

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Williams and Wall Close the Year as the Best-Rated Premiers in Canada

Ontario's Dalton McGuinty and Alberta's Ed Stelmach cannot clear the 20 per cent mark.

[TORONTO – Dec. 17, 2009] – The premiers of Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan are supported by a majority of people in their respective provinces, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample of 7,000 Canadians included large sample sizes in nine provinces.

Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams is the highest-rated provincial head of government in Canada. More than three-in-four respondents (78%) approve of the way Williams has performed, while only 10 per cent disapprove.

Saskatchewan's Brad Wall is second on the list of popular premiers with 58 per cent. Nova Scotia's Darrell Dexter—who took office in June—is next on the list with 43 per cent.

The approval rating for Manitoba's Greg Selinger is 29 per cent, but half of respondents in this province are undecided about the way he has performed. Selinger took over from Gary Doer in October.

The disapproval rating for the remaining five premiers surpasses the 50 per cent mark. Quebec Premier Jean Charest gets a positive review from only 25 per cent of respondents, while the proportion is slightly

KEY FINDINGS

- **Best Approval Ratings: Williams (NL) 78%, Wall (SK) 58%, Dexter (NS) 43%**
- **Worst Approval Ratings: Stelmach (AB) 14%, McGuinty (ON) 18%, Graham (NB) 20%**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From November 23 to November 29, 2009 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among 7,000 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The sample includes 1,000 adults in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, 800 adults in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, 450 adults in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and 400 adults in Newfoundland and Labrador. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1% for BC, AB, ON and QU, +/- 3.5 per cent for SK and MB, +/- 4.6 per cent for NB and NS, and +/- 4.9 per cent for NL. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population in each one of these provinces. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding..

CONTACT:

ON: Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com
QU and ATL: Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com
WEST: Hamish Marshall, Research Director, Public Affairs, 604-647-1987, hamish.marshall@angus-reid.com

lower for British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell (21%) and New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham (20%).

The Canadian premiers with the lowest approval rating at the end of the year are Ontario's Dalton McGuinty (18%) and Alberta's Ed Stelmach (14%).

These findings are part of The Angus Reid Report, the most comprehensive public opinion report ever developed in Canada.

To learn more about The Angus Reid Report, click here:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/AngusReidReport.pdf>

CONTACT:

ON: Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com
QU and ATL: Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com
WEST: Hamish Marshall, Research Director, Public Affairs, 604-647-1987, hamish.marshall@angus-reid.com

Provincial Governments

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following people?

	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure
Newfoundland and Labrador: Premier and Progressive Conservative Party leader Danny Williams	78%	10%	12%
Saskatchewan: Premier and Saskatchewan Party leader Brad Wall	58%	29%	13%
Nova Scotia: Premier and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Darrell Dexter	43%	32%	25%
Manitoba: Premier and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Greg Selinger	29%	22%	50%
Quebec: Premier and Liberal Party of Quebec leader Jean Charest	25%	52%	23%
British Columbia: Premier and BC Liberals leader Gordon Campbell	21%	66%	14%
New Brunswick: Premier and Liberal Party leader Shawn Graham	20%	63%	16%
Ontario: Premier and Liberal Party leader Dalton McGuinty	18%	56%	26%
Alberta: Premier and Progressive Conservative leader Ed Stelmach	14%	61%	25%

CONTACT:

ON: Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com
 QU and ATL: Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com
 WEST: Hamish Marshall, Research Director, Public Affairs, 604-647-1987, hamish.marshall@angus-reid.com

Provincial Governments		
Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following people?		
	November 2009	August 2009
Newfoundland and Labrador: Premier and Progressive Conservative Party leader Danny Williams	78%	77%
Saskatchewan: Premier and Saskatchewan Party leader Brad Wall	58%	60%
Nova Scotia: Premier and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Darrell Dexter	43%	46%
Manitoba: Premier and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Greg Selinger	29%	42% (*)
Quebec: Premier and Liberal Party of Quebec leader Jean Charest	25%	32%
British Columbia: Premier and BC Liberals leader Gordon Campbell	21%	17%
New Brunswick: Premier and Liberal Party leader Shawn Graham	20%	23%
Ontario: Premier and Liberal Party leader Dalton McGuinty	18%	23%
Alberta: Premier and Progressive Conservative leader Ed Stelmach	14%	25%

(*) Approval Rating for Manitoba Premier Gary Doer

CONTACT:

ON: Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com
 QU and ATL: Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com
 WEST: Hamish Marshall, Research Director, Public Affairs, 604-647-1987, hamish.marshall@angus-reid.com

Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at

<http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

CONTACT:

ON: Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com

QU and ATL: Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com

WEST: Hamish Marshall, Research Director, Public Affairs, 604-647-1987, hamish.marshall@angus-reid.com