

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **One half agree Wynne is involved in e-mail scandal**

### **Close to half agree Premier should step aside during investigation**

TORONTO December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1003 Ontario voters, one half agrees Premier Kathleen Wynne had a role in erasing the gas plant e-mails (49%), while one fifth disagree she had any role (21%). As many as 3-in-10 don't have an opinion (31%). Among PCs, three quarters agree the Premier is culpable (73%), while just one fifth of Liberals think she is (19%). Six-in-ten New Democrats agree the Premier had a role in deleting the e-mails (59%).

### **One half agree Premier should step down during investigation of e-mails**

Close to one half of Ontario voters agree Premier Wynne should step aside while the scandal of the erased e-mails is investigated (47%), and more than a third disagree (36%). Fewer than one fifth don't have an opinion (18%). Of note, as many as one fifth of those who plan to vote Liberal in the next election believe the Premier should step aside (18%). Three quarters of PCs (73%) and more than one half of New Democrats agree (53%).

### **PCs lead in voter preference**

One third will vote PC if the election were held today (34%), while about 3-in-10 will vote Liberal (31%). One quarter will vote NDP (26%) and few will vote Green (7%) or for another party (1%). These findings represent stability since last month, when the PCs similarly led by 6 points (November 5, PCs - 36%, Liberals - 30%, NDP - 26%).

The PC vote is characteristic of the oldest (41%) males (40%), while the Liberal vote is common to the youngest (3%), females (33%) rather than males (28%), mid income groups (41%) in Eastern Ontario (39%) and among the most educated (post grad - 38%). The NDP vote is also common to the youngest (34%), the least wealthy (33%) and in Southwestern Ontario (33%).

### **Small PC minority seen**

If these results are projected up to seats in the current 107 seat Legislature, the PCs would take a minority of 44 seats, 10 fewer than required for a majority, while the Liberals would take 35 seats and the NDP 25, for a very balanced house.

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#### **TORONTO**

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- One half agrees Premier Kathleen Wynne had a role in erasing the gas plant e-mails (49%).
- Close to one half of Ontario voters agree Premier Wynne should step aside while the scandal of the erased e-mails is investigated (47%).
- One third will vote PC if the election were held today (34%), while about 3-in-10 will vote Liberal (31%).
- If these results are projected up to seats in the current 107 seat Legislature, the PCs would take a minority of 44 seats, 10 fewer than required for a majority, while the Liberals would take 35 seats and the NDP 25, for a very balanced house).

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## **Party leader favourables are steady**

Fewer than a quarter of Ontario voters approve of Kathleen Wynne's performance as Premier (23%) and she has a net favourable score (approve minus disapprove) of a very negative -38. This is in contrast to a poorer previous score of 21% and -47 last month. Patrick Brown has the approval of one quarter of voters (25%) and his net is a neutral +2. This is very similar to last month's score of 27% and 0. Andrea Horwath has the highest approval at 4-in-10 voters (40%) and her net favourable score is a very positive +13. This is similar to last month's findings on this measure (41% approval, +11 net favourable).

## **Three leaders tied for best Premier**

All three leaders are seen to make the best Premier, including Andrea Horwath (20%), Kathleen Wynne and Patrick Brown (19% each). However, more than a quarter think none of these three is up to the job (27%).

"While this looks dire for the Premier, with one half the electorate suggesting she step down, it must be noted that the government's vote share and approvals have not changed markedly from before this information about the erased e-mails was released," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at [lbozinoff@forumresearch.com](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com) or at (416) 960-9603.

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## **TORONTO**

**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Fewer than a quarter of Ontario voters approve of Kathleen Wynne's performance as Premier (23%).
- All three leaders are seen to make the best Premier, including Andrea Horwath (20%), Kathleen Wynne and Patrick Brown (19% each).
- "While this looks dire for the Premier, with one half the electorate suggesting she step down, it must be noted that the government's vote share and approvals have not changed markedly from before this information about the erased e-mails was released," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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## **Methodology**

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1003 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at [www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp)

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at [www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

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## Provincial Election Voting Preference Trending

[Decided / Leaning]

