

**Government of Saskatchewan  
Executive Council  
Public Opinion Survey**

**Executive Summary**

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# Executive Summary

Arcas Group was commissioned by the Government of Saskatchewan to conduct a province-wide public opinion survey on Saskatchewan citizens' perceptions on, and towards, current provincial and federal government issues.

This public opinion survey utilized a single, cross-sectional research design with telephone data collection. The telephone interviews were conducted between January 2 and January 8, 2009.

This public opinion survey included 1,002 randomly selected Saskatchewan citizens. A random sample of 1,002 respondents - within the population of the Province of Saskatchewan - produces survey results with a confidence interval (i.e., Margin of Error) of +/- 3.09% to a 95% confidence level.

The following report is a high-level summary of the results.

## Arcas Group

The Arcas Group has been conducting research studies and public opinion polling since 1994.

The Arcas Group research division provides database mining, data analytics, qualitative and quantitative research – with call centres in both Saskatoon and Regina. The Arcas Research division has nearly 100 full-time and part-time staff.

The Arcas Group is a registered research supplier and has provided research services for the Government of Saskatchewan since 1996.

## Summary of the research results is as follows:

- According to the respondents, the most important issues facing the province are:

- Economy / Recession	34.8%
- Health Care	10.9%
- Jobs / Unemployment	7.7%
- Housing / Affordable Housing	6.2%
- Environment / Climate Change	3.2%
- 77.3% of the respondents believe that Saskatchewan is on the right track. In contrast, 12.0% of the respondents believe that Saskatchewan is not on the right track. The remaining respondents “didn’t know or were unsure”.
- 93.1% of the respondents feel Saskatchewan’s economy is performing better than the rest of the country. Only 3.8% of the respondents felt Saskatchewan’s economy is performing worse than the rest of the country.
- According to the respondents, the most important issues facing Canada are:

- Economy / Recession	50.0%
- Government / Politics	14.6%
- Environment / Climate Change	5.4%
- Jobs / Unemployment	4.4%
- War / Terrorism	3.0%
- 53.8% of the respondents believe that Canada is on the right track. In comparison, 27.7% of the respondents believe that Canada is not on the right track.
- 59.3% of the respondents approve of how the federal government is dealing with the current economic crisis, whereas 33.7% of the respondents disapprove of how the federal government is dealing with the current economic crisis.
- 71.1% of the respondents agree with the following statement: *The current instability in Parliament is making the economic crisis in Canada worse.* 24.8% of the respondents disagreed with that same statement.
- Only 19.4% of the respondents would support a Liberal-NDP coalition government supported by the Bloc Quebecois. In comparison, 73.9% of the respondents would oppose a Liberal-NDP coalition government supported by the Bloc Quebecois.
- 72.5% of the respondents are concerned that the proposed Liberal-NDP coalition deal depends on the support of the Bloc Quebecois, whereas 25.5% of the respondents are not concerned that the proposed Liberal-NDP coalition deal depends on the support of the Bloc Quebecois.

**This public opinion survey had a random sample of 1,002 Saskatchewan citizens.**

- 63.8% of the respondents believe that a Conservative government led by Stephen Harper would be better for Saskatchewan, whereas only 22.7% felt a Liberal-NDP coalition government led by Michael Ignatieff would be better for Saskatchewan.
- 64.6% of the respondents believe that a Conservative government led by Stephen Harper would be better for the Canadian economy, whereas only 22.0% felt a Liberal-NDP coalition government led by Michael Ignatieff would be better for the Canadian economy.
- 75.0% of the respondents agree with the following statement: *The recent events in Ottawa have increased the sense of alienation among people from western Canada.* 18.8% of the respondents disagreed with that same statement.
- 86.1% of the respondents agree with the following statement: *The recent events in Ottawa have increased the need for the Premiers and governments of the western provinces to work together to protect the interests of the west.* In comparison, 10.2% of the respondents disagreed with that same statement.
- 49.0% of the respondents would support the federal government's financial support of the automotive industry, whereas 46.6% of the respondents would oppose the federal government's financial support of the automotive industry.
- 76.1% of the respondents would support the federal government's financial support of the forestry industry, whereas 15.8% of the respondents would oppose the federal government's financial support of the forestry industry.
- 84.3% of the respondents would support the federal government's financial support of the livestock industry, whereas 10.1% of the respondents would oppose the federal government's financial support of the livestock industry.
- 87.4% of the respondents would support the federal government's financial support for increased investments in infrastructure, whereas 6.1% of the respondents would oppose the federal government's financial support for increased investments in infrastructure.
- 54.9% of the respondents believe that the federal government is favouring eastern Canada over western Canada in dealing with the current economic crisis.
- 77.9% of the respondents agree with the following statement: *The federal government should speed up its infrastructure spending to provide an immediate economic stimulus.* In contrast, 16.3% of the respondents disagreed with that same statement.
- 77.8% of the respondents agree with the following statement: *The provincial government should speed up its infrastructure spending to provide an immediate economic stimulus.* 17.0% of the respondents disagreed with that same statement.

**Margin of Error**  
+/- 3.09%

**Confidence Level**  
95%