

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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TORONTO

March 14th, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS:

- It was found that if a provincial election were held today, four-in-10 Ontarians would vote for the Progressive Conservatives (40%), followed by the Liberals with about 3-in-10 (28%) and the NDP with about one quarter of the vote (23%).
- The Progressive Conservatives would capture a slim 57 seat majority in the 107 seat legislature if an election were held today, up from 51 seats last month and 37 seats in October's election.
- The proportion of Ontarians who think an election is needed now has increased from one quarter last month (26%) to one third this month (33%), and the increase has been most notable among current Conservative party supporters (46%; compared to 43% Green, 35% NDP, 13% Liberal, and 35% 'other').
- Party leader favourability ratings have not shifted strongly since last month

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario Conservatives Continue to Lead Forum Poll; Would Form Majority Government

Sharp increase in those wanting an election now

Toronto, March 14th, 2012 – In a recent survey conducted by Forum Research among Ontario residents 18 years or older, it was found that if a provincial election were held today, four-in-10 Ontarians would vote for the Progressive Conservatives (40%), followed by the Liberals with about 3-in-10 (28%) and the NDP with about one quarter of the vote (23%). The Conservative party enjoys stronger support among older Ontarians (27% 18-34, 40% 35-44, 42% 45-54, 41% 55-64, 46% 65+), and among male voters (45%; compared to 35% of females). Conversely, the NDP party base was strongest among those aged 18-34 (33%; compared to 20% 35-44, 21% 45-54, 26% 55-64, 18% 65+), and among female voters (28%; compared to 19%).

Conservatives would form majority government if election held today

The Progressive Conservatives would capture a slim 57 seat majority in the 107 seat legislature if an election were held today, up from 51 seats last month and 37 seats in October's election. The Liberals would take 33 seats, down considerably from 48 in February, and 53 at the election. The NDP's seat tally would increase from 8 seats last month to 17 if the election were held today, the same number they captured in the election last fall.

One third want an election now; up from one quarter last month

The proportion of Ontarians who think an election is needed now has increased from one quarter last month (26%) to one third this month (33%), and the increase has been most notable among current Conservative party supporters (46%; compared to 43% Green, 35% NDP, 13% Liberal, and 35% 'other'). Voters living in Eastern and Northern Ontario were significantly more likely to want an election now when compared to those residing in all other regions in the province (40%, 39% respectively).

Horwath has highest favourables, Hudak lowest

Party leader favourability ratings have not shifted strongly since last month, apart from a slight increase for Andrea Horwath and a slight decrease for Dalton McGuinty. Favourability ratings for Horwath were relatively consistent across demographic groups but was noted to be significantly lower in Eastern Ontario when compared to all other regions in the province (25%), and disapproval of Horwath was found significantly higher among male voters (31%; compared to

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- The largest group of respondents think Health Minister Deb Matthews should resign because of the ORNGE affair involving Ontario's Air Ambulance service (41%), and this opinion is especially strong among current Conservative and NDP party supporters (57%, 41%; compared to 36% Green, 26% Liberal, and 54% 'other').
- Two thirds of those polled approved of wind farms in rural areas (65%),
- "The Progressive Conservatives continue to make a compelling case to Ontario voters, and more seem to want to have an election now, but Hudak continues to stumble in the public eye with disapproval consistently high among all demographic groups so it will be interesting to see how things play out in the weeks and months to come." said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President.

24% of females). McGuinty was found to be unpopular outside of the 416 (37% approval in the GTA, 46% in the 416, 32% in the 905; compared to 24% South-western Ontario, 23% Eastern Ontario, and 20% Northern Ontario). Tim Hudak has the province's lowest favourables with all demographic groups equally disapproving of the Conservative party leader.

Most agree Matthews should resign over ORNGE affair

The largest group of respondents think Health Minister Deb Matthews should resign because of the ORNGE affair involving Ontario's Air Ambulance service (41%), and this opinion is especially strong among current Conservative and NDP party supporters (57%, 41%; compared to 36% Green, 26% Liberal, and 54% 'other'). It was also found that males were significantly more likely to think Matthews should resign over the scandal (49%; compared to 34% among females). On a regional level it was found that those residing in the 905 were significantly more likely than those in the 416 to think Matthews should resign (44%; compared to 33%).

