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A Report To
**The Globe and Mail
and CTV**

**State of Canadian Public Opinion
on the Economy and the
January 27th Federal Budget**

January 15th, 2009

Introduction and Methodology

- ◆ *The Strategic Counsel* is pleased to present findings of a national telephone survey of 1,000 Canadians.
- ◆ Results are based on a proportionate national sample of Canadians 18 years of age or older.
- ◆ Interviews were conducted between Monday January 12th and Wednesday 14th, 2009.
- ◆ The following table outlines the sample distribution and associated margin of error.
- ◆ Note: Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Sample Distribution and Margin of Error

National Sample Regions	Sample Size	Margin of Error (±)
Canada	1000	3.1%
Quebec	243	6.3%
Rest of Canada	757	3.6%
Ontario	383	5.0%
West	300	5.7%

Note: Because of the smaller sample size, the margin of error for demographic breakdowns and other subsamples is significantly larger than for the overall percentages.

Detailed Tables

How would Canadians vote today?

	Canada				Quebec				Rest of Canada*				Ontario				West			
	Election Results		Dec 3 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Election Results		Dec 3 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Election Results		Dec 3 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Election Results		Dec 3 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Election Results		Dec 3 2008	Jan 12-14 2009
	2006	2008			2006	2008			2006	2008			2006	2008			2006	2008		
n=	**	**	1000	1000	**	**	243	243	**	**	757	757	**	**	383	383	**	**	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Conservative candidate	36	38	45	36	25	22	18	17	40	43	53	42	35	39	50	41	49	53	61	45
Liberal candidate	30	26	24	29	21	24	23	29	33	27	24	30	40	34	29	37	23	16	16	18
NDP candidate	18	18	14	18	8	12	13	11	21	20	15	21	20	18	13	16	22	22	16	25
Bloc Quebecois candidate	11	10	10	8	42	38	41	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Party candidate	5	7	8	8	4	4	5	8	5	8	9	8	5	8	9	7	5	9	7	11

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

**Note: Percentage based on total vote

Q. 3A If the federal election was being held tomorrow, do you think you'd be supporting the (ROTATE LIST) Liberal candidate in your area, Conservative candidate in your area, the NDP candidate in your area, or the Green Party candidate in your area or (QUEBEC ONLY) Bloc Quebecois candidate in your area?

Q. 3B In that case, which party's candidate in your local area would you be leaning towards at this time? Would it be the (ROTATE LIST) Liberal candidate in your area, Conservative candidate in your area, the NDP candidate in your area, Green Party candidate in your area or (QUEBEC ONLY) Bloc Quebecois candidate in your area?

Base: All respondents

What do Canadians think is the most important issue facing Canada today?

	2005	2006		2007		2008		2009
	Aug 3-7	Jan 4-5	Jul 12-15	Jan 11-14	Jul 12-15	Jan 10-13	Jun 12-22	Jan 12-14
n=	1000	1500	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Economic issues (including unemployment)	10	8	9	10	9	12	18	61
Environmental issues	9	4	12	26	23	22	16	7
Healthcare	16	25	20	18	16	12	11	7
Political issues (including scandals)	9	16	8	7	10	5	2	6
Afghanistan/Iraq/Terrorism/War/The military/National security	8	1	7	6	10	8	6	3
Gas prices	2	1	4	<1	1	3	18	1
Crime/Law and order issues	3	10	3	3	2	3	3	1
Education	2	2	4	3	3	2	1	1
Taxes	3	3	4	3	3	3	1	<1
Government spending/Deficit/Debt	5	2	3	3	1	1	1	<1

Q.2 In your opinion what is the most important issue facing Canada today – that is the one that you are most concerned about?

Base: All respondents

Which direction do Canadians see the economy heading in the coming months?

