

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberals, PCs remain tied in Ontario

Liberal minority seen

TORONTO December 20th, 2014 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1058 Ontario voters, equal proportions, just more than a third, will vote for the Liberals (35%) or the PCs (36%), and this is very similar to results noted last month (November 29, Liberals, PCs - 37% each). The NDP will take about one fifth of the vote (20%) just more than last month (November - 17%). Few will vote Green (7%) and, especially, for other parties (2%).

Liberal minority seen

If these results were projected up to seats in a 107 seat Legislature, the Liberals would capture a minority of 52 seats, to 37 for the PCs and 18 for the NDP, and this is similar to the projections noted last month (November, 52, 38, 17 respectively).

Wynne's favourables down, Horwath and Wilson unchanged

Premier Kathleen Wynne enjoys the support of just more than a third of Ontario voters (37%), compared to 4-in-10 last month (42%) and close to half the month before (October - 46%). In contrast, Andrea Horwath's approval (35%) is very similar to last month (33%) and she is now tied with the Premier. Jim Wilson, interim leader of the PCs receives an approval rating of just one fifth (22%) and this is consistent with previous months. In terms of net favourable scores (approve minus disapprove), Horwath (-1) and Wilson (-2) lead the Premier (-10).

Elliott first choice for leader among PCs, MacLeod strong second

While Christine Elliott leads in preference for a new PC leader among both the general public (20%) and even more so among PC voters (29%), and no other contender is chosen by as many as one tenth, Lisa MacLeod comes close (9% among PC voters, 7% among the general public). Close to 3-in-10 say none of the available choices would be best (27% among the public, 14% among PC voters) and fully one third do not know (33% public, 29% PC voters). When voters are asked their second choice for leader, however, MacLeod is the top pick, amongst all voters (21%) and especially among PC voters (25%), compared to one fifth for Christine Elliott (19% among both public and PC voters). In total, just more than a tenth are undecided or unimpressed (11% and 14%, respectively) and somewhat fewer PC voters will claim none of the listed leaders is appropriate (10%). MacLeod is also the leader among all candidates for third choice (general public - 18%, PC voters - 17%).

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TORONTO December 20th, 2014 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Equal proportions, just more than a third, will vote for the Liberals (35%) or the PCs (36%).
- If these results were projected up to seats in a 107 seat Legislature, the Liberals would capture a minority of 52 seats, to 37 for the PCs and 18 for the NDP.
- Premier Kathleen Wynne enjoys the support of just more than a third of Ontario voters (37%).
- Christine Elliott leads in preference for a new PC leader among both the general public (20%) and even more so among PC voters (29%).

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"While things are quiet on the government front with an election at least 3 years away, the big story is the Progressive Conservative leadership race, which is currently Chris Elliott's to lose. Lisa MacLeod, on the other hand, appears to have considerable upside as the consensus choice for second place in this race, and with a preferential ballot, this is a very strong position to be in," 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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TORONTO December 20th, 2014 HIGHLIGHTS:

• "While things are quiet on the government front with an election at least 3 years away, the big story is the **Progressive Conservative** leadership race, which is currently Chris Elliott's to lose. Lisa MacLeod, on the other hand, appears to have considerable upside as the consensus choice for second place in this race, and with a preferential ballot, this is a very strong position to be in," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.



Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1058 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on December 19th and 20th, 2014.

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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TORONTO
December 20th, 2014



Provincial Election Voting Preference Trending

[Decided / Leaning]

%	Sample	Con	Lib	NDP	Green	Other
December 20th, 2014	1058	36	35	20	7	2
November 29 th , 2014	1054	37	37	17	7	2
November 1 st , 2014	1104	35	40	19	4	2
October 1st, 2014	1013	34	36	23	6	1
August 20-21st, 2014	1229	32	39	19	8	2
Popular Vote – June 7 th , 2014 Provincial Election Results	-	31	39	24	5	2
June 11 th , 2014	1054	35	41	20	3	1
June 5 th , 2014	974	37	39	17	6	1
May 27 th , 2014	882	36	36	20	7	1
May 20 th , 2014	1136	34	41	20	4	1
May 12 th , 2014	996	35	38	21	5	1
May 2-3 rd , 2014	1845	38	33	22	6	1
April 7 th , 2014	928	38	31	23	7	1
Mar 24 th , 2014	908	32	35	25	7	1
Feb. 25 th , 2014	1014	35	32	26	6	1
Jan. 24-25 th , 2014	1222	36	33	26	4	1
Dec. 17-18 th , 2013	1044	38	31	24	5	1
Nov. 26 th , 2013	1126	38	32	23	6	1
Oct. 25 th , 2013	1049	34	31	27	7	1
Oct. 2 nd , 2013	1093	36	33	23	7	1
Aug 29 th , 2013	1019	35	32	26	6	1
Jul 22 nd , 2013	861	36	31	27	5	1
Jun 26 th , 2013	977	35	33	24	8	1
May 28 th . 2013	881	34	38	21	6	0
May 3 rd , 2013	832	35	35	25	4	1
April 26th, 2013	1133	36	36	24	4	1
Mar 26 th to 27 th 2013	1156	35	32	26	5	1
Feb. 26 th to Mar 1 st , 2013	2773	32	32	29	5	1
Feb. 20 th , 2013	1053	36	29	28	5	1
Jan. 23 to 24 th , 2013	1052	32	27	35	5	1
Dec. 17 th , 2012	925	33	27	31	8	1
Nov. 27 th to28 th , 2012	1064	35	29	27	8	1
Oct. 30 th to 31 st , 2012	1047	37	22	32	7	1
Sep. 25 th , 2012	796	37	20	35	7	1
Aug 15 th , 2012	965	38	27	28	6	1
Jun 15 th , 2012	1047	38	26	30	5	1
Jun 4 th , 2012	986	36	28	30	4	1
May 14 th , 2012	1001	34	27	32	5	1
Apr 17 th , 2012	1021	34	28	31	5	1
Mar 28 th , 2012	1047	34	30	30	5	1

