

58% of past CPC voters stand by Poilievre's long-term leadership, but increasing numbers say he should go

Number of past Conservative voters calling for a new leader has risen significantly since last year

April 20, 2026 – The erosion of the standing of the Conservative Party in the House of Commons has raised questions of the leadership of Pierre Poilievre to a new volume. The Liberals may have earned a majority government through three byelection victories, but the path to majority rule was paved by a series of defections mostly from the rival Conservatives since the last election.

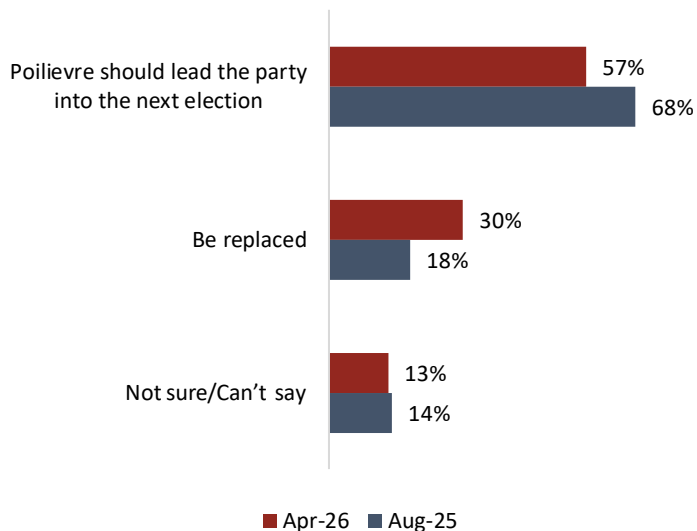
New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds a majority (57%) of past CPC voters want Poilievre to lead the party into the next election, but compared to last summer, a larger minority who would prefer to see him replaced. In August, fewer than one-in-five (18%) of those who voted CPC in 2025 said they wanted another leader for the party whenever the next election comes. Now, there are three-in-ten (30%) who want Poilievre to step down.

Poilievre has never found popularity among a majority of the general Canadian public in his time as leader. Unfavourable views of him have peaked at 60 per cent in recent months, including these new data. More than two-in-five (45%) Canadians now point to Poilievre “pushing people away from his party” as a major reason for the recent spate of floor crossers, now numbering four CPC MPs since November.

Still, he remains a beloved figure among the vast majority of past CPC voters. Three-quarters (75%) say they have a favourable view of him. Yet, this represents a decline of 13 points from June 2025 (88%).

As the Liberals' shift to majority status increases scrutiny on Poilievre, simultaneously there are mixed views among the Canadian public as to whether Prime Minister Mark Carney's newfound majority is a

Do you think Poilievre should lead the CPC into the next election or should another leader take his place? (Among 2025 CPC voters)



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from April 15-17, 2026, among a randomized sample of 1,646 Canadian adults. Respondents are drawn from the [Angus Reid Forum](#), a large-scale online panel developed to include Canadian residents in each of the 343 federal ridings in Canada and representative of the Canadian population by age, gender, family income, ethnic status and education. The sample was weighted to be representative of adults nationwide according to region, gender, age, household income, and education, based on the Canadian census. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

For more information on our polling methods, [click here.](#)

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good thing or bad thing for the country. Equal sized groups of two-in-five say the majority is a “good thing” because of stability (44%) and say it is a “bad thing” because the current make up of the house is not what the electorate voted for in last year’s federal election (42%).

About ARI

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research foundation established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.*

INDEX

- **Poilievre’s prospects worsen**
- **Shift in tone yet to move the dial**
- **Why did the CPC MPs cross the floor?**
- **Views of a floor-crossed majority**

Poilievre’s prospects worsen

After a trio of byelection victories, the federal Liberals under Prime Minister Mark Carney now control a slim majority of the seats in the House of Commons. As the governing party celebrates, opposition leader Pierre Poilievre has faced increasing scrutiny, given that the Liberal majority was enabled by four floor crossings to the governing party from Conservative MPs.

