

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Lorne Bozinoff, President
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com
416.960.9603

TORONTO

August 14th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than one third would vote for the Progressive Conservatives if the provincial election were held today (35%).
- If these results are projected up to the 107 seat Ontario Legislature, the PCs would take a one seat majority of 54 seats, to 34 for the NDP. Andrea Horwath is the most popular leader and has the approval of close to 4-in-10 voters (38%).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PCs pull into lead with NDP in Ontario

Razor thin PC majority if election held today

TORONTO August 14th, 2015 -In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1001 Ontario voters, more than one third would vote for the Progressive Conservatives if the provincial election were held today (35%), while one third would vote NDP (33%). This is a statistical tie at this sample size. The Liberals would place third, with about one quarter of the vote (26%), and few would vote Green (4%) or for another party (1%). This stands in contrast with our last Ontario poll, where the NDP had the lead (July 8 - 35%) and the PCs were in second (32%). The Liberal vote share has not changed (26% then and now).

The PC vote is common to mid age groups (45 to 54 - 43%), males (44%), the least wealthy (45%) and the least educated (44%). The PC vote is stronger in the 905 belt surrounding Toronto (40%) than elsewhere in the province. The NDP vote is characteristic of the youngest (47%) and the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 48%). The Liberal vote is common to the oldest (29%), the best educated (38%) and the wealthiest (35%). Among PC voters, two thirds are strong supporters of the party (68%), while just more than half of Liberals (54%) or New Democrats (53%) are similarly committed.

One seat PC majority seen

If these results are projected up to the 107 seat Ontario Legislature, the PCs would take a one seat majority of 54 seats, to 34 for the NDP. The Liberals would take just 19 seats in this scenario.

Leader approvals hold steady

Andrea Horwath is the most popular leader and has the approval of close to 4-in-10 voters (38%). Her net favourable score (approve minus disapprove) is a relatively positive +5. The Premier has the approval of 3-in-10 voters, (30%) but her net is a dismal -30. Patrick Brown has the approval of just one fifth (21%) but as many as half don't know him (48%) and his net is a relatively benign -9. These approval ratings have not shifted since last month.

180 Bloor Street W., #1400
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6
T 416.960.9600
F 416.960.9602
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Leaders close to tie for best Premier

Relatively equal proportions think each leader would make the best Premier, led by Patrick Brown (23%), then Kathleen Wynne (22%) then Andrea Horwath (20%). A similar proportion says none would be good at the job (19%) or doesn't know (17%).

"It's not uncommon for governments to suffer poor ratings mid-mandate, but the Premier must be glad the next election isn't for 3 years. What's interesting is that the PCs, who did not originally see a bounce when Patrick Brown was elected leader, may be seeing it now, even though he is not personally that popular yet," 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:

- Relatively equal proportions think each leader would make the best Premier.
- "It's not uncommon for governments to suffer poor ratings mid-mandate, but the Premier must be glad the next election isn't for 3 years. What's interesting is that the PCs, who did not originally see a bounce when Patrick Brown was elected leader, may be seeing it now, even though he is not personally that popular yet," 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 1001 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted from August 12th to August 13th, 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
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
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

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Overall Seat Distribution

%	Con	Lib	NDP
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
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

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Ontario Provincial Party Leader Approval Rating Trending (% Approve)

[All Respondents]

	Sample	Wynne	Brown	Horwath
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 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	950	139	129	179	228	275	499	451
Progressive Conservative	35	24	36	43	34	41	44	28
Liberal	26	22	25	24	32	29	23	30
New Democratic	33	47	30	30	30	26	29	36
Green	4	6	7	2	3	3	4	4
Another Party	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	2

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	950	144	173	246	419	253	134
Progressive Conservative	35	35	32	40	37	33	34
Liberal	26	33	34	22	27	23	22
New Democratic	33	27	29	35	32	36	35
Green	4	3	4	2	3	5	8
Another Party	2	1	1	1	1	2	2

Past Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	950	364	270	238	47	31
Progressive Conservative	35	100	0	0	0	0
Liberal	26	0	100	0	0	0
New Democratic	33	0	0	100	0	0
Green	4	0	0	0	100	0
Another Party	2	0	0	0	0	100

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Strong Supporter

'Are you a strong supporter of that party?'

[Has Chosen A Candidate]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	947	139	129	178	227	274	498	449
Yes	58	55	55	57	62	64	56	59
No	42	45	45	43	38	36	44	41

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	947	144	172	245	417	253	133
Yes	58	54	59	58	58	58	58
No	42	46	41	42	42	42	42

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	947	364	270	238	47	28
Yes	58	68	54	53	50	30
No	42	32	46	47	50	70

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August 14th, 2015

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	1001	143	137	191	241	289	519	482
Approve	30	29	29	27	33	32	27	32
Disapprove	59	55	62	62	58	61	66	54
Don't know	11	16	9	11	9	7	7	15

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1001	156	182	254	436	263	146
Approve	30	29	42	28	33	25	25
Disapprove	59	61	49	64	58	60	62
Don't know	11	11	10	8	9	14	13

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1001	364	270	238	47	31
Approve	30	7	70	27	26	13
Disapprove	59	89	21	63	56	60
Don't know	11	4	10	10	18	27

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August 14th, 2015

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	1001	143	137	191	241	289	519	482
Approve	21	15	23	22	27	24	28	15
Disapprove	30	31	34	30	29	27	32	29
Don't know	48	53	44	48	44	49	41	55

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1001	156	182	254	436	263	146
Approve	21	28	22	22	22	18	19
Disapprove	30	26	31	31	31	32	31
Don't know	48	46	47	48	47	51	50

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1001	364	270	238	47	31
Approve	21	43	9	12	14	8
Disapprove	30	18	39	36	33	59
Don't know	48	38	52	52	54	32

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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	1001	143	137	191	241	289	519	482
Approve	38	45	33	37	33	35	33	43
Disapprove	33	23	32	36	43	36	39	27
Don't know	30	31	34	28	24	29	28	31

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1001	156	182	254	436	263	146
Approve	38	34	43	42	42	32	35
Disapprove	33	33	35	34	34	32	28
Don't know	30	33	23	25	24	36	37

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1001	364	270	238	47	31
Approve	38	25	30	71	33	21
Disapprove	33	50	34	12	21	50
Don't know	30	25	36	17	47	29

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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	1001	143	137	191	241	289	519	482
Kathleen Wynne	22	18	19	22	29	28	21	23
Patrick Brown	23	19	20	26	21	28	29	17
Andrea Horwath	20	26	19	18	17	16	16	23
None of these	19	16	26	19	17	15	21	16
Don't know	17	22	15	15	16	12	13	20

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1001	156	182	254	436	263	146
Kathleen Wynne	22	25	32	18	24	20	18
Patrick Brown	23	26	18	26	23	21	19
Andrea Horwath	20	12	17	24	21	21	22
None of these	19	16	17	18	18	21	20
Don't know	17	20	16	14	15	17	21

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1001	364	270	238	47	31
Kathleen Wynne	22	5	60	14	12	11
Patrick Brown	23	56	5	5	6	14
Andrea Horwath	20	7	10	52	15	3
None of these	19	19	12	16	31	66
Don't know	17	13	14	14	36	7

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For more information:

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D.

President

Forum Research Inc.

Tel: (416) 960-9603

Fax: (416) 960-9602

E-mail: lbozinoff@forumresearch.com

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