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TORONTO

March 1st, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Well more than 4-in-10 will vote PC if the election were held today (44%).
- If the results shown above are projected up to seats in the 107 seat Ontario legislature, the PCs would capture a minority of 44, 10 fewer than required for a majority, while the Liberals would claim 35 seats and the NDP 28.
- Kathleen Wynne has the approval of just one fifth of voters (20%).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberals trail PCs by 17 points

Brown seen as best Premier by wide margin; Wynne's approvals plummet

TORONTO March 1st - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1148 Ontario voters, well more than 4-in-10 will vote PC if the provincial election were held today (44%), compared to just more than a quarter who would vote Liberal (27%), for a 17 point lead. The NDP would claim just more than a fifth of the vote for third place (22%), while few will vote Green (6%) or for any other party (2%). This stands in comparison to December, 2015, when The PCs led the Liberals by just 3 points (34% to 31%). At that point, the NDP had a quarter of the vote (26%). Thus, the PCs have improved by a significant margin, the Liberals and NDP have lost share equally.

The PC vote is common to the oldest (49%), males (51%) rather than females (37%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 52%), in northern Ontario (51%) and among the least educated (50%).

The Liberal vote is characteristic of the youngest (34%), females (32%) rather than males (21%), the least wealthy (often a proxy for youth - 33%), in the Toronto 416 area code (39%) and among the best educated (post grad - 32%).

The NDP vote is especially likely to be mid aged (45 to 54 - 27%), the least wealthy (31%), in southwestern Ontario (26%) and among mothers of children under 18 (30%).

Of note, close to one fifth of those who voted Liberal in the election of 2014 will vote either PC (18%) or NDP (18%) if the election were held today.

PC minority government seen if vote held today

If the results shown above are projected up to seats in the 107 seat Ontario legislature, the PCs would capture a minority of 44, 10 fewer than required for a majority, while the Liberals would claim 35 seats and the NDP 28.

Wynne's favourables down, Brown's up

Kathleen Wynne has the approval of just one fifth of voters (20%), and her net favourable score (approve minus disapprove) is a truly awful -47. This represents a slight decline from 23% approval in December, and a net of -38. Patrick Brown has the approval of 3-in-10 voters (30%), and his net is a neutral +2. This is well up from December, when he had the approval of one quarter (25%). Andrea Horwath attracts approval from close to 4-in-10 voters (38%), similar to her number in

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December (40%). Her net score now is a relatively positive +9, just down from previously (+13).

Thus, Kathleen Wynne underperforms her party in approval, as does Patrick Brown, significantly, while Andrea Horwath outperforms her party in approval.

Patrick Brown seen as best Premier by wide margin

Just more than a quarter of voters see Patrick Brown as the best Premier (26%), compared to considerably fewer who think this of either Kathleen Wynne (17%) or Andrea Horwath (16%). As many as a quarter say none of these leaders would make a good Premier (26%), while about half this proportion don't have an opinion (14%).

"At approval levels of just one fifth of voters, Kathleen Wynne is in no shape right now to contest an election. However, it is important to remember that the Liberal brand remains strong, and her party outperforms her personally in popularity, which is also the case with Patrick Brown. Unfortunately, Ms Horwath's party does not seem to be able to aspire to her personal level of approval," 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:

- Just more than a quarter of voters see Patrick Brown as the best Premier (26%), compared to considerably fewer who think this of either Kathleen Wynne (17%) or Andrea Horwath (16%).
- "At approval levels of just one fifth of voters, Kathleen Wynne is in no shape right now to contest an election. However, it is important to remember that the Liberal brand remains strong, and her party outperforms her personally in popularity, which is also the case with Patrick Brown. Unfortunately, Ms Horwath's party does not seem to be able to aspire to her personal level of approval," 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 1148 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted between February 26th, 2016 and February 29th, 2016.

