CARP Pre-Election Poll Report
October 22, 2015

Key Findings

In a massive new poll from CARP taken by more than 12,000 respondents, members accurately predicted the results of the election. Conducted three days before the federal election, an astonishing 4-in-10 members had already voted in advance polls, and a further one half were certain to vote for a total of almost all CARP members who had voted already or were certain to vote.

The poll had the Liberals in the lead in voter preference, with a nine-point advantage over the Conservatives. The NDP, once favoured first by our members, fell to a distant third.

While there was a tie in preference for a Prime Minister between Justin Trudeau and Stephen Harper, Tom Mulcair didn't compete on this measure with our members. These are also the results for the party with the best platform for older Canadians, where the Liberals and the Conservatives were tied and the NDP lagged.

When asked the most important issue in the campaign, the largest group cited "jobs and the economy", but it is a maxim that the economy will always be cited first in this measure, and the important values are seen second and third, which in this case were "time for a change" and "decline of democracy". When coupled with those who said the biggest issue is "ethics and transparency in government", it added up to more than 4-in-10 for whom the biggest issue in the election was related to changing a government they no longer trust.

Detailed Findings

Almost all CARP members have voted are ore certain to vote (91%) in total.

How likely are to vote in the federal election on October 19?

CERTAIN/HAVE VOTED	91%
Have already voted	42%
Absolutely certain, barring an unforeseen emergency	27%
Certain	22%
Extremely likely	4%
Very likely	1%
Somewhat likely	1%
Not very likely	1%
Not at all likely	1%
DON'T KNOW	1%

The Liberals have a strong lead among close to half in member preference (45%), compared to just more than a third for the Conservatives (36%), while the NDP are no longer contenders (13%).

Which party's candidate will you vote for, or have you already voted for, in this election?

Liberal	45%
Conservative	36%
NDP	13%
Green Party	4%
Bloc Quebecois	*
Another party	*

Justin Trudeau (34%) and Stephen Harper (33%) are relatively equally likely to be seen as the best Prime Minister, but Tom Mulcair is not (14%).

Regardless of which party you plan to vote for, or have already voted for, which of the party leaders do you think would make the best Prime Minister?

Justin Trudeau	34%
Stephen Harper	33%
Tom Mulcair	14%
Elizabeth May	8%
Gilles Duceppe	*
NONE OF THESE	7%
DON'T KNOW	5%

The Liberals and Conservatives are tied for having the best platform for older Canadians (34% each), while the NDP lags (14%).

Which one of the parties has the best platform for older Canadians?

Liberal	34%
Conservative	34%
NDP	14%
Green Party	3%
DON'T KNOW	15%

Jobs and the economy are seen to be the most important issue in this election (25%), which is always the case. It is instructive to see what is second most important, and in this case it's "time for a change" (17%), followed by "decline of democracy" (13%). When combined with "ethics and transparency in government" (11%) it may be seen that more than 4-in-10 think the most important electoral issue is related to their lack of trust in the current government (41% in total). Other issues include health care (11%) and retirement security (12%).

Which is the single most important issue in this election to you?

Jobs and the economy	25%
Time for a change	17%
Decline of democracy	13%
Retirement security	12%
Health care	11%
Ethics and transparency in government	11%
National security and terrorism	5%
Climate change	3%
Banning the niqab	2%
SOMETHING ELSE	3%

Methodology

The poll was conducted online using the CARP Poll™ outreach panel. More than 13,000 member responded from across the country. A probability sample of this size would have a margin of error of plus or minus 1%, 19 out of 20 times