	Canada						Region																							
							Quebec						Rest of Canada*						Ontario						West					
	Jan 10-13 2008	Feb 14-17 2008	Mar 13-16 2008	Apr 10-13 2008	Jun 6-9 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 10-13 2008	Feb 14-17 2008	Mar 13-16 2008	Apr 10-13 2008	Jun 6-9 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 10-13 2008	Feb 14-17 2008	Mar 13-16 2008	Apr 10-13 2008	Jun 6-9 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 10-13 2008	Feb 14-17 2008	Mar 13-16 2008	Apr 10-13 2008	Jun 6-9 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 10-13 2008	Feb 14-17 2008	Mar 13-16 2008	Apr 10-13 2008	Jun 6-9 2008	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	274	243	243	243	243	243	753	757	757	757	757	757	379	383	383	383	383	383	297	300	300	300	300	300
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Getting worse	28	29	31	32	44	46	21	34	29	32	39	45	30	27	32	32	46	47	36	31	34	36	54	47	24	21	29	28	38	50
Staying the same	51	50	48	49	41	38	63	47	52	51	46	41	47	51	47	49	39	37	46	48	44	49	34	37	50	54	52	49	43	36
Getting stronger	18	19	17	15	12	13	15	17	17	14	12	12	19	19	17	15	12	13	13	16	17	12	10	13	23	22	16	19	16	12
DK/NA/Ref	4	3	3	4	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	3	3	5	4	5	4	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	2

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q.4 In the coming months, do you see the Canadian economy getting stronger, getting worse or staying the same?

Base: All respondents

Which direction do Canadians see the economy heading in the coming months?

	Canada		Voting Intention									
			Conservative Voters		Liberal Voters		NDP Voters		Bloc Quebecois Voters		Green Party Voters	
	Jun 6-9, 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Jun 6-9, 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Jun 6-9, 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Jun 6-9, 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Jun 6-9, 2008	Jan 12-14 2009	Jun 6-9, 2008	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	1000	254	318	238	261	140 ^C	163	83 ^C	75	82 ^C	70
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Getting worse	44	46	42	42	40	49	50	51	42	43	46	54
Staying the same	41	38	43	40	45	38	39	35	48	43	46	35
Getting stronger	12	13	13	15	15	10	11	12	6	11	5	8
DK/NA/Ref	3	3	3	2	1	3	1	3	4	3	3	4

Q.4 In the coming months, do you see the Canadian economy getting stronger, getting worse or staying the same?

Base: Total sample

C Caution, small base size

Do Canadians think running a deficit is the right thing to do?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	243	757	383	300
	%	%	%	%	%
Going into a deficit now is the right thing to do	59	48	63	67	58
Going into a deficit now is the wrong thing to do	34	46	30	27	34
DK/NA/Ref	8	7	8	7	9

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Importance that the budget be balanced

	Canada	Region				
		Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie	West
	Feb 14-17, 2008	Feb 14-17 2008	Feb 14-17, 2008	Feb 14-17, 2008	Feb 14-17, 2008	Feb 14-17, 2008
n=	1000	74	243	383	167	133
	%	%	%	%	%	%
NET Important	92	90	93	92	90	93
Very important	60	56	50	64	66	63
Somewhat important	32	34	44	28	25	30
Not too important	4	3	4	3	5	4
Not at all important	2	4	2	3	1	3
NET Not Important	6	8	5	6	5	6
DK/NA/Ref	2	3	1	1	4	1

Q 5. The federal government has already announced that in the upcoming Budget, on January 27, Canada will go into a deficit for the first time in more than ten years. Some people say that going into a deficit now is the right thing to do because the government needs to spend more money to stimulate the economy in these difficult times. Others say that going into a deficit now is the wrong thing to do because it will cause long term economic problems and increase the burden on future generations of Canadians. Which view is closer to your own?

Base: All respondents

Do Canadians think running a deficit is the right thing to do?

	Canada	Voting Intention				
		Conservative Voters	Liberal Voters	NDP Voters	Bloc Quebecois Voters	Green Party Voters
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	318	261	133	75	70
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Going into a deficit now is the right thing to do	59	65	62	58	53	41
Going into a deficit now is the wrong thing to do	34	30	29	37	43	51
DK/NA/Ref	8	5	9	6	3	8

