

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Premiers Williams and Wall Still Popular; Graham Now at the Bottom

Approval for the performance of Nova Scotia Premier Darrel Dexter dropped by 20 points since November 2009.

[TORONTO – Mar. 15, 2010] – The premiers of Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan continue to be the only provincial heads of government who get a positive review from a majority of their constituents, 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 remains the highest-rated premier. Four-in-five respondents (80%, +2 since November 2009) approve of the way Williams has performed, while only 11 per cent disapprove.

Saskatchewan's Brad Wall is second on the list of popular premiers with 56 per cent (-2).

The approval rating for Manitoba's Greg Selinger stands at 27 per cent (-2), and almost half of respondents in this province (45%) are undecided about the way he has performed. Selinger took over from Gary Doer last October.

In a stunning reversal, the approval rating for Nova Scotia's Darrell Dexter dropped from 43 per cent at the end of 2009 to 23 per cent this time around. Dexter now sits in the low-20s along with three other provincial premiers: British Columbia's Gordon Campbell (23%), Quebec's Jean Charest (22%) and Ontario's Dalton McGuinty (21%).

KEY FINDINGS

- **Best Approval Ratings: Williams (NL) 80%, Wall (SK) 56%**
- **Worst Approval Ratings: Stelmach (AB) 16%, Graham (NB) 15%**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From February 16 to February 23, 2010 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..

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The lowest rated premiers in the country right now are Alberta's Ed Stelmach (16%, +2) and New Brunswick's Shawn Graham (15%, -5).

The only premiers who increased their approval rating since November were McGuinty (+3), Williams (+2), Campbell (+2) and Stelmach (+2).

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>

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Provincial Governments			
Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following people?			
	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador:</i> Premier and Progressive Conservative Party leader Danny Williams	80%	11%	9%
<i>Saskatchewan:</i> Premier and Saskatchewan Party leader Brad Wall	56%	24%	20%
<i>Manitoba:</i> Premier and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Greg Selinger	27%	28%	45%
<i>Nova Scotia:</i> Premier and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Darrell Dexter	23%	53%	24%
<i>British Columbia:</i> Premier and BC Liberals leader Gordon Campbell	23%	60%	17%
<i>Quebec:</i> Premier and Liberal Party of Quebec leader Jean Charest	22%	53%	24%
<i>Ontario:</i> Premier and Liberal Party leader Dalton McGuinty	21%	52%	27%
<i>Alberta:</i> Premier and Progressive Conservative leader Ed Stelmach	16%	62%	22%
<i>New Brunswick:</i> Premier and Liberal Party leader Shawn Graham	15%	62%	23%

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Provincial Governments		
Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following people?		
	February 2010	November 2009
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador:</i> Premier and Progressive Conservative Party leader Danny Williams	80%	78%
<i>Saskatchewan:</i> Premier and Saskatchewan Party leader Brad Wall	56%	58%
<i>Manitoba:</i> Premier and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Greg Selinger	27%	29%
<i>Nova Scotia:</i> Premier and New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Darrell Dexter	23%	43%
<i>British Columbia:</i> Premier and BC Liberals leader Gordon Campbell	23%	21%
<i>Quebec:</i> Premier and Liberal Party of Quebec leader Jean Charest	22%	25%
<i>Ontario:</i> Premier and Liberal Party leader Dalton McGuinty	21%	18%
<i>Alberta:</i> Premier and Progressive Conservative leader Ed Stelmach	16%	14%
<i>New Brunswick:</i> Premier and Liberal Party leader Shawn Graham	15%	20%

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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.

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.

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. More information on our electoral record can be found at:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**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>

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