

Winnipeg Free Press Probe Research Inc. News Release

MANITOBANS' VIEWS ON PROPOSED COALITION GOVERNMENT

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This province-wide Omnibus survey was designed and conducted by Probe Research Inc. via telephone interviews conducted between December 2nd and December 4th, 2008 among a random and representative sampling of 300 Manitoba adults.

With a sample of 300, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results are within ± 5.7 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 corresponds with that of the province as a whole.

MANITOBANS' VIEWS ON PROPOSED COALITION GOVERNMENT

Winnipeg, Manitoba – Nearly two-thirds of Manitobans oppose the formation of a Liberal-NDP coalition government in Ottawa supported by the Bloc Québécois, while one-quarter favour an early change of government, a *Winnipeg Free Press*/Probe Research poll finds. The poll also reveals that one-in-ten Manitobans remain undecided on this question. A random and representative cross-section of 300 Manitoba adults were interviewed by telephone between Tuesday, December 2nd and Thursday, December 4th.

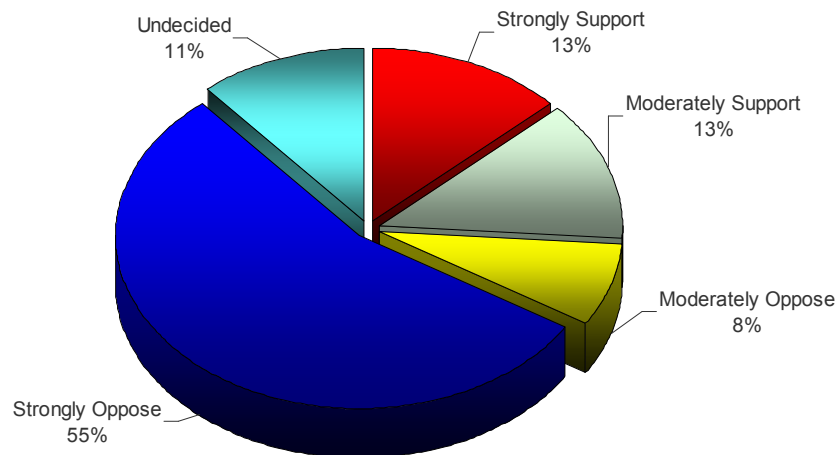
Majority Oppose Coalition Government

Manitobans were asked whether they support or oppose a new Liberal-NDP coalition government, headed by Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, and supported by the Bloc Québécois. Nearly two-thirds of Manitobans (63%) expressed opposition to a Liberal-NDP coalition taking office with Bloc support, including more than one-half (55%) who expressed *strong opposition* to such a change. Only one-quarter of Manitobans (26%) support replacing the Conservative government with the proposed Liberal-NDP coalition, including about one-in-seven (13%) who *strongly* support the coalition plan.



Manitobans' Views on the Prospect of a Coalition Government in Ottawa

"Canada's three major opposition parties have signed an agreement that calls for the defeat of Stephen Harper's Conservative government and its replacement with a new coalition government made up of the Liberals and the NDP. This coalition would be supported by the Bloc Quebecois and, under the terms of this agreement, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion would serve as Canada's new Prime Minister. All things considered, do you support or oppose having this new coalition government? (And is that strongly or moderately?)" (n=300)



Base: Manitobans aged 18+

Though the coalition concept was rejected by Manitobans from all walks of life, support for a Liberal-NDP coalition was substantially stronger than average among college and university graduates (38% *strongly* or *somewhat support*, versus 18% among those with Grade 12 or less), men (32%, versus 21% of women) and Winnipeg residents (30%, versus 22% in the rest of Manitoba).

For more information on this survey, please contact:

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