

## COMMENTARY

With a seven point scale, and most of the scores averaging around the 3.5 mark, it is clear that Canadians believe that the government's performance to date has been average.

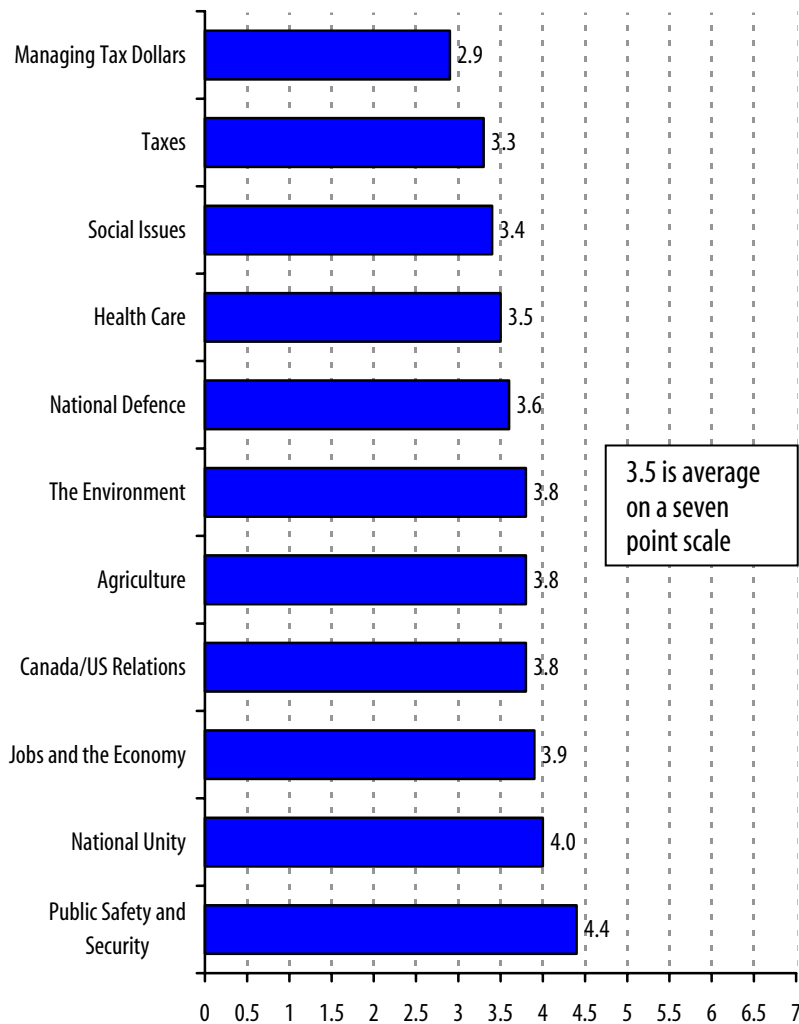
Public Safety and Security has been a policy area where the Liberal government has introduced a number of initiatives including the creation of the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, appointing Anne McLellan as Minister, and the release of the government's comprehensive National Security policy in April. This is the likely reason for the higher score of 4.4.

The government management of tax dollars continues to be a sore spot among Canadians. With an average approve/disapprove rating of 2.9, the residual fallout from the sponsorship scandal remains a challenge for the Liberal government to overcome.

On the issue of health care, the government received an average score of 3.5, which is right in the middle of the performance scale. As Paul Martin and the premiers begin talks regarding health care in the fall, it will be interesting to watch this measure to see how Canadians respond to Martin's efforts to strengthen the health care system.

## POLICY AREAS - APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL

*QUESTION: On a scale from one to seven, where one means strongly disapprove and seven means strongly approve, how do you feel about the performance of the federal government in the following [Rotate]:*



## THE METHODOLOGY

Between August 5<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004, SES conducted a total of 1,000 telephone interviews across Canada with eligible voters as part of the SES National Quarterly Omnibus. Aggregate results of the survey are accurate  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20. Validation of the demographic profile of respondents indicates that the poll is a fair representation of Canadian voters.

The poll was registered with the Canadian Survey Research Council of which SES is a member.

## ABOUT SES

Established in 1987, SES Canada Research Inc. is a full service public opinion research and management consulting firm. In order to maximize turn-around time and increase efficiency, SES has a 164-line call centre complete with a predictive dialer. SES is regularly called upon by corporate, government and para-public clients in Canada and the United States to conduct research and provide strategic advice.

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Mr. Nikita Nanos at (613) 234-4666 ext.237 or [nnanos@sesresearch.com](mailto:nnanos@sesresearch.com)