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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PC support remains solid in spite of allegations

Most Ontarians Aware of Allegations Against Brown

Toronto, January 25th – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 751 Ontario voters, more than 8 in 10 (82%) say they are aware of the sexual misconduct allegations against Patrick Brown. About one-sixth (14%) say they are not aware, while few (4%) say they do not know.

Approve of his decision to resign as leader

Almost two-thirds (60%) say they approve of Brown's decision to resign as PC leader. One-sixth (18%) say they disapprove of his decision, and almost a quarter (22%) say they do not know.

Respondents most likely to say they approve of his decision include those aged 65+ (66%), males (65%), those living in Eastern Ontario (64%) or Southwestern Ontario (63%), and supporting the Liberals (73%).

Respondents most likely to disapprove include those living in Toronto (21%), in the 905 (19%), or in Northern Ontario (20%), and supporting the PCs (24%).

The majority (55%) of PC supporters approve of the decision. A quarter (24%) disapprove, and a similar proportion (22%) do not know.

People's votes may not shift

The plurality (36%) say the allegations won't have any effect on their vote, but almost a quarter (22%) say it will make them more likely to vote PC. One-sixth (15%) say they are more likely to vote Liberal, while just over 1 in 10 (12%) say they are more likely to vote NDP, while about one-sixth (14%) say they aren't sure if the allegations will have any effect.

Respondents most likely to say their vote won't change include those aged 45-54 (41%) or 55-64 (38%), males (41%), living in Eastern Ontario (44%), and supporting the Green Party (50%). Additionally (35%) of PC supporters, (37%) of Liberal supporters, and (33%) of NDP supporters say their vote won't change.

Respondents most likely to say they are more likely to vote PC include those aged 45-54 (28%), 55-64 (26%) or 65+ (29%), male (25%), living in Northern Ontario (27%) and supporting the PCs (52%). (9%) of Green supporters say they are more likely to vote PC.

Respondents most likely to say they are more likely to vote Liberal include those aged 35-44 (24%), female (18%), living in Toronto (16%), the 905 (19%), or Northern Ontario (17%), and supporting the Liberals (45%). (13%) of Green supporters say they are more likely to vote Liberal.

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"That the numbers for the Progressive Conservatives haven't changed much suggests that most supporters were behind the party, and not the leader. There may be an element of cognitive dissonance in that because supporters see Brown doing the right thing, their support for the PCs is strengthened," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research.



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Respondents most likely to say they are more likely to vote NDP include those aged 34 and younger (17%), living in Toronto (41%), the 905 (16%), or Northern Ontario (14%), and supporting the NDP (49%). (8%) of Liberals and (9%) of Greens say they are more likely to vote NDP.

Amongst the general-public, Christine Elliot and Doug Ford seen as first choice to succeed Brown

The plurality (41%) is unsure of who would be their first choice to lead the Ontario PCs.

Christine Elliot (12%) and Doug Ford (11%) lead amongst a group that have been identified as potential candidates for new leader. Clustered behind the two frontrunners are Toronto Mayor John Tory (8%), Caroline Mulroney (7%), Tony Clement (6%), Lisa Raitt (6%), John Baird (5%), and Lisa Macleod (4%).

Christine Elliot is preferred by PC supporters

Christine Elliot leads (17%) amongst those that say they are PC supporters. Doug Ford (13%) and Caroline Mulroney (11%) are just behind Elliot amongst PC supporters.

Overall, PC support is unchanged

If an election were held today, the PCs would receive support from more than 4 in 10 (42%), the Liberals at one-quarter (27%), and the NDP at one quarter (23%). Few (6%) would support either the Green Party or another party (2%).

Respondents most likely to say they would vote PC include those aged 45-54 (51%), males (49%), living in Eastern Ontario (44%) or the 905 (46%).

Respondents most likely to say they would vote Liberal include those aged 35-44 (34%), females (30%), and living in Toronto (36%).

Respondents most likely to say they will vote NDP include those aged 34 or younger (28%) and living in Northern Ontario (30%).