%	Sample	Con	Lib	NDP	Green	Other
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1003	34	31	26	7	2
November 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1158	36	30	26	6	2
August 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1001	35	26	33	4	2
July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	678	32	26	35	5	2
May 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1001	33	24	36	5	2
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	912	36	29	24	9	2
March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	881	34	29	27	8	2
February 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	996	39	32	21	6	2
January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1028	36	37	19	6	2
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1058	36	35	20	7	2
November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1054	37	37	17	7	2
November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1104	35	40	19	4	2
October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1013	34	36	23	6	1
August 20-21 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1229	32	39	19	8	2
Popular Vote – June 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 Provincial Election Results	-	31	39	24	5	2
June 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1054	35	41	20	3	1
June 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	974	37	39	17	6	1
May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	882	36	36	20	7	1
May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1136	34	41	20	4	1
May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	996	35	38	21	5	1
May 2-3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	1845	38	33	22	6	1
April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	928	38	31	23	7	1
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	908	32	35	25	7	1
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1014	35	32	26	6	1
Jan. 24-25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1222	36	33	26	4	1
Dec. 17-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1044	38	31	24	5	1
Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1126	38	32	23	6	1
Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1049	34	31	27	7	1
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	1093	36	33	23	7	1
Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1019	35	32	26	6	1
Jul 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	861	36	31	27	5	1
Jun 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	977	35	33	24	8	1
May 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	881	34	38	21	6	0
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013	832	35	35	25	4	1
April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1133	36	36	24	4	1
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> 2013	1156	35	32	26	5	1
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> to Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2013	2773	32	32	29	5	1
Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1053	36	29	28	5	1
Jan. 23 to 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1052	32	27	35	5	1
Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	925	33	27	31	8	1
Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1064	35	29	27	8	1

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December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

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December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

**Overall Seat Distribution**

%	Con	Lib	NDP
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	44	35	28
November 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	54	19	34
August 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	54	19	34
July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	35	27	45
May 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	49	18	40
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	48	33	26
March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	52	23	32
February 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	49	39	19
January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	34	56	17
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	37	52	18
November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	38	52	17
November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	37	56	14
October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	35	51	21
August 20-21 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	31	61	15
Election – June 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	<b>28</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>21</b>
June 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	39	57	11
May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	42	50	15
May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	31	63	13
May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	26	68	13
May 2-3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	45	49	13
April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	49	45	13
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	29	66	12
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	48	42	17
Jan. 24-25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	47	46	14
Dec. 17-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	43	51	13
Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	47	44	16
Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	41	48	18
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	47	44	16
Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	36	53	18
Jul 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	45	46	16
Jun 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	42	54	11
May 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	37	60	10
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013	36	59	12
April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	38	59	10
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> 2013	43	50	14
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> to Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2013	36	53	18
Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	52	39	16
Jan. 23 to 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	40	40	27
Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	44	38	25
Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	47	41	19
Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2012	58	26	23
Sep. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	60	23	24

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## TORONTO

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

### Ontario Provincial Party Leader Approval Rating Trending (% Approve)

[All Respondents]

	Sample	Wynne	Brown	Horwath
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1003	23	25	40
November 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1158	21	27	41
August 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1001	30	21	38
July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	678	29	19	38
May 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1001	26	17	41
	Sample	Wynne	Wilson	Horwath
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	912	29	22	39
March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	881	33	22	40
February 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	996	36	24	37
January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1028	40	22	36
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1058	37	22	35
November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1054	42	22	33
November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1104	46	23	31
October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1079	41	18	31
August 20-21 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1229	46	27	35
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	810	41	-	28
		Wynne	Hudak	Horwath
May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	882	34	27	34
May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1136	38	25	35
May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	996	38	23	35
May 2-3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	1845	34	26	36
April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	928	34	27	40
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	908	34	23	38
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1014	32	24	40
Jan. 24-25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1222	40	21	40
Dec. 17-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1044	35	28	41
Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1126	35	26	44
Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1049	33	26	46
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	1093	39	25	41
Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1063	36	24	50
Jul 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	914	35	27	43
Jun 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1037	37	26	43
May 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	918	41	26	43
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013	869	42	27	49
April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1133	38	27	43
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> 2013	1156	40	27	44
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> to Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2013	2773	34	24	44
Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1053	36	27	49

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**TORONTO**

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

## Current Provincial Vote Preference

*'If a provincial election were held today, which party are you most likely to vote for?' + 'Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time?'*

[Decided/Leaning]

### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	955	134	120	182	225	294	485	470
Progressive Conservative	34	20	33	40	36	41	40	29
Liberal	31	35	28	26	31	33	28	33
New Democratic	26	34	27	25	26	20	24	28
Green	7	10	10	7	6	5	6	8
Another Party	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1

### Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	955	145	146	269	415	239	156
Progressive Conservative	34	38	32	34	34	33	33
Liberal	31	39	37	29	32	22	33
New Democratic	26	15	24	28	26	33	26
Green	7	6	5	7	6	11	7
Another Party	2	1	2	2	2	2	1

## Past Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	955	291	304	180	46	58
Progressive Conservative	34	84	12	7	16	42
Liberal	31	9	65	11	17	24
New Democratic	26	4	16	78	8	10
Green	7	2	7	3	56	11
Another Party	2	1	0	1	2	13

