

## Post BC Election Survey

We'd like to ask you some questions about some important issues in BC today.

### **Intro**

Q1. (T) As far as you are concerned, what would you say are the **most important issues** in the province today? (If your main issue isn't on this list, please type it in at the space below.)

Please select up to three responses.

[MULTIPLE RESPONSE -- ALLOW UP TO 3 SELECTIONS]

[KEEP ISSUES WITHIN THE "BLOCKS" BELOW. RANDOMIZE PRESENTATION OF BLOCKS AND RANDOMIZE ISSUES LISTED WITHIN EACH BLOCK.]

The economy  
Pipelines  
Resource sector/Forestry  
Jobs/Unemployment  
Deficit/Debt/Government spending  
Taxes

Health Care  
Education  
Social services – welfare, daycare, public housing  
Housing prices/affordability  
Transportation/Traffic/Transit

Environment  
Community issues – safety, recreation  
Infrastructure/Roads and bridges

Leadership/Politics  
Integrity/Ethics  
Political party financing and fundraising

[FIX POSITION] Other Issue [PROVIDE WRITE-IN BOX]

Q2. (T) Overall, do you think British Columbia is on the right track, or the wrong track?

[SINGLE RESPONSE] [THIS ORDER]

Right track  
Wrong track  
Not sure

Q3. (T-NR) A year from now, do you think your standard of living will be better or worse than now?

Better a year from now  
The same as now  
Worse a year from now  
Don't know/Not Sure

**Election:**

[STANDALONE SCREEN]

Now we'd like to ask more specifically about last month's provincial election.

The May 9<sup>th</sup> election ended with no party winning enough seats for a majority in the legislature. The BC Liberals won 43 seats, the BC New Democratic Party (the NDP) won 41, and the Green Party of BC won three seats.

After the election, NDP Leader John Horgan and Green Leader Andrew Weaver signed an agreement where the NDP will form a minority government, and Green MLAs will support it on "supply and confidence matters" where the government would fall if the majority voted against it.

However, for the NDP to form government with support from the Greens, the parties need to defeat the BC Liberals in a confidence vote at the BC Legislature. It's not certain when this vote will take place.

Q4. There has been some discussion about what should happen next.

Some people say this uncertainty has the potential to be damaging to British Columbia, it would be better to hold another election immediately in hopes one party will win a majority of the seats.

Other people say there is no reason to hold another election right away, and that the process specified by our government system should be allowed to play out.

Which statement is closer to your view?

[ROTATE]

B.C. should hold another election right away

B.C. should let the process play out

Q5. Which of the following statements is closer to your own view on this prospect of the NDP forming a minority government with the support of the Green Party? Would you say:

[Rotate]

The BC Liberals won the most seats and should use every rule and procedure in their power to prevent the NDP forming government

The BC Liberals should recognize the majority of British Columbians did not vote for them, and accept defeat

Q6. Let's assume the NDP forms the next B.C. government with Green support. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about each of the following?

[ROWS – KEEP THIS ORDER]

Your own future  
The future of your region of BC  
The future of the B.C. economy  
The functioning of the B.C. government  
The future of British Columbia overall

[COLUMNS]

Very pessimistic  
Moderately pessimistic  
Moderately optimistic  
Very optimistic

Q7. Since the provincial election on May 9, would you say your opinion of each of the following people has improved, worsened, or stayed the same?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

BC Liberal Leader Christy Clark  
BC NDP Leader John Horgan  
BC Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver

[COLUMNS]

Worsened  
Stayed the same  
Improved

Q8. Which of the leaders of B.C.'s three main political parties would you say you trust most on each of the following measures?

[ROWS - RANDOMIZE]

Managing the B.C. economy  
Protecting B.C.'s natural environment  
Providing honest, ethical leadership  
Acting in the interests of all British Columbians  
Managing B.C.'s education system  
Managing B.C.'s health care system

[COLUMNS]

BC Liberal Leader Christy Clark  
BC NDP Leader John Horgan  
BC Green Leader Andrew Weaver  
None of these

Q9. BC Liberal leader Christy Clark has said she plans to remain the leader of the BC Liberal Party and become the leader of the Opposition if the NDP forms government with the support of the Green Party. Some have called for her to step aside and for the BC Liberals to elect a new leader. Which of these options would you, personally, prefer?

[ROTATE]

Christy Clark should remain the leader of the BC Liberals

Christy Clark should step down as leader of the BC Liberals

Q10. While the Greens say they have agreed to support the NDP for four years, there has been a lot of speculation that the relationship will may last long. How long do you think the NDP and Greens of BC will be able to work together?

Less than six months

Six months to a year

One year to 18 months

18 months to two years

More than two years

No idea/Can't say

### **Electoral reform section**

Q11. Given everything you know about BC today, is the province better off:

[ROTATE]

With a majority government where one party is in control of the legislature

With a minority government where more than one party holds the balance of power in the legislature

Q12. Since the election, there has been serious discussion about changing BC's electoral system. By "electoral system", we mean things like how the ballot works, how votes are counted to decide who forms the government, and whether it's a majority government.

