

Christy Clark has best chance of beating New Democrats - poll

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Christy Clark is the clear front-runner among B.C. Liberal Party members as they prepare to select a new leader this Saturday, an internal poll by the Clark campaign shows.

Photograph by: Ward Perrin, PNG files

Christy Clark is the B.C. Liberal leadership candidate with the best chance of defeating the New Democrats in an election, a survey by a Toronto-based polling firm suggests.

According to a British Columbia-wide poll by Forum Research Inc., if Clark was Liberal leader, 45 per cent of decided / leaning voters in B.C. would vote Liberal, compared to 39 per cent who would vote for the NDP, Forum said in a news release.

That compares with 43 per cent of voters saying they would cast their ballot for the Liberals—versus 42 per cent for the NDP—if George Abbott was Liberal leader, 40 per cent would vote Liberal and 42 per cent would vote NDP if Mike de Jong was at the helm, and 38 per cent of decided/leaning voters would vote Liberal compared to 44 per cent who would cast their ballot for the NDP if Kevin Falcon led the party.

"When asked who voters thought would make the best premier for British Columbia, many indicated Christy Clark would be best suited (25 per cent), followed by George Abbott (14 per cent), Kevin Falcon (8 per cent), and Mike de Jong (6 per cent)," Forum said in the release.

The poll was conducted by Forum using an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1,008 eligible voters of British Columbia aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted from February 22 to February 24, 2011. Results are considered accurate +/- 3.1 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

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