

THE LIBERALS' "RED BOOK" PROMISES

- ◆ When asked what kind of job the federal Liberal government has done, two and a half years into its mandate, of delivering on what they outlined in the "Red Book", a majority of 53 percent of surveyed Canadians gave a rating of "very poor" or "poor" (11% and 42% respectively), compared to one in three (34%) who stated the government has done a "very good" or "good" job (1% and 33% respectively) in this regard; 12 percent were unsure. Quebecers were most critical (69% said poor job), Ontarians the least (evenly split).

(Table 2)

- ◆ Those who were critical of the government's record on delivering on its "Red Book" promises were asked to name a commitment that reflects this failure to deliver. More than one-third (36%) of these respondents volunteered the GST; one-quarter (24%) said jobs/job creation, and 5 percent pointed to deficit reduction as "Red Book" promises poorly kept by the Chretien Liberals. Meanwhile, those who felt the government has so far done a good job of delivering its "Red Book" promises highlighted progress on deficit reduction (14%), jobs/job creation (10%), and the economy in general (6%). One-half (53%) of this group could not cite a specific policy that reflected the Liberals' delivery on their promises.

(Table 2)

- ◆ Surveyed Canadians were also asked whether, compared to other federal and provincial governments, "the current federal Liberal government has done better, done worse, or been