Importance that the budget be balanced

	Canada	Voting Intention				
		Conservative Voters	Liberal Voters	NDP Voters	Bloc Quebecois Voters	Green Party Voters
	Feb 14-17, 2008	Feb 14-17, 2008	Feb 14-17, 2008	Feb 14-17, 2008	Feb 14-17, 2008	Feb 14-17, 2008
n=	1000	300	209	89	76	94
	%	%	%	%	%	%
NET Important	92	95	93	87	91	93
Very important	60	70	63	58	43	49
Somewhat important	32	25	30	30	49	44
Not too important	4	5	4	7	4	4
Not at all important	2	<1	3	3	2	2
NET Not Important	6	5	7	9	6	6
DK/NA/Ref	2	<1	-	4	3	2

Q 5. The federal government has already announced that in the upcoming Budget, on January 27, Canada will go into a deficit for the first time in more than ten years. Some people say that going into a deficit now is the right thing to do because the government needs to spend more money to stimulate the economy in these difficult times. Others say that going into a deficit now is the wrong thing to do because it will cause long term economic problems and increase the burden on future generations of Canadians. Which view is closer to your own?

Base: All respondents

What do Canadians think should be priorities for the January 27th budget?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	243	757	383	300
	%	%	%	%	%
Invest in infrastructure construction - especially transit, roads and highways	54	54	54	54	54
Cut personal income taxes	39	38	40	39	38
Invest in training programs	34	26	37	35	41
Making the economy more competitive and productive in the long term.	28	25	29	30	27
Cutting federal government spending	27	30	25	25	27
Ensure private sector pension plans are able to pay out full pensions	25	25	24	22	25
Provide major financial aid to important sectors such as the auto sector, manufacturing and the forestry sector	25	25	24	31	17
Increase unemployment benefits	18	17	18	17	17
Cut the GST by a further percentage point	11	7	13	12	15
Offer one-time \$400 tax rebate.	8	10	7	6	8

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q.6 Which three of the following things would you like to see the Federal government undertake in the January 27th budget.

Base: All respondents

What do Canadians think should be priorities for the January 27th budget?

	Canada	Voting Intention				
		Conservative Voters	Liberal Voters	NDP Voters	Bloc Quebecois Voters	Green Party Voters
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	318	261	163	75	70
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Invest in infrastructure construction - especially transit, roads and highways	54	58	53	50	56	49
Cut personal income taxes	39	44	39	37	37	37
Invest in training programs	34	32	31	46	26	39
Making the economy more competitive and productive in the long term.	28	28	29	24	23	40
Cutting federal government spending	27	28	24	22	34	23
Ensure private sector pension plans are able to pay out full pensions	25	20	25	24	23	25
Provide major financial aid to important sectors such as the auto sector, manufacturing and the forestry sector	25	25	26	25	23	17
Increase unemployment benefits	18	14	22	19	24	17
Cut the GST by a further percentage point	11	15	10	11	10	10
Offer one-time \$400 tax rebate.	8	6	8	10	9	6

Q.6 Which three of the following things would you like to see the Federal government undertake in the January 27th budget.

Base: Total sample

Which party do Canadians think is best able to manage the economy in a recession?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	243	757	383	300
	%	%	%	%	%
Conservative Party	40	27	44	41	50
Liberal Party	38	48	35	41	27
Neither (Volunteered)	8	9	8	7	9
DK/NA/Ref	14	16	13	11	14

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Which party do Canadians think is best able to manage the economy in a recession?

	Canada	Voting Intention				
		Conservative Voters	Liberal Voters	NDP Voters	Bloc Quebecois Voters	Green Party Voters
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	318	261	163	75	70
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Conservative Party	40	86	13	23	23	23
Liberal Party	38	6	74	43	55	41
Neither (Volunteered)	8	3	3	15	12	16
DK/NA/Ref	14	5	10	19	11	21

Q 7. Which political party – the Conservatives or the Liberals -- would be best able to manage the Canadian economy in a recession

Base: All respondents

Do Canadians think the Harper government has done a good job in responding to the slowing economy?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	243	757	383	300
	%	%	%	%	%
NET Very good/Good job	47	46	47	43	55
Very good job	5	3	5	4	6
Good job	43	43	42	38	49
Poor job	36	37	36	36	33
Very poor job	13	13	13	18	8
NET Very poor/Poor job	49	49	49	54	41
DK/NA/Ref	4	5	4	4	4

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q 8. Has the Harper government done a good or poor job in responding to the slowing of the Canadian economy?