Two thirds of Ontarians approve of rural wind farms

Two thirds of those polled approved of wind farms in rural areas (65%), and support was found to be high in both rural and urban regions with support being highest among residents of Northern Ontario and Toronto (71%, 68% GTA / 69% 416 / 67% 905; compared to 62% Eastern Ontario, and 56% South-western Ontario). Conservative supporters were significantly less likely to approve of wind farms in rural areas (48%; compared to 79% Liberal, 75% NDP, 75% Green, and 64% 'other'). Younger Ontarians were also found to be significantly more likely to approve (75% 18-34, 71% 35-44, 62% 45-54, 58% 55-64, 50% 65+)

"The Progressive Conservatives continue to make a compelling case to Ontario voters, and more seem to want to have an election now, but Hudak continues to stumble in the public eye with disapproval consistently high among all demographic groups so it will be interesting to see how things play out in the weeks and months to come." said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President.

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Methodology

The poll was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1065 randomly selected residents of Ontario aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted on March 13th, 2012.

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.

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted 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.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at <https://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp>.

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March 14th, 2012

Seat Distribution

%	Ontario Provincial Election Oct 6 th , 2011	Jan 18 th , 2012	Feb 15 th , 2012	Mar 13 th , 2012
Sample	-	1041	1218	1065
Progressive Conservative	37	56	51	57
Liberal	53	38	48	33
NDP	17	13	8	17
Green	0	0	0	0
Other Parties	0	0	0	0

Provincial Election Voting Preference Trending

%	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other
Mar 13 th , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided / Leaning)	40	28	23	8	1
Feb 15 th , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided/Leaning)	36	32	26	5	1
Jan 18 th , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided / Leaning)	41	33	20	4	1
Popular Vote – October 6 th , 2011 Provincial Election Results	35	38	23	3	1

Ontario Leader Approval Rating Trending (% Approve)

[All Respondents]

%	Sample	McGuinty	Hudak	Horwath
Mar 13 th , 2012	1065	30	27	43
Feb 15 th , 2012	1218	33	25	41
Jan 18 th , 2012	1041	33	26	40

Want Election Now Trending (% Yes)

[All Respondents]

%	Sample	Think election should be held	Don't think election should be held	Don't know
Mar 13 th , 2012	1065	33	59	8
Feb 15 th , 2012	1218	26	63	11

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Provincial Party Preference

'If a provincial election were held today, which party are you most likely to vote for?'

[Decided/Leaning Only]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	995	97	130	227	284	257	490	505
Progressive Conservative	40	27	40	42	41	46	45	35
Liberal	28	26	27	30	27	29	28	28
NDP	23	33	20	21	26	18	19	28
Green	8	14	12	5	5	5	7	9
Other	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1

Region

% sample	Total	Toronto				SW. Ont	N. Ont	NE. Ont	NW. Ont
		E. Ont	GTA	416	905				
sample	995	154	466	184	282	221	154	134	20
Progressive Conservative	40	47	36	30	41	45	38	41	14
Liberal	28	28	32	40	27	24	20	20	20
NDP	23	15	25	24	26	20	30	27	51
Green	8	9	5	5	5	10	11	11	15
Other	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0

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March 14th, 2012

Approval of Dalton McGuinty as Premier

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Dalton McGuinty is doing as Premier?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1065	107	138	245	303	272	520	545
Approve	30	29	29	31	29	30	29	30
Disapprove	60	61	59	60	62	58	61	58
Don't Know	11	10	12	10	9	13	10	12

Current Party Preference

%	Total	PC	Liberal	NDP	Green	Another Party
Sample	1065	383	269	220	78	45
Approve	30	9	73	24	23	6
Disapprove	60	84	18	67	70	82
Don't Know	11	7	9	9	7	12

Region

%	Total	Toronto							
		E. Ont	GTA	416	905	SW. Ont	N. Ont	NE. Ont	NW. Ont
sample	1065	160	501	194	307	236	168	144	24
Approve	30	23	37	46	32	24	20	19	26
Disapprove	60	67	51	37	60	68	70	72	57
Don't Know	11	11	12	17	9	8	11	10	17

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TORONTO
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Approval of Tim Hudak as Leader of the Opposition

‘Do you approve or disapprove of the job Tim Hudak is doing as Leader of the Opposition?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1065	107	138	245	303	272	520	545
Approve	27	22	35	25	28	27	31	23
Disapprove	49	52	47	49	48	45	48	49
Don't Know	24	26	18	26	23	28	20	28

Current Party Preference

%	Total	PC	Liberal	NDP	Green	Another Party
Sample	1065	383	269	220	78	45
Approve	27	49	16	15	26	12
Disapprove	49	27	62	68	53	65
Don't Know	24	24	22	17	20	23

