

Quebec remains competitive race for Bloc, NDP, Liberals: Innovative Research pollster Lyle



The Hill Times photographs by Jake Wright
 Conservative Leader Stephen Harper, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe.

By [BEA VONGDOUANGCHANH](#) | Oct. 8, 2015

There is still opportunity for voter intention changes in Quebec, even though the front running NDP are losing ground, says Innovative Research Group pollster Greg Lyle.

A new poll by Innovative Research shows that NDP Leader Tom Mulcair did not do well in the last leaders' debate on Oct. 2, hosted by TVA, but regained support after appearing on *Tout Le Monde En Parle*.

The poll, conducted online with 3,417 Canadians including 648 Quebecers Oct. 5 to 8, found that 33 per cent of respondents were aware of the most recent fifth and final leaders' debate, hosted by TVA in French. That was higher than the third and fourth debates (roughly 25 per cent) but still lower than the *Maclean's* (39 per cent) and *Globe and Mail* (43 per cent) debates.

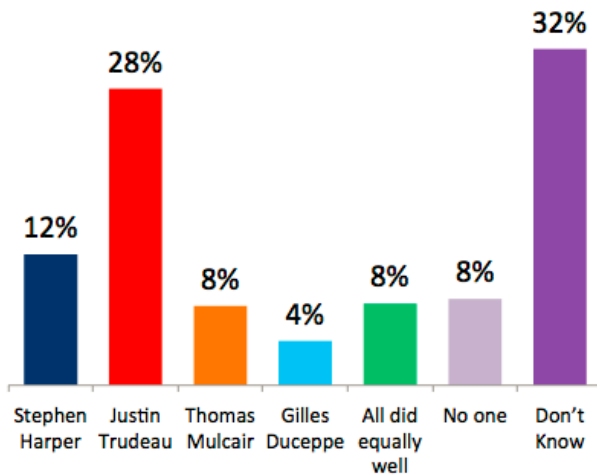
According to the poll, Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau were statistically tied at 23 per cent and 21 per cent respectively, as the leader that did the best in the debate among Quebec respondents while in the rest of Canada Mr. Trudeau was seen to be the clear winner among 28 per cent of respondents. Mr. Mulcair only received eight per cent support as the leader who did the best, behind Conservative Leader Stephen Harper with 12 per cent.



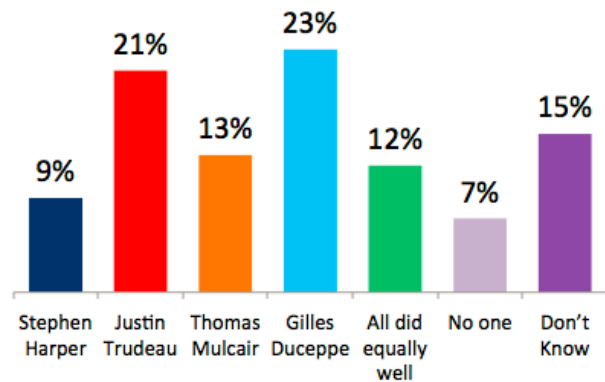
In your opinion which leader did the best in that debate?
[Only of those who RSH about it]

French Debate, TVA, Oct 2nd

Rest of Canada



Quebec



Since online surveys are not random probability based samples, a margin of error can not be calculated. The sample was weighted to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data.

When asked "For each leader, did they perform better than you expected, less well than you expected, or about as you expected," Mr. Trudeau has also done better than expected in most debates than the other leaders, according to the poll. In the MacLean's debate, 44 per cent of respondents said Mr. Trudeau did better than expected, while 39 per cent he did better than expected in the Globe and Mail debate. At the same time, however, 21 per cent of Canadians believed he did less well than expected in the Globe debate and 15 per cent in the MacLean's debate.

In the TVA debate, half of decided Liberal voters felt Trudeau did better than expected (48 per cent), while 27 per cent of decided Conservative voters said Conservative Leader Stephen Harper did better than expected, and 26 per cent felt Mr. Mulcair did better than expected. Eight per cent of decided NDP voters said they felt Mr. Mulcair did worse than expected, compared to two per cent for the Liberals and one per cent for the Conservatives.

Q For each leader, did they perform better than you expected, less well than you expected, or about as you expected the leader’s debate? **[FRENCH DEBATE]**

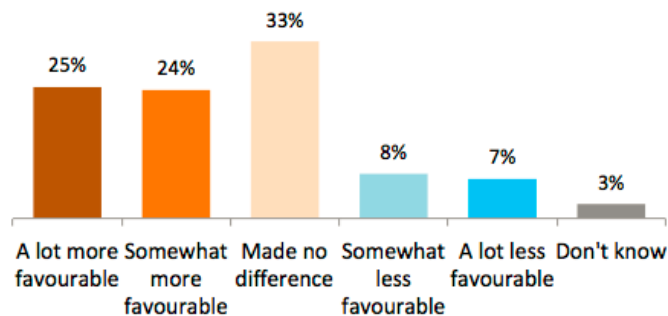
		Decided	Soft	Second Choice	Non	Would never vote
Harper by CPC vote pool	Better	27%	30%	19%	9%	2%
	Same/DK	49%	33%	44%	46%	48%
	Worse	1%	4%	19%	19%	23%
Trudeau by LPC vote pool	Better	48%	37%	27%	18%	13%
	Same/DK	25%	37%	29%	39%	33%
	Worse	2%	5%	15%	14%	31%
Mulcair by NDP vote pool	Better	26%	23%	20%	5%	5%
	Same/DK	41%	44%	41%	45%	39%
	Worse	8%	5%	16%	24%	32%

Note: Voter pools are specific to each party (e.g. decided Conservative voters, Decided Liberal voters, etc.). Those who don’t know if a leader surpassed their expectations are not shown. ‘BQ’ and ‘Undecided’ not shown due to small sample size.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mulcair redeemed himself after appearing on popular Quebec television show *Tout Le Monde En Parle*. While only 26 per cent of Quebecers say they heard anything about his appearance, 49 per cent of those who were aware say it left them feeling more favourable towards the NDP leader while only 15 per cent said worse. The appearance was particularly effective at rallying NDP core supporters (78 per cent more favourable) but Mr. Mulcair also impressed current Liberal voters (42 per cent more favourable) and undecided voters (50 per cent more favourable).

Q Did what you read, see or hear leave you feeling a lot more favourable, somewhat more favourable, somewhat less favourable or a lot less favourable towards **Thomas Mulcair and the federal NDP**, or did it make no difference?

[Only of those who RSH about it, n=122]



“I think these results show Mulcair is far from done. He did not score well in the leaders debate, but then he redeemed himself on *Tout le Monde En Parle*. As well, the low awareness of these events is good for a front runner. If voters don’t see new information, they will stay where they are ... and right now there are still more with the NDP than any other party in Quebec,” Mr. Lyle told *The Hill Times*. “However, it is important to note that this weekend both Trudeau and Duceppe get their own turn on *Tout Le Monde En Parle*. Trudeau did not get good reviews last time he was on, but he is on a roll lately. So there is still a lot of opportunity for further movement in Quebec.”

In a recent poll by Innovative, the NDP lead in Quebec with 34 per cent support, followed by the Liberals at 23 per cent, the Bloc Québécois at 20 per cent and the Conservatives at 19 per cent. The Green Party has three per cent support.

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