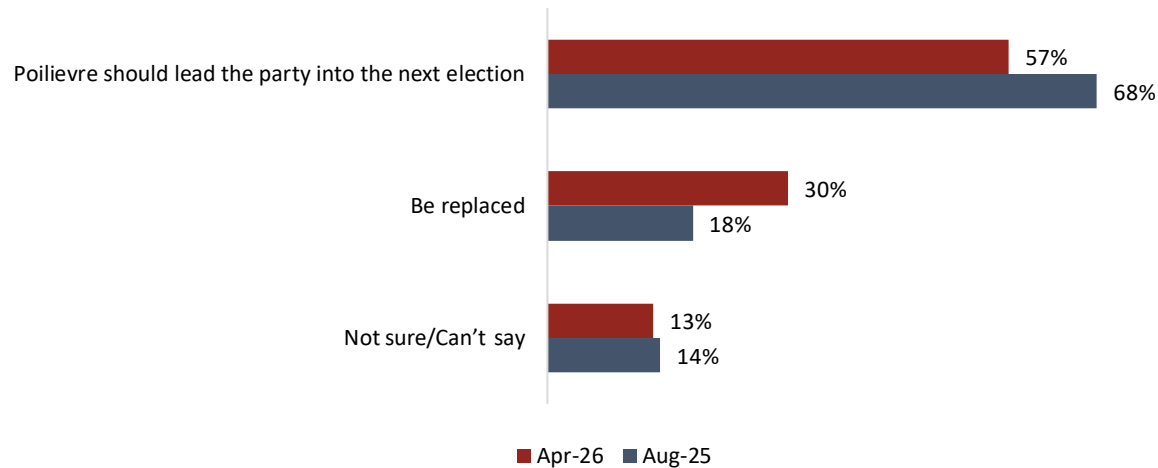
Under Poilievre, the CPC secured a larger percentage of the popular vote in the 2025 election than any Canadian federal Conservative party since the 1980s. Yet it finds itself in a familiar position of the past decade: in second place to the governing Liberals. Conservative delegates at the party’s January convention in Calgary [overwhelmingly endorsed Poilievre](#), but the party lost two more MPs in the following months to the rival Liberals. And rumours swirl that there [may be more to come](#).

A majority of past CPC voters (57%) believe Poilievre should lead the party into the next election. There is, however, a growing minority who want him to be replaced. Last August, fewer than one-in-five (18%) who voted Conservative in last year’s federal election said they wanted a new leader for the next election, now three-in-ten (30%) say the same:

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**Do you think Poilievre should lead the CPC into the next election or should another leader take his place?
(Among 2025 CPC voters)**



Shift in tone yet to move the dial

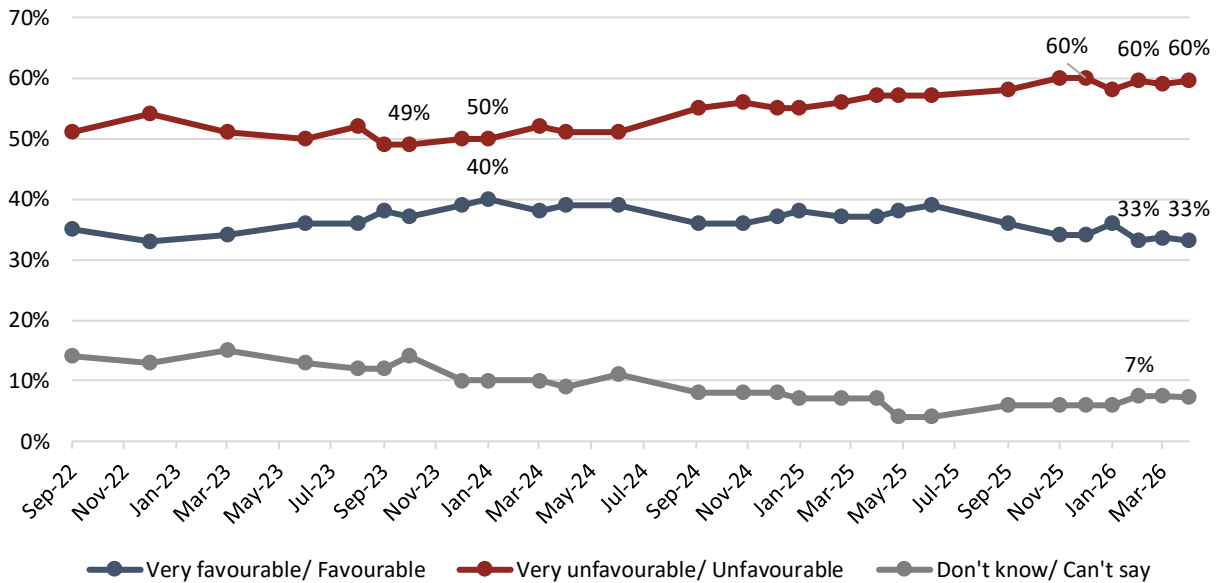
Poilievre has struggled since he became Conservative leader in 2022 to gain favourability among Canadians. Some have noted that he appears to have undergone a rebrand, [appearing on podcasts](#), including the Joe Rogan Experience, recently, and [softening his tone](#). The impact – so far – has been negligible.

