

FEDERAL ELECTION

Canadians Want May in Debates

Slightly less than two thirds want Green Party to participate in upcoming televised debates.

[OTTAWA – Apr. 5, 2011] – Nearly two thirds of Canadians (62%) want Elizabeth May to be allowed to participate in the upcoming televised election debates alongside the other major party leaders, according to findings of a recent poll by Vision Critical / Angus Reid.

The online survey of a representative sample of 1,009 Canadian adults also shows that while they more than half (52%) do not feel May would make a good Prime Minister, a similar proportion (51%) do feel it is important that Canada have a Green Party Member of Parliament.

Participation in Televised Debates

When asked if the Green Party should be allowed to participate in the debates alongside Stephen Harper, Michael Ignatieff, Jack Layton and Gilles Duceppe, 62 per cent of Canadians agree.

A similar survey conducted by Angus Reid in September 2008 found that at the time, two thirds of Canadians (66%) felt May should participate in the 2008 televised election debate.

This sentiment for May's inclusion in next week's debate is strongest among those respondents who voted Green (86%) or NDP (79%) in the 2008 federal election. 42 per cent of Conservative voters are against allowing May to participate. More women than men support the Green Party participating in the debates (68% female, 56% male). Younger voters favour May's participation in greater proportion than older respondents (69% 18-34, 63% 35-54, 54% 55+ agree).

KEY FINDINGS

- **62% of Canadians strongly or moderately agree with allowing the Green Party to participate in the televised electoral debates compared to the 2008 election when 66% of Canadians agreed May should participate**
- **52% strongly or moderately disagree that Elizabeth May would make a good Prime Minister of Canada.**
- **51% strongly or moderately agree that Canada should have a Green Party MP.**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From April 1 to April 4, 2011, Vision Critical / Angus Reid conducted an online survey among 1,009 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—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.

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 613-691-0948, jaideep.mukerji@visioncritical.com

Green Party in Parliament

Respondents in BC and Ontario feel it is important that the Green Party be represented in the House of Parliament (58% BC, 54% ON). Again, younger voters support the Greens more than their older counterparts with more than half of those under 54 years of age responding that the Green Party should have a Member of Parliament. 41 per cent of respondents over 55 disagree, responding that they do not want the Greens to have a seat. While a majority (51%) of respondents would like to see the Green Party represented in Parliament, this number is down six points from September 2008, when the same question was put to Canadians.

Learn about our [practice](#) / Consult our [surveys](#) / Follow us on [Twitter](#)

About Vision Critical®

Vision Critical is a global research and technology firm that creates software and services solutions for over 600 clients, including one-in-four of the world's top 100 brands. The company has offices across North America, Europe and Australia as well as a Global Partner Program that provides other research companies and consultants with access to top-of-the-line technology. Its Sparq™ product is the most widely adopted community panel platform on the planet.

About the Vision Critical Public Affairs practice

The Vision Critical Public Affairs practice is headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.

- 30 -

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

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 613-691-0948, jaideep.mukerji@visioncritical.com

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The Green Party should be allowed to participate in the televised electoral debates.

	All Canadians	2008 Federal Vote					
		Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Green	Other
Strongly Agree	38%	29%	40%	46%	38%	75%	26%
Moderately agree	24%	22%	25%	33%	16%	10%	4%
Moderately disagree	9%	11%	12%	7%	15%	<1%	14%
Strongly disagree	18%	31%	17%	6%	18%	7%	25%
Not sure	12%	8%	6%	7%	13%	7%	30%
TOTAL AGREE	62%	50%	65%	79%	54%	86%	30%
TOTAL DISAGREE	26%	42%	29%	13%	33%	7%	39%

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The Green Party should be allowed to participate in the televised electoral debates.

	All Canadians	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Strongly Agree	38%	49%	31%	23%	41%	34%	42%
Moderately agree	24%	26%	25%	25%	26%	21%	17%
Moderately disagree	9%	6%	6%	9%	9%	11%	8%
Strongly disagree	18%	10%	25%	26%	14%	19%	23%
Not sure	12%	10%	13%	16%	9%	15%	10%
TOTAL AGREE	62%	74%	56%	49%	67%	55%	59%
TOTAL DISAGREE	26%	16%	31%	35%	24%	30%	31%

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 613-691-0948, jaideep.mukerji@visioncritical.com

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The Green Party should be allowed to participate in the televised electoral debates.

