

# NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PCs Lead in Ontario**

### **Wynne at lowest approval ever**

In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1124 Ontario voters, more than 4-in-10 will vote for the Progressive Conservatives if an election were held today (43%), while equal proportions, about one quarter, will vote either Liberal (24%) or NDP (23%). About one tenth will vote Green (8%) and few will vote any other party (2%). Vote shares for the parties have not changed significantly in the past month.

The PCs are especially strong in southwestern Ontario (49%) while the NDP find their strength in northern Ontario (30%). The Liberals score best in Toronto's 416 area code (33%), but even here, the PCs lead (36%).

There is a clear gender gap in the parties, in that males prefer the PCs more than females (50% to 37%), while the opposite is true among Liberals (19% to 29%). There is a gender balance in preference for the NDP (22% male, 25% female).

### **PCs on track for two thirds majority**

If these results are projected up to seats in the Legislature, the PCs would win two thirds of them (67%), or 72, to 24 for the NDP, making them the official opposition. The Liberals would seat just 11 members.

### **Kathleen Wynne's favourables probe new low**

Just one sixth of voters approve of Kathleen Wynne (14%), down slightly from last month (16%), and lower than we have recorded for sitting Premier. Her net favourable score (approve minus disapprove) is a bottom-scrapingly negative -63. Close to one half of Liberals approve of their premier (45%), but just fewer disapprove (40%).

Patrick Brown has approval from just more than a quarter (27%), but many don't know him well enough to have an opinion (49%). His net score is a neutral +3. Patrick Brown has the approval of one half his party (48%), but, once again, many Progressive Conservatives haven't formed an opinion of him (40%).

Andrea Horwath enjoys the favour of the largest proportion of voters at just more than a third (36%), and her net score is a favourable +12. Her approval among New Democrats is more than one half (55%).

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### **TORONTO**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- More than 4-in-10 will vote for the Progressive Conservatives if an election were held today (43%)
- PCs are especially strong in southwestern Ontario (49%)
- There is a clear gender gap in the parties, in that males prefer the PCs more than females (50% to 37%)
- If these results are projected up to seats in the Legislature, the PCs would win two thirds of them (67%), or 72
- Just one sixth of voters approve of Kathleen Wynne (14%)
- Patrick Brown has approval from just more than a quarter (27%)
- Andrea Horwath enjoys the favour of the largest proportion of voters at just more than a third (36%)

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## Just one tenth see Wynne as best Premier

Patrick Brown is seen to be best for the Premier's job by 3-in-10, the plurality (29%), while second place belongs to "none of these" (25%). Andrea Horwath takes the votes of one fifth (19%), while half that many choose Kathleen Wynne, the incumbent (11%). Brown is the choice of more than one half of PC voters (58%), Horwath has the support of one half of New Democrats (48%) and Wynne has the support of 4-in-10 Liberals (39%).

## One half expect PCs to win next election

When asked which party they expected to win the next election in fall, 2018, rather than the party they would vote for, the PCs do even better, and one half predict their victory (47%). This includes one fifth of Liberal voters (17%) and 3-in-10 New Democrats (30%). Just fewer than a quarter predict the Liberals will win (22%), and this includes 6-in-10 Liberals (59%), and one sixth of New Democrats (15%). Just one tenth think the New Democrats will win (11%) and this is mostly New Democrats themselves (33%).

## One half expect someone else to lead the Liberals in the next election

One half of voters do not expect Kathleen Wynne to lead her party in the next election in 2018 (49%), and just one quarter expect she will (27%). One half of PCs and New Democrats expect her to leave her post (53% and 51% respectively) and as many as 4-in-10 Liberals also expect a new leader by then (42%).

"The problem here is that none of the three parties has an especially popular leader. None is the choice of more than about half of their own partisans as Premier. Kathleen Wynne has her own troubles, but neither Patrick Brown nor Andrea Horwath can get their approvals higher than about a third. Patrick Brown, because he's not well known, or hasn't projected a consistent message. Andrea Horwath because she just isn't that well liked; better than the other leaders, certainly, but not on the scale of the Prime Minister, or even the mayor of Toronto" 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](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com) or at (416) 960-9603.

