

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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TORONTO
May 3rd, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Nearly one half of those polled (48%, up slightly from 46% last month) said they would support the provincial NDP if an election were held today. This compares to fewer than half this proportion who would support the Liberals (23%), and even fewer who would support the Conservatives (18%, down from 23%).
- Taking in to account margin for error, these voting intention results - if they hold on Election Day - would see the NDP capture 70 of the 85 seats in the legislature, leaving just 13 for the Liberals. In a surprising finding, the Conservatives would take no seats, but two independents, Vickie Huntington and Arthur Hadland, would each claim a seat.
- Liberal supporters are more likely to say they are voting against the NDP (43%) than NDP supporters are to say they will vote to defeat the Liberals (32%).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BC NDP widens lead for overwhelming majority

Most Liberals favour merger with Conservatives

Toronto, May 3rd, 2012 – In a recent sampling of public opinion among British Columbians 18 years of age and older taken by The Forum Poll™, nearly one half of those polled (48%, up slightly from 46% last month) said they would support the provincial NDP if an election were held today. This compares to fewer than half this proportion who would support the Liberals (23%), and even fewer who would support the Conservatives (18%, down from 23%). Support for the Liberal party was found to be significantly higher among male voters (27%; compared to 20% of females), among those with household incomes exceeding \$100K (18% <\$20K, 24% \$20K-\$40K, 16% \$40K-\$60K, 21% \$60K-\$80K, 24% \$80K-\$100K, and 32% \$100K+), and among those residing in the Interior / North and Vancouver / Lower Mainland regions (27%, 25%; compared to 16% in Vancouver Island). It was also found that support for the Conservative party was significantly higher among older British Columbians (11% 18-34, 20% 35-44, 12% 45-54, 20% 55-64, and 30% 65+), and among those with a lower household income (26% <\$20K, 24% \$20K-\$40K, 16% \$40K-\$60K, 19% \$60K-\$80K, 11% \$80K-\$100K, and 14% \$100K+).

NDP set for overwhelming majority

Taking in to account margin for error, these voting intention results - if they hold on Election Day - would see the NDP capture 70 of the 85 seats in the legislature, leaving just 13 for the Liberals. In a surprising finding, the Conservatives would take no seats, but two independents, Vickie Huntington and Arthur Hadland, would each claim a seat.

Liberals more likely to vote against NDP, Conservatives less so

Liberal supporters are more likely to say they are voting against the NDP (43%) than NDP supporters are to say they will vote to defeat the Liberals (32%). The Conservatives are also less likely to be voting against the Liberals (34%) or the NDP (17%).

Dix has highest favourables; Cummins' approval down sharply

Adrian Dix has the highest approval rating (39%) for a net approval rating (approve minus disapprove) of +8. Premier Christy Clark's approval rating is 25%, and she has a net approval score of - 37. John Cummins, however, has seen his approval rating drop from 28% last month (net approval of -7) to 21% today (net approval of -20). Approval of Dix was found to be higher among older voters (30%

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18-34, 34% 35-44, 43% 45-54, 51% 55-64, and 43% 65+), males (43%; compared to 35% of females), those residing in the Vancouver Island region (52%; compared to 39% Vancouver / Lower Mainland, and 21% Interior / North) and without surprise – among current provincial NDP backers (67%). Clark saw highest favourable among current Liberal supporters (69%). Taking a look at Cummins' sharp approval decline it was noted that disapproval was significantly higher among males (47%; compared to 36% of females), and among backers of all provincial parties aside from his own (10% Conservative; compared to 51% Green, 50% NDP, 49% Liberal, 55% other) making it clear that he has few friends outside of party lines.

Enthusiasm gap strongly favours NDP, also Conservatives

NDP supporters are far more enthusiastic about voting for their party (64% very enthusiastic) than are Liberal supporters (35%), while Conservative supporters fall between these two extremes (42% very enthusiastic).