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
February 26 th -29 th , 2016	1148	44	27	22	6	2
December 20 th , 2015	1003	34	31	26	7	2
November 2 nd -4 th , 2015	1158	36	30	26	6	2
August 11 th -12 th , 2015	1001	35	26	33	4	2
July 8 th , 2015	678	32	26	35	5	2
May 11 th , 2015	1001	33	24	36	5	2
May 1 st , 2015	912	36	29	24	9	2
March 26 th , 2015	881	34	29	27	8	2
February 28 th , 2015	996	39	32	21	6	2
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

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Overall Seat Distribution

%	Con	Lib	NDP
February 26 th -29 th , 2016	67	16	24
December 20 th , 2015	44	35	28
November 2 nd -4 th , 2015	54	19	34
August 11 th -12 th , 2015	54	19	34
July 8 th , 2015	35	27	45
May 11 th , 2015	49	18	40
May 1 st , 2015	48	33	26
March 26 th , 2015	52	23	32
February 28 th , 2015	49	39	19
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

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Ontario Provincial Party Leader Approval Rating Trending (% Approve)

[All Respondents]

	Sample	Wynne	Brown	Horwath
February 26 th -29 th , 2016	1148	20	30	38
December 20 th , 2015	1003	23	25	40
November 2 nd -4 th , 2015	1158	21	27	41
August 11 th -12 th , 2015	1001	30	21	38
July 8 th , 2015	678	29	19	38
May 11 th , 2015	1001	26	17	41
	Sample	Wynne	Wilson	Horwath
May 1 st , 2015	912	29	22	39
March 26 th , 2015	881	33	22	40
February 28 th , 2015	996	36	24	37
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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Current Provincial Vote 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	1117	149	145	216	294	313	612	505
Progressive Conservative	44	32	47	44	47	49	51	37
Liberal	27	34	26	23	27	23	21	32
New Democratic	22	25	21	27	17	19	20	24
Green	6	8	5	5	7	6	6	7
Another Party	2	1	0	1	2	3	2	1

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1117	169	192	333	525	273	150
Progressive Conservative	44	47	35	46	42	42	51
Liberal	27	28	39	24	30	22	21
New Democratic	22	17	21	22	22	26	20
Green	6	7	4	7	6	6	8
Another Party	2	1	0	1	1	4	0

Past Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1117	422	314	173	44	56
Progressive Conservative	44	86	18	10	24	52
Liberal	27	5	60	14	17	12
New Democratic	22	5	18	68	5	16
Green	6	3	2	6	49	11
Another Party	2	0	1	2	5	10

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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	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Approve	20	23	22	18	22	16	19	21
Disapprove	67	57	67	74	71	73	72	63
Don't know	12	21	11	8	7	11	9	16

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Approve	20	28	32	17	23	13	15
Disapprove	67	63	53	72	65	69	79
Don't know	12	9	15	11	12	18	7

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Approve	20	3	53	15	18	9
Disapprove	67	92	27	71	67	83
Don't know	12	5	21	14	15	8

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Patrick Brown Approval

‘Do you approve or disapprove of the job Patrick Brown is doing as leader of the Opposition?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Approve	30	20	33	34	32	36	35	26
Disapprove	28	36	26	27	26	21	31	26
Don't know	42	44	40	39	42	42	34	49

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Approve	30	32	26	29	28	25	45
Disapprove	28	27	31	29	30	28	25
Don't know	42	41	43	42	42	47	30

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Approve	30	52	14	14	18	5
Disapprove	28	17	36	39	33	48
Don't know	42	31	50	47	49	47

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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	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Approve	38	30	37	41	42	45	37	39
Disapprove	29	31	30	27	32	24	36	23
Don't know	33	38	34	32	26	30	27	38

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Approve	38	40	33	37	36	36	46
Disapprove	29	27	29	33	31	26	28
Don't know	33	33	37	30	33	38	26

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Approve	38	34	28	67	30	37
Disapprove	29	35	30	14	34	30
Don't know	33	31	42	19	36	33

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Best Premier of ON

‘Regardless of which party you would vote for, who do you think would make the best Premier of Ontario?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Kathleen Wynne	17	19	17	16	19	16	14	20
Patrick Brown	26	17	30	30	29	29	32	20
Andrea Horwath	16	11	16	18	16	20	16	15
None of these	26	32	22	28	25	23	25	27
Don't know	14	21	14	9	11	13	12	17

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Kathleen Wynne	17	22	26	16	19	11	15
Patrick Brown	26	28	19	25	23	24	37
Andrea Horwath	16	15	13	18	16	17	13
None of these	26	19	26	28	28	29	25
Don't know	14	15	16	13	14	18	9

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Kathleen Wynne	17	3	52	8	6	0
Patrick Brown	26	55	2	7	13	0
Andrea Horwath	16	9	6	46	18	10
None of these	26	25	20	26	45	63
Don't know	14	8	20	13	19	27

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