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**TORONTO**

**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

## ***Kathleen Wynne Approval***

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Kathleen Wynne is doing as premier?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1003	146	124	195	232	306	511	492
Approve	23	27	21	18	23	27	20	26
Disapprove	61	54	59	71	67	62	64	59
Don't know	15	19	20	12	10	11	15	15

### **Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1003	149	152	286	438	251	165
Approve	23	30	36	21	26	17	18
Disapprove	61	48	54	64	60	70	65
Don't know	15	22	11	16	14	13	17

### **Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1003	347	296	197	75	40
Approve	23	5	58	8	22	3
Disapprove	61	88	27	74	62	67
Don't know	15	7	14	17	16	30

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**TORONTO**

**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

## ***Patrick Brown Approval***

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Patrick Brown is doing as leader of the Opposition?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1003	146	124	195	232	306	511	492
Approve	25	19	29	27	26	29	29	22
Disapprove	24	27	21	20	28	23	29	19
Don't know	51	54	50	53	46	48	42	59

### **Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1003	149	152	286	438	251	165
Approve	25	30	28	27	27	19	24
Disapprove	24	22	28	21	23	27	23
Don't know	51	48	45	53	50	53	53

### **Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1003	347	296	197	75	40
Approve	25	51	15	16	14	15
Disapprove	24	12	30	29	38	35
Don't know	51	38	55	55	48	51

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## TORONTO

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

### Andrea Horwath Approval

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Andrea Horwath is doing as Leader of the NDP?'*

[All Respondents]

### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1003	146	124	195	232	306	511	492
Approve	40	34	47	38	39	43	41	38
Disapprove	26	27	19	29	28	28	30	22
Don't know	34	39	34	33	34	30	28	40

### Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1003	149	152	286	438	251	165
Approve	40	38	37	44	42	37	36
Disapprove	26	21	34	25	28	26	26
Don't know	34	41	30	31	30	37	38

### Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1003	347	296	197	75	40
Approve	40	37	33	63	38	26
Disapprove	26	34	27	14	24	48
Don't know	34	29	40	23	38	26

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**TORONTO**

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

**Best Premier of ON**

*‘Regardless of which party you would vote for, who do you think would make the best Premier of Ontario?’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1003	146	124	195	232	306	511	492
Kathleen Wynne	19	19	18	16	19	24	16	22
Patrick Brown	19	12	20	21	20	28	22	17
Andrea Horwath	20	23	26	14	21	14	20	20
None of these	27	30	22	32	28	22	28	26
Don't know	15	17	14	17	12	12	14	16

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1003	149	152	286	438	251	165
Kathleen Wynne	19	23	32	17	22	14	13
Patrick Brown	19	21	19	22	21	15	19
Andrea Horwath	20	14	14	22	19	26	17
None of these	27	22	26	26	26	30	29
Don't know	15	21	8	14	12	15	20

**Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1003	347	296	197	75	40
Kathleen Wynne	19	3	52	5	9	9
Patrick Brown	19	50	7	5	5	8
Andrea Horwath	20	12	9	53	26	5
None of these	27	27	15	24	46	60
Don't know	15	9	18	12	14	17

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**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

## Gas Plant Scandal

*'The OPP have charged two of former Premier McGuinty's aides with breach of trust and other charges for deleting computer hard drives related to the gas plant scandal. Do you agree or disagree Premier Wynne had any role in this scandal?'*

[All Respondents]

## Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1003	146	124	195	232	306	511	492
Agree	49	43	50	54	53	47	54	44
Disagree	21	22	18	17	19	26	16	24
Don't know	31	35	32	29	27	27	29	32

## Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1003	149	152	286	438	251	165
Agree	49	40	43	52	49	54	49
Disagree	21	22	30	19	23	19	13
Don't know	31	38	28	29	29	27	38

## Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1003	347	296	197	75	40
Agree	49	73	19	59	35	64
Disagree	21	8	40	15	26	7
Don't know	31	20	42	26	39	29

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# NEWS RELEASE



**FORUM RESEARCH INC.**

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**TORONTO**

**December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

## ***Gas Plant Scandal: Wynne Stepping Down***

*'Do you agree or disagree Premier Wynne should step down during the investigation of this scandal?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1003	146	124	195	232	306	511	492
Agree	47	37	49	56	53	45	51	43
Disagree	36	37	35	30	32	44	33	37
Don't know	18	26	17	14	15	11	15	20

### **Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1003	149	152	286	438	251	165
Agree	47	42	34	49	44	54	52
Disagree	36	39	53	35	41	27	26
Don't know	18	18	13	17	15	19	22

### **Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1003	347	296	197	75	40
Agree	47	73	18	53	38	55
Disagree	36	16	62	32	35	21
Don't know	18	11	21	15	27	23

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