
PRESS RELEASE

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**A SLIM MAJORITY OF ALBERTANS OPPOSE
THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION
TO DELIST SOME HEALTHCARE SERVICES.**

**ALBERTANS ARE SPLIT ON
WHETHER HEALTHCARE PREMIUMS
SHOULD BE REINSTATED.**

**A SLIM MAJORITY OF ALBERTANS THINK
THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA SHOULD
CONTINUE WITH PRESENT HEALTHCARE
SERVICES AND RUN A BUDGET DEFICIT
UNTIL THE ECONOMY IMPROVES.**

Albertans' Views on Healthcare Funding and Insured Services

Overall Results

- Nearly six-in-ten (58%) of Albertans oppose the Government of Alberta's plan to no longer cover some health services such as chiropractic care to try and control rising health care costs.
- The population is split nearly in half, however, on the issue of whether the Government of Alberta should bring back healthcare premiums: 44% of Albertans support reinstating healthcare premiums while 50% do not.
- The majority (62%) of Albertans feel that the Government of Alberta should continue with the present healthcare services and run a deficit until the economy improves.

Results by Demographic

- Albertans with lower education level (high school or less), not employed full time or with lower income are more likely to oppose the government's decision of not covering some healthcare services compared to other Albertans. (**Education:** high school or less: 65%, post secondary / university: 55%; **Employment status:** employed full time: 54%, other: 62%; **Income:** < \$50K: 65%, \$50K - \$74K: 60%, > \$75K: 53%).
- Females and respondents from households with more than one person are more likely to oppose the idea of the government no longer covering some healthcare services than males or single person household (female: 65%, male: 51%; single person household: 47%, household with more than one person: 60%).
- There is no clear difference in opinion noted in terms of bringing back healthcare premiums for Albertans among different demographic groups.
- Albertans living outside the metropolitan areas of Edmonton and Calgary are less likely to support the idea of the Government of Alberta carrying on with the present healthcare services and running a deficit until the economy improves, than Albertans living in Edmonton and Calgary regions (Edmonton CMA: 64%; Calgary CMA: 65%; Other: 57%).

Preamble read to respondents:

The Alberta government says it will run a \$4.7 billion budget deficit this year. It has announced it will no longer cover some health services such as chiropractic care to try and control rising health care costs. It is also looking at whether it should no longer pay for other health services to keep control over health care expenses. Do you support or oppose the following approaches to address the health care funding issue?

1. Removing some healthcare services so people either pay personally or through insurance?	
	April 2009 (n=900)
Oppose	58%
Strongly oppose	40%
Somewhat oppose	18%
Support	35%
Somewhat support	20%
Strongly support	15%
No Opinion	7%

2. Bringing back health care premiums for Albertans. [READ: In case you didn't know, as of January 2009, Albertans no longer pay for health care coverage.]	
	April 2009 (n=900)
Oppose	50%
Strongly oppose	35%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Support	44%
Somewhat support	21%
Strongly support	23%
No Opinion	6%

3. Carrying on with the present services and running a deficit until the economy improves.	
	April 2009 (n=900)
Oppose	30%
Strongly oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Support	62%
Somewhat support	32%
Strongly support	30%
No Opinion	8%

Methodology:

A total of 900 Albertans were interviewed by telephone from April 17 to April 22, 2009. The sample was weighted to represent the normal distribution of Albertans as reported by Statistics Canada. The overall margin of error is $\pm 3.3\%$, 19 times out of 20. Using the same confidence interval, the margin of error is $\pm 5.8\%$ for Edmonton, $\pm 5.7\%$ for Calgary and $\pm 5.6\%$ for other regions.

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