

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kevin O'Leary Still Preferred by Conservatives for Leader

MacKay and Ambrose also place

TORONTO May 13th, 2016 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1517 Canadian voters, those who will vote Conservative if an election were held today are most likely to select reality TV star Kevin O'Leary as the best choice for party leader (27%), followed closely by former serial cabinet minister Peter MacKay (23%). Somewhat fewer opt for current interim leader Rona Ambrose (16%). Maxime Bernier and Jason Kenney are the choice of fewer than a tenth of party voters (6% each), and few opt for Kellie Leitch (3%) or Lisa Raitt (2%).

Among the entire population of voters, Peter MacKay is preferred (18%) to O'Leary (14%) or Ambrose (11%). The largest single group of voters says someone else should have the job (35%).

Among our very small sample of those who claim to be Conservative Party members, O'Leary is even more strongly preferred (23%) to MacKay (16%) or to Bernier (11%) or Ambrose (12%).

Since we polled this question last month, enthusiasm for Mr O'Leary has grown among Conservative voters (April 6 O'Leary - 24%, MacKay - 22%), while among members, enthusiasm for the erstwhile Dragon has diminished (O'Leary - 28%, MacKay - 20%).

"The Conservatives want to pick a winner, and it looks like they think Kevin O'Leary may be their chicken dinner. He's at least competitive among voters at large, and the closer you get to the Conservative heart, the more popular he is," 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.

TORONTO

May 13th, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Those who will vote Conservative if an election were held today are most likely to select reality TV star Kevin O'Leary as the best choice for party leader (27%), followed closely by former serial cabinet minister Peter MacKay (23%).
- "The Conservatives want to pick a winner, and it looks like they think Kevin O'Leary may be their chicken dinner. He's at least competitive among voters at large, and the closer you get to the Conservative heart, the more popular he is," 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 1517 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on May 10th and May 11th, 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.

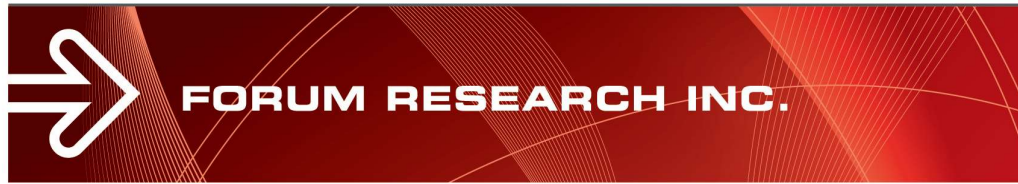
With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

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Conservative Party: Best Leader – Overall Sample

%	May 11 th , 2016	April 6 th , 2016
Sample	1517	1455
Peter MacKay	18	18
Kevin O’Leary	14	14
Jason Kenney	6	6
Maxime Bernier	9	9
Rona Ambrose	11	10
Lisa Raitt	4	6
Kelly Leitch	3	2
Someone else	35	35

Conservative Party: Best Leader – Conservative Party Members

%	May 11 th , 2016	April 6 th , 2016
Sample	118	112
Peter MacKay	16	20
Kevin O’Leary	23	28
Jason Kenney	9	7
Maxime Bernier	11	9
Rona Ambrose	12	9
Lisa Raitt	2	2
Kelly Leitch	4	1
Someone else	23	24

Conservative Party: Best Leader – Conservative Party Voters

%	May 11 th , 2016	April 6 th , 2016
Sample	420	408
Peter MacKay	23	22
Kevin O’Leary	27	24
Jason Kenney	6	8
Maxime Bernier	6	5
Rona Ambrose	16	17
Lisa Raitt	2	4
Kelly Leitch	3	1
Someone else	17	19

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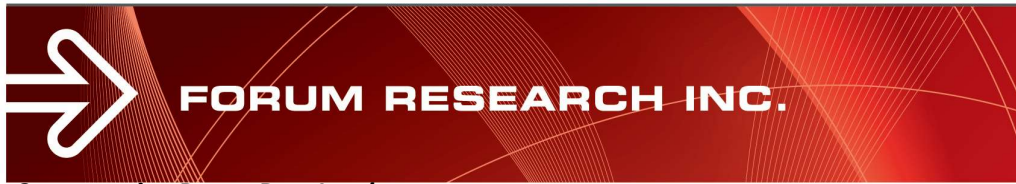
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Conservative Party: Best Leader

'Which of the following would make the best leader of the Conservative Party?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1517	275	215	276	361	390	798	689
Peter MacKay	18	14	17	27	17	18	20	17
Kevin O'Leary	14	15	16	14	11	12	18	10
Jason Kenney	6	4	6	6	6	8	6	6
Maxime (Max-EEM) Bernier	9	10	10	8	9	8	8	9
Rona (RON-na) Ambrose	11	9	11	10	13	14	11	10
Lisa Raitt	4	5	5	6	3	2	4	5
Kelly Leitch	3	4	3	1	1	3	2	3
Someone else	35	39	32	28	41	36	30	40

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1517	129	367	567	108	155	191	1166	351
Peter MacKay	18	28	13	22	16	17	15	20	13
Kevin O'Leary	14	12	2	18	18	22	16	17	2
Jason Kenney	6	4	6	5	4	8	9	7	4
Maxime (Max-EEM) Bernier	9	3	24	5	0	5	3	4	25
Rona (RON-na) Ambrose	11	11	10	8	15	21	10	11	10
Lisa Raitt	4	3	4	6	5	3	3	4	4
Kelly Leitch	3	3	1	4	2	0	4	3	2
Someone else	35	35	40	33	39	23	41	34	40

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties	Conservative Party Member
Sample	1517	420	683	174	82	59	48	118
Peter MacKay	18	23	20	12	11	9	11	16
Kevin O'Leary	14	27	8	13	11	4	17	23
Jason Kenney	6	6	6	8	3	2	4	9
Maxime (Max-EEM) Bernier	9	6	10	9	4	20	7	11
Rona (RON-na) Ambrose	11	16	10	6	6	17	1	12
Lisa Raitt	4	2	5	4	11	5	5	2
Kelly Leitch	3	3	3	5	3	0	0	4
Someone else	35	17	39	43	52	43	54	23

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For more information:

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