Majority of Liberal supporters think party should merge with Conservatives

Close to six-in-ten Liberal party supporters (59%) agree their party should merge with the Conservatives before the next election to prevent an NDP victory. Just one quarter of Conservative supporters share this view (27%), as do a quarter of the population in general (23%). The NDP does NOT support a merger (6%). Older British Columbians were more likely to agree that the parties should merge (18% 18-34, 20% 35-44, 26% 45-54, 24% 55-64, and 31% 65+), and among those living outside of the Vancouver Island region (16%; compared to 25% Vancouver / Lower Mainland, and 24% Interior / North).

Few Liberals think party should change its name

Fewer than one quarter of Liberal supporters think the party should change its name before the next election (23%), and support is even lower among the general population (16%). Males were found to be significantly more likely to agree that the party should change its name (21%; compared to 11% of females). It was also found that those residing in the Interior North and Vancouver / Lower Mainland regions were more likely to agree (18%, 17%; compared to 10% residing in the Vancouver Island region).

"It appears Liberal supporters feel the Hail Mary pass of a merger will save them, but the Conservatives don't seem to agree, and the NDP steamroller isn't slowing down" said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, president of Forum Research.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Adrian Dix has the highest approval rating (39%) for a net approval rating (approve minus disapprove) of +8. Premier Christy Clark's approval rating is 25%, and she has a net approval score of -37. John Cummins, however, has seen his approval rating drop from 28% last month (net approval of -7) to 21% today (net approval of -20).
- NDP supporters are far more enthusiastic about voting for their party (64% very enthusiastic) than are Liberal supporters (35%), while Conservative supporters fall between these two extremes (42% very enthusiastic).
- "It appears Liberal supporters feel the Hail Mary pass of a merger will save them, but the Conservatives don't seem to agree, and the NDP steamroller isn't slowing down" said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, president of Forum Research.

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Methodology

This Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1054 randomly selected residents of British Columbia aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted on May 2nd, 2012.

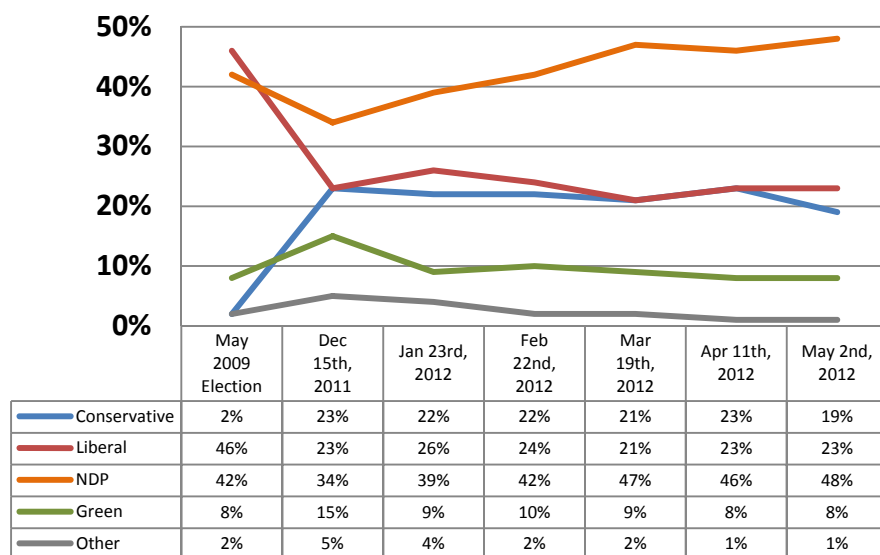
Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3.02%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp.

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 www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp.

