

Winnipeg Free Press Probe Research Inc. News Release

FEDERAL PARTY STANDINGS IN MANITOBA

Release Date: Oct. 9, 2008

This province-wide Omnibus survey was designed and conducted by Probe Research Inc. via telephone interviews conducted between September 15th and October 6th, 2008 among a random and representative sampling of 1,000 Manitoba adults.

With a sample of 1,000 one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results are within +/- 3.1 percentage points of what they would have been if the entire adult population of Manitoba had been interviewed. The margin-of-error is higher within each of the survey's population sub-groups.

Modified random digit dialling was used to ensure that all Manitoba adults would have an equal opportunity to participate in this Probe Research survey. Minor statistical weighting has been applied to this sample to ensure that the age and gender balance correspond with the province as a whole.

FEDERAL PARTY STANDINGS IN MANITOBA

Winnipeg, Manitoba – In the final stretch of the 2008 federal election campaign, Stephen Harper's Conservatives enjoy a comfortable lead over their political rivals in Manitoba. This finding emerged from a recent province-wide telephone survey taken for the *Winnipeg Free Press* by Probe Research Inc. Other research findings reveal the NDP and Liberals competing head-to-head for second spot in most Winnipeg areas as well as across most socio-demographic groups.

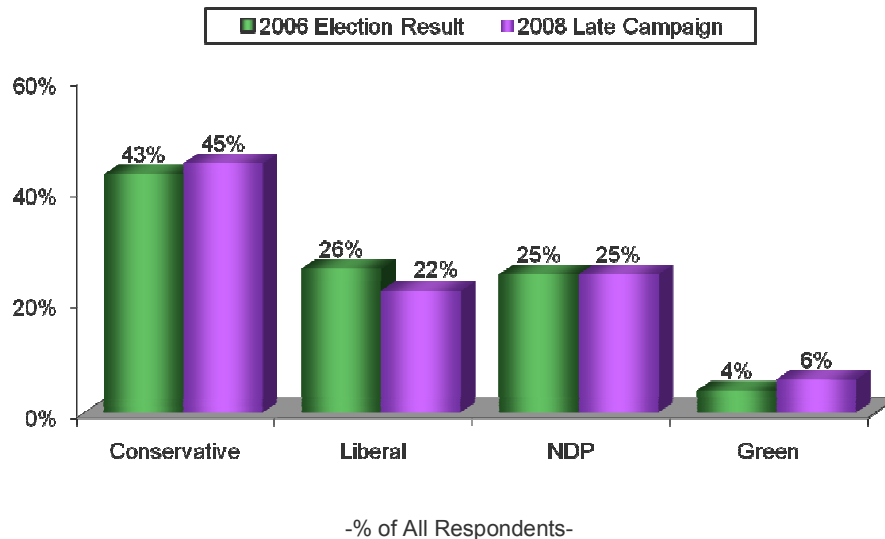
Replay of 2006 Results Probable

Current levels of federal party support in Manitoba closely mirror the results of the last federal election that was held in early 2006. With the support of 45 percent of decided Manitoba voters, Stephen Harper's Conservatives are up by two percent since 2006 and are well out in front of the competing NDP (25%) and Liberals (22%). For their part, Liberal support across the province has declined by four percentage points since the last federal vote while NDP support has remained unchanged. Six percent of Manitoba voters now intend to support Elizabeth May's Green party – a rise of two percent over their actual 2006 election performance in Manitoba. Sixteen percent of Manitoba's eligible voters are currently undecided or unwilling to reveal their federal voting intentions.

