

# NEWS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PC lead shrinks in Ontario

#### Slim PC majority seen

TORONTO March 26<sup>th</sup> - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1225 Ontario voters, 4-in-10 will vote PC if the provincial election were held today (40%), down slightly from last month (February 29 - 44%). In turn, 3-in-10 will vote Liberal (30%), and this is up slightly from last month (27%). One quarter will vote NDP (24%), and this is comparable to results last month (22%). Few will vote Green (5%) or for other parties (1%).

#### Slim PC majority seen

If these results are projected up to the 107 seat Provincial legislature, the PCs would capture a 3 seat majority of 57 seats, to 26 for the Liberals and 24 for the NDP.

#### Wynne's favourables flat, Brown and Horwath slightly down

Premier Wynne has the approval of just one fifth of voters (20%) and this is the same as last month. Her net favourable score (approve minus disapprove) is a very negative -45, similar to -47 last month. Patrick Brown has the approval of one quarter of voters (26%), down slightly from last month (30%) and his net favourable score is a slightly positive +4. As many as one half of voters don't know enough about him yet to form an opinion (52%). Andrea Horwath has seen her approval decline slightly from just less than 4-in-10 (38%) last month to just more than a third this month (35%), and her net score is a positive +9

#### Patrick Brown has slight edge as best Premier

Patrick Brown is slightly more likely to be seen as the best Premier (23%) than Andrea Horwath (18%), but both are preferred to the incumbent Premier (14%). The plurality of voters actually thinks none of these contenders can do the job (25%), and almost a fifth don't have an opinion (19%).

"The PCs are strongly outperforming their leader in appeal, which could present a problem in an election situation. Patrick Brown needs to make himself more known to the electorate, turning some of the "don't knows" into approval. Ms Horwath, on the other hand, continues to outperform her party in approval, which is also not ideal for an election. People like her personally, but, even with the Liberals in free-fall, her party remains in third place as voters struggle for a reason to vote NDP. It is instructive to note, with their leader at her lowest ratings, the Liberal brand is still relatively strong, and makes a respectable second place showing in voter preference," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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## TORONTO

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- 4-in-10 will vote PC if the provincial election were held today (40%).
  - Premier Wynne has the approval of just one fifth of voters (20%).
  - Patrick Brown is slightly more likely to be seen as the best Premier (23%).
  - "The PCs are strongly outperforming their leader in appeal, which could present a problem in an election situation. Patrick Brown needs to make himself more known to the electorate, turning some of the "don't knows" into approval. Ms Horwath, on the other hand, continues to outperform her party in approval, which is also not ideal for an election. People like her personally, but, even with the Liberals in free-fall, her party remains in third place as voters struggle for a reason to vote NDP. It is instructive to note, with their leader at her lowest ratings, the Liberal brand is still relatively strong, and makes a respectable second place showing in voter preference," 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 1225 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted March 23rd, 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](http://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](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

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March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Provincial Election Voting Preference Trending**

[Decided / Leaning]

%	Sample	Con	Lib	NDP	Green	Other
March 23rd, 2016	1225	40	30	24	5	2
February 26 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1148	44	27	22	6	2
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1003	34	31	26	7	2
November 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1158	36	30	26	6	2
August 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1001	35	26	33	4	2
July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	678	32	26	35	5	2
May 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1001	33	24	36	5	2
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	912	36	29	24	9	2
March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	881	34	29	27	8	2
February 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	996	39	32	21	6	2
January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1028	36	37	19	6	2
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1058	36	35	20	7	2
November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1054	37	37	17	7	2
November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1104	35	40	19	4	2
October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1013	34	36	23	6	1
August 20-21 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1229	32	39	19	8	2
Popular Vote – June 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 Provincial Election Results	-	<b>31</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
June 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1054	35	41	20	3	1
June 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	974	37	39	17	6	1
May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	882	36	36	20	7	1
May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1136	34	41	20	4	1
May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	996	35	38	21	5	1
May 2-3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	1845	38	33	22	6	1
April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	928	38	31	23	7	1
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	908	32	35	25	7	1
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1014	35	32	26	6	1
Jan. 24-25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1222	36	33	26	4	1
Dec. 17-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1044	38	31	24	5	1
Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1126	38	32	23	6	1
Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1049	34	31	27	7	1
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	1093	36	33	23	7	1
Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1019	35	32	26	6	1
Jul 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	861	36	31	27	5	1
Jun 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	977	35	33	24	8	1
May 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	881	34	38	21	6	0
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013	832	35	35	25	4	1
April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1133	36	36	24	4	1
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> 2013	1156	35	32	26	5	1
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> to Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2013	2773	32	32	29	5	1
Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1053	36	29	28	5	1
Jan. 23 to 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1052	32	27	35	5	1

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**Overall Seat Distribution**

%	Con	Lib	NDP
March 23rd, 2016	57	26	24
February 26 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	67	16	24
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	44	35	28
November 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	54	19	34
August 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	54	19	34
July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	35	27	45
May 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	49	18	40
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	48	33	26
March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	52	23	32
February 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	49	39	19
January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	34	56	17
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	37	52	18
November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	38	52	17
November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	37	56	14
October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	35	51	21
August 20-21 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	31	61	15
<b>Election – June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>21</b>
June 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	39	57	11
May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	42	50	15
May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	31	63	13
May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	26	68	13
May 2-3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	45	49	13
April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	49	45	13
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	29	66	12
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	48	42	17
Jan. 24-25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	47	46	14
Dec. 17-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	43	51	13
Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	47	44	16
Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	41	48	18
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	47	44	16
Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	36	53	18
Jul 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	45	46	16
Jun 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	42	54	11
May 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	37	60	10
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013	36	59	12
April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	38	59	10
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> 2013	43	50	14
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> to Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2013	36	53	18
Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	52	39	16
Jan. 23 to 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	40	40	27
Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	44	38	25
Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	47	41	19

