

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NDP lead slips, gap with Liberals closes

Minority government with Liberal Opposition seen

TORONTO September 2nd, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1384 Canadian voters, more than one third will vote for the NDP in the coming federal election (36%) while just less than a third will vote Liberal (32%). These results represent a four-point slip for the NDP since last week (August 25 - 40%) and a slight increase for the Liberals (from 30% to 32%), which have reduced the gap between the two parties to four points from ten. The Conservatives continue to lag, with one quarter of the vote (24% this week, 23% last week). Few will vote Green or Bloc Quebecois (4%), or for another party (1%).

NDP minority seen, Liberals in Opposition

If these results are projected up to the new 338 seat House of Commons, the NDP would win a minority government of 141 seats, 29 fewer than required for a majority. The Liberals would form the Official Opposition, with 123 seats, and the Conservatives would be relegated to third party status, with 73 seats. The Greens would seat their leader and the Bloc would not seat any members.

NDP lead in Quebec, BC, tied in Atlantic Canada, prairies

In vote-rich Ontario, the Liberals now lead (42%) and the NDP are second (32%). In this critical province, the Conservatives trail (21%). In strategic Quebec, the NDP have a firm lead (43%), while The Conservatives (22%) outstrip the Liberals (18%) and the Bloc (14%). In Atlantic Canada, the NDP and the Liberals are tied (40% and 41%, respectively), and the Conservatives trail (16%). In the prairies, the NDP and, of all parties, the Liberals are tied (34% and 35%, respectively) while the Conservatives trail (27%). In Alberta alone do the Conservatives lead (45%), trailed by the NDP (30%) and the Liberals (20%). In BC, the NDP (37%) have a small lead over the Liberals (31%), but, once again, the Conservatives trail (24%). In fact, the Conservatives trail in every region of the country except Alberta.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than one third will vote for the NDP in the coming federal election (36%) while just less than a third will vote Liberal (32%).
- If these results are projected up to the new 338 seat House of Commons, the NDP would win a minority government of 141 seats.
- In vote-rich Ontario, the Liberals now lead (42%) and the NDP are second (32%).
- Four-in-ten voters who supported the Conservatives in 2011 will not be voting for the party this time, with either one fifth voting NDP (19%) or Liberal (19%).

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- One fifth of those who voted Conservative in 2011 will vote for the NDP this time around (18%), and one tenth will vote Liberal (11%).
- The NDP is well out in front on this anticipatory measure, with well more than a third expecting a New Democratic victory (36%).
- Three-in-ten voters see Tom Mulcair as the best Prime Minister (31%).
- Tom Mulcair has the approval of one half of voters (50%).

One fifth of past Conservatives, one quarter of past Liberals will vote NDP

One fifth of those who voted Conservative in 2011 will vote for the NDP this time around (18%), and one tenth will vote Liberal (11%). Just two thirds will vote the party they voted in the last election (67%). One quarter of past Liberals are voting NDP this time (25%), while one sixth of past New Democrats return the favour (15%). Very few past New Democrats or Liberals will vote Conservative (3% and 4%, respectively). This puts to rest the theory that there are “blue Liberals” who will vote Conservative to prevent an NDP win. In fact, the NDP vote is now the “stickiest” (the most past voters will vote the party again) at three quarters (77%) to two thirds for the Liberals and the Conservatives (68% and 67%, respectively), which is a reversal of results noted as recently as six months ago.

NDP strongly leads as party expected to win

The NDP is well out in front on this anticipatory measure, with well more than a third expecting a New Democratic victory (36%), compared to just one quarter who expect the Liberals (22%) or the Conservatives (24%) to win. Expectations of a Liberal victory have increased sharply (from 17%) since last week. One fifth of those voting Liberal expect the NDP to win (20%).

Mulcair leads as best PM

Three-in-ten voters see Tom Mulcair as the best Prime Minister (31%), compared to just a quarter who view Justin Trudeau or Stephen Harper this way (24% each). Elizabeth May (8%) and Gilles Duceppe (3%) are not considered on this measure. One sixth of those voting Liberal think Tom Mulcair would be the best Prime Minister (14%).

Mulcair favourables down slightly

Tom Mulcair has the approval of one half of voters (50%), down slightly from last week (54%). His net favourable rating (approve minus disapprove) is a positive +20, down slightly from +27. Justin Trudeau’s approval is steady at just less than a half (46%) and his net is +7. Stephen Harper’s approval is steady at just more than a quarter (28%) and his net favourable score is a very negative -38. One tenth of Conservative voters do not approve of the Prime Minister (10%).