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Manitobans Federal Party Preferences - 2006 Pop Vote and 2008 Late Campaign -

"Thinking about Federal politics now, as you may have heard, a federal election will be held on October 14th. Which party's candidate would you be most likely to support?" (n=1,000)



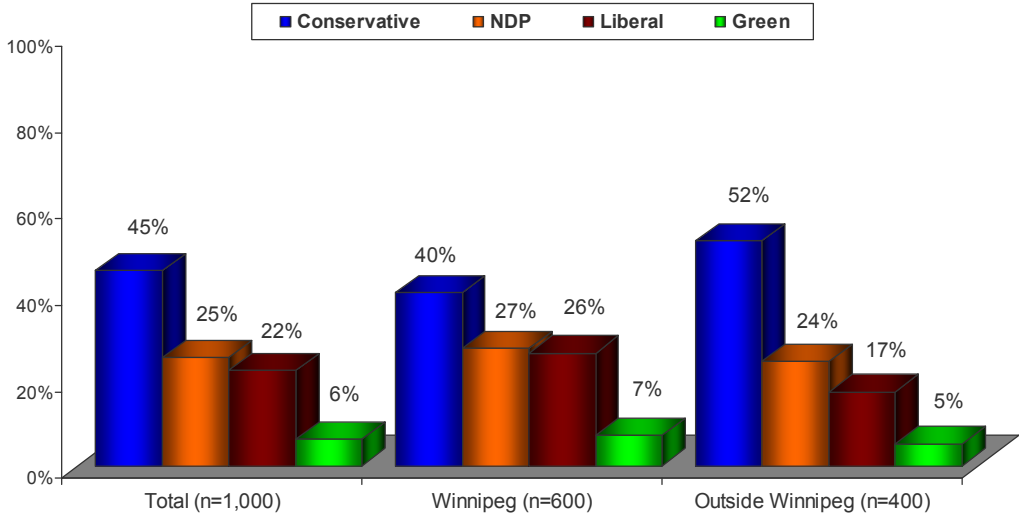
TORIES ENJOY BROAD REGIONAL SUPPORT

As the following graph reveals, the Conservatives continue to enjoy massive support beyond the Perimeter Highway, although they enjoy only a slightly less impressive lead over their New Democrat and Liberal rivals within Winnipeg. The Conservatives are the top choice of 40 percent of Winnipeg residents, while the New Democrats and Liberals are tied within the city (at 26% and 27% respectively) and the Greens stand at seven percent. Outside Winnipeg, a massive 52 percent of decided voters support the Conservatives, while 24 percent back the NDP, 17 percent plan to vote Liberal and five percent support the Green Party.



Federal Party Support By Manitoba Region

“Thinking about Federal politics now, as you may have heard, a federal election will be held on October 14th. Which party’s candidate would you be most likely to support?” (n=1,000)



CONSERVATIVES ALSO POPULAR WITH VARIETY OF VOTERS

As the following table shows, the Conservatives tend to be the most popular party among Manitoba voters from all walks of life. The party is now only slightly more popular with male than female voters (47% versus 42%). Support for the Conservatives also tends to increase with age (39% of 18-34 year olds back the party compared to 46% of 35-54 year olds and rising to 50% of those aged 55 years and over) and income (29% of those earning less than \$30,000 per year plan to vote Conservative compared to 43% of those earning \$30,000-\$59,999 and topping out at 48% among those earning more than \$60,000 annually). Conversely, the New Democrats are the most popular choice among low-income earners (44% of those earning less than \$30,000 plan to vote NDP versus 29% for the Conservatives and only 15% for the Liberals).

TABLE 1: FEDERAL PARTY SUPPORT IN MANITOBA ACROSS SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS - Sept. 15-Oct. 6, 2008 - - Net Voting Intentions among Decided Voters -						
<i>"Thinking about Federal politics now, as you may have heard, a federal election will be held on October 14th. Which party's candidate would you be most likely to support?"</i>						
	Total	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
(Base)	(1,000)	(484)	(516)	(311)	(351)	(276)
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Conservative	45	47	42	39	46	50
NDP	25	22	29	27	25	23
Liberal	22	21	22	25	22	19
Green	6	7	5	8	4	7
Other	2	2	2	1	3	1
	Education			Income		
	High School	Some Post-Sec.	Post-Sec. Grad	<\$30K	\$30K-\$59K	\$60K+
(Base)	(312)	(174)	(487)	(121)	(273)	(473)
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Conservative	49	36	45	29	43	48
NDP	26	29	24	44	25	20
Liberal	14	27	25	15	23	25
Green	9	7	4	10	7	4
Other	2	1	2	2	2	2

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