

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **Half of Ontarians Now Say they Support the PCs**

### **Ontarians divided about Patrick Brown's entry into the race**

Toronto, February 17th - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 949 Ontario voters, half (49%) say they would support the PCs if an election were held today, an increase of 8 points in just a few weeks (Jan 25: 42%).

The Liberals have the support of about a quarter (24%), similar to the end of January (Jan 25: 27%).

The NDP dip slightly in February to 2 in 10 (19%), which is 4 points from where they were in January (Jan 25: 23%).

The Greens are supported by just under 1 in 10 (7%), similar to January (Jan 25: 6%). Few are supporting another party (2%).

### **The PCs would claim a massive majority if an election were held today**

They would secure 93 seats, with the NDP serving as the official opposition with 21. The Liberals would serve as the third party with 10.

### **Christine Elliott leads amongst the general public**

While the general public doesn't get to vote in the leadership, Christine Elliott would make the best leader of the PC party according to almost one-quarter (22%) of Ontarians. One-sixth (16%) say it would be Doug Ford, with just under one-sixth (14%) saying Caroline Mulroney.

Patrick Brown would make the best leader according to just under one-sixth (13%) tying him with Mulroney and Ford for second place amongst the general public.

Few would support Tanya Granic Allen (5%).

The plurality, about a third, (31%), said they do not know.

### **The public is divided on Brown's entry into the race**

Almost 4 in 10 (38%) say they agree with Patrick Brown's decision to enter the race, while the same proportion (39%) say they disagree.

About one-quarter (22%) say they do not know.

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### **Amongst those that saw or heard anything about the debate, Elliott and Ford won**

Only about one-quarter (22%) watched some the debate, while 4 in 10 (39%) said they heard something about it. 4 in 10 (39%) also said they neither saw, nor heard anything about the debate.

Amongst those that said they watched or heard something, Christine Elliott (17%) and Doug Ford (16%) led when Ontarians were asked who won the debate.

Caroline Mulroney (12%) was just back of the leaders, with Tanya Granic Allen (8%) the winner according to fewer than 1 in 10.

A quarter, the plurality, (26%), said nobody won the debate.

And about 2 in 10 (21%) said they do not know who won the debate.

### **Amongst those decided and leaning Elliott and Mulroney would see the highest support**

Half (48%) said they would support the PCs in the next election if Christine Elliott were the leader, a similar proportion to Caroline Mulroney (49%).

In this projection, of the four candidates, it is Mulroney and Elliott that reduce Liberal vote share to its lowest level, with each pushing the Liberals to about one quarter support. (22%).

Ford and Brown would both receive support from more than 4 in 10 (43%) but they don't appeal to quite as many leaning Liberal voters.

"The constant stream of media attention and fervor surrounding the leadership race, has done nothing but help the Progressive Conservatives, with almost half of Ontarians now saying they would support the PCs if an election were held today," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "Even Patrick Brown's re-entry into the race isn't yet showing as a negative, with just as many people saying they agree with the decision as disagree. Right now it looks as any of the four frontrunners would secure a majority for the PCs in the next election."

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.



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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 949 randomly selected Ontario Voters. The poll was conducted February 16th and 17th, 2018.

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. Actual results depend on the parties' ability to get their voters out. 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
Feb 16-17, 2019	949	49	24	19	7	2
Jan 25, 2018	751	42	27	23	6	2
Jan 11-13, 2018	1022	43	24	24	7	2
Nov 29-30, 2017	861	40	24	26	8	2
Oct 24-25, 2017	946	45	27	22	7	2
Sept 26-27, 2017	801	44	22	27	5	2
Aug 23-24, 2017	981	40	25	27	6	2
June 12-14, 2017	1003	44	23	24	7	2
May 9-10, 2017	1103	41	28	23	6	3
March 28-30, 2017	844	43	19	28	8	2
February 15-16, 2017	1026	44	24	25	6	2
November 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	1104	43	24	24	8	2
October 17-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1078	43	24	23	8	2
September 12-13 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1154	45	25	23	6	2
August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1097	41	28	23	6	2
July 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1183	42	35	17	5	2
June 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	1173	40	30	21	8	2
May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	1172	40	30	21	7	2
April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1157	39	34	21	5	2
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2016	1225	40	30	24	5	2
February 26 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1148	44	27	22	6	2
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



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## Overall Seat Distribution

%	Con	Lib	NDP
February 16-17	93	10	21
Jan 11-13, 2018 (124)	88	12	24
November 29-30, 2017	80	11	31
October 24-25, 2017	89	10	23
September 26-27, 2017	84	12	26
August 22-23, 2017	79	13	30
June 12-14, 2017	87	9	26
May 9-10, 2017	72	25	25
March 28-30, 2017	86	7	29
February 15-16, 2017	84	11	27
November 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	70	11	26
October 17-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	72	11	24
September 12-13 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	75	8	24
August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	69	15	23
July 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	48	44	15
June 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	51	36	20
May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	57	26	24
April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	53	33	21
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2016	57	26	24
February 26 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	67	16	24
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	28	58	21
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

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### Voter intent

*If a provincial election were held today in Ontario, 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?*

*[Base=decided and leaning]*

### Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	901	121	123	155	226	276	505	379
Progressive Conservative	49	43	42	53	55	50	56	42
Liberal	24	20	24	19	21	32	21	25
New Democratic	19	26	22	19	16	13	17	21
Green	7	9	10	6	7	5	4	9
Another Party	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	1

### Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	901	160	211	218	182	130
Progressive Conservative	49	51	36	53	54	45
Liberal	24	29	34	24	15	14
New Democratic	19	12	22	14	25	27
Green	7	6	7	7	5	12
Another Party	2	2	1	2	1	2