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Mulcair, Harper tied on best to handle economy

Three-in-ten voters think either Tom Mulcair (30%) or Stephen Harper (29%) is best able to handle the economy, which is very rare for an NDP leader. Fewer see Justin Trudeau in this role (24%).

"The end of the Duffy trial (for now) and talk of a recession, whether technical or not, have both reduced the glitter of the NDP for now, but their lead is still solid, and, what's more, the electorate have come to believe they can win, which is an important psychological hurdle in itself," 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.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Three-in-ten voters think either Tom Mulcair (30%) or Stephen Harper (29%) is best able to handle the economy.
- "The end of the Duffy trial (for now) and talk of a recession, whether technical or not, have both reduced the glitter of the NDP for now, but their lead is still solid, and, what's more, the electorate have come to believe they can win, which is an important psychological hurdle in itself," 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 1384 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted from August 30th to September 1st, 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. 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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Federal Party Preference Trending

[Decided/Leaning]

%	Sample	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
August 30-September 1 st , 2015	1384	24	32	36	4	4	1
August 23-24 th , 2015	1440	23	30	40	3	3	1
August 17-19 th , 2015	1473	29	28	34	4	4	1
August 10-11 th , 2015	1392	28	27	34	4	6	1
August 2 nd , 2015	1399	28	25	39	3	5	1
July 29 th , 2015	1397	33	25	33	4	4	1
July 21 st , 2015	1208	28	29	34	4	5	1
July 14 th , 2015	1251	27	27	34	5	7	1
July 8 th , 2015	1200	32	26	32	3	5	1
June 29 th , 2015	1221	27	29	32	4	6	1
June 23 rd , 2015	1268	28	28	36	2	5	1
June 16 th , 2015	1281	26	28	34	5	7	1
June 5 th , 2015	1156	31	32	28	5	3	1
May 14 th , 2015	1286	31	31	30	4	3	1
April 23 rd , 2015	977	35	31	23	6	5	1
April 16 th , 2015	1365	33	35	22	6	3	1
March 31 st , 2015	1239	31	34	23	5	5	1
March 14 th , 2015	1370	32	36	21	6	4	1
February 11 th , 2015	1018	32	39	17	5	4	1
January 27-28 th , 2015	1309	35	34	20	6	5	1
January 5-6 th , 2015	1650	33	37	20	5	4	1
Dec. 10-11 th , 2014	1560	33	41	17	5	3	1
Nov. 19-20 th , 2014	1442	33	36	18	8	4	1
Oct. 5-8 th , 2014	1504	34	38	19	4	4	1
Sept. 5 th , 2014	1267	34	40	18	3	4	1
August 18-19 th , 2014	1798	32	41	17	5	5	1
July 18 th , 2014	1624	28	44	18	3	5	1
June 16-17 th , 2014	1683	31	39	19	5	4	1
May 22 nd , 2014	1694	30	36	23	5	6	1
Apr 29 th , 2014	1572	30	39	20	4	6	1
Mar 25-28 th , 2014	1764	29	39	22	3	5	1
Feb. 18-19 th , 2014	1824	29	39	21	4	6	1
Jan. 23-24 th , 2014	1228	28	38	24	4	5	1
Jan. 17 th , 2014	1779	28	37	25	4	5	1
Dec. 12-13 th , 2013	1634	32	38	21	3	5	1
Nov. 12-13 th , 2013	1834	29	38	22	4	6	1
Oct. 23 rd , 2013	1007	28	40	20	5	6	1
Oct. 21-22 nd , 2013	1859	30	39	19	5	7	1

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Seat Distribution Projection Trending

%	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
August 30-September 1 st , 2015	73	123	141	1	0	0
August 23-24 th , 2015	87	76	174	1	0	0
August 17-19 th , 2015	123	79	133	1	2	0
August 10-11 th , 2015	120	89	125	1	3	0
August 2 nd , 2015	118	58	160	1	1	0
July 29 th , 2015	156	58	122	1	1	0
July 21 st , 2015	121	78	134	1	4	0
July 14 th , 2015	107	79	132	1	19	0
July 8 th , 2015	155	59	120	1	2	1
June 29 th , 2015	104	106	119	1	8	0
June 23 rd , 2015	116	65	149	1	3	0
June 16 th , 2015	112	86	120	1	18	1
June 5 th , 2015	151	101	83	1	1	1
May 14 th , 2015	131	95	111	1	0	0
April 23 rd , 2015	146	101	77	1	12	1
April 16 th , 2015	142	137	58	1	0	0
March 31 st , 2015	129	125	65	1	17	1
March 14 th , 2015	130	138	65	1	4	0
February 10 th , 2015	112	194	30	1	1	0
January 27-28 th , 2015	145	125	61	1	5	1
January 5-6 th , 2015	137	126	70	1	0	1

