

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberal lead cut to 23 points

Progressive Conservatives, NDP increase vote share

TORONTO November 24th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 842 Newfoundland and Labrador voters, just more than half will vote Liberal (52%), while about 3-in-10 will vote Progressive Conservative (29%). The NDP vote is characteristic of one fifth (19%). This stands in sharp contrast to the last time we polled the day after the writs were drawn up, when the Liberals had a 44 point lead (November 6 - Liberals 65% to 21% for the Progressive Conservatives, 13% for the NDP).

The Liberal vote is common to the younger voter (35 to 44 - 59%), the least wealthy (65%), western Newfoundland and Corner Brook (67%) and among those voting in advance polls (62%).

The Progressive Conservative vote is characteristic of the oldest (33%), mid-income groups (\$40K to \$60K - 40%), in St John's and the Avalon Peninsula (31%), but not in Labrador (22%).

The NDP vote is common to the youngest (31%) and in Labrador (46%).

Of note, about 4-in-10 past Progressive Conservative voters will support the Liberals this time (39%), as will the same proportion of past NDP voters (41%).

Leader approvals are stable

Close to half approve of Dwight Ball (45%) and his net favourable rating (approve minus disapprove) is +12, Paul Davis has the approval of 4-in-10 (39%) and his net is a slightly negative -5. Earle McCurdy is approved of by 3-in-10 (30%) and his net score is a negative -16.

Ball seen as best premier

Dwight Ball is seen as the best Premier by a slight margin over Paul Davis (34% to 30%) while Earle McCurdy does not pass muster on this measure (10%).

"It appears that reports of the Liberals' massive lead in some polls has led voters to reconsider their decision, with just 6 days left until the election. Make no mistake, the Liberals still sport a huge lead, but probably not enough for a legislative sweep," 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 or at (416) 960-9603.

TORONTO

November 24th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Just more than half will vote Liberal (52%), while about 3-in-10 will vote Progressive Conservative (29%).
- Close to half approve of Dwight Ball (45%) and his net favourable rating (approve minus disapprove) is +12, Paul Davis has the approval of 4-in-10 (39%) and his net is a slightly negative -5.
- Dwight Ball is seen as the best Premier by a slight margin over Paul Davis (34% to 30%) while Earle McCurdy does not pass muster on this measure (10%).
- "It appears that reports of the Liberals' massive lead in some polls has led voters to reconsider their decision, with just 6 days left until the election. Make no mistake, the Liberals still sport a huge lead, but probably not enough for a legislative sweep," 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 842 randomly selected Newfoundland and Labrador voters. The poll was conducted on November 24th, 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

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. Electoral outcome depends on the success of the parties at getting out the vote. 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

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Provincial Party Preference – Trending

%	Nov. 24 th , 2015	Nov. 6 th , .2015
Sample	790	733
Progressive Conservative	29	21
Liberal	52	65
New Democratic Party	19	13
Other Parties	0	1

Paul Davis Approval – Trending

%	Nov. 24 th , 2015	Nov. 6 th , .2015
Sample	842	766
Approve	39	34
Disapprove	43	43
Don't know	18	23

Dwight Ball Approval – Trending

%	Nov. 24 th , 2015	Nov. 6 th , .2015
Sample	842	766
Approve	45	46
Disapprove	33	24
Don't know	22	31

Earle McCurdy Approval – Trending

%	Nov. 24 th , 2015	Nov. 6 th , .2015
Sample	842	766
Approve	30	30
Disapprove	47	34
Don't know	23	35

Best Premier of NL – Trending

%	Nov. 24 th , 2015	Nov. 6 th , .2015
Sample	842	766
Paul Davis	30	25
Dwight Ball	34	37
Earle McCurdy	10	10
None of these	15	14
Don't know	10	15

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Current Provincial Party Preference

'In the provincial election called for November 30, which party are you most likely to vote for or have you voted for already?' + '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	790	157	116	178	192	147	437	353
Progressive Conservative	29	27	25	29	31	33	30	28
Liberal	52	42	59	53	54	51	52	51
New Democratic Party	19	31	17	18	16	16	17	20
Other Parties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Region