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March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Ontario Provincial Party Leader Approval Rating Trending (% Approve)**

[All Respondents]

	Sample	Wynne	Brown	Horwath
March 23rd, 2016	1225	20	26	35
February 26 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1148	20	30	38
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1003	23	25	40
November 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1158	21	27	41
August 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1001	30	21	38
July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	678	29	19	38
May 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1001	26	17	41
	Sample	Wynne	Wilson	Horwath
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	912	29	22	39
March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	881	33	22	40
February 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	996	36	24	37
January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1028	40	22	36
December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1058	37	22	35
November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1054	42	22	33
November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1104	46	23	31
October 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1079	41	18	31
August 20-21 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	1229	46	27	35
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	810	41	-	28
		Wynne	Hudak	Horwath
May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	882	34	27	34
May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1136	38	25	35
May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	996	38	23	35
May 2-3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	1845	34	26	36
April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	928	34	27	40
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	908	34	23	38
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1014	32	24	40
Jan. 24-25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1222	40	21	40
Dec. 17-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1044	35	28	41
Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1126	35	26	44
Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1049	33	26	46
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	1093	39	25	41
Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1063	36	24	50
Jul 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	914	35	27	43
Jun 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1037	37	26	43
May 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	918	41	26	43
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013	869	42	27	49
April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1133	38	27	43
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> 2013	1156	40	27	44
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> to Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2013	2773	34	24	44
Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1053	36	27	49

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**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

## 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	1159	188	147	216	306	302	636	523
Progressive Conservative	40	27	40	41	44	45	45	35
Liberal	30	33	22	30	33	30	28	31
New Democratic	24	28	33	24	16	19	21	26
Green	5	11	3	3	5	4	4	7
Another Party	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1

### Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1159	154	175	365	540	258	207
Progressive Conservative	40	41	36	42	40	42	33
Liberal	30	33	39	28	32	23	30
New Democratic	24	19	18	25	23	26	29
Green	5	8	6	3	4	6	5
Another Party	2	0	1	2	1	2	2

## Past Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1159	400	364	189	56	55
Progressive Conservative	40	89	13	6	18	52
Liberal	30	6	66	13	14	18
New Democratic	24	2	16	76	24	14
Green	5	2	4	4	43	4
Another Party	2	1	1	1	2	11

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**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

***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	1225	199	161	231	320	314	671	554
Approve	20	24	11	19	22	21	21	19
Disapprove	64	52	70	70	68	68	69	60
Don't know	16	24	19	11	9	12	10	22

***Region***

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1225	164	185	390	575	270	216
Approve	20	25	28	18	22	15	14
Disapprove	64	54	51	72	64	70	66
Don't know	16	21	21	10	14	15	20

***Provincial Vote Preference***

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1225	483	341	218	66	51
Approve	20	4	44	15	25	17
Disapprove	64	91	35	70	46	62
Don't know	16	5	20	15	29	21

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**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**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	1225	199	161	231	320	314	671	554
Approve	26	22	21	33	30	26	33	19
Disapprove	22	20	24	24	25	22	24	21
Don't know	52	58	55	43	45	52	42	60

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1225	164	185	390	575	270	216
Approve	26	30	22	26	25	25	29
Disapprove	22	19	25	23	24	23	20
Don't know	52	51	53	51	52	52	51

**Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1225	483	341	218	66	51
Approve	26	50	12	13	20	10
Disapprove	22	11	27	34	37	38
Don't know	52	39	61	53	43	52

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**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**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	1225	199	161	231	320	314	671	554
Approve	35	33	35	35	38	36	33	37
Disapprove	26	23	24	29	31	26	34	19
Don't know	39	44	41	36	31	38	33	44

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1225	164	185	390	575	270	216
Approve	35	36	31	41	37	33	29
Disapprove	26	20	27	27	27	29	24
Don't know	39	44	42	32	36	38	47

**Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1225	483	341	218	66	51
Approve	35	31	28	63	32	20
Disapprove	26	33	26	11	24	43
Don't know	39	35	46	26	44	37

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**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**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	1225	199	161	231	320	314	671	554
Kathleen Wynne	14	13	8	17	19	18	15	14
Patrick Brown	23	17	25	27	26	26	28	19
Andrea Horwath	18	19	19	20	17	15	14	22
None of these	25	30	24	21	24	24	27	24
Don't know	19	21	24	15	14	17	16	22

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1225	164	185	390	575	270	216
Kathleen Wynne	14	15	19	14	16	11	13
Patrick Brown	23	24	24	23	23	20	29
Andrea Horwath	18	15	14	25	21	16	15
None of these	25	25	18	24	22	33	25
Don't know	19	20	25	14	18	21	18

**Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1225	483	341	218	66	51
Kathleen Wynne	14	2	40	5	8	9
Patrick Brown	23	55	4	3	14	15
Andrea Horwath	18	8	11	54	17	13
None of these	25	23	22	23	48	51
Don't know	19	11	23	15	14	13

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