

# NEWS RELEASE



## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Federal Liberals, Conservatives almost tied**

#### **Conservative minority government seen if election held today**

TORONTO March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1239 Canadian voters, one third or just fewer will vote either for the Conservatives (31%) or the Liberals (34%) if a federal election were held today. Just fewer than one quarter would vote New Democrat (23%), and few would vote Green (5%), Bloc Quebecois (5%) or for another party (1%). These findings represent relative stability since we polled at mid-month (March 14: Liberals - 36%, Conservatives - 32%, NDP - 21%, Greens - 6%, Bloc - 4%, Other - 1%).

In vote-rich Ontario, where the next election will be won or lost, the Conservatives have a slight lead on the Liberals (38% to 34%), and the NDP is not a major factor (21%). In Quebec, The Liberals (29%) and the NDP (28%) are tied, while the Conservatives and the Bloc lag (20% and 19%, respectively). In conservative Alberta, Liberals (31%) and NDP (20%) are sidelined, while the Conservatives lead (43%). Atlantic Canada is Liberal country (52%) to the exclusion of other parties (Conservative - 20%, NDP - 23%).

Of note, one fifth of past Conservative voters will support the Liberals this time around (19%), while a similar proportion of past New Democrats will as well (21%). About one tenth of past Liberals will vote either NDP (12%) or Conservative (8%).

#### **Conservative minority seen**

If these results are projected up to a 338 seat House of Commons, the Conservatives would take a slim minority of 129 seats (41 fewer than required for a majority), while the Liberals would take 125, The NDP would occupy 65 seats, the Bloc a one year high of 17 seats, the Greens would retain their leader's seat and André Arthur would occupy an independent seat, unless he runs a Conservative.

#### **Tied expectations of electoral victory remain stable**

An equal proportion of voters expect the Conservatives (35%) or the Liberals (36%) to win the next election, and this is similar to the answer seen the last time we asked this (January 28: Conservatives - 36%, Liberals - 37%). Just one tenth see the NDP with a chance at victory, then (9%) and now (11%). One tenth of Conservatives see a Liberal victory (9%), one sixth of Liberals see a Conservative victory (14%) and as many as 3-in-10 New Democrats see the Liberals winning (31%) which may be an indication of their eventual vote. Half this proportion of New Democrats see the Conservatives winning (17%).

## **TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- One third or just fewer will vote either for the Conservatives (31%) or the Liberals (34%) if a federal election were held today. Just fewer than one quarter would vote New Democrat (23%), and few would vote Green (5%), Bloc Quebecois (5%) or for another party (1%).
- If these results are projected up to a 338 seat House of Commons, the Conservatives would take a slim minority of 129 seats (41 fewer than required for a majority).
- An equal proportion of voters expect the Conservatives (35%) or the Liberals (36%) to win the next election.

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### **Mulcair favourables up sharply, Trudeau's down slightly**

Prime Minister Harper has the approval of one third of voters (33%) and his net favourable score (approve minus disapprove) is a very negative -26. These levels are stable from the last time we asked approval (January 28 - 34%, -22). Tom Mulcair has seen his approval rise sharply since then (from 40% to 47%) and his net score has improved as well (+14 to +17). Justin Trudeau's approval has declined slightly (from 43% to 40%, and from +7 net to -4).

"We're seeing here the very gradual erosion of the lead the Liberals have enjoyed since electing Trudeau as leader, to the point where the two parties are functionally tied and, because of quirks of the new 338 seat distribution, the Conservatives stand to win a minority. It is not unlikely we will see this gradual erosion continue until either the Iraq mission goes off the rails or the economy suffers even worse than it already has," 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.

### **Party Leader Approval - Trending**

%	March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	January 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
Stephen Harper	33	34
Justin Trudeau	40	43
Thomas Mulcair	47	40

## **TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Prime Minister Harper has the approval of one third of voters (33%) and his net favourable score (approve minus disapprove) is a very negative -26).
- "We're seeing here the very gradual erosion of the lead the Liberals have enjoyed since electing Trudeau as leader, to the point where the two parties are functionally tied and, because of quirks of the new 338 seat distribution, the Conservatives stand to win a minority. It is not unlikely we will see this gradual erosion continue until either the Iraq mission goes off the rails or the economy suffers even worse than it already has," 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 1239 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on March 30-31<sup>st</sup>, 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](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)

