

January 3, 2010

Canadians Divided over Proroguing Parliament a Year Ago, but Indifferent This Time

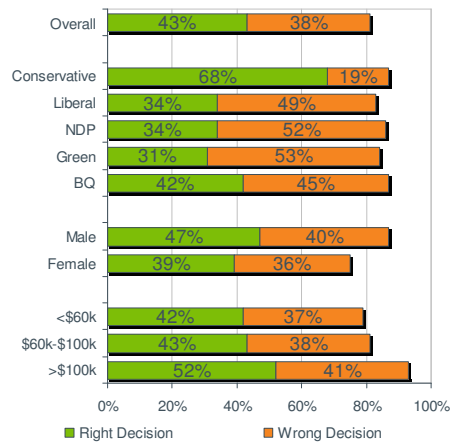
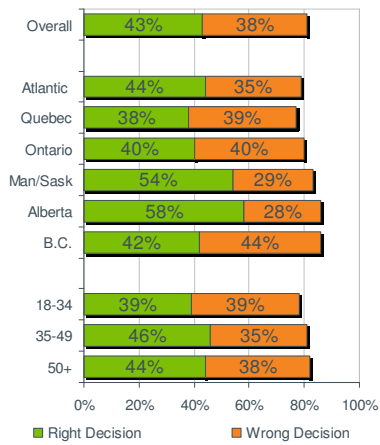
The latest Canadian Press/Harris Decima survey asked Canadians about the prorogation of Parliament.

According to Senior Vice-President Doug Anderson “Looking back on when Parliament was prorogued a year ago, Canadians have divided opinions over whether it was a good or bad idea. But asked how they would feel if Parliament was prorogued now until after the Olympics, we find widespread apathy about it this time. There is clearly not the same level of passion about the issue this time. There is likely less of a sense that the move is exceptional or likely to have a major impact one way or another.”

- **Overall, opinion is fairly split over whether proroguing Parliament was the right or wrong decision a year ago.** A plurality of Canadians (43%) said it was the right decision where as 38% thing it was the wrong decision.
 - Those living in Alberta (58%) and the Prairie (54%) provinces are significantly more likely to say it was the right decision than those living in other provinces.
 - Those living in BC (44%) and Ontario (40%) are more likely to say it was the wrong decision.
 - Furthermore, men (47%) are more likely to say proroguing Parliament last year was the right decision than women (39%).
 - Conservative voters (68%) are overwhelmingly more likely to say it was the right decision compared to other party supporters

Right/Wrong Decision – Proroguing Parliament

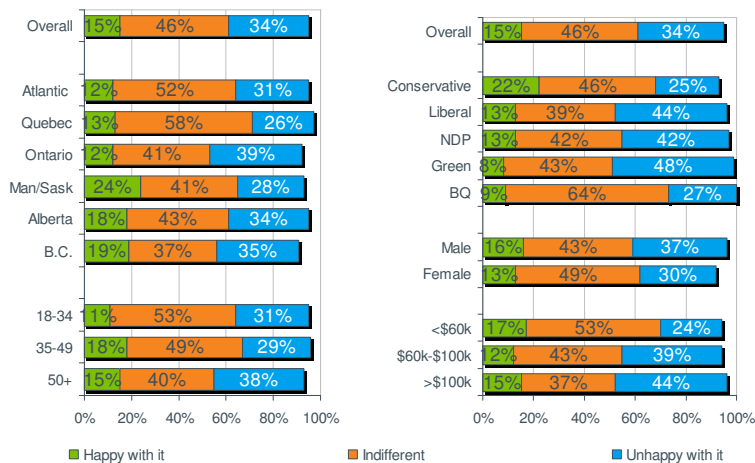
Thinking back to a year ago, do you think proroguing Parliament was the right decision or the wrong decision?



- Asked how Canadians would feel if the government were to prorogue Parliament again, this time until after the Olympics, the plurality of Canadians (46%) are now indifferent.** Among the half of the population who would feel one way or another about such a move, people are more likely to be unhappy than happy with that idea.
 - Those living in the Prairie provinces (24%) are significantly more likely to be happy about it compared to other provinces.
 - On the other hand, Ontarians (39%) are significantly more likely to be unhappy with proroguing Parliament.
 - Although partisan support certainly relates to one's opinion, a significant portion of each party's voters would be indifferent this time. Liberals (44%), New Democrats (42%) and Green party supporters (48%) are significantly more likely to be unhappy compared to the Conservatives (25%) and the Bloc (27%).

Support for Prorogation of Parliament

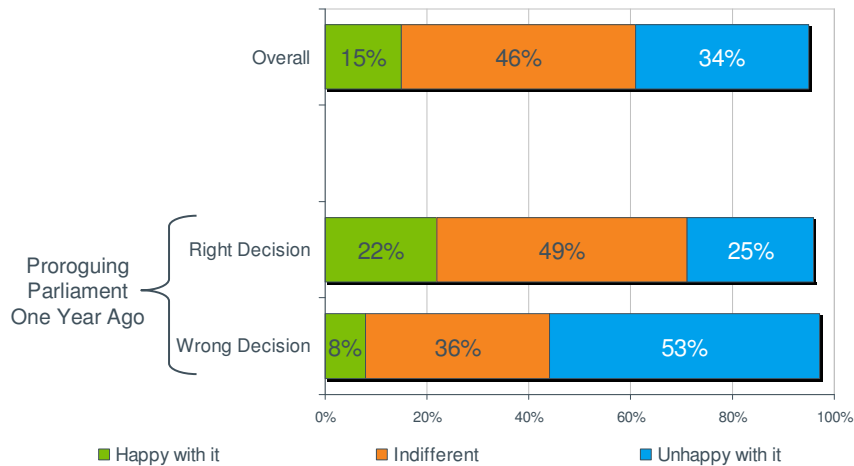
If the government were to prorogue Parliament again, this time until after the Olympics, would you say you'd be happy with it, unhappy with it, or indifferent to it?



- Comparing how people feel about the last prorogation and the current situation, those who felt it was a good idea last time, tend to be indifferent this time. Among those who felt it was a bad idea last time, only half feel unhappy with the idea of proroguing at this time.

Support for Prorogation of Parliament

If the government were to prorogue Parliament again, this time until after the Olympics, would you say you'd be happy with it, unhappy with it, or indifferent to it?



Each week, Harris/Decima interviews just over 1000 Canadians through teleVox, the company's national telephone omnibus survey. These data were gathered between December 17 and December 20 2009. A sample of the same size has a margin of error of 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.