%	Total	St John's and the Avalon Peninsula	Grand Falls-Windsor and Central Newfoundland	Corner Brook and Western Newfoundland	Labrador
Sample	790	550	110	107	23
Progressive Conservative	29	31	25	25	22
Liberal	52	49	59	67	32
New Democratic Party	19	20	16	8	46
Other Parties	0	0	0	0	0

Past Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Other parties
Sample	790	316	173	154	14
Progressive Conservative	29	50	13	16	10
Liberal	52	39	78	41	65
New Democratic Party	19	12	8	43	25
Other Parties	0	0	0	0	0

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Paul Davis Approval

'Do you approve or disapprove of Paul Davis of the Progressive Conservatives?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	842	174	125	186	201	156	465	377
Approve	39	30	34	47	45	41	41	36
Disapprove	43	47	46	38	40	43	47	39
Don't know	18	23	19	15	15	16	12	24

Region

%	Total	St John's and the Avalon Peninsula	Grand Falls-Windsor and Central Newfoundland	Corner Brook and Western Newfoundland	Labrador
Sample	842	584	118	115	25
Approve	39	42	32	34	17
Disapprove	43	41	44	43	69
Don't know	18	16	23	23	14

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Other parties
Sample	842	229	398	154	9
Approve	39	81	21	26	40
Disapprove	43	11	59	57	20
Don't know	18	8	20	17	40

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Dwight Ball Approval

'Do you approve or disapprove of Dwight Ball of the Liberals?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	842	174	125	186	201	156	465	377
Approve	45	35	52	49	46	48	47	43
Disapprove	33	36	26	35	39	30	36	31
Don't know	22	29	22	16	16	22	17	26

Region

%	Total	St John's and the Avalon Peninsula	Grand Falls-Windsor and Central Newfoundland	Corner Brook and Western Newfoundland	Labrador
Sample	842	584	118	115	25
Approve	45	44	49	53	20
Disapprove	33	37	24	23	43
Don't know	22	19	27	24	37

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Other parties
Sample	842	229	398	154	9
Approve	45	19	74	24	25
Disapprove	33	66	8	50	40
Don't know	22	15	18	26	35

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Earle McCurdy Approval

'Do you approve or disapprove of Earle McCurdy of the NDP?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	842	174	125	186	201	156	465	377
Approve	30	27	33	34	31	27	30	30
Disapprove	47	44	44	50	51	47	53	41
Don't know	23	30	23	17	18	26	17	29

Region

%	Total	St John's and the Avalon Peninsula	Grand Falls-Windsor and Central Newfoundland	Corner Brook and Western Newfoundland	Labrador
Sample	842	584	118	115	25
Approve	30	32	23	31	21
Disapprove	47	46	53	45	34
Don't know	23	22	25	24	45

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Other parties
Sample	842	229	398	154	9
Approve	30	25	22	60	19
Disapprove	47	58	53	23	43
Don't know	23	17	25	18	38

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Best Premier of NL

'Regardless of which party you would vote for, who do you think would make the best Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	842	174	125	186	201	156	465	377
Paul Davis	30	29	21	35	35	33	32	29
Dwight Ball	34	25	41	33	38	40	36	33
Earle McCurdy	10	11	13	8	10	9	12	9
None of these	15	21	17	15	9	6	13	17
Don't know	10	14	8	9	7	11	7	13

Region

%	Total	St John's and the Avalon Peninsula	Grand Falls-Windsor and Central Newfoundland	Corner Brook and Western Newfoundland	Labrador
Sample	842	584	118	115	25
Paul Davis	30	33	26	26	17
Dwight Ball	34	32	44	41	20
Earle McCurdy	10	11	8	6	30
None of these	15	16	10	12	21
Don't know	10	8	13	16	12

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Other parties
Sample	842	229	398	154	9
Paul Davis	30	74	13	20	30
Dwight Ball	34	8	63	13	15
Earle McCurdy	10	4	3	36	0
None of these	15	9	12	21	55
Don't know	10	4	9	10	0

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