## **TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

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**Federal Party Preference Trending**

[Decided/Leaning]

**TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

%	Sample	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	1239	31	34	23	5	5	1
March 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1370	32	36	21	6	4	1
February 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1018	32	39	17	5	4	1
January 27-28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1309	35	34	20	6	5	1
January 5-6 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	1650	33	37	20	5	4	1
Dec. 10-11 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1560	33	41	17	5	3	1
Nov. 19-20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1442	33	36	18	8	4	1
Oct. 5-8 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1504	34	38	19	4	4	1
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1267	34	40	18	3	4	1
August 18-19 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1798	32	41	17	5	5	1
July 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1624	28	44	18	3	5	1
June 16-17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1683	31	39	19	5	4	1
May 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2014	1694	30	36	23	5	6	1
Apr 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1572	30	39	20	4	6	1
Mar 25-28 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1764	29	39	22	3	5	1
Feb. 18-19 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1824	29	39	21	4	6	1
Jan. 23-24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1228	28	38	24	4	5	1
Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	1779	28	37	25	4	5	1
Dec. 12-13 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1634	32	38	21	3	5	1
Nov. 12-13 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1834	29	38	22	4	6	1
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013	1007	28	40	20	5	6	1
Oct. 21-22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	1859	30	39	19	5	7	1
Sept 16-17 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1527	31	36	21	4	7	1
August 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1145	29	38	22	4	6	1
July 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013	1501	31	35	22	4	7	1
June 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1420	30	38	20	4	6	0
May 21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	1709	27	44	20	3	4	1
April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1764	30	43	19	2	5	1
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	1269	29	33	25	6	5	1
March 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1663	31	30	27	5	6	1
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1051	32	30	26	4	6	1
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	1555	36	25	28	4	7	1
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1296	31	27	28	6	6	1
Nov 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1776	33	28	28	4	6	1
Oct 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1680	31	27	32	4	6	1
Sep 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1692	35	25	30	3	6	1
Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2012	1640	34	22	34	4	6	1
Jul 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1545	31	22	35	5	6	1
Jun 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1114	35	19	35	3	6	1

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**TORONTO**  
**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Seat Distribution Projection Trending**

%	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	129	125	65	1	17	1
March 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	130	138	65	1	4	0
February 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	112	194	30	1	1	0
January 27-28 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	145	125	61	1	5	1
January 5-6 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	137	126	70	1	0	1

**Switch from 308 to 338 seat distribution**

Dec. 10-11 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	109	164	34	1	0	0
Nov. 19-20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	125	124	52	1	6	0
Oct. 5-8 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	132	130	44	1	1	0
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	113	162	30	1	2	0
August 18-19 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	110	142	51	1	4	0
July 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	84	192	30	1	1	0
June 16-17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	109	142	53	1	3	0
May 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2014	111	110	75	1	11	0
Apr 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	100	158	39	1	10	0
Mar 25-28 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	99	159	40	1	9	0
Feb. 18-19 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	100	134	51	1	22	0
Jan. 23-24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	104	132	65	1	6	0
Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	111	130	61	1	5	0
Dec. 12-13 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	110	147	48	1	2	0
Nov. 12-13 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	108	134	53	1	12	0
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013	104	146	47	1	10	0
Oct. 21-22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	106	147	33	1	21	0
Sept 16-17 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	121	102	45	1	39	0
August 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	107	127	63	1	10	0
July 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013	129	120	44	1	14	0
June 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	113	150	39	1	5	0
May 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2013	77	192	37	1	1	0
April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	99	170	35	1	3	0
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2013	119	117	65	1	6	0
March 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	125	88	76	1	18	0
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	129	86	81	1	11	0
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	144	68	73	1	22	0
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	129	77	77	1	24	0
Nov 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	138	83	76	1	10	0
Oct 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	122	76	101	1	8	0
Sep 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	142	66	87	1	12	0
Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2012	140	46	114	1	7	0
July 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	114	58	128	1	7	0
June 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	144	32	127	1	4	0
June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	114	53	136	1	4	0
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012	123	42	138	1	4	0

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**TORONTO**  
**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Federal Vote Preference**

