

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Lorne Bozinoff, President
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com
416.960.9603

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberal-Conservative tie persists in Ontario

Liberals have advantage in seats

TORONTO January 30th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1028 Ontario voters, equal proportions, just more than a third each, will vote for the Liberals (37%) or the Progressive Conservatives (36%) if a provincial election were held today. These findings are very similar to those noted at the end of last year (December 20, 2014, Liberals - 35%, PCs - 36%). The NDP will take just less than a fifth of the vote (19%), stable from last year (20%). Few will vote Green (6%) or for any other party (2%).

The Liberal vote is common to younger voters (35 to 44 - 47%), the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 51%), in the Toronto 416 area code (47%) and among the best educated (post grad - 47%). The PC vote is characteristic of Gen X (45 to 54 - 42%) and seniors (42%), males (41%), mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 41%), in southwestern Ontario (40%) and among those who didn't finish college (42%). The New Democrat vote is especially common to the youngest (26%), females (22%) rather than males (16%), among the less wealthy (\$20K to \$40K - 33%), in northern Ontario (28%) and among the least educated (29%). Of note, 1-in-7 of those who voted NDP in the recent election will vote Liberal this time around (15%). One tenth will vote PC (8%), which is also the case among Liberals (10%).

Seat distribution favours Liberal, slim majority seen

If these results are projected up to seats in the current 107 seat Legislature, the Liberals would take a two seat majority of 56 seats (down two from their tally in the June election), while the PCs would capture 34, an increase since the election from 28. The NDP would see a decrease to 17 seats from the 21 they took in the election.

Neither Elliott nor MacLeod as leader improve PC fortunes

Both Christine Elliott and Lisa MacLeod are tested in the voting preference question as PC leaders. Neither does better than the generic party mention on this measure. With Christine Elliott presented as leader, Liberal (36%) and PC (35%) stay almost exactly the same, as is the NDP vote (21%). With MacLeod proposed as leader, the PCs fall to less than a third (32%), the Liberals increase to 4-in-10 (40%) and the NDP remains stable (20%).

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Equal proportions, just more than a third each, will vote for the Liberals (37%) or the Progressive Conservatives (36%).
- If these results are projected up to seats in the current 107 seat Legislature, the Liberals would take a two seat majority of 56 seats.
- With Christine Elliott presented as leader, Liberal (36%) and PC (35%) stay almost exactly the same, as is the NDP vote (21%).

180 Bloor Street W., #1400
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6
T 416.960.9600
F 416.960.9602
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Wynne's favourables up slightly

Premier Wynne has the approval of 4-in-10 voters (40%), up from just more than a third at the end of last year (37%), and her net favourable rating (approve minus disapprove) is a slightly negative -7. Andrea Horwath (36% approval, net -3) and Jim Wilson (22% approval, net -3) remain stable on this measure.

"While the Liberals and the PCs are neck and neck in the popular vote, the greater efficiency of the distribution of Liberal support allows them to take more seats than the opposition." 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:

- Premier Wynne has the approval of 4-in-10 voters (40%), up from just more than a third at the end of last year (37%).
- "While the Liberals and the PCs are neck and neck in the popular vote, the greater efficiency of the distribution of Liberal support allows them to take more seats than the opposition. This is especially the case in Ontario where more than a quarter of the seats are in an urban government stronghold," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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Methodology

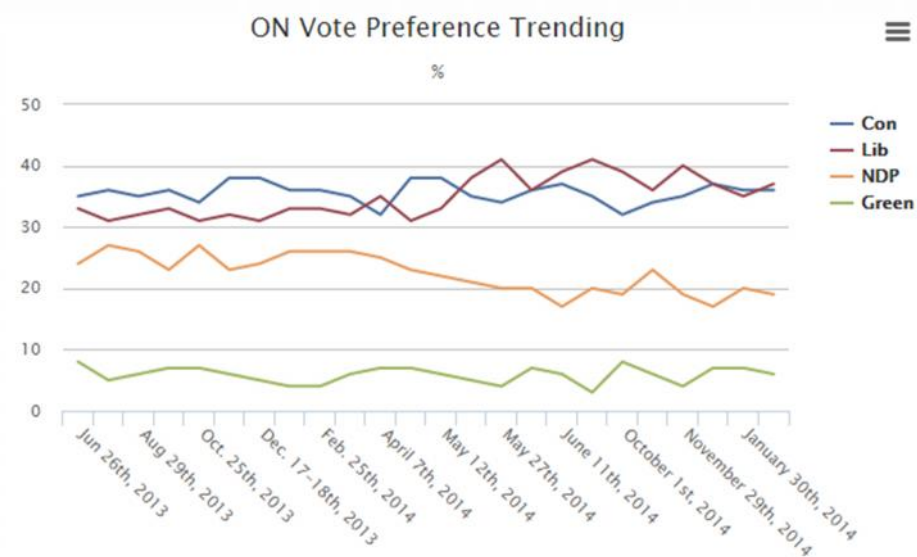
The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1028 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on January 28th to 30th, 2015.