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December 20th, 2014



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Overall Seat Distribution

%	Con	Lib	NDP
December 20th, 2014	37	52	18
November 29th, 2014	38	52	17
November 1 st . 2014	37	56	14
October 1st, 2014	35	51	21
August 20-21st, 2014	31	61	15
Election – June 12th, 2014	28	58	21
June 5 th , 2014	39	57	11
May 27 th , 2014	42	50	15
May 20 th , 2014	31	63	13
May 12 th , 2014	26	68	13
May 2-3 rd , 2014	45	49	13
April 7 th , 2014	49	45	13
Mar 24 th , 2014	29	66	12
Feb. 25 th , 2014	48	42	17
Jan. 24-25 th , 2014	47	46	14
Dec. 17-18 th , 2013	43	51	13
Nov. 26 th , 2013	47	44	16
Oct. 25 th , 2013	41	48	18
Oct. 2 nd , 2013	47	44	16
Aug 29 th , 2013	36	53	18
Jul 22 nd , 2013	45	46	16
Jun 26 th , 2013	42	54	11
May 28 th . 2013	37	60	10
May 3 rd , 2013	36	59	12
April 26 th , 2013	38	59	10
Mar 26 th to 27 th 2013	43	50	14
Feb. 26 th to Mar 1 st , 2013	36	53	18
Feb. 20 th , 2013	52	39	16
Jan. 23 to 24 th , 2013	40	40	27
Dec. 17 th , 2012	44	38	25
Nov. 27 th to28 th , 2012	47	41	19
Oct. 30 th to 31 st , 2012	58	26	23
Sep. 25 th , 2012	60	23	24
Aug 15 th , 2012	55	33	19
Jun 15 th , 2012	58	30	19
Jun 4 th , 2012	52	37	18
May 14 th , 2012	48	37	22
Apr 17 th , 2012	41	43	23
Mar 28 th , 2012	48	44	15
Mar 13 th , 2012	57	33	17
Feb. 15 th , 2012	51	48	8
Jan. 18 th , 2012	56	38	13

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TORONTO
December 20th, 2014



Ontario Provincial Party Leader Approval Rating Trending (% Approve) [All Respondents]

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

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TORONTO December 20th, 2014



Current Provincial Party 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	985	154	139	167	234	291	521	464
Progressive Conservative	36	29	31	38	41	40	40	33
Liberal	35	34	39	35	34	35	30	40
New Democratic	20	25	21	19	17	19	22	19
Green	7	10	8	6	7	5	7	8
Another Party	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	985	153	171	311	482	214	136
Progressive Conservative	36	40	32	36	34	35	39
Liberal	35	33	41	37	39	31	29
New Democratic	20	18	17	22	20	22	21
Green	7	8	10	4	6	9	7
Another Party	2	1	0	1	1	3	3

Past Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other parties
Sample	985	327	309	140	48	46
Progressive Conservative	36	88	8	9	18	27
Liberal	35	5	81	12	16	26
New Democratic	20	5	7	73	8	23
Green	7	1	4	6	56	10
Another Party	2	1	1	0	3	14

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TORONTO
December 20th, 2014



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	1058	167	148	178	250	315	561	497
Approve	37	35	40	36	36	37	35	38
Disapprove	46	41	43	53	49	47	52	41
Don't know	17	24	16	12	16	16	13	21

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1058	159	179	327	506	245	148
Approve	37	32	46	36	40	33	35
Disapprove	46	49	36	46	42	48	54
Don't know	17	19	18	18	18	19	11

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1058	377	340	161	75	32
Approve	37	11	74	23	41	12
Disapprove	46	75	11	59	38	79
Don't know	17	14	15	18	21	9

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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	1058	167	148	178	250	315	561	497
Approve	35	32	34	38	40	37	35	35
Disapprove	36	35	39	36	39	35	42	31
Don't know	28	33	27	26	22	28	23	33

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1058	159	179	327	506	245	148
Approve	35	35	31	40	36	34	35
Disapprove	36	32	42	33	36	40	36
Don't know	28	33	27	28	27	26	29