*'If a federal 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	1188	189	173	233	304	289	650	538
Conservative	31	18	28	38	37	34	37	26
Liberal	34	32	36	32	34	38	34	35
New Democratic	23	36	21	20	19	21	21	26
Green	5	6	9	4	3	4	4	6
Bloc Quebecois	5	7	5	4	7	3	3	7
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1188	92	315	392	84	146	159	905	283
Conservative	31	20	20	38	40	43	28	35	20
Liberal	34	52	29	34	29	31	41	37	24
New Democratic	23	23	28	21	23	20	24	21	30
Green	5	5	3	6	7	5	6	5	4
Bloc Quebecois	5	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	21
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

**Past Federal Vote**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1188	395	245	251	51	50	81
Conservative	31	73	8	5	7	11	28
Liberal	34	19	76	21	31	13	34
New Democratic	23	5	12	65	15	11	17
Green	5	2	2	5	45	1	7
Bloc Quebecois	5	0	1	2	0	64	11
Other	1	1	0	1	1	1	3

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Party Expected to Win the Next Federal Election

**FORUM RESEARCH INC.**  
Which party do you expect to win the next federal election?

[All Respondents]

## Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1239	199	177	241	324	298	681	558
Conservative	35	26	34	41	41	39	41	30
Liberal	36	39	42	36	28	31	35	37
New Democratic	11	15	9	9	9	9	9	12
Green	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	2
Bloc Quebecois	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	3
Other Parties	13	14	10	9	16	18	11	15

## Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1239	95	327	411	87	154	165	944	295
Conservative	35	20	29	38	34	50	37	37	28
Liberal	36	53	33	39	32	21	37	38	31
New Democratic	11	14	14	8	14	7	13	10	15
Green	3	0	2	1	4	8	4	2	3
Bloc Quebecois	2	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	8
Other Parties	13	12	14	14	15	14	10	13	15

## Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1239	371	365	261	83	58	50
Conservative	35	85	14	17	12	28	36
Liberal	36	9	72	31	41	22	16
New Democratic	11	2	2	33	13	11	8
Green	3	1	1	2	13	2	13
Bloc Quebecois	2	1	1	0	3	24	5
Other Parties	13	3	9	17	18	13	24

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## TORONTO

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

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## **TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

### ***Stephen Harper Approval***

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Stephen Harper is doing as Prime Minister?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### ***Age / Gender***

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1239	199	177	241	324	298	681	558
Approve	33	24	32	38	38	37	37	29
Disapprove	59	66	62	54	57	54	56	62
Don't know	8	10	6	8	5	9	7	9

### ***Region***

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1239	95	327	411	87	154	165	944	295
Approve	33	19	28	38	32	43	27	35	27
Disapprove	59	76	64	54	60	50	65	58	65
Don't know	8	6	8	9	7	7	8	8	8

### ***Federal Vote Preference***

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1239	371	365	261	83	58	50
Approve	33	83	16	7	16	11	28
Disapprove	59	12	77	85	73	84	62
Don't know	8	5	7	8	11	5	9

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## **TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

### ***Tom Mulcair Approval***

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Tom Mulcair is doing as Leader of the Opposition?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### ***Age / Gender***

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1239	199	177	241	324	298	681	558
Approve	47	46	43	47	48	53	49	46
Disapprove	30	30	28	32	34	29	35	26
Don't know	22	25	29	20	18	19	16	28

### ***Region***

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1239	95	327	411	87	154	165	944	295
Approve	47	56	54	43	34	37	57	45	55
Disapprove	30	18	24	33	46	42	23	32	23
Don't know	22	25	22	24	19	21	20	23	22

### ***Federal Vote Preference***

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1239	371	365	261	83	58	50
Approve	47	24	56	71	46	42	41
Disapprove	30	58	24	9	26	25	35
Don't know	22	18	20	19	28	33	24

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## **TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

### ***Justin Trudeau Approval***

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Justin Trudeau is doing as leader of the Liberal Party?'*

*[Aware of Bill C51]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1239	199	177	241	324	298	681	558
Approve	40	37	50	39	36	40	38	42
Disapprove	44	44	35	49	50	43	48	40
Don't know	16	19	15	11	14	17	13	18

### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1239	95	327	411	87	154	165	944	295
Approve	40	50	31	43	45	38	41	43	29
Disapprove	44	30	48	43	40	53	43	43	49
Don't know	16	20	21	14	15	8	16	14	22

### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1239	371	365	261	83	58	50
Approve	40	15	79	32	43	15	26
Disapprove	44	76	10	46	39	60	59
Don't know	16	9	10	22	18	25	15

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