

EKOS ELECTION.COM – October 2008

EKOS' SEAT PROJECTION

SMALL FLUCTUATIONS CAN MAKE BIG DIFFERENCES IN SEATS

[OTTAWA – October 6, 2008] – It's a nail-biter. We are entering a stage in the election campaign when small regional fluctuations in support could make huge differences to the futures of the parties and their leaders. In a universe where there are many three-way races, and even some four-way races, quite small changes in popular support can dramatically alter the arithmetic in terms of parliamentary seats.

A case in point:

Yesterday evening, EKOS released the weekend's results from its tracking poll, which on the surface showed very little change. The Conservatives and the Greens were down a percentage point from Friday's three-day roll up and the Liberals were up a point. Otherwise no change.

However, there were some subtle shifts in the regional numbers, most notably in the Atlantic provinces where the Liberals are doing better, and in British Columbia where the race between the Tories and NDP has tightened considerably. There were also smaller fluctuations in other regions.

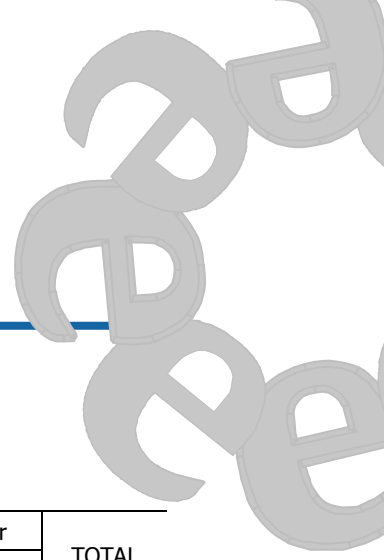
The results in terms of our seat projection model were quite dramatic.

On Friday's numbers, the Conservatives were aching close to a majority – just three seats shy. And the Liberals were headed to winning almost 90 seats fewer than the Tories.

The weekend numbers suggest a different story, however. The improved Liberal strength in the Atlantic provinces swings many seats over to the Liberals. They also creep up a few seats in Ontario at the Tories' expense. The suggested result: a Conservative Party barely improving its seat performance over the last election.

Small shifts: big implications for the potential result.

This is not so much a prediction of the outcome of the election October 14, as a reminder that with so many seats exquisitely poised among the various contenders, very subtle shifts in public mood over the remaining days of the campaign may greatly alter the political landscape of the coming years.








Seat Projection – Comparison of Oct. 3 and 5

	CPC		Liberal		NDP		BQ		Green		Other		TOTAL
	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th	
CANADA	152	130	60	78	41	42	54	58	0	0	1	0	308
Atlantic	22	9	6	20	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Quebec	7	6	12	10	1	1	54	58	0	0	1	0	75
Ontario	58	51	30	38	18	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	106
Manitoba	10	10	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Saskatchewan	13	13	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Alberta	26	26	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
British Columbia	16	15	7	5	13	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
Yukon / Territories	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

National Federal Vote Intention – Comparison of Oct. 3 and 5

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	
	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th	3 rd	5 th
	36	35	34	32	59	61	49	50	38	36	20	21	39	31
	24	25	24	21	17	17	19	19	30	32	20	19	28	36
	19	19	30	32	14	15	22	18	20	19	12	13	21	23
	11	10	13	15	10	7	10	13	13	13	7	5	12	10
	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	43	0	0

A note on our methodology:

This seat projection is based on the results of a recent poll 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.

Taking our three-day rolling samples (September 30 – October 2 for the October 3 figures and October 3-5 for the October 5 figures) of decided voters from across Canada, we have run them through a model that takes into account both the special arithmetic of our first-past-the-post system, and the parties' historical patterns of support.