At best, two-in-five Canadians (40%) said they had a favourable view of Poilievre in January 2024, but even then, half (50%) said they viewed him negatively. Two years later, unfavourable views have increased. The proportion of Canadians who view him positively have also declined to one-third (33%):

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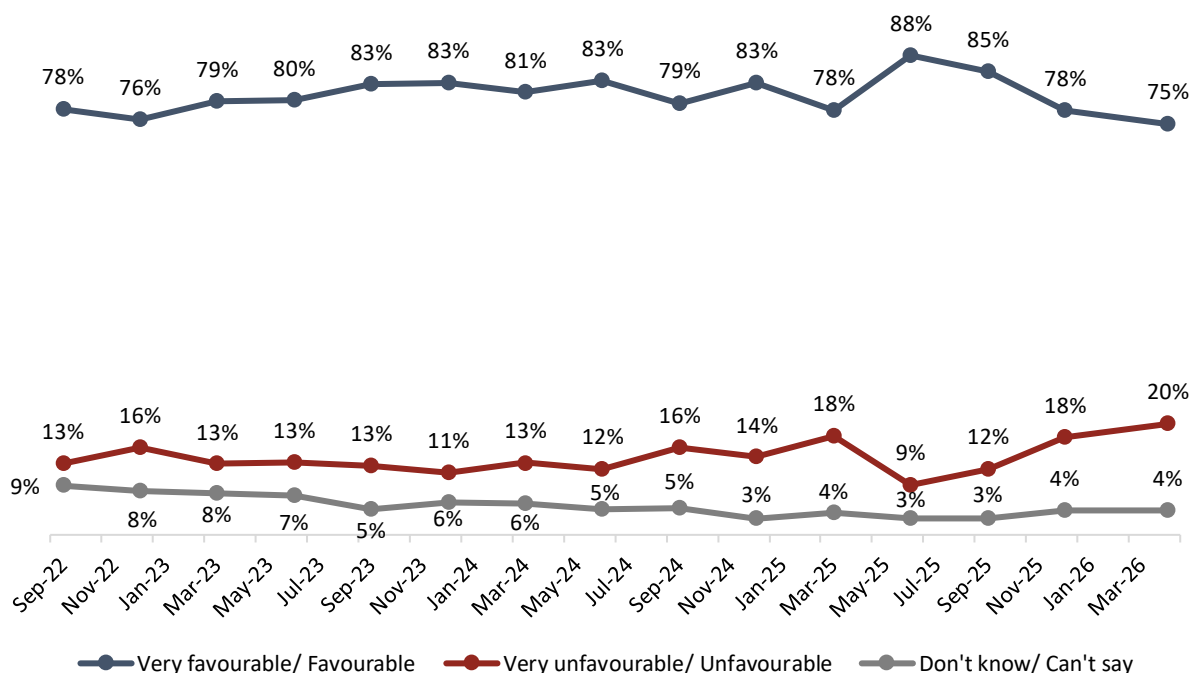
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Favourability of CPC leader Pierre Poilievre over time



Poilievre remains well-liked and supported among 2025 CPC voters, who made up 41 per cent of the electorate in 2025. But even among this group, favourability is on the decline from last summer, when approaching nine-in-ten (88%) said they had a favourable view. Three-quarters (75%) of those who voted CPC last year now say they view Poilievre positively, while one-in-five (20%) do not:

Favourability of Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre among past CPC voters over time



The gender imbalance of Poilievre’s popularity has been well-documented by ARI.

Related:

- [Election 2025: Incumbent lead holds as CPC edge among men dwarfed by Liberal advantage among women](#)
- [Poilievre’s Prospects: CPC voters back him; those who could’ve put him over the top are far less supportive](#)

