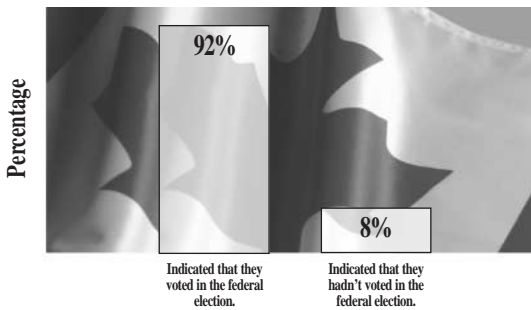




Poll STATION

The winds of change are blowing strongly in Canada in 2006. In late November last year, Canadians were told they would once again be hitting the polls in early 2006, the first winter election campaign since 1980. Throughout December and January, the federal parties rallied to gain support. In the end, it was Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party who would topple the Liberals' 12-year reign and secure a minority government. This month we asked Edmontonians for their thoughts on the recent election and on the future issues facing the Conservatives and Canada.

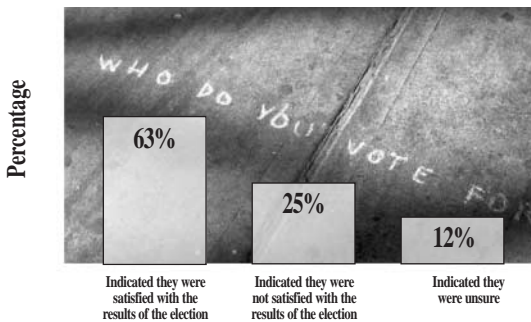
DID YOU VOTE IN THE LAST FEDERAL ELECTIONS?



First, respondents were asked if they had voted on January 23rd, 2006. The majority of respondents eligible to vote (92 percent) indicated they had placed their vote in the ballot box, significantly higher than the national average of 65 percent. Those who did not cast their ballot indicated they were either ill, out of town, out of time, uninformed or uninterested in the campaign.

Next, respondents were asked if they had voted in the 2004 election. Similar to national results, when a record low 60 percent of eligible voters turned up at the polls, significantly fewer respondents (80 percent) indicated they had voted two years ago.

WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS?



The majority of respondents (63 percent) indicated they were satisfied with the outcome of the 2006 federal election, while 25 percent said they were not satisfied and 12 percent were unsure. Those who were satisfied said they felt this way because they supported the Conservative party (36 percent), felt it was time for a change in

government (34 percent), disagreed with the policies and conduct of the Liberals (11 percent), and felt the outcome represented the views of the nation (nine percent). On the other hand, those who were dissatisfied with the election's outcome would have preferred another party to have won (46 percent), were concerned about the policies and political stances of the Conservatives (12 percent), or were just not interested in politics (eight percent). Interestingly, 23 percent of those dissatisfied felt this way because they would have preferred the Conservatives secured a majority government.

Almost half of all respondents (45 percent) felt the Conservative minority government would serve a similar term as the Liberals before them, that is, one to two years. Nine percent said they would last less than one year, while 14 percent felt they would survive three to four years, and 21 percent said they would last a full term. When asked how well they thought the Liberals would be as the official opposition, 44 percent said they would do a very or somewhat good job, while 13 percent were indifferent, and 32 percent felt they would do a poor job.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITY NATIONAL ISSUES?

Finally, respondents were asked what major national issues they would like to see the Conservatives tend to while in office. Health care was the overwhelming choice among Edmontonians as 63 percent felt this was a major issue for the Conservatives to confront. Addressing education (33 percent), taxes and the GST (29 percent), trade relations with the U.S. (23 percent) and the environment (18 percent) were also mentioned frequently by respondents as major issues. ✓

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