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## Fall 2005 Lethbridge Public Opinion Study

### Alberta Progressive Conservatives and Premier Klein Performance Evaluations Report

October 18, 2005

# Methodology

-  **Population** The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 77,202 residents (2005 municipal census) approximately 79% of which are 18 years of age or older (61,250 est.). A total of 37,546 residents are male (48.6%) while 39,656 are female (51.4%). South Lethbridge is home to 27,894 residents (36.1%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 26,407 residents (34.2%). There are 22,911 north Lethbridge residents (29.7%).
-  **Sample** Data were collected by Lethbridge Community College and Athabasca University students enrolled in STS270 – Social Science Research Methods at Lethbridge Community College in the fall of 2005. Students interviewed 584 adult residents of the city of Lethbridge on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005 by telephone using the Western Wats Lethbridge call center facility. Telephone numbers were selected using random predictive dialing from a sample drawn from the Telus Superpages. We sincerely thank Western Wats for their hospitality.
-  **Representativeness** Analysis of the demographic data indicates that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the adult population within the city of Lethbridge. The sample has been statistically weighted where necessary to even better reflect the demographic distribution of the population (gender and area of the city).
-  **Confidence** The weighted sample yields a margin of error of  $\pm 4\%$ , 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data.
-  **Sponsorship** These data are part of a larger study of the opinions and attitudes of Lethbridge residents conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at LCC. This particular set of questions arose out of student interest and our ongoing tracking of Lethbridge residents' perceptions of their governments.

# Alberta PC and Premier Klein Performance Evaluations

- Progressive Conservatives** The governing Alberta Progressive Conservatives continue to receive rather positive performance evaluations from Lethbridge voters. More than two-in-five residents (42.6%) evaluate the government positively, almost double the number who give the governing party poor evaluations (23.1%). Slightly more than one-third of respondents (34.3%) think the governing PCs are doing an adequate job.
- Premier Klein** Although still more positive than negative, Lethbridge residents are more evenly divided over Premier Klein's performance. Over one-third of all residents (37.8%) evaluate the premier positively while almost one-third of respondents say he is doing a poor job (32.0%). The remaining residents (30.3%) believe the premier is performing adequately.
- Klein's Retirement** A near majority of Lethbridge residents (49.5%) think Premier Klein should stick to his current retirement plans and step down in about two years time. Interestingly, 10.9% think he should reconsider his plans, not retire, and seek another term in office. About one-in-five residents think he should retire in within the next year (19.2%) while a similar number believe he should step down immediately (20.4%).

Alberta Conservatives	Feb. '01	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05
Good	43.1	50.6	38.7	39.6	36.2	44.0	–	–	45.1	<b>42.6</b>
Adequate	36.9	35.8	36.3	37.0	38.5	33.3	–	–	31.9	<b>34.3</b>
Poor	20.0	13.6	25.0	23.4	25.3	22.8	–	–	23.0	<b>23.1</b>

Premier Klein	Feb. '01	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05
Good	39.2	49.0	37.4	33.8	34.6	41.2	–	–	38.5	<b>37.8</b>
Adequate	32.0	32.1	25.8	32.0	33.6	26.9	–	–	29.0	<b>30.3</b>
Poor	28.8	18.9	36.9	34.2	31.8	31.9	–	–	32.5	<b>32.0</b>

Premier Klein Retirement	October 2005
Stay on and contest next election	10.9
Retire in about 2 years	49.5
Retire in about 1 year	19.2
Retire immediately	20.4

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Alberta Progressive Conservatives performance by demographic group (October 2005)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Good	43.0	42.4	42.6
Adequate	34.8	33.6	34.3
Poor	22.2	24.1	23.1

	South	North	West
Good	41.7	43.4	42.7
Adequate	32.4	33.5	37.2
Poor	26.0	23.1	20.1

	Under \$30,000	\$30,000 to \$70,000	Over \$70,000
Good	43.3	40.9	45.9
Adequate	31.7	39.1	29.7
Poor	25.0	20.0	24.3

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Good	41.2	44.4	47.5	37.6
Adequate	34.6	32.5	32.2	37.6
Poor	24.3	23.1	20.3	24.8

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Good	46.8	42.9	38.2	45.5
Adequate	33.5	31.1	36.6	34.1
Poor	19.7	26.1	25.1	20.5

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Premier Klein performance by demographic group (October 2005)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Good	36.3	39.3	37.8
Adequate	33.5	27.2	30.3
Poor	30.2	33.6	32.0

	South	North	West
Good	40.0	35.3	37.7
Adequate	26.3	33.5	31.7
Poor	33.7	31.2	30.7

	Under \$30,000	\$30,000 to \$70,000	Over \$70,000
Good	36.6	36.7	38.7
Adequate	32.2	31.9	27.0
Poor	31.1	31.4	34.2

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Good	40.4	42.4	37.0	30.3
Adequate	35.3	22.9	34.5	30.9
Poor	24.3	34.7	28.6	38.8

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Good	37.4	38.3	35.8	42.0
Adequate	35.1	26.7	29.5	27.3
Poor	27.6	35.0	34.7	30.7

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Premier Klein retirement by demographic group (October 2005)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Stay-fight election	12.5	9.2	10.9
Retire in 2 years	46.4	52.5	49.5
Retire in 1 year	19.3	19.3	19.2
Retire immediately	21.8	19.0	20.4

	South	North	West
Stay-fight election	11.2	13.5	8.6
Retire in 2 years	43.7	52.0	53.3
Retire in 1 year	21.4	15.8	19.8
Retire immediately	23.8	18.7	18.3

	Under \$30,000	\$30,000 to \$70,000	Over \$70,000
Stay-fight election	12.1	12.7	10.8
Retire in 2 years	46.7	49.3	49.5
Retire in 1 year	18.7	19.7	19.8
Retire immediately	22.5	18.3	19.8

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Stay-fight election	14.6	12.5	11.0	6.0
Retire in 2 years	53.3	49.4	52.5	43.7
Retire in 1 year	13.9	19.6	19.5	23.2
Retire immediately	18.2	18.5	16.9	27.2

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Stay-fight election	13.8	10.9	10.9	5.7
Retire in 2 years	50.0	52.1	47.2	51.1
Retire in 1 year	19.5	16.8	17.6	23.9
Retire immediately	16.7	20.2	24.4	19.3

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Demographics (October 2005)

Gender (%)		Area of City (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
Male	48.3	South	36.0	Under \$30,000	34.8	H-School/less	23.8	18-29	30.5
Female	51.7	North	29.7	\$30-\$70,000	44.3	Some P-Sec.	29.9	30-44	20.9
		West	34.3	Over \$70,000	21.0	Col-Tech-Grad	20.3	45-64	33.2
						University Grad	26.1	65 or older	15.3

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

## Questions

How would you rate the overall performance of the Alberta government? Would you say their performance is... very good – good – adequate – poor – very poor

Using the same scale, how would you rate the overall performance of Premier Ralph Klein? Would you say his performance is... very good – good – adequate – poor – very poor

Alberta premier Ralph Klein has announced that he is planning on retiring as premier in about two years. Please tell me what you think of the Premier's retirement schedule. Would you say the Premier should...

- not retire and seek reelection
- stick to his plan and retire in about two years
- retire within the next year
- retire immediately (or as soon as possible)