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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Provincial Election Voting Preference Trending

[Decided / Leaning]

%	Sample	Con	Lib	NDP	Green	Other
January 30 th , 2015	1028	36	37	19	6	2
December 20 th , 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 1 st , 2014	1013	34	36	23	6	1
August 20-21 st , 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 26 th , 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 to 28 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

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Overall Seat Distribution

%	Con	Lib	NDP
January 30 th , 2015	34	56	17
December 20 th , 2014	37	52	18
November 29 th , 2014	38	52	17
November 1 st , 2014	37	56	14
October 1 st , 2014	35	51	21
August 20-21 st , 2014	31	61	15
Election – June 12 th , 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 to 28 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

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Ontario Provincial Party Leader Approval Rating Trending (% Approve)

[All Respondents]

	Sample	Wynne	Wilson	Horwath
January 30 th , 2015	1028	40	22	36
December 20 th , 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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PC Leader Dependent Party Preference – Trending

%	January 30 th , 2015		November 29 th , 2014	November 1 st , 2014	
	Elliot	MacLeod	Elliot	Elliot	MacLeod
Con	35	32	37	32	28
Lib	36	40	35	41	44
NDP	21	20	19	22	21
Green	6	6	7	4	5
Other	2	2	2	2	2

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January 30th, 2015

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	986	166	126	219	235	240	532	454
Progressive Conservative	36	25	30	42	40	42	41	32
Liberal	37	38	47	30	34	40	35	39
New Democratic	19	26	17	22	19	12	16	22
Green	6	9	4	4	5	5	6	5
Another Party	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	986	151	168	282	450	229	156
Progressive Conservative	36	38	30	36	34	40	37
Liberal	37	36	47	38	41	35	28
New Democratic	19	20	16	19	18	17	28
Green	6	5	6	5	6	5	6
Another Party	2	1	1	2	2	2	2

Past Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other parties
Sample	986	330	310	141	50	46
Progressive Conservative	36	87	10	8	9	34
Liberal	37	7	79	15	14	31
New Democratic	19	5	8	74	10	4
Green	6	1	2	2	65	16
Another Party	2	1	1	1	2	16

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January 30th, 2015

Party Preference If Christine Elliot Were the PC Leader

'If a provincial election were held today, which party are you most likely to vote for if Christine Elliott were the PC leader? + Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party would you be leaning towards at this time if Christine Elliott were the PC leader?'

[Decided/Leaning]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	959	159	128	215	220	237	520	439
Progressive Conservative	35	24	28	43	38	41	40	31
Liberal	36	36	43	30	33	40	34	38
New Democratic	21	28	21	22	22	13	18	24
Green	6	10	6	3	5	4	6	6
Another Party	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	959	149	166	274	440	220	150
Progressive Conservative	35	36	31	35	33	40	36
Liberal	36	37	43	35	39	34	29
New Democratic	21	19	18	23	21	19	27
Green	6	7	7	5	5	6	5
Another Party	2	2	1	2	2	1	2

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	959	358	344	147	60	42
Progressive Conservative	35	93	3	5	8	16
Liberal	36	4	88	3	4	23
New Democratic	21	2	6	91	4	12
Green	6	1	2	1	82	10
Another Party	2	1	0	0	2	39

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Party Preference If Lisa Macleod Were the PC Leader

'If a provincial election were held today, which party are you most likely to vote for if Lisa MacLeod were the PC leader? + Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party would you be leaning towards at this time if Lisa MacLeod were the PC leader?'

[Decided/Leaning]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	947	156	128	215	218	230	513	434
Progressive Conservative	32	24	30	38	32	37	38	27
Liberal	40	37	47	33	40	43	37	42
New Democratic	20	29	17	22	21	13	16	24
Green	6	10	5	5	6	5	6	6
Another Party	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	947	149	167	269	436	213	149
Progressive Conservative	32	34	28	33	31	35	32
Liberal	40	43	48	38	42	36	34
New Democratic	20	17	18	21	19	21	25
Green	6	5	6	7	6	6	7
Another Party	2	1	1	2	2	2	2

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	947	350	340	147	60	43
Progressive Conservative	32	87	2	5	3	22
Liberal	40	7	92	5	7	24
New Democratic	20	3	4	88	5	12
Green	6	1	1	0	84	11
Another Party	2	1	0	0	0	32

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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	1028	172	132	231	245	248	550	478
Approve	40	44	41	35	35	43	34	46
Disapprove	48	41	46	53	56	47	57	39
Don't know	12	15	13	12	9	10	9	16

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1028	155	173	292	465	241	167
Approve	40	40	52	36	42	39	35
Disapprove	48	47	38	52	47	53	43
Don't know	12	13	9	12	11	8	22

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1028	376	350	151	63	46
Approve	40	11	74	35	36	25
Disapprove	48	83	15	49	50	50
Don't know	12	6	11	16	14	25

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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	1028	172	132	231	245	248	550	478
Approve	22	22	16	23	28	21	24	20
Disapprove	25	25	33	27	21	18	28	22
Don't know	53	53	51	50	52	61	48	57

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1028	155	173	292	465	241	167
Approve	22	22	14	23	20	25	26
Disapprove	25	26	31	21	24	24	28
Don't know	53	53	56	56	56	51	46

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1028	376	350	151	63	46
Approve	22	33	15	23	14	21
Disapprove	25	19	29	26	28	35
Don't know	53	48	57	51	57	44

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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	1028	172	132	231	245	248	550	478
Approve	36	39	44	30	37	29	32	40
Disapprove	39	38	33	45	38	44	48	31
Don't know	24	23	23	25	25	26	20	29

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1028	155	173	292	465	241	167
Approve	36	27	27	41	36	39	42
Disapprove	39	41	51	36	42	38	32
Don't know	24	32	22	23	22	24	25

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1028	376	350	151	63	46
Approve	36	26	36	66	33	32
Disapprove	39	51	40	16	36	46
Don't know	24	23	24	18	31	22

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For more information:

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D.

President

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Tel: (416) 960-9603

Fax: (416) 960-9602

E-mail: lbozinoff@forumresearch.com

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