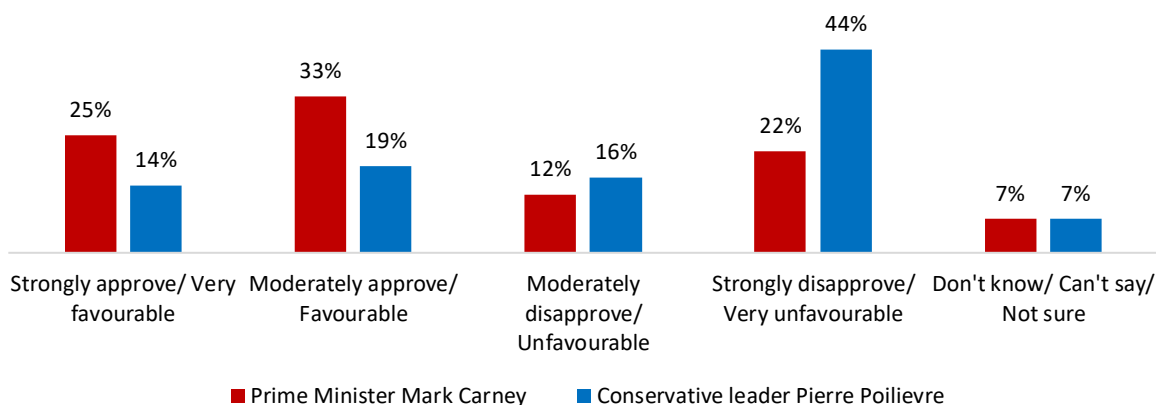
Poilievre appears to resonate most with men aged 35 to 54, among whom approaching half (47%) say they have a favourable view. Two-in-five (41%) men older 54, view Poilievre positively as well. Meanwhile, fewer than three-in-ten of women of all age groups say they have a favourable view of Poilievre, while half or more say instead they have a very unfavourable impression of the Conservative leader ([see detailed tables](#)).

Comparing Poilievre’s personal performance reviews to those of Prime Minister Mark Carney, a large gap is evident. Three-in-five (59%) voice approval of Carney, while one-in-three offer disapproval:

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**Approval of Prime Minister Mark Carney vs. favourability of Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre
(All respondents, n=1,646)**



Why did the CPC MPs cross the floor?

The Liberal Party now holds 174 seats in the House of Commons, up from 169 won in the April 2025 election. Since then, five members of parliament have swapped allegiances to join the Liberal Party. Four former Conservatives, Marilyn Gladu, Michael Ma, Chris d'Entremont, Matt Jeneroux, and one former New Democrat, Lori Idlout, have bolstered the Liberal Party ranks.

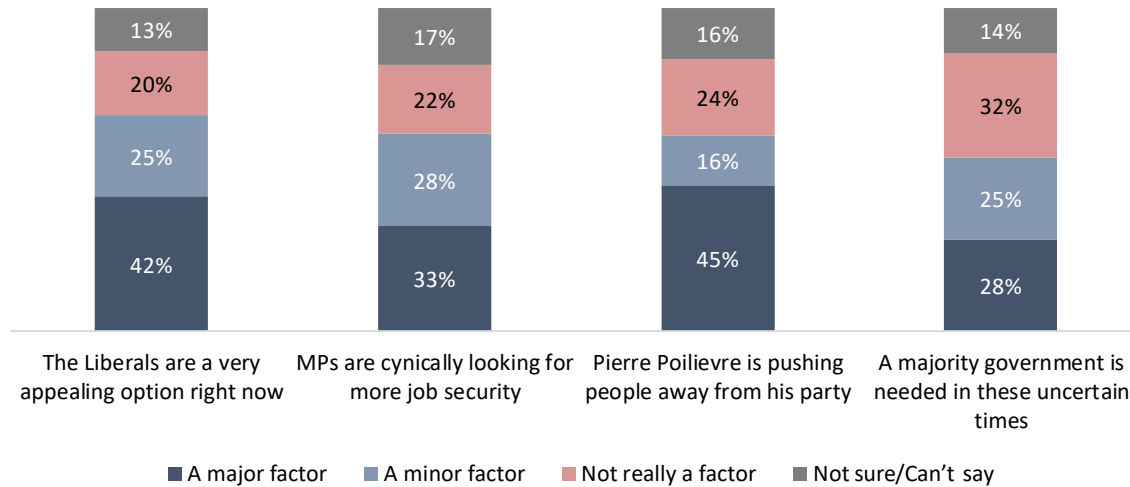
Speculation about the cause for these floor-crossings has been rampant, with some crediting the Prime Minister and others blaming the leader of the Conservatives. Most recently Gladu stated that Canada needs “a serious leader who can address the uncertainty that has arrived due to the unjustified American tariffs.”