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**Best candidate**

*Overall, which candidate would make the best leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario?*

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	949	129	129	166	233	292	528	399
Doug Ford	16	18	14	17	15	17	22	11
Caroline Mulroney	14	10	11	19	18	13	17	11
Tanya Granic Allen	5	6	3	4	2	6	5	4
Christine Elliott	22	15	18	24	23	29	20	23
Patrick Brown	13	9	18	11	16	14	16	11
Don't know	31	42	36	25	26	21	20	40

**Region**

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	949	169	222	230	191	137
Doug Ford	16	12	18	18	12	20
Caroline Mulroney	14	19	15	13	14	7
Tanya Granic Allen	5	2	2	7	4	6
Christine Elliott	22	18	24	29	20	7
Patrick Brown	13	12	14	11	13	18
Don't know	31	38	28	22	36	42



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### Patrick Brown

*Do you agree or disagree with Patrick Brown's decision to enter the Progressive Conservative Leadership*

### Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	949	129	129	166	233	292	528	399
Agree	38	40	30	42	40	37	41	36
Disagree	39	32	36	42	43	47	42	37
Don't know	22	28	34	16	17	16	17	27

### Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	949	169	222	230	191	137
Agree	38	35	34	43	38	39
Disagree	39	40	44	39	37	34
Don't know	22	25	22	18	25	27



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### Debate

*Did you watch or hear anything about the Progressive Conservative Leadership debate?*

### Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	949	129	129	166	233	292	528	399
Watched the debate	22	23	18	20	20	26	24	20
Heard about the debate	39	37	30	47	45	37	41	36
Didn't watch or hear anything about the debate	39	40	52	32	35	37	35	43

### Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	949	169	222	230	191	137
Watched the debate	22	22	19	23	23	19
Heard about the debate	39	43	46	36	38	34
Didn't watch or hear anything about the debate	39	35	35	41	39	47



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**Debate winner**

Who do you think won the debate? [base=watched or heard about the debate]

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	596	81	66	111	151	187	341	241
Doug Ford	16	24	15	15	14	11	20	13
Caroline Mulroney	12	14	13	13	10	11	14	11
Tanya Allen	8	10	13	4	4	7	8	7
Christine Elliott	17	15	12	19	15	21	15	19
None of the above	26	17	23	32	30	30	25	26
Don't know	21	19	24	17	28	19	17	24

**Region**

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	596	112	147	142	121	74
Doug Ford	16	14	18	16	14	22
Caroline Mulroney	12	15	10	9	20	10
Tanya Allen	8	9	6	8	5	12
Christine Elliott	17	13	21	20	15	9
None of the above	26	26	26	29	26	19
Don't know	21	24	19	18	20	29



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### Ford

*If Doug Ford was the leader of Progressive Conservatives in the next provincial election, which party would you be most likely to vote for?  
 [Decided / leaning]*

### Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	833	119	111	141	210	252	472	346
Progressive Conservative	43	41	40	43	48	41	50	36
Liberal	27	19	25	24	28	37	24	29
New Democratic	20	24	23	21	16	15	18	21
Green	8	12	11	5	6	5	5	10
Another party	3	4	2	7	2	2	3	4

### Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	833	151	196	205	163	118
Progressive Conservative	43	42	34	44	50	41
Liberal	27	36	33	28	19	17
New Democratic	20	15	24	16	23	23
Green	8	5	7	9	6	13
Another party	3	3	2	4	2	7



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### Elliott

*If Christine Elliott was the leader of Progressive Conservatives in the next provincial election, which party would you be most likely to vote for?  
 [Decided / leaning]*

### Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	796	114	110	132	193	247	460	322
Progressive Conservative	48	40	42	56	54	51	54	44
Liberal	22	18	24	17	21	31	22	23
New Democratic	20	29	21	21	16	14	17	24
Green	7	12	11	2	8	3	5	8
Another party	2	1	2	5	0	1	2	1

### Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	796	142	188	197	157	112
Progressive Conservative	48	50	44	52	48	44
Liberal	22	30	29	23	15	13
New Democratic	20	13	19	16	29	27
Green	7	5	6	7	6	15
Another party	2	2	1	2	2	0



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### Mulroney

*If Caroline Mulroney was the leader of Progressive Conservatives in the next provincial election, which party would you be most likely to vote for?*

[Decided / leaning]

### Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	792	113	109	135	192	243	457	322
Progressive Conservative	49	43	46	56	56	46	55	44
Liberal	22	17	22	16	22	32	19	25
New Democratic	19	24	22	20	14	16	17	21
Green	8	15	8	3	7	5	5	9
Another party	2	1	2	4	0	2	3	1

### Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	792	148	185	191	159	109
Progressive Conservative	49	53	41	51	51	49
Liberal	22	27	31	23	14	13
New Democratic	19	13	22	15	26	22
Green	8	5	6	9	6	16
Another party	2	2	1	2	3	0



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## Brown

*If Patrick Brown was the leader of Progressive Conservatives in the next provincial election in Ontario, which party would you be most likely to vote for? [Decided / leaning]*

## Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
<b>Sample</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>326</b>
Progressive Conservative	43	44	41	45	46	39	50	36
Liberal	26	22	23	21	25	35	21	30
New Democratic	21	25	21	23	18	17	18	24
Green	7	8	12	5	8	4	6	7
Another party	3	1	3	5	2	5	5	2

## Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
<b>Sample</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>114</b>
Progressive Conservative	43	39	38	42	52	40
Liberal	26	34	31	29	14	20
New Democratic	21	17	22	19	23	25
Green	7	6	7	7	5	14
Another party	3	5	2	3	5	1



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