Switch from 308 to 338 seat distribution

Dec. 10-11 th , 2014	109	164	34	1	0	0
Nov. 19-20 th , 2014	125	124	52	1	6	0
Oct. 5-8 th , 2014	132	130	44	1	1	0
Sept. 5 th , 2014	113	162	30	1	2	0
August 18-19 th , 2014	110	142	51	1	4	0
July 18 th , 2014	84	192	30	1	1	0
June 16-17 th , 2014	109	142	53	1	3	0
May 22 nd , 2014	111	110	75	1	11	0
Apr 29 th , 2014	100	158	39	1	10	0
Mar 25-28 th , 2014	99	159	40	1	9	0
Feb. 18-19 th , 2014	100	134	51	1	22	0
Jan. 23-24 th , 2014	104	132	65	1	6	0
Jan. 17 th , 2013	111	130	61	1	5	0
Dec. 12-13 th , 2013	110	147	48	1	2	0
Nov. 12-13 th , 2013	108	134	53	1	12	0
Oct. 23 rd , 2013	104	146	47	1	10	0
Oct. 21-22 nd , 2013	106	147	33	1	21	0
Sept 16-17 th , 2013	121	102	45	1	39	0
August 24 th , 2013	107	127	63	1	10	0

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Expected Federal Election Party Winner

%	Sample	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
August 30-September 1 st , 2015	1384	24	22	36	2	1	1
August 23-24 th , 2015	1440	25	17	36	2	2	1
August 17-19 th , 2015	1473	28	22	32	2	3	1
August 10-11 th , 2015	1392	30	22	30	3	3	1
August 2 nd , 2015	1399	31	18	31	2	2	1
July 29 th , 2015	1397	34	18	29	3	2	1
July 21 st , 2015	1208	30	24	29	2	2	2
July 14 th , 2015	1251	27	24	28	3	3	3
July 8 th , 2015	1200	30	24	28	3	3	1
June 29 th , 2015	1221	30	27	26	3	3	1
June 23 rd , 2015	1268	29	25	27	2	3	-
June 16 th , 2015	1281	30	26	25	2	3	-
June 5 th , 2015	1156	31	31	18	3	2	-
May 14 th , 2015	1286	32	30	20	2	2	-
April 16 th , 2015	1365	36	37	10	3	3	-

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Federal Vote Preference

'A federal election has been called for October 19. Which party are you most likely to vote for in this election?'+ '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	1320	246	183	214	289	388	710	610
Conservative	24	24	22	20	26	26	26	22
Liberal	32	32	31	31	33	32	31	32
New Democratic	36	34	38	42	35	32	36	36
Green	4	7	5	2	3	3	3	5
Bloc Quebecois	4	2	3	5	3	6	3	5
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1320	150	307	305	139	178	241	1045	275
Conservative	24	16	22	21	27	45	24	25	19
Liberal	32	41	18	42	35	20	31	36	19
New Democratic	36	40	43	32	34	30	37	34	43
Green	4	2	3	4	3	3	7	4	3
Bloc Quebecois	4	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	16
Other	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1

Past Federal Vote

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	1320	424	264	324	79	69	34
Conservative	24	67	4	3	15	9	19
Liberal	32	18	68	15	27	7	33
New Democratic	36	11	25	77	24	30	37
Green	4	1	2	2	33	3	2
Bloc Quebecois	4	0	0	2	0	50	7
Other	1	2	0	0	1	1	3

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Strong Supporter

'Are you a strong supporter of that party?'

[Has chosen party]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1315	244	183	214	288	386	708	607
Yes	64	66	58	57	61	76	63	64
No	36	34	42	43	39	24	37	36

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1315	150	306	304	138	176	241	1041	274
Yes	64	61	52	70	67	66	67	67	51
No	36	39	48	30	33	34	33	33	49

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	1315	318	363	429	84	43	78
Yes	64	69	63	60	55	77	75
No	36	31	37	40	45	23	25

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Stephen Harper Approval

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Stephen Harper is doing as Prime Minister?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Approve	28	28	23	28	28	32	31	25
Disapprove	66	66	69	67	64	61	64	68
Don't know	7	6	7	5	8	8	6	7

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Approve	28	17	23	28	30	44	27	30	21
Disapprove	66	76	70	66	64	45	69	64	73
Don't know	7	7	7	6	6	11	4	7	6

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Approve	28	85	12	6	13	7	56
Disapprove	66	10	84	88	82	92	33
Don't know	7	6	4	5	5	1	11