The largest number say that Poilievre is a major factor (45%), while a similar number say that the Liberal Party is very appealing right now (42%). Notably, three-in-five say that personal job security played at least a minor role (61%) in these decisions:

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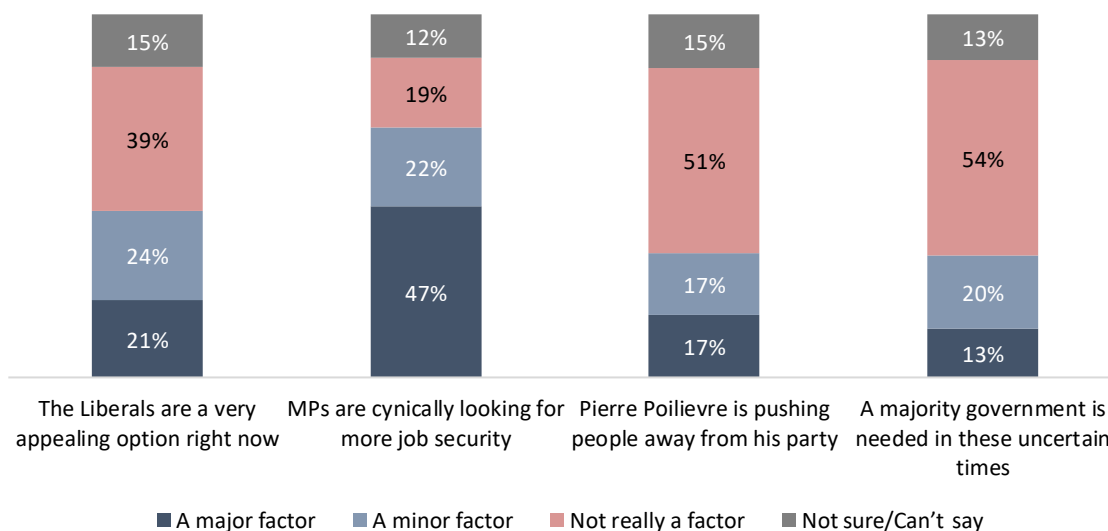
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**How much of a factor do you think each of these reasons might be for the recent CPC defections:
(All respondents, n=1,646)**



Among those who supported the Conservative Party in the 2025 federal election, views are significantly different. A majority say that Poilievre is not a factor in these decisions (51%) and a similar number don't feel that the appeal of a majority government played a factor either (54%). By far the top choice for factoring in this decision is the job security of the MPs who jumped ship and swam to the other side of House of Commons:

**How much of a factor do you think each of these reasons might be for the recent CPC defections:
(Among 2025 CPC voters only, n=590)**



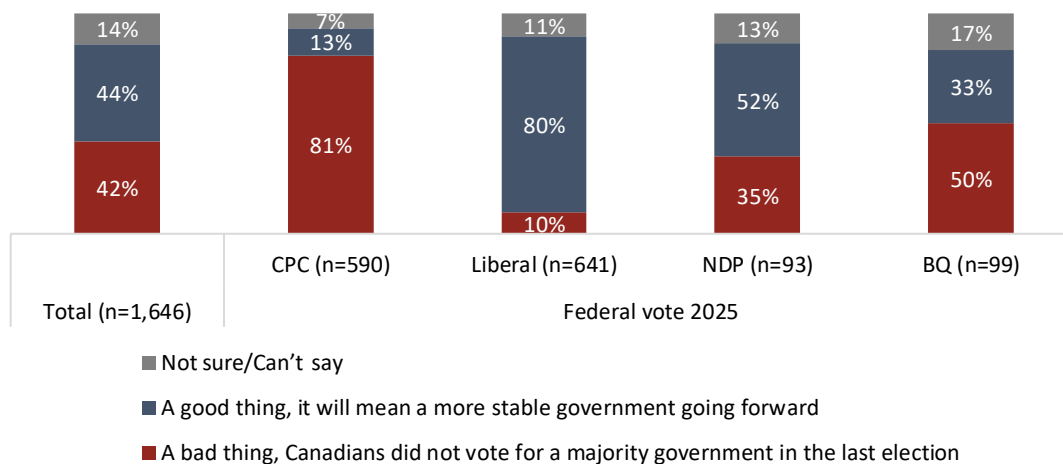
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Views of a floor-crossed majority

The floor-crossing aspect of this majority government also causes division. Conservatives and Liberals mirror each other, with four-in-five CPC voters saying a new majority reality is a bad thing and the same number of Liberal voters saying it's a good thing. Notably, New Democrats lean toward saying it will be good for the country, while BQ voters take the opposite stance. Overall, 44 per cent say they view the majority positively, while 42 per cent say it's not what the electorate ever intended:

How do you feel about this (Liberal majority achieved through floor crossing and byelections)? Is it ...



For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).

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