



# *Poll* STATION

With Linda Banister

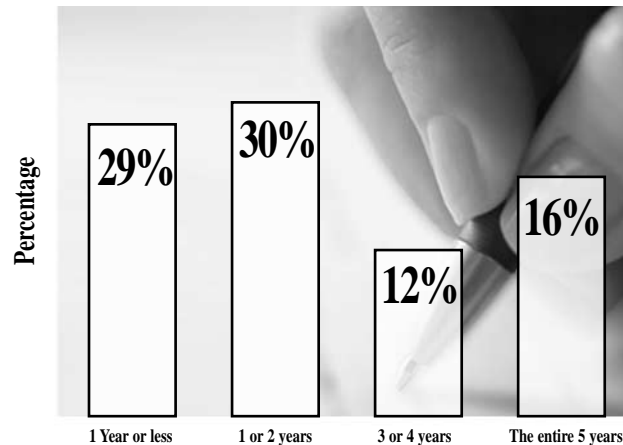
**E**ver since the final polls closed and the Liberals formed a minority government, questions have swirled regarding the stability of parliament and how long it will really last. The House of Commons had barely resumed and we got a taste of how tenuous the situation is. So, this month *Poll Station* asked Edmontonians how they felt about the outcome of the federal election and what these results mean to them.

## ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE ELECTION RESULTS?

Respondents were first asked if they were surprised by the outcome of the recent federal election, that is, the election of a Liberal minority government. While 20 percent of respondents indicated they were surprised by this outcome, over three-quarters (77 percent) were not surprised at all. When asked how satisfied they were with the results of the election, 39 percent indicated they were satisfied overall—13 percent very satisfied and 26 percent somewhat satisfied. Twenty-one percent were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, while 20 percent were somewhat dissatisfied and 15 percent were very dissatisfied—35 percent dissatisfied overall.

When those who were satisfied were asked why they felt this way, respondents provided reasons including wanting the Liberals to win (21 percent), not wanting the Conservatives to be in power (18 percent), and wanting a minority government (14 percent). Of those who were dissatisfied, 43 percent said they felt that way because they did not want the Liberals to win, 14 percent wanted a majority government, and 11 percent just wanted a change in power.

## HOW LONG WILL THE MINORITY SURVIVE?



Next, all respondents were asked how long they thought the current minority government would last. Twenty-nine percent thought one year or less, while 30 percent felt it would survive for one to two years. Twelve percent thought three to four years, and 16 percent felt it would last the entire five-year term.

## WILL THE LIBERALS BE MORE ACCOUNTABLE?



Respondents were then asked if they felt having a minority government would make the Liberals more accountable for their actions. Nearly three quarters (74 percent) said yes, while 19 percent felt they wouldn't. When asked how concerned respondents were that a minority government would not be able to pass important legislation, 42 percent were not at all concerned, while the majority of respondents were either very or somewhat concerned (13 percent and 41 percent, respectively). Fifteen percent were unsure of how the minority government would affect the West. When asked if they felt a minority government would help sway more power into the West, almost half (49 percent) thought it would, while 36 percent felt it wouldn't.

## WHAT ARE THE PRIORITY ISSUES?

Lastly, respondents were asked what important issues they would like to see addressed by the federal government before the next election. Health care was the most commonly cited response with 44 percent, while education (13 percent), and taxes/GST (nine percent) followed. Other frequent mentions included environmental issues (six percent), addressing internal corruption and accountability issues (five percent), and developing social programs for low-income families (five percent).

The *Poll Station* surveyed 100 City of Edmonton residents on the topic and, while the results of the research are not statistically reliable, they do provide a qualitative indication of what Edmontonians are thinking. ✓

*Linda Banister is a certified management consultant and the owner of Banister Research & Consulting Inc., a full service provider of market research and program evaluation services. If you have a question you would like included in the Edmontonians Poll, contact Linda at 780.451.4444 or e-mail at [research@banister.ab.ca](mailto:research@banister.ab.ca). For further information on the firm visit [banister.ab.ca](http://banister.ab.ca).*