Region

%	Total	Toronto							
		E. Ont	GTA	416	905	SW. Ont	N. Ont	NE. Ont	NW. Ont
sample	1065	160	501	194	307	236	168	144	24
Approve	27	28	27	24	30	26	26	28	10
Disapprove	49	47	47	52	44	52	52	49	65
Don't Know	24	25	26	24	26	23	23	22	25

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Approval of Andrea Horwath as Leader of the NDP

'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	1065	107	138	245	303	272	520	545
Approve	43	41	41	43	47	45	41	45
Disapprove	27	31	28	27	25	21	31	24
Don't Know	30	27	31	30	28	34	29	31

Current Party Preference

%	Total	PC	Liberal	NDP	Green	Another Party
Sample	1065	383	269	220	78	45
Approve	43	33	44	72	38	23
Disapprove	27	34	27	10	38	56
Don't Know	30	33	29	19	24	21

Region

%	Total	Toronto							
		E. Ont	GTA	416	905	SW. Ont	N. Ont	NE. Ont	NW. Ont
sample	1065	160	501	194	307	236	168	144	24
Approve	43	25	47	42	51	45	44	41	63
Disapprove	27	39	24	23	24	29	24	25	12
Don't Know	30	36	29	35	25	26	33	34	25

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Opinion regarding whether or not an election should be held now

'Do you think an election should be held in Ontario now or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1065	107	138	245	303	272	520	545
Think Election Should Be Held	33	39	31	30	33	28	37	30
Don't Think Election Should Be Held	59	57	60	60	62	60	58	61
Don't Know	8	4	9	10	5	12	6	9

Current Party Preference

%	Total	PC	Liberal	NDP	Green	Another Party
Sample	1065	383	269	220	78	45
Think Election Should Be Held	33	46	13	35	43	35
Don't Think Election Should Be Held	59	46	84	58	45	58
Don't Know	8	8	3	7	11	7

Region

% / sample	Total	Toronto							
		E. Ont	GTA	416	905	SW. Ont	N. Ont	NE. Ont	NW. Ont
sample	1065	160	501	194	307	236	168	144	24
Think Election Should Be Held	33	40	29	21	34	33	39	40	29
Don't Think Election Should Be Held	59	51	63	70	59	61	53	52	61
Don't Know	8	9	8	9	7	6	8	8	11

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Deb Matthews Resignation over ORNGE Affair Opinion

'Do you agree or disagree provincial Health Minister Deb Matthews should resign over the ORNGE affair at Ontario's Air Ambulance service?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1065	107	138	245	303	272	520	545
Agree	41	33	45	47	44	41	49	34
Disagree	31	33	27	31	34	32	30	33
Don't Know	27	34	29	22	21	26	21	33

Current Party Preference

%	Total	PC	Liberal	NDP	Green	Another Party
Sample	1065	383	269	220	78	45
Agree	41	57	26	41	36	54
Disagree	31	18	54	33	24	27
Don't Know	27	25	20	27	40	20

Region

%	Total	Toronto				SW. Ont	N. Ont	NE. Ont	NW. Ont
		E. Ont	GTA	416	905				
sample	1065	160	501	194	307	236	168	144	24
Agree	41	45	40	33	44	42	40	42	31
Disagree	31	25	35	41	30	33	25	21	49
Don't Know	27	29	26	26	25	25	35	37	21

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Rural Windfarm Approval

'Do you approve or disapprove of windfarms, or groups of wind turbines in rural areas?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1065	107	138	245	303	272	520	545
Approve	65	75	71	62	58	50	67	63
Disapprove	25	19	20	26	32	34	27	24
Don't Know	10	6	9	12	10	15	6	13

Current Party Preference

%	Total	PC	Liberal	NDP	Green	Another Party
Sample	1065	383	269	220	78	45
Approve	65	48	79	75	75	64
Disapprove	25	42	13	18	14	33
Don't Know	10	10	8	8	11	3

Region

%	Total	Toronto				SW. Ont	N. Ont	NE. Ont	NW. Ont
		E. Ont	GTA	416	905				
sample	1065	160	501	194	307	236	168	144	24
Approve	65	62	68	69	67	56	71	74	57
Disapprove	25	31	20	21	19	35	22	19	36
Don't Know	10	7	12	10	13	9	7	7	7

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Reasons for Windfarm Disapproval

'Which of the following is the one most important reason you don't approve of windfarms?'

[All Respondents]

%	Total
sample	306
Wildlife injuries	16
Unightly landscape	15
Annoying noise	13
Lowers property values	10
Other	44
Don't know	3

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