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1058	377	340	161	75	32
Approve	35	29	30	67	31	36
Disapprove	36	42	42	16	37	35
Don't know	28	28	28	17	32	28

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TORONTO
December 20th, 2014



Jim Wilson Approval

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jim Wilson is doing as interim leader of the Opposition?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1058	167	148	178	250	315	561	497
Approve	22	13	24	27	23	27	26	18
Disapprove	24	24	28	25	25	19	27	22
Don't know	54	63	47	48	51	54	47	60

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1058	159	179	327	506	245	148
Approve	22	26	19	21	20	23	24
Disapprove	24	23	22	24	24	26	25
Don't know	54	51	59	55	56	51	51

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1058	377	340	161	75	32
Approve	22	42	14	12	7	15
Disapprove	24	14	28	36	31	37
Don't know	54	44	58	53	62	49

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TORONTO
December 20th, 2014



PC Leader: First Choice

'Which of the following candidates would make the best leader of the Progressive Conservative party?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1058	167	148	178	250	315	561	497
Christine Elliott	20	17	17	17	24	31	21	20
Lisa MacLeod	7	9	8	9	6	5	10	5
Patrick Brown	5	6	5	5	3	4	6	4
Vic Fedeli	4	4	4	6	4	5	6	3
Monte McNaughton	3	5	1	2	2	3	4	2
None of these	27	30	28	21	29	26	27	27
Don't know	33	30	37	40	33	27	26	41

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1058	159	179	327	506	245	148
Christine Elliott	20	16	21	30	26	16	10
Lisa MacLeod	7	13	9	5	7	4	9
Patrick Brown	5	5	4	3	3	4	12
Vic Fedeli	4	1	5	4	5	2	12
Monte McNaughton	3	0	0	2	1	8	2
None of these	27	26	26	25	25	32	26
Don't know	33	38	36	31	33	33	30

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1058	377	340	161	75	32
Christine Elliott	20	29	18	17	8	16
Lisa MacLeod	7	9	8	8	6	4
Patrick Brown	5	5	6	3	4	5
Vic Fedeli	4	9	2	2	3	0
Monte McNaughton	3	4	2	3	0	7
None of these	27	14	28	38	31	41
Don't know	33	29	37	29	48	28

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TORONTO
December 20th, 2014



PC Leader: Second Choice

'Which of the following candidates would be your second choice for leader of the Progressive Conservative party?'

[Has a first choice for PC party leader]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	432	66	53	71	95	147	260	172
Christine Elliott	19	19	24	17	17	19	17	22
Lisa MacLeod	21	21	13	21	23	27	22	20
Patrick Brown	14	10	15	21	18	8	15	12
Vic Fedeli	12	14	16	14	12	3	14	9
Monte McNaughton	9	12	9	9	8	4	10	7
None of these	14	14	13	9	17	19	12	18
Don't know	11	10	10	8	5	20	11	12

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	432	59	71	145	216	86	71
Christine Elliott	19	22	27	14	18	19	19
Lisa MacLeod	21	29	17	28	24	15	10
Patrick Brown	14	3	8	14	12	17	24
Vic Fedeli	12	11	13	9	10	12	19
Monte McNaughton	9	17	6	5	5	14	8
None of these	14	9	16	16	16	11	19
Don't know	11	8	15	14	14	12	1

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	432	213	121	56	18	9
Christine Elliott	19	19	23	17	9	17
Lisa MacLeod	21	25	15	27	9	0
Patrick Brown	14	11	11	13	36	40
Vic Fedeli	12	15	8	11	13	0
Monte McNaughton	9	10	8	6	22	10
None of these	14	10	24	9	10	27
Don't know	11	11	11	17	0	5

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December 20th, 2014



PC Leader: Third Choice

'Which of the following candidates would be your third choice for leader of the Progressive Conservative party?'

[Has a first and second choice for PC party leader]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	316	51	42	59	74	90	201	115
Christine Elliott	17	18	16	18	18	16	15	20
Lisa MacLeod	18	21	20	15	21	12	21	14
Patrick Brown	15	12	20	21	8	15	16	15
Vic Fedeli	14	16	11	14	14	13	15	13
Monte McNaughton	13	12	11	12	17	14	15	9
None of these	14	17	14	12	12	12	12	17
Don't know	9	5	9	8	10	17	6	13

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	316	52	51	98	149	61	54
Christine Elliott	17	10	14	21	19	20	15
Lisa MacLeod	18	15	14	16	15	30	14
Patrick Brown	15	10	22	17	19	4	26
Vic Fedeli	14	24	8	11	10	17	13
Monte McNaughton	13	20	11	11	11	16	7
None of these	14	9	18	16	16	8	17
Don't know	9	12	12	9	10	5	8

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	316	170	75	41	16	5
Christine Elliott	17	14	18	21	29	14
Lisa MacLeod	18	18	11	22	22	69
Patrick Brown	15	19	15	10	10	16
Vic Fedeli	14	14	19	11	0	0
Monte McNaughton	13	13	9	12	18	0
None of these	14	13	18	16	12	0
Don't know	9	9	11	7	10	0

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