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## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Patrick Brown is seen to be best for the Premier's job by 3-in-10, the plurality (29%)
- When asked which party they expected to win the next election in fall, 2018, PCs do even better, and one half predict their victory (47%)
- "The problem here is that none of the three parties has an especially popular leader. Kathleen Wynne has her own troubles, but neither Patrick Brown nor Andrea Horwath can get their approvals higher than about a third. Patrick Brown, because he's not well known, or hasn't projected a consistent message. Andrea Horwath because she just isn't that well liked; better than the other leaders, certainly, but not on the scale of the Prime Minister, or even the mayor of Toronto" 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 1124 randomly selected Ontario adults. The poll was conducted on October 17-18<sup>th</sup>, 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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### Provincial Election Voting Preference Trending

[Decided / Leaning]

%	Sample	Con	Lib	NDP	Green	Other
October 17-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1078	43	24	23	8	2
September 12-13 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1154	45	25	23	6	2
August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1097	41	28	23	6	2
July 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1183	42	35	17	5	2
June 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	1173	40	30	21	8	2
May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	1172	40	30	21	7	2
April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	1157	39	34	21	5	2
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 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

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## Overall Seat Distribution

%	Con	Lib	NDP
October 17-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	72	11	24
September 12-13 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	75	8	24
August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	69	15	23
July 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	48	44	15
June 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	51	36	20
May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	57	26	24
April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	53	33	21
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 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
Election – June 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	<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

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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	1078	151	110	195	267	355	553	513
Progressive Conservative	43	30	43	45	46	53	50	37
Liberal	24	30	15	26	23	25	19	29
New Democratic	23	25	34	22	23	17	22	25
Green	8	13	8	6	7	4	7	8
Another Party	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	2

### Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1078	84	177	148	148	135	192
Progressive Conservative	43	17	39	36	49	52	49
Liberal	24	42	20	29	21	19	24
New Democratic	23	27	31	26	21	20	20
Green	8	11	9	7	9	7	7
Another Party	2	2	2	2	1	2	1

### Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1078	157	163	341	504	249	168
Progressive Conservative	43	48	36	45	42	49	35
Liberal	24	23	33	22	26	22	21
New Democratic	23	22	22	24	23	21	30
Green	8	5	8	8	8	6	12
Another Party	2	3	2	1	1	1	2

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### *Past Provincial Vote Preference*

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1078	383	352	150	48	57
Progressive Conservative	43	90	19	11	13	49
Liberal	24	3	56	6	17	5
New Democratic	23	4	17	77	4	24
Green	8	2	7	5	63	11
Another Party	2	1	1	1	3	12

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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	1124	159	114	209	277	365	568	543
Approve	14	12	14	16	15	14	12	17
Disapprove	77	75	81	77	76	77	81	73
Don't know	9	12	5	7	9	9	7	10

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1124	92	182	151	150	142	198
Approve	14	25	12	12	15	10	16
Disapprove	77	55	75	83	79	85	80
Don't know	9	19	13	5	6	5	4

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1124	167	168	359	527	255	175
Approve	14	16	21	14	16	11	9
Disapprove	77	74	66	78	74	83	82
Don't know	9	10	12	8	9	6	9

**Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1124	491	259	190	85	53
Approve	14	2	45	9	7	6
Disapprove	77	95	40	82	82	93
Don't know	9	2	15	8	10	1

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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	1124	159	114	209	277	365	568	543
Approve	27	24	28	32	27	28	33	22
Disapprove	24	19	27	24	27	25	28	20
Don't know	49	57	45	44	46	47	39	58

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1124	92	182	151	150	142	198
Approve	27	12	25	29	32	27	32
Disapprove	24	23	22	22	23	26	29
Don't know	49	65	53	49	45	47	39

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1124	167	168	359	527	255	175
Approve	27	24	24	28	27	28	33
Disapprove	24	16	33	24	27	21	28
Don't know	49	60	44	48	47	52	39

**Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1124	491	259	190	85	53
Approve	27	48	11	17	22	8
Disapprove	24	13	29	37	32	38
Don't know	49	40	60	46	45	54

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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	1124	159	114	209	277	365	568	543
Approve	36	27	42	38	41	40	33	39
Disapprove	24	26	17	27	28	23	31	18
Don't know	39	47	41	35	31	37	35	43

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1124	92	182	151	150	142	198
Approve	36	34	36	40	41	30	38
Disapprove	24	18	23	25	28	33	27
Don't know	39	49	40	35	31	37	35