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Tom Mulcair Approval

‘Do you approve or disapprove of the job Tom Mulcair is doing as Leader of the Opposition?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Approve	50	50	49	55	51	47	53	48
Disapprove	30	30	30	27	32	34	32	29
Don't know	19	20	21	18	17	19	15	23

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Approve	50	54	59	49	44	36	50	48	59
Disapprove	30	18	25	31	31	50	32	32	23
Don't know	19	28	16	21	24	14	18	20	17

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Approve	50	25	45	86	43	39	17
Disapprove	30	61	32	4	27	33	70
Don't know	19	14	23	10	30	28	14

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Justin Trudeau Approval

‘Do you approve or disapprove of the job Justin Trudeau is doing as leader of the Liberal Party?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Approve	46	46	36	52	47	46	47	44
Disapprove	39	38	44	34	39	38	40	37
Don't know	16	16	19	14	14	16	13	19

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Approve	46	47	37	52	48	36	46	48	37
Disapprove	39	29	45	33	33	53	41	37	45
Don't know	16	25	18	14	19	11	13	15	18

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Approve	46	17	84	45	36	13	14
Disapprove	39	77	6	33	44	65	78
Don't know	16	6	10	22	20	22	8

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Next Federal Election Winner

'Which party do you expect to win the federal election?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Conservative	24	23	24	19	26	33	26	22
Liberal	22	25	18	22	22	21	21	23
New Democratic	36	36	40	43	31	26	39	33
Green	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	3
Bloc Quebecois	1	2	0	1	3	1	1	2
Another Party	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	2
Don't know	13	9	14	12	16	16	11	15

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Conservative	24	17	17	24	34	42	25	27	15
Liberal	22	29	18	26	19	16	19	22	21
New Democratic	36	34	44	35	34	24	36	33	44
Green	2	4	2	2	0	3	4	3	2
Bloc Quebecois	1	1	3	0	0	3	1	1	3
Another Party	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Don't know	13	15	13	12	11	12	16	13	12

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Conservative	24	75	8	6	6	8	60
Liberal	22	7	58	6	23	12	7
New Democratic	36	8	20	75	41	42	6
Green	2	2	2	1	16	2	2
Bloc Quebecois	1	1	0	1	1	16	6
Another Party	1	0	1	0	6	0	8
Don't know	13	8	11	11	7	20	10

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Best Prime Minister

‘Regardless of which party you plan to vote for, who do you think would make the best Prime Minister?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Stephen Harper	24	24	22	19	26	31	26	22
Justin Trudeau	24	24	22	25	24	26	23	25
Tom Mulcair	31	26	32	38	32	29	31	31
Elizabeth May	8	11	10	6	7	5	8	8
Gilles Duceppe	3	5	1	1	4	2	2	3
None of these	6	5	9	7	2	4	5	6
Don't know	4	6	3	3	5	3	4	4

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Stephen Harper	24	14	17	24	31	45	25	27	15
Justin Trudeau	24	33	17	29	26	20	20	26	18
Tom Mulcair	31	35	42	27	25	20	30	28	42
Elizabeth May	8	12	3	9	11	7	13	10	3
Gilles Duceppe	3	0	9	1	0	0	1	1	10
None of these	6	2	6	6	3	4	7	5	7
Don't know	4	4	5	4	3	5	4	4	5

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Stephen Harper	24	87	5	3	6	3	52
Justin Trudeau	24	2	65	8	25	10	9
Tom Mulcair	31	5	14	74	11	34	4
Elizabeth May	8	2	7	8	33	3	13
Gilles Duceppe	3	1	2	1	10	31	2
None of these	6	2	4	2	16	10	16
Don't know	4	1	3	4	1	10	3

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NEWS RELEASE



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TORONTO

September 2nd, 2015

Best Party Leader to Handle the Economy

'Which of the three main party leaders would handle the economy best?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Stephen Harper	29	27	28	25	34	34	33	25
Tom Mulcair	30	33	30	31	26	27	28	31
Justin Trudeau	24	23	24	23	23	27	23	24
None of these	9	9	10	11	8	6	8	10
Don't know	9	9	8	10	9	7	7	10

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Stephen Harper	29	16	22	29	34	51	28	31	20
Tom Mulcair	30	40	40	27	23	15	29	26	41
Justin Trudeau	24	26	19	26	29	20	24	25	20
None of these	9	13	10	9	5	9	8	8	11
Don't know	9	6	9	10	8	5	11	9	8

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Stephen Harper	29	89	9	8	8	13	61
Tom Mulcair	30	3	13	71	23	26	9
Justin Trudeau	24	1	64	8	32	10	10
None of these	9	3	7	5	29	38	11
Don't know	9	3	7	9	8	12	10

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