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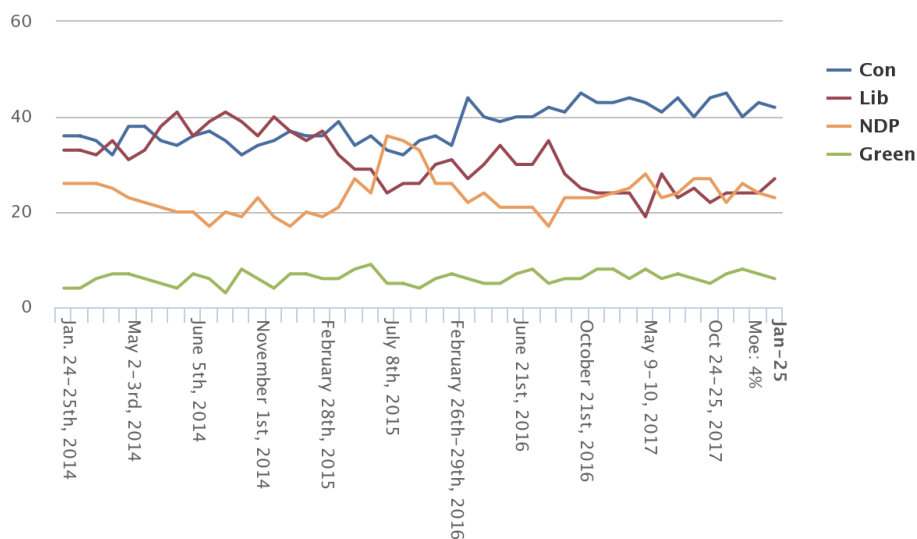


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Provincial Trend in Ontario



“That the numbers for the Progressive Conservatives haven’t changed much suggests that most supporters were behind the party, and not the leader. There may be an element of cognitive dissonance in that because supporters see Brown doing the right thing, their support for the PCs is strengthened,” said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research.

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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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 751 randomly selected Ontario Voters. The poll was conducted on January 25th, 2017.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 4%, 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. Actual results depend on the parties' ability to get their voters out. 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
Jan 25, 2018	751	42	27	23	6	2
Jan 11-13, 2018	1022	43	24	24	7	2
Nov 29-30, 2017	861	40	24	26	8	2
Oct 24-25, 2017	946	45	27	22	7	2
Sept 26-27, 2017	801	44	22	27	5	2
Aug 23-24, 2017	981	40	25	27	6	2
June 12-14, 2017	1003	44	23	24	7	2
May 9-10, 2017	1103	41	28	23	6	3
March 28-30, 2017	844	43	19	28	8	2
February 15-16, 2017	1026	44	24	25	6	2
November 21 st , 2016	1104	43	24	24	8	2
October 17-18 th , 2016	1078	43	24	23	8	2
September 12-13 th , 2016	1154	45	25	23	6	2
August 15 th , 2016	1097	41	28	23	6	2
July 12 th , 2016	1183	42	35	17	5	2
June 21 st , 2016	1173	40	30	21	8	2
May 31 st , 2016	1172	40	30	21	7	2
April 28 th , 2016	1157	39	34	21	5	2
March 23 rd , 2016	1225	40	30	24	5	2
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	-	31	39	24	5	2
Provincial Election Results						
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



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Horserace

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	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
TOTAL (u/w)	701	109	105	123	152	212	406	282
Progressive Conservative	42	35	31	51	46	44	49	36
Liberal	27	27	34	23	29	25	25	30
New Democratic	23	28	23	20	22	22	21	25
Green	6	8	10	4	3	8	5	7
Another Party	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	2

Income

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	751	117	218	171	157	88
Progressive Conservative	39	41	33	44	37	37
Liberal	25	24	33	26	21	20
New Democratic	21	16	19	21	22	29
Green	6	8	5	4	6	7
Another Party	1	3	1	1	1	2
Undecided	7	9	9	3	13	4



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Awareness

Are you aware of the sexual misconduct allegations against Patrick Brown or not?

