracking Likelihood of Changing Vote Intention



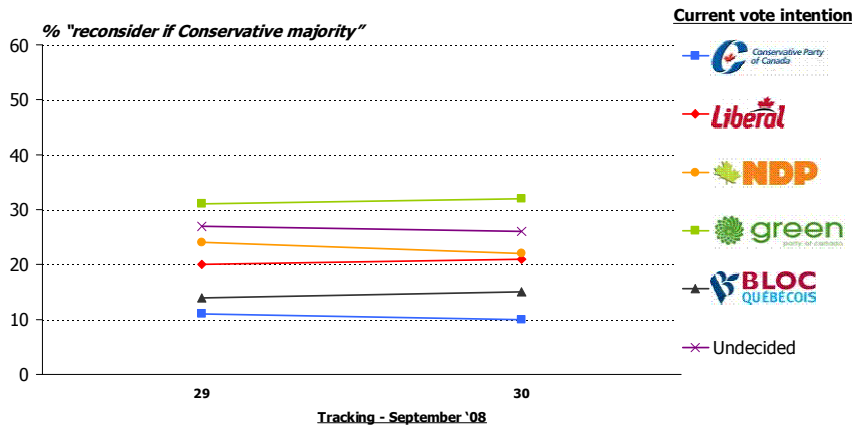


Blocking a Conservative Majority

Q. If you KNEW that the Conservatives were about to win a majority government in this election, would you then reconsider your current voting intention?

BASE: Canadians	Current Vote Intention						
	CANADA	CPC	LPC	NDP	GP	BQ	Undecided
Yes – would reconsider	19	10	21	22	32	15	26
No – would not reconsider	81	90	79	78	68	85	74

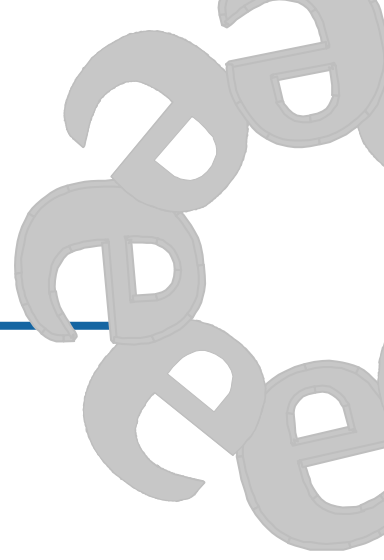
Tracking Blocking a Conservative Majority



Blocking a Conservative Majority






Q. If you KNEW that the Conservatives were about to win a majority government in this election, would you then reconsider your current voting intention?

BASE: Canadians	Region						
	CANADA	BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL
Yes – would reconsider	19	19	14	16	22	16	24
No – would not reconsider	81	81	86	84	78	84	76

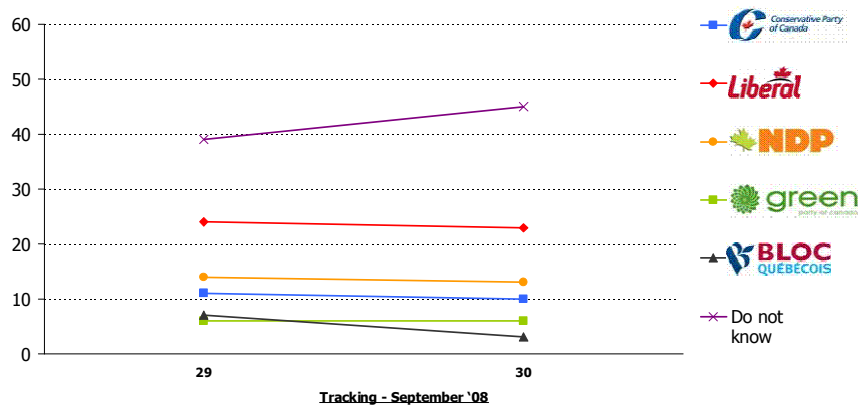


Vote Switching

Q. Which party do you think you might vote for instead?

BASE: Those who say they would change their vote	CANADA	Current Vote Intention					
		CPC	LPC	NDP	GP	BQ	Undecided
	23	21	0	44	44	19	9
	13	15	20	0	11	8	26
	10	0	11	16	7	16	12
	6	6	12	3	0	7	10
	3	3	2	6	3	0	2
Do not know	45	56	56	31	36	50	40

Tracking Vote Switching



Methodology:

EKOS' daily tracking polls are conducted using Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) technology, which allows respondents to enter their preferences by punching the keypad on their phone, rather than telling them to an operator.

Each weekday evening, a nationally representative sample of Canadians, 18 years of age and older is surveyed. The daily tracking number presented in this report is based on a rolling average of surveys collected September 28, 29 and 30.

In total, 3177 Canadians responded to the survey over this period. The margin of error associated with this rolling sample is +/-1.7 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as region, sex, age, income). All the data have been statistically weighted to ensure the samples composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.