

# NATIONALNEWS

■ **ELECTION:** Three main parties try to spin economy for own purposes

## Recession fears plague majority: Poll

**MARK KENNEDY**  
Ottawa Citizen

OTTAWA — Most Canadians believe Canada is entering an economic recession and many feel less financially secure than they did a year ago, a new poll for Postmedia has found.

The national survey by Mainstreet Research was conducted just over a week into the federal election campaign and suggests the ailing economy will become a defining issue of the race.

The poll of 5,401 Canadians on Aug. 10-11 asked: “Do you think the economy is entering a recession or not?”

It found that 61% of people believed the country is heading into a recession — compared to just 17% who disagreed and 21% who weren’t sure.

The survey found a significant level of anxiety among Canadians about their own financial well-being in recent months.

People were asked: “Would you say you feel more financially secure, less secure, or about as secure as you felt a year ago?”

Forty-four percent said they are less financially secure, compared to 33% who said nothing had changed; 14% who said they were more secure; and 8% who weren’t sure.

Mainstreet Research President Quito Maggi said in an interview that the poll provides a notable signal for the campaign. “The ballot box question could very well be: Who is best to manage us through this next recession?”

The economy shrank for each of the first five months of this year. On Sept. 1, Statistics Canada will release more data for June’s economic output. It’s widely expected the figures will show the trend continuing and that, with two quarters of negative growth, Canada is officially in a recession.

The party leaders have all tried to turn economic uncertainty to their own advantage.

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper is seeking a fourth mandate based partly on the claim that he will be a better economic manager than his political rivals because his status-quo policies reject tax hikes and “reckless” spending.

In Regina Thursday, he said that despite falling oil prices, the debt crisis in Europe, and instability in Chinese markets, Canada is doing a good job on things it can control: Eliminating the deficit; promoting international trade; and investing in training.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair and Lib-



GORD WALDNER/SASKATOON STAR PHOENIX

A new poll from Mainstreet Research has found that 61% of Canadians believe the country is headed into a recession.

eral Leader Justin Trudeau say the weak economy is proof they should be trusted with power to help the jobless and improve conditions for middle-class families.

In Saskatoon Thursday, Trudeau said Harper has the worst economic growth record of any prime minister since R.B. Bennett “in the depths of the Great Depression.”

Maggi said that while voters tend to blame sitting governments when the economy goes sour, Harper has managed to “deflect the blame so far” and maintain support from his base by drawing attention to international eco-

nomc problems.

“Politically, it’s a smart thing that he is doing.

“I think when people are pessimistic they can say, ‘Let’s stay the course, let’s not change horses mid-stream, let’s play the safe bet.’ ”

He said there’s also a risk the Conservatives’ claims of a balanced budget could be exposed to be false — thereby damaging their credibility.

Mainstream surveyed landlines and cellphones to obtain a random sample by interactive voice response (IVR). The margin of error is 1.35%, 19 times out of 20.

### ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF UNION GAS LIMITED

**Union Gas Limited has applied for approval to change its gas commodity, storage and transportation rates effective January 1, 2016.**

**Learn more. Have your say.**

Union Gas Limited has applied to change its rates to better reflect how it supplies natural gas to its customers. The proposed changes include the following:

- A change in the reference price used to set rates on a quarterly basis for a majority of its customers; and
- A change to how it allocates costs to the different types of customers that it serves.

An average residential customer would see the following annual bill impact, but these impacts would only start in 2018:

Residential Customer – Service Area	Approximate Bill Impact
Southern Ontario (Windsor to Hamilton)	Decrease of \$20
Northern Delivery Area (North Bay to Kapuskasing)	Increase of \$26
All Other Delivery Areas	Decrease of \$1.50 – \$51.50

Other customers in Union Gas Limited’s service area, including businesses, will also be affected.

#### THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by Union Gas.

We will question Union Gas on the case. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent the customers of Union Gas. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide whether to approve the changes that Union Gas has requested in this application.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

#### BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review the application filed by Union Gas on the OEB’s website now.
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **August 25, 2015** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB’s decision and its reasons on our website.

#### LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is **EB-2015-0181**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2015-0181** from the list on the OEB website: [www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice](http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice). You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

#### ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **August 25, 2015**.

#### PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and e-mail address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).



Ontario  
Ontario Energy Board / Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

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