When it comes to the way we vote, the main concerns some people have about the current system and the main types of alternative voting systems, would you say you:

Are well-informed about this issue

Know the main points about it

Don't know much

Don't know anything about it

Q13. Broadly speaking, there are two options for British Columbia's electoral system:

B.C. could keep the current system, called First Past the Post (FPTP), in which political parties run one candidate per riding and voters in that riding cast one vote for the candidate they like best. The

candidate with the most votes – even if it's less than 50 per cent of the total number of votes cast – wins the riding.

Alternatively, B.C. could adopt a new system that allocates seats in the legislature roughly in proportion to the total number of votes a party receives, meaning a party that received 30 per cent of the popular vote would also win approximately 30 per cent of the seats. Systems that do this are called, collectively, proportional representation (PR) systems.

Based on what you know, please indicate which of these two broad options you prefer for B.C.

[ROTATE]

The current First Past the Post system

A new system of Proportional Representation

Q14. And how much of a priority do you personally consider changing B.C.'s electoral system to be? Would you say this is a:

Very high priority

High priority

Lower priority

Very low priority

### **Impact on the resource sector**

If the NDP forms a government with Green party support on supply and confidence matters, the outcome of some major resource projects and priorities supported by the BC Liberals could be up in the air.

Q15. The twinning of the **Kinder Morgan TransMountain Pipeline** had already been approved by both the federal government and the provincial government. The NDP and the Greens say they are committed to stopping this.

Based on what you have seen, read and heard, what should happen with this project?

Let it go ahead as planned

Study the project further before making a decision either way

Cancel it now

Don't Know/Can't say

Q16. Regarding the **Site C hydroelectric dam**, construction on this project is already underway. The NDP has said it wants the B.C. Utilities Commission to review and to stop construction until the review is complete.

Based on what you have seen, read and heard, what should happen with this project?

Let it go ahead as planned  
Study the project further before making a decision either way  
Cancel it now  
Don't Know/Can't say

Q17. And then there is the **liquefied natural gas (LNG)** file. The NDP campaigned on introducing tougher conditions to approve LNG projects.

Based on what you have seen, read and heard, what should happen with LNG project approvals?

Stick with the existing approval process  
Study the approval process further before making a decision either way  
Bring in tougher conditions for approval  
Don't Know/Can't say

Q18. Suppose only one of these three projects or priorities were to be left as is, not cancelled, put on hold for further study, or changed. Which one, if any, would you choose to leave as is?

Twinning the Kinder Morgan Pipeline  
Finishing the Site C Hydroelectric dam  
Leaving the LNG approval process as is  
[ANCHORED]None of them

### **Other issues**

Q19. There is some discussion about whether private corporations and labour unions should be allowed to donate money to political parties. In several provinces – including Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia – this is not allowed. Only individual residents of those provinces can make donations to provincial political parties.

How would you like to see British Columbia handle this issue? Should corporate and union donations be:

[ROTATE TOP TWO]  
Banned in B.C.  
Allowed in B.C.  
[ANCHORED]Don't know/Can't say

Q20. In the latest provincial budget the B.C. government forecasted a surplus of \$295 million. People have called for this money to be spent in different ways. Using the slider, please indicate what percentage of the surplus should be spent on some options suggested below. Or, you can write in and allocate your own spending priority:

[ALLOCATION GRID – RANDOMIZE ROWS]

Health care  
Child care  
Education  
Paying off provincial debt  
Tax relief  
Building social/ low income housing  
Repairing/ Building infrastructure  
[ANCHORED]Something else

**Demos/Vote:**

[SPLIT SAMPLE – ASK HALF Q20a AND HALF Q20b]

Q21a. Suppose there were another B.C. election in the next six months. In such an election, which party's candidate would you be inclined to support? Would it be the candidate representing the:

[RANDOMIZE FIRST THREE]

BC Liberal Party  
BC New Democratic Party (NDP)  
BC Green Party  
Another party  
Undecided/Really can't say  
Would not vote

Q21b. Suppose there were another B.C. election in the next six months. In such an election, which party's candidate would you be inclined to support? Would it be the candidate representing the:

[RANDOMIZE FIRST THREE – KEEP SAME RANDOMIZATION FROM Q20a]

BC Liberal Party under Leader Christy Clark  
BC New Democratic Party (NDP) under Leader John Horgan  
BC Green Party under Leader Andrew Weaver  
Another party  
Undecided/Really can't say  
Would not vote

Q22. Which party's candidate did you vote for in this most recent B.C. election on May 9?

[RANDOMIZE FIRST THREE PARTIES – KEEP SAME RANDOMIZATION AS Q20a]

[ANCHORED] I did not vote  
BC Liberal Party  
BC New Democratic Party (NDP)  
BC Green Party  
Another party  
Rather not say

[ASK ONLY THOSE WHO VOTED]

Q23. Suppose you could go back in time and re-do this most recent B.C. election. Knowing what the outcome was, would you change who you voted for to get a different outcome? Or would you vote the same way?

I would change my vote

I would NOT change my vote

[ASK THOSE WHO WOULD CHANGE THEIR VOTE]

Q24. What is the reason you would change your vote if you were re-doing this B.C. election? Would it be:

To try to get a majority for the BC Liberals

To try to get a majority for the BC NDP

To support a party/candidate you believe in