

Canadians Need a Real Education in Politics

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Sunday, June 21, 2009

<http://politicsrespun.org/2009/06/canadians-need-a-real-education-in-politics/>

Ipsos/CanWest just released a poll that shows that Canadians need far more education about how politics is supposed to work in a parliamentary system.

Here's what they found [see below for some of the ambiguous juicy quotes]:

1. a large minority think Igg would do a better job of running the country
2. a slim majority think parliament isn't working
3. a slim majority think Harper is doing a good job of managing the issues

The conclusion from Ipsos? Most support Harper and are wary of Igg, so they don't want an election.

That's the best they could hobble together from the ambiguous data available.

Here's the real answer that also supports the inconclusive data: Canadians don't understand the relevance of the following--majority governments, minority governments, what parliament is supposed to do, what de facto coalitions do, what real coalitions could do, why majority governments are tyrannical, and how "issues that are most important to Canadians" have anything to do with the operation of government...especially minority governments.

The two parties that have governed Canada, with the polling firms and corporate media are incapable and uninterested in properly informing Canadians about the parliamentary system and all the other features of how politics actually occurs in Canada.

Why? They have a vested interest in manipulating perception for electoral purposes.

Democracy, informed civic participation and intelligent planning for the short and long term future are not the object of the Liberal Party, the ReformConservative Party, the polling firms and the corporate media.

When people start to learn about why we are being so poorly represented by the governing establishment, we have an actual hope of making democracy work while we watch the perfect storm of peak oil, climate breakdown and the implosion of neoliberal capitalism and globalization.

Education is the key.

Without it, we are at the mercy of people continuing to jerk us around.

The polling Ipsos paradox:

While many (53%) Canadians 'agree' (21% strongly/32% somewhat) that 'our parliament isn't working', a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Canwest News Service and Global Television reveals that a majority (53%) 'agrees' (20% strongly/34% somewhat) that 'Stephen Harper and the Conservatives are doing a good job of managing the issues that are most important to Canadians and should continue to govern'.

via [Majority \(53%\) Say Harper Conservatives Doing 'Good Job' and Should Continue Governing as Only 39% Believe Ignatieff Liberals Would Do 'Better Job'](#).