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1124	167	168	359	527	255	175
Approve	36	30	37	41	39	32	38
Disapprove	24	16	29	23	25	26	25
Don't know	39	54	34	36	35	41	36

**Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1124	491	259	190	85	53
Approve	36	33	30	55	38	37
Disapprove	24	30	22	19	21	35
Don't know	39	37	47	27	41	28

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**Best Premier**

*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
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1124</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>543</b>
Kathleen Wynne	11	9	10	13	14	13	10	13
Patrick Brown	29	29	27	30	30	28	37	21
Andrea Horwath	19	15	26	22	18	16	17	21
None of these	25	26	22	24	25	26	24	25
Don't know	16	21	15	11	13	16	12	19

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1124</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>198</b>
Kathleen Wynne	11	11	9	12	14	10	14
Patrick Brown	29	11	28	23	36	32	32
Andrea Horwath	19	14	16	28	18	16	21
None of these	25	29	27	24	25	24	23
Don't know	16	36	19	13	7	18	10

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1124</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>175</b>
Kathleen Wynne	11	12	19	12	14	8	5
Patrick Brown	29	27	27	28	28	33	28
Andrea Horwath	19	16	13	21	18	21	21
None of these	25	20	24	24	24	25	33
Don't know	16	25	17	14	15	14	13

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## *Provincial Vote Preference*

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1124	491	259	190	85	53
Kathleen Wynne	11	1	39	6	3	3
Patrick Brown	29	58	9	8	16	8
Andrea Horwath	19	9	13	48	25	19
None of these	25	20	22	26	41	50
Don't know	16	11	18	12	16	19

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**MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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**TORONTO**  
**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Provincial Election Prediction**

*Which party do you expect to win the next provincial election, scheduled for fall, 2018?*

*[All Respondents]*

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1124	159	114	209	277	365	568	543
Liberals	22	25	18	23	22	20	22	22
Progressive Conservatives	47	44	49	48	47	51	56	40
New Democrats	11	12	14	9	11	9	9	13
Green Party	4	6	4	2	3	1	2	5
Some other party	2	1	1	4	2	4	3	2
Don't know	14	12	14	13	16	16	9	18

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1124	92	182	151	150	142	198
Liberals	22	40	20	26	21	20	21
Progressive Conservatives	47	24	42	46	49	57	57
New Democrats	11	3	15	14	15	7	7
Green Party	4	6	5	5	2	2	2
Some other party	2	4	2	0	3	2	2
Don't know	14	22	17	9	11	13	10

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1124	167	168	359	527	255	175
Liberals	22	24	24	21	22	23	18
Progressive Conservatives	47	48	46	47	47	52	40
New Democrats	11	10	9	11	10	11	16
Green Party	4	1	3	4	4	4	6
Some other party	2	2	1	2	2	1	7
Don't know	14	14	16	14	15	10	13

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### Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1124	491	259	190	85	53
Liberals	22	7	59	15	18	15
Progressive Conservatives	47	82	17	30	34	31
New Democrats	11	4	6	33	9	13
Green Party	4	1	3	3	24	1
Some other party	2	1	1	4	3	21
Don't know	14	6	14	15	12	18

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**Liberal Leadership Prediction for the Next Election**

*Will Kathleen Wynne lead the Liberal Party in the next provincial election, scheduled for fall, 2018?*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1124	159	114	209	277	365	568	543
Yes, she will lead the Liberals	27	24	26	29	30	28	32	22
No, someone else will lead the Liberals	49	53	53	49	42	42	46	51
Don't know	25	24	21	21	29	30	22	27

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1124	92	182	151	150	142	198
Yes, she will lead the Liberals	27	24	17	23	35	25	33
No, someone else will lead the Liberals	49	32	50	60	47	54	51
Don't know	25	44	34	17	18	20	16

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1124	167	168	359	527	255	175
Yes, she will lead the Liberals	27	26	33	27	29	28	19
No, someone else will lead the Liberals	49	41	43	49	47	54	52
Don't know	25	32	24	24	24	18	29

**Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1124	491	259	190	85	53
Yes, she will lead the Liberals	27	24	35	28	24	13
No, someone else will lead the Liberals	49	53	42	51	54	49
Don't know	25	22	23	21	22	38

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