

# Canadians Want May to Participate in Televised Leaders Debate

*Respondents from across Canada and with different party affiliations agree that Elizabeth May should be invited to the meetings.*

[CALGARY – Sept. 9, 2008] – Two-thirds of Canadians disagree with the association of broadcasters' decision to forbid Green Party leader Elizabeth May from participating in the televised debates this year, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,007 adults, 66 per cent of respondents think that the Green Party should be allowed to participate in the televised debates ahead of October's federal ballot. Almost two-in-five Canadians (39%) strongly agree with the Greens taking part in the debates.

On Sept. 8, a consortium of television broadcasters decided against allowing May to attend the debates. The pronouncement came after Canadian Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper said he would not participate in any debates where May would make an appearance because she is allegedly supporting the Liberals. Other party leaders said they would not attend the debates without Harper.

While the Green Party has not reached the 10-point mark in Angus Reid Strategies voting intention surveys conducted this year, a majority of Canadians (57%) think that it is important for the country to have a Green Party Member of Parliament—29 per cent of respondents strongly agree with this idea. Support for May's appearance in the debates is high across Canada. British Columbia holds the highest proportion of respondents who want May to attend the televised debates, and at least three-in-five respondents in all other regions concur.

## KEY FINDINGS

- **66% of Canadians think the Greens should be allowed in the leaders' debates ahead of October's ballot**
- **57% of respondents say it is important for Canada to have Green Party MPs – 29% agree strongly**
- **Most Canadians from all regions and political parties—including Conservative-heavy Alberta—support May's participation in debates**

Full topline results are at the end of this release

*From September 8 to September 9, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,007 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.1 %, 19 times out of 20. 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 of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

In Ontario, 62 per cent of respondents stress the importance of having a Green Party MP in Canada, and more than half of respondents everywhere else agree.

Noticeably, women (70%) and middle-aged Canadians (70%) are more likely to support May's participation in the electoral debates than others. Canadians over the age of 55 are less likely to support having the Greens in the debates—at a still high 60 per cent.

Women (61%) are also more inclined than men (53%) to say that it is important for Canada to have Green Party lawmakers. Remarkably, younger respondents (aged 18 to 34) are the most likely to agree (66%, compared to 54% and 55% in the other age brackets).

Political affiliation is no obstacle for supporting the Greens' participation in televised debates or their representation in Parliament. Sixty-eight per cent of respondents who would vote for the Bloc Québécois, 75 per cent of those supporting the New Democratic Party, and 77 per cent of Liberal backers think that May should be allowed to debate along their respective party leaders. A lower proportion of Conservatives—47 per cent—concur.

With the exception of Conservative voters (35%), the vast majority of Canadians supporting all other political parties—at least 62 per cent—think it is important for Canada to have a Green Party Member of Parliament.



*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
 The Green Party should be allowed to participate in the televised  
 electoral debates.*

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
<b>Strongly agree</b>	39%	45%	43%	38%	41%	31%	40%
<b>Moderately agree</b>	27%	28%	18%	28%	26%	31%	24%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	7%	3%	6%	1%	8%	9%	15%
<b>Moderately disagree</b>	17%	15%	24%	25%	16%	16%	15%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	8%	10%	8%	8%	13%	5%
<b>TOTAL Agree</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>TOTAL Disagree</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>31%</b>



*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
 The Green Party should be allowed to participate in the televised  
 electoral debates.*

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College / Tech schl	Univ+
<b>Strongly agree</b>	40%	38%	39%	41%	36%	39%	37%	43%	30%	40%	48%
<b>Moderately agree</b>	22%	32%	28%	29%	24%	28%	31%	20%	33%	26%	22%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	8%	7%	6%	9%	7%	7%	5%	10%	8%	6%	9%
<b>Moderately disagree</b>	25%	10%	15%	12%	25%	17%	17%	20%	17%	18%	15%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	14%	12%	10%	7%	9%	9%	6%	12%	9%	6%
<b>TOTAL Agree</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>TOTAL Disagree</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>24%</b>



*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
The Green Party should be allowed to participate in the televised  
electoral debates.*

	Will vote for or intends to vote for in next federal ballot					
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Green
<b>Strongly agree</b>	39%	18%	53%	46%	34%	87%
<b>Moderately agree</b>	27%	29%	24%	29%	34%	9%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	7%	10%	7%	9%	7%	0%
<b>Moderately disagree</b>	17%	33%	10%	6%	17%	0%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	10%	6%	10%	8%	4%
<b>TOTAL Agree</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>TOTAL Disagree</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>0%</b>



*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
 It is important for Canada to have a Green Party Member of Parliament.*

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
<b>Strongly agree</b>	29%	30%	31%	20%	30%	34%	17%
<b>Moderately agree</b>	28%	26%	21%	34%	32%	22%	34%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	12%	17%	9%	15%	9%	12%	15%
<b>Moderately disagree</b>	18%	12%	22%	23%	19%	15%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	14%	17%	7%	10%	17%	13%
<b>TOTAL Agree</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>TOTAL Disagree</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>36%</b>



*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
 It is important for Canada to have a Green Party Member of Parliament.*

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College / Tech schl	Univ+
<b>Strongly agree</b>	29%	29%	39%	24%	27%	30%	29%	34%	20%	29%	41%
<b>Moderately agree</b>	24%	32%	27%	30%	28%	28%	31%	24%	27%	28%	30%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	13%	10%	6%	14%	15%	8%	13%	11%	13%	13%	8%
<b>Moderately disagree</b>	24%	11%	15%	16%	22%	19%	16%	22%	22%	17%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	17%	14%	16%	8%	15%	11%	9%	19%	13%	7%
<b>TOTAL Agree</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>TOTAL Disagree</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>22%</b>



*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?  
It is important for Canada to have a Green Party Member of Parliament.*

	Will vote for or intends to vote for in next federal ballot					
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Green
<b>Strongly agree</b>	29%	11%	35%	38%	34%	80%
<b>Moderately agree</b>	28%	24%	41%	24%	30%	16%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	12%	19%	6%	10%	14%	0%
<b>Moderately disagree</b>	18%	32%	11%	13%	14%	0%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	14%	7%	15%	8%	4%
<b>TOTAL Agree</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>TOTAL Disagree</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>0%</b>

*Angus Reid Strategies is a full-service polling and market research firm which 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 Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995.*

*Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its four offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices San Francisco, New York and London, England. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.*

*Over the last year, Angus Reid has covered five 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. <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>*

*More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.pdf>*

**- 30 -**

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

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:  
[www.angusreidstrategies.com](http://www.angusreidstrategies.com)**