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Environment, education most important issues to young voters: poll

Posted: September 17, 2008, 2:00 PM by Julie Smyth

[Canadian Election](#)

A [new poll from The Dominion Institute](#) (PDF) shows large difference among young voters in Quebec and the rest of Canada. A national study of voters aged 18-25 and conducted by Innovative Research Group shows:

- Conservatives gaining in the rest of Canada (outside Quebec) but out of contention among young Quebecers.
- Young Canadians are more interested in their own election than the American election, but they know they like Democrat candidate Barack Obama.
- The environment (27%) and education (25%) are the most important issues in this election for young voters. The economy (17%) and health (15%) make up a second tier, while no other issue is higher than 4%.
- There is a tight three-way race for the votes of young Canadians, with the Liberals holding a small lead nationwide.

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• The race in Quebec has changed dramatically compared to 2008, with the Bloc losing almost half of its vote to the Liberals, NDP and Greens while the Tories remain flat. The NDP are tied for first with the diminished Bloc at 27% and with the Liberals seven points behind at 20%. The Greens have 12% of the vote while the Tories trail in fifth place among young Quebecers.

• The race in the rest of Canada has much smaller changes with the Tories and Greens up and the Liberals and NDP down. The Tories are tied for first with the Liberals among young voters in English Canada.

• Conservative leader Stephen Harper leads nationwide as best PM with NDP leader Jack Layton a strong second.

• In all provinces but Quebec, Mr. Harper is up 10 points since the last election, while Mr. Layton leads Liberal leader Stéphane Dion by three points in second place.

• In Quebec, Mr. Layton leads with 32%, up six since the last election, while Gilles Duceppe is down 12 points. Mr. Dion beats Mr. Duceppe by two points while Mr. Harper is tied with Mr. Duceppe in Quebec.

• Most young Canadians are following the Canadian election at least once a week. Young Canadians are following the Canadian election more closely than they are following the American election.

• Two thirds of young Canadians would vote for Senator Obama if they could vote in the U.S. presidential election.

• Mr. Layton is thought to be the Canadian leader most like Senator Obama, although most young Canadians don't see any Canadian leader as equivalent to Senator Obama.

• Conservative leader Mr. Harper is thought to be the most like Republican candidate John McCain.

• Few young Canadians see any Canadian leader as being like Mr. McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin, but among those who do, Mr. Harper leads with Elizabeth May in second.

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