	All Canadians	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly Agree	38%	35%	40%	41%	40%	33%
Moderately agree	24%	20%	28%	28%	23%	22%
Moderately disagree	9%	12%	6%	8%	9%	9%
Strongly disagree	18%	25%	11%	10%	16%	27%
Not sure	12%	7%	16%	13%	12%	10%
TOTAL AGREE	62%	56%	68%	69%	63%	54%
TOTAL DISAGREE	26%	37%	16%	18%	25%	36%

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The Green Party should be allowed to participate in the televised electoral debates.

	April 4, 2011	September 9, 2008
Strongly Agree	38%	39%
Moderately agree	24%	27%
Moderately disagree	9%	7%
Strongly disagree	18%	17%
Not sure	12%	9%
TOTAL AGREE	62%	66%
TOTAL DISAGREE	26%	25%

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 613-691-0948, jaideep.mukerji@visioncritical.com

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Elizabeth May would make a good Prime Minister of Canada.

	All Canadians	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Strongly Agree	4%	12%	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%
Moderately agree	17%	13%	9%	11%	20%	13%	33%
Moderately disagree	15%	19%	13%	23%	14%	18%	7%
Strongly disagree	37%	34%	43%	30%	36%	39%	34%
Not sure	27%	22%	32%	33%	27%	27%	23%
TOTAL AGREE	21%	25%	12%	14%	24%	15%	36%
TOTAL DISAGREE	52%	53%	56%	53%	49%	57%	41%

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

It is important for Canada to have a Green Party Member of Parliament.

	All Canadians	2008 Federal Vote					
		Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Green	Other
Strongly Agree	23%	10%	26%	33%	24%	81%	5%
Moderately agree	28%	25%	31%	32%	35%	14%	34%
Moderately disagree	14%	21%	16%	12%	11%	<1%	17%
Strongly disagree	18%	31%	14%	8%	23%	<1%	14%
Not sure	17%	12%	13%	15%	6%	4%	30%
TOTAL AGREE	51%	35%	58%	65%	59%	96%	39%
TOTAL DISAGREE	32%	53%	30%	21%	34%	<1%	31%

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 613-691-0948, jaideep.mukerji@visioncritical.com

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

It is important for Canada to have a Green Party Member of Parliament.

	All Canadians	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Strongly Agree	23%	33%	13%	19%	25%	19%	28%
Moderately agree	28%	25%	32%	24%	29%	30%	18%
Moderately disagree	14%	16%	14%	11%	15%	16%	8%
Strongly disagree	18%	12%	25%	21%	16%	18%	22%
Not sure	17%	15%	16%	25%	16%	16%	24%
TOTAL AGREE	51%	58%	46%	43%	54%	50%	45%
TOTAL DISAGREE	32%	28%	39%	32%	30%	34%	30%

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

It is important for Canada to have a Green Party Member of Parliament.

	All Canadians	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly Agree	23%	23%	24%	27%	25%	19%
Moderately agree	28%	26%	29%	29%	29%	25%
Moderately disagree	14%	18%	11%	11%	14%	18%
Strongly disagree	18%	23%	12%	15%	16%	23%
Not sure	17%	10%	23%	18%	17%	16%
TOTAL AGREE	51%	49%	53%	56%	54%	43%
TOTAL DISAGREE	32%	41%	23%	26%	29%	41%

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 613-691-0948, jaideep.mukerji@visioncritical.com

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

It is important for Canada to have a Green Party Member of Parliament.

	April 4, 2011	September 9, 2008
Strongly Agree	23%	29%
Moderately agree	28%	28%
Moderately disagree	14%	12%
Strongly disagree	18%	18%
Not sure	17%	13%
TOTAL AGREE	51%	57%
TOTAL DISAGREE	32%	29%

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 613-691-0948, jaideep.mukerji@visioncritical.com