Base: All respondents

Do Canadians think the Harper government has done a good job in responding to the slowing economy?

	Canada	Voting Intention				
		Conservative Voters	Liberal Voters	NDP Voters	Bloc Quebecois Voters	Green Party Voters
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	318	261	163	75	70
	%	%	%	%	%	%
NET Very good/Good job	47	82	29	20	44	33
Very good job	5	10	2	1	2	2
Good job	43	72	27	19	42	31
Poor job	36	13	45	57	43	41
Very poor job	13	2	23	20	11	18
NET Very poor/Poor job	49	15	68	77	54	60
DK/NA/Ref	4	3	4	3	2	8

Q 8. Has the Harper government done a good or poor job in responding to the slowing of the Canadian economy?

Base: All respondents

How long to Canadians think the recession will last?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	243	757	383	300
	%	%	%	%	%
The next three months	2	3	1	2	1
The next six months	14	13	14	14	15
The entire year of 2009	32	31	33	35	30
Into 2010	49	50	49	47	52
DK/NA/ref	3	2	3	2	2

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q 9. And how long do you think the recession will last? The next three months, the next six months, the entire year of 2009, or into 2010?

Base: All respondents

How long to Canadians think the recession will last?

	Canada	Voting Intention				
		Conservative Voters	Liberal Voters	NDP Voters	Bloc Quebecois Voters	Green Party Voters
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	318	261	163	75	70
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The next three months	2	2	1	1	2	1
The next six months	14	16	12	13	15	14
The entire year of 2009	32	34	32	33	33	33
Into 2010	49	45	55	50	47	51
DK/NA/ref	3	3	1	3	2	1

Q 9. And how long do you think the recession will last? The next three months, the next six months, the entire year of 2009, or into 2010?

Base: All respondents

Do Canadians think the Liberals should vote for the budget or bring the government down?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	243	757	383	300
	%	%	%	%	%
Vote for it anyway in the house of Commons	49	47	50	47	55
Vote against it and bring down the government	43	49	41	45	35
DK/NA/ref	8	4	9	8	11

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q10. If the Liberals are not satisfied with the Harper government's Budget, should they vote for it anyway in the House of Commons, or vote against it and bring down the government?
 Base: All respondents

Do Canadians think the Liberals should vote for the budget or bring the government down?

	Canada	Voting Intention				
		Conservative Voters	Liberal Voters	NDP Voters	Bloc Quebecois Voters	Green Party Voters
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	318	261	163	75	70
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Vote for it anyway in the house of Commons	49	80	33	30	43	37
Vote against it and bring down the government	43	16	61	63	55	56
DK/NA/ref	8	5	7	7	2	8

Q10. If the Liberals are not satisfied with the Harper government's Budget, should they vote for it anyway in the House of Commons, or vote against it and bring down the government?
 Base: All respondents

If the budget is defeated, do Canadians prefer an election or a Liberal-NDP coalition government?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	243	757	383	300
	%	%	%	%	%
An immediate federal election	49	26	57	54	61
A Liberal-NDP coalition government, led by Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff	44	66	36	38	32
DK/NA/ref	7	8	7	8	7

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q11. If the Harper Government's Budget is defeated in the House of Commons by the opposition, which would you favour:

An immediate federal election

A Liberal-NDP coalition government, led by Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff

Base: All respondents

If the budget is defeated, do Canadians prefer an election or a Liberal-NDP coalition government?

	Canada	Voting Intention				
		Conservative Voters	Liberal Voters	NDP Voters	Bloc Quebecois Voters	Green Party Voters
	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009	Jan 12-14 2009
n=	1000	318	261	163	75	70
	%	%	%	%	%	%
An immediate federal election	49	80	34	33	20	42
A Liberal-NDP coalition government, led by Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff	44	15	60	62	77	49
DK/NA/ref	7	5	6	5	4	10

Q11. If the Harper Government's Budget is defeated in the House of Commons by the opposition, which would you favour:

An immediate federal election

A Liberal-NDP coalition government, led by Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff

Base: All respondents