



Research Canada's Health Research Advocacy Newsletter

September 2012

*Une version française est aussi disponible. Veuillez nous [contacter](#) pour demander une copie.*

## **Members of Parliament Back to Work on the Hill**

### ***The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey***

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey conducted between August 30th and September 10th, 2012 gives the Conservative Government a seven-point lead over the Official Opposition -- the NDP -- leading into what could be a very acrimonious fall in the House of Commons. The Government has 34 per cent of Canadians' support while the NDP is at 27 and the Liberals at 24. The Green Party captured seven per cent of support.

The results suggest Canadians may be slowly returning to "more traditional patterns of voting behaviour," said Harris-Decima chairman Allan Gregg. The latest poll suggests those voters are migrating back to the traditional choices, said Gregg, causing NDP support to sag and producing modest gains for the Conservatives and Liberals.

But a sitting Parliament can also be the enemy of the incumbent and if ruckus over the first omnibus budget bill passed last spring is any indication of what is to come with the second bill, we are in for a stormy session. As you will recall, the first bill was a pot pourri of measures including rewrites of environmental protection legislation, an overhaul of EI, changes to employment equity law and new rules for charities in terms of their political advocacy.

While the second bill should not be as contentious, because it contains a number of housekeeping measures, it also contains reforms to MPs and federal public servants' pension plans which could ruffle some feathers in Parliament.

Peter Van Loan, Leader of the Government in the House, says that the Conservatives biggest challenge for the fall is simply to try and keep the "House of Commons functioning in a productive fashion in the face of an Opposition that's chosen again to play more political games."

Both the NDP and Liberals are taking a wait-and-see approach. But they are prepared to go to the wall again if they deem the second bill, like the first, is rife with non-budgetary measures the government is trying to sneak through with little public notice or parliamentary scrutiny.

***What's in this Session for Health Research in Canada***

The Government is broadening its research and development focus to all four key areas identified in ***Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage***, the Government's Science and Technology Strategy, released in May 2007. These include natural resources, the environment, health, and information technology.

Research Canada will approach this session of Parliament by continuing to profile the excellence in health research among our member organizations and the partnerships our members are forging to translate their research into social and biomedical innovations that benefit Canadians and help the Canadian economy to grow.

Research Canada is also undertaking a strategic planning exercise in consultation with its membership to re-tool and re-invent our strategic approach to health research advocacy in response to a changing political and policy landscape in Ottawa. Health research funding continues to be a critical issue for our members. Strengthening our influence on the public policy process to ensure that health research remains a high federal priority is Research Canada's top priority this fall.

Research Canada will also continue to work closely with its national partners to deliver relevant and common messages to the Government of Canada.

### ***Health Research Caucus***

Research Canada is hosting a Health Research Caucus Event on Health Innovation Clusters on October 1st 2012 on Parliament Hill to profile the discovery research across the country in every region that is being translated into health innovations that create jobs, improve health and save health care dollars. Senator Kelvin K. Ogilvie, Chair of Research Canada's Caucus, will welcome Members of Parliament to a kiosk-style event that will profile six health innovation clusters across the country from the West to the Atlantic. For more information on this event please visit our web site at <http://www.rc-rc.ca/events/parliamentary-events/hrc-event-on-innovation-clusters>

### ***Institute Visits***

Research Canada will follow up this event with a series of visits to our members' institutions of Health Research Caucus delegations when Parliament recesses. It is during these visits where MPs have their epiphanies connecting the dots between health research and social and biomedical innovation. If you are interested in hosting a Health Research Caucus delegation, please contact our national offices.

### ***Annual General Meeting***

Research Canada will also host its Annual General Meeting on November 21st, 2012. Join us for a provocative panel discussion in the morning hosted by **Mr. Andre Picard** of the Globe and Mail and featuring **Mr. Tom Jenkins**, Executive Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer, OpenText, and a Health Research Caucus Luncheon hosted by **Senator Kelvin K. Ogilvie**, Chair of the Health Research Caucus, featuring **Mr. Michael Wilson**, Chancellor of the University of Toronto, as our Keynote Speaker.

In the afternoon, Research Canada is inviting its members to attend a plenary and break-out

group session after lunch chaired by Research Canada's incoming Chair, **Ms. Maureen Adamson** who will be joined by the Chair of Research Canada's Membership Committee, **Dr. Juliette Cooper**, Research Canada's Science Advisor, **Dr. Michael Julius** and **Ms. Deborah Gordon-El-Bihbety**, President and CEO, which will explore the challenges the health research sector is facing and the role Research Canada can play to address these by increasing its advocacy influence on Parliament Hill. In the context of the morning's panel conclusions and the data that will be presented from our **2012 Membership Survey**, Research Canada's members will have an opportunity to influence Research Canada's strategic direction over the next several years as the organization undertakes its second strategic planning exercise since its creation in 2005. Please visit our website at [www.rc-rc.ca](http://www.rc-rc.ca) for more details.

#### **About Research Canada: An Alliance for Health Discovery**

Research Canada is a national, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health and prosperity of Canadians by championing Canada's global leadership in health research. Working for all Canadians, its members and partners are drawn from all sectors dedicated to increasing investments in health research, including the leading health research institutes, national health charities, hospitals, regional health authorities, universities, private industry and others.

[www.rc-rc.ca](http://www.rc-rc.ca)

#### **Au sujet de Recherche Canada: Une alliance pour les découvertes en santé.**

Recherche Canada est une organisation nationale sans but lucratif dont la mission est d'améliorer la santé et la prospérité des Canadiens et des Canadiennes grâce au leadership mondial du Canada dans le domaine de la recherche en santé. Ses membres, qui travaillent pour tous les Canadiens et Canadiennes, viennent de tous les secteurs qui s'emploient à accroître les investissements dans la recherche en santé. Ils comprennent les principaux instituts de recherche en santé, les organisations nationales de bienfaisance œuvrant dans le domaine de la santé, les hôpitaux, les régies régionales de la santé, les universités, le secteur privé et d'autres organismes.

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