



Public Opinion on House of Commons Seat Distribution

Crosstabulations

December 2 to 4, 2011

n=1,004 Canadians, 18 years of age and older

Methodology

The survey was conducted online with 1,004 respondents in English and French using an internet survey platform licensed by Abacus Data. A random sample of panelists was invited to participate in the survey from a larger internet representative panel of 150,000 Canadians. The survey was completed from December 2 to 4, 2011.

Steps were taken to ensure that the survey respondents were representative of the population over 18 years of age. The sample distribution was balanced to match the distribution of actual census data for age, gender, education, and province. Moreover, statistical weighting was applied to the data after the completion of the survey for age, gender, education, region, and previous federal vote.

Since the online survey was not a random, probability based sample, a margin of error could not be calculated. The margin of error for a survey of 1,004 respondents using a probability sample is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

ABACUS DATA POLL

Public Opinion on House of Commons Seat Distribution National Survey - n=1,004, December 2 to 4, 2011

		The table below reports the percentage of the Canadian population (from the 2011 Census) and the current percentage of the seats each province has in the House of Commons.			
		Do you think seat distribution is fair or unfair, or are you unsure?			
		Fair	Unfair	Unsure	Count
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Unweighted Count
Gender	Canada	35%	37%	28%	1004
	Male	42%	39%	19%	499
Age Group	Female	28%	34%	38%	505
	18 to 29	39%	32%	29%	141
	30 to 44	39%	35%	26%	222
	45 to 60	30%	41%	30%	359
	60 and over	36%	35%	29%	282
Region/Province	Atlantic	38%	38%	24%	80
	Quebec	36%	28%	36%	280
	Ontario	42%	28%	30%	333
	Central	31%	44%	25%	73
	Alberta	22%	53%	24%	112
Federal Vote Intention	British Columbia	24%	60%	16%	126
	Conservative Party	35%	43%	22%	368
	Liberal Party	40%	36%	23%	163
	New Democratic Party	36%	32%	32%	266
	Green Party	39%	40%	21%	44
	Bloc Quebecois	32%	37%	31%	66
Educational Attainment	HS or less	30%	31%	39%	408
	College or some university	38%	39%	24%	369
	University degree	39%	45%	17%	227

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		<p>At the end of October, the Federal Government introduced legislation in Parliament that would move every province towards representation by population. That is, the percentage of seats a province gets in the House of Commons would match more closely the percentage of the population living in that province.</p> <p>The legislation would add a total 30 new seats to the House of Commons increasing the number from 308 to 338.</p> <p>Ontario will receive 15 additional seats British Columbia will receive 6 additional seats Alberta will receive 6 additional seats Quebec will receive 3 additional seats</p> <p>The new distribution of seats by province would be like that in the table below:</p> <p>Do you support or oppose the legislation to increase the number of seats in the House of Commons by 30 to move every province towards representation by population?</p>					
		Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Count
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Unweighted Count
Gender	Canada	11%	33%	27%	16%	12%	1004
	Male	13%	35%	22%	16%	14%	499
Age Group	Female	10%	32%	32%	17%	10%	505
	18 to 29	9%	34%	39%	13%	6%	141
	30 to 44	15%	36%	27%	14%	9%	222
	45 to 60	10%	31%	24%	19%	16%	359
	60 and over	10%	34%	21%	20%	15%	282
Region/Province	Atlantic	3%	21%	29%	26%	20%	80
	Quebec	9%	21%	38%	19%	13%	280
	Ontario	12%	40%	28%	12%	8%	333
	Central	11%	17%	19%	23%	31%	73
	Alberta	16%	44%	18%	13%	9%	112
Federal Vote Intention	British Columbia	14%	42%	15%	19%	11%	126
	Conservative Party	20%	36%	21%	13%	10%	368
	Liberal Party	7%	42%	21%	17%	13%	163
	New Democratic Party	6%	35%	28%	18%	13%	266
	Green Party	13%	27%	21%	28%	12%	44
	Bloc Quebecois	1%	16%	37%	26%	20%	66
Educational Attainment	HS or less	9%	28%	33%	17%	13%	408
	College or some university	14%	36%	23%	15%	12%	369
	University degree	10%	38%	22%	18%	11%	227

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		Which of the following three proposals for what to do with seats in the House of Commons do you prefer the most?			
		Increase the number of seats in the House of Commons by 30 seats in an effort to move towards representation by population.	Keep the number of seats the same but shifts seats around by giving more to provinces that are underrepresented and taking seats away from provinces that are over represented in the House of Commons.	Keep things the way they are now.	Count
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Unweighted Count
Gender	Canada	21%	57%	22%	1004
	Male	23%	57%	20%	499
	Female	19%	58%	23%	505
Age Group	18 to 29	29%	43%	29%	141
	30 to 44	25%	55%	21%	222
	45 to 60	17%	64%	19%	359
	60 and over	18%	62%	21%	282
Region/Province	Atlantic	18%	46%	35%	80
	Quebec	10%	57%	33%	280
	Ontario	29%	52%	19%	333
	Central	18%	62%	20%	73
	Alberta	25%	61%	13%	112
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