



Nanos - Budget Unlikely to Impact Political Situation

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THUNDER BAY - A post federal budget poll conducted by Nanos Research indicates that the budget is unlikely to have a significant impact on the current political situation nationally. The polling suggests that there is only a marginally positive view of the government's economic policies and that Canadians were divided on the budget's direction.

The Nanos Policy Options Poll found, "If no one, Canadians did prefer that the government continue the stimulus spending. Likewise, the deficit was seen as acceptable. Prompted with a series of public policy choices to help balance the budget, freezing government wages was identified as the most popular comparative choice.

The research suggests that the budget was perceived by Canadians as a "stay the course" plan for the future. With a deficit being acceptable and the appetite for the stimulus spending to continue, it's unlikely this budget represents a political advantage or disadvantage for the federal Conservative government.

Although opinion was divided on the directional questions, much of that division was fuelled by the respective partisan camps. Conservative supporters were more likely to have a positive attitude while the non-Conservative supporters were more likely to have a negative attitude.

Although budgets can be triggers for an election in a minority context, this current "stay the course" approach, leaves little for the opposition parties to attack and little for the Conservatives to leverage politically.

Government Performance Question: In general, would you say the federal government is doing a very good job, good job, neither good nor bad job, a bad job or very bad job in regards to its economic policies? National (n=1,000)

- Very good job 7.6%
- Good job 27.2%
- Neither good nor bad job 30.2%
- Bad job 20.9%
- Very bad job 9.1%
- Unsure 4.9%

Government Direction Question: Based on the latest budget, do you think the government is going in the right direction or the wrong direction? National (n=1,000)

- Right direction 40.4%
- Wrong direction 38.3%
- Unsure 21.3%

Stimulus Spending Question: In your opinion, should the federal government put an end to spending to stimulate the economy or should it maintain its spending? National (n=1,000)

- Maintain stimulus spending 57.5%
- End stimulus spending 30.8%
- Unsure 11.7%

Federal Deficit Question: In your opinion, do you judge it to be acceptable, somewhat acceptable, neither acceptable nor unacceptable, somewhat unacceptable or unacceptable that the government of Canada declares a deficit? National (n=1,000)

- Acceptable 30.7%
- Somewhat acceptable 24.2%
- Neither acceptable nor unacceptable 10.1%
- Somewhat unacceptable 9.3%
- Unacceptable 17.4%
- Unsure 8.3%

Canada/US Economic Performance Question: In economic performances, do you believe that the situation in Canada is better, the same or worse off than that of the United States? National (n=1,000)

- Better 78.2%
- Same 12.8%
- Worse 4.7%
- Unsure 4.4%

Deficit Reduction Strategies Question: Which of the following strategies do you think is the most effective and second most effective to help balance federal budget? First Ranked (ROTATE OPTIONS) National (n=1,000)

- Freeze government wages 36.0%
- Cut government and program spending 20.5%
- Increase business tax 13.5%
- Rely on tax revenue from economy 8.1%
- Increase the GST 7.9%
- Increase personal income tax 3.4%
- Unsure 10.6%

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- I hope so.
- Not at all, Mother Nature is just teasing us.
- So what, enjoy the sun!

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