Age/Gender

%	TOTAL	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
TOTAL (u/w)	751	124	113	126	165	223	427	309
Aware	82	73	80	86	87	85	86	78
Not aware	14	22	14	12	10	10	12	16
DK	4	5	6	3	3	5	2	6

Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	751	117	218	171	157	88
Aware	82	84	82	85	76	81
Not aware	14	13	13	12	17	16
DK	4	3	5	3	6	3

Voter Ballot Intention

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties
Sample	751	315	197	124	49	16
Aware	82	85	84	76	80	81
Not aware	14	11	12	18	15	14
DK	4	3	4	6	5	5



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Resignation

Do you approve or disapprove of Patrick Brown's decision to resign as Ontario Progressive Conservative party leader?

Age/Gender

%	TOTAL	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
TOTAL (u/w)	751	124	113	126	165	223	427	309
Approve	60	56	60	59	62	66	65	57
Disapprove	18	19	16	19	19	16	18	18
Don't know	22	25	24	22	20	18	18	25

Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	751	117	218	171	157	88
Approve	60	64	57	60	63	58
Disapprove	18	13	21	19	16	20
Don't know	22	23	22	21	22	22

Voter Ballot Intention

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties
Sample	751	315	197	124	49	16
Approve	60	55	73	64	59	57
Disapprove	18	24	11	15	13	31
Don't know	22	22	15	21	28	11



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Vote change

What effect, if any will the sexual misconduct allegations have on your vote in the upcoming provincial election?

Age/Gender

%	TOTAL	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
TOTAL (u/w)	751	124	113	126	165	223	427	309
I am more likely to vote PC	22	14	19	28	26	29	25	20
I am more likely to vote Liberal	15	14	24	8	15	16	12	18
I am more likely to vote NDP	12	17	13	12	9	10	12	13
My vote won't change	36	33	33	41	38	35	41	31
Not sure	14	23	11	11	12	10	10	18

Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	751	117	218	171	157	88
I am more likely to vote PC	22	24	21	23	19	27
I am more likely to vote Liberal	15	10	16	19	11	17
I am more likely to vote NDP	12	4	14	16	10	14
My vote won't change	36	44	34	33	37	35
Not sure	14	18	15	9	22	6



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Voter Ballot Intention

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties
Sample	751	315	197	124	49	16
I am more likely to vote PC	22	52	2	2	9	8
I am more likely to vote Liberal	15	2	45	7	13	0
I am more likely to vote NDP	12	2	8	49	9	0
My vote won't change	36	35	37	33	50	52
Not sure	14	9	9	9	19	39



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New leader

Which of the following potential candidates would be your first choice to replace Patrick Brown as leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative party?

Age/Gender

%	TOTAL	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
TOTAL (u/w)	751	124	113	126	165	223	427	309
Caroline Mulroney	7	7	5	9	12	4	9	6
John Baird	5	4	9	8	3	2	5	4
Christine Elliot	12	6	12	13	20	13	12	12
Lisa Raitt	6	3	7	7	8	7	5	7
Doug Ford	11	13	13	15	4	9	12	10
Lisa Macleod	4	4	3	3	3	6	6	2
Tony Clement	6	5	5	9	5	5	5	6
John Tory	8	7	9	8	7	9	10	6
Not sure	41	51	38	29	38	44	36	46

Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	416	905	South-western Ontario	Northern Ontario
Sample	751	117	218	171	157	88
Caroline Mulroney	7	11	8	9	6	2
John Baird	5	7	6	2	5	8
Christine Elliot	12	10	10	17	9	10
Lisa Raitt	6	6	6	6	8	3
Doug Ford	11	9	16	12	6	13
Lisa Macleod	4	2	5	3	3	8
Tony Clement	6	8	4	3	8	7
John Tory	8	9	9	8	7	7
Not sure	41	38	37	40	49	42



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Voter Ballot Intention

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties
Sample	751	315	197	124	49	16
Caroline Mulroney	7	11	6	5	7	0
John Baird	5	6	7	3	5	3
Christine Elliot	12	17	10	8	10	3
Lisa Raitt	6	6	8	6	8	0
Doug Ford	11	13	10	10	14	19
Lisa Macleod	4	4	2	6	7	0
Tony Clement	6	4	5	3	1	62
John Tory	8	9	10	4	8	0
Not sure	41	29	42	55	39	13

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