Provincial Party Preference Trending



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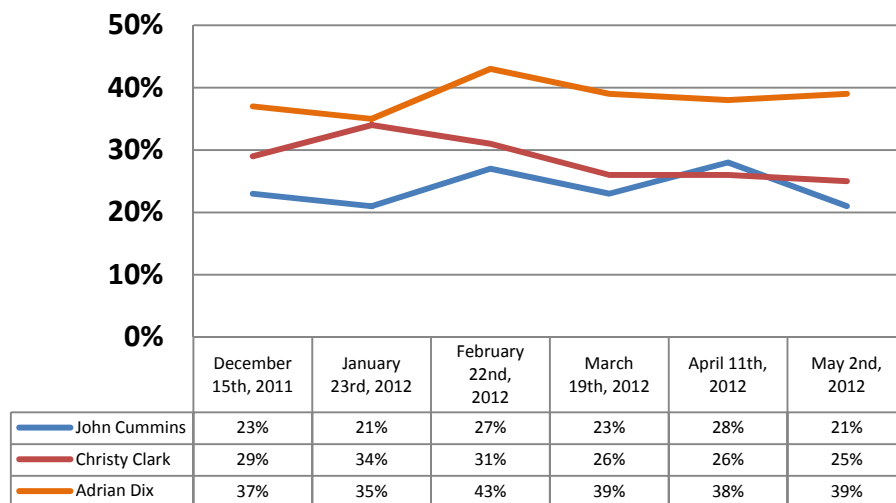
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Provincial Party Preference Trending

%	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other
May 2 nd , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided/Leaning) (n=995)	19	23	48	8	1
Apr 11 th , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided/Leaning) (n=1000)	23	23	46	8	1
Mar 19 th , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided/Leaning) (n=1007)	21	21	47	9	2
Feb 22 nd , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided/Leaning) (n=843)	22	24	42	10	2
Jan 23 rd , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided / Leaning) (n=914)	22	26	39	9	4
Dec 15 th , 2011 Forum Research Poll (Decided / Leaning) (n=986)	23	23	34	15	5
May, 2009 Election	2	46	42	8	2

TORONTO
May 3rd, 2012

Provincial Party Leader Approval Trending (% Approve)



Provincial Party Leader Approval Trending (% Approve)

%	Cummins	Clark	Dix
May 2 nd , 2012 Forum Research Poll (All Respondents) (n=1054)	21	25	39
Apr 11 th , 2012 Forum Research Poll (All Respondents) (n=1069)	28	26	38
Mar 19 th , 2012 Forum Research Poll (All Respondents) (n=1063)	23	26	39
Feb 22 nd , 2012 Forum Research Poll (All Respondents) (n=858)	27	31	43
Jan 23 rd , 2012 Forum Research Poll (All Respondents) (n=988)	21	34	35
Dec 15 th , 2011 Forum Research Poll (All Respondents) (n=1045)	23	29	37

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TORONTO**May 3rd, 2012*****Seat Distribution***

%	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Other
May 2 nd , 2012	0	13	70	2
Apr 11 th , 2012	2	12	70	1
Mar 19 th , 2012	0	9	75	1
Feb 22 nd , 2012	5	16	63	1
Jan 23 rd , 2012	7	20	57	1
May, 2009 Election	-	49	35	1

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Current Provincial Election Voting Preference

'If a BC 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	995	104	113	186	269	323	494	501
Liberal	23	19	22	30	19	24	27	20
New Democrat	48	51	46	50	56	41	45	52
Conservative	19	11	20	12	20	30	18	20
Green	8	17	11	7	4	5	10	6
Another Party	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

Region

%	Total	Vancouver/Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior/North
Sample	995	824	122	49
Liberal	23	25	16	27
New Democrat	48	47	56	42
Conservative	19	20	19	15
Green	8	7	9	14
Another Party	1	1	0	1

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	995	98	159	145	140	95	186
Liberal	23	18	24	16	21	24	32
New Democrat	48	44	43	61	50	59	43
Conservative	19	26	24	16	19	11	14
Green	8	10	9	6	9	5	10
Another Party	1	3	1	0	0	1	1

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Past Provincial Vote

%	Total	Lib	NDP	Cons	Green	Other Parties
Sample	995	402	316	86	82	43
Liberal	23	49	5	6	7	10
New Democrat	48	28	87	8	34	54
Conservative	19	19	4	84	9	11
Green	8	4	5	2	47	10
Another Party	1	0	0	0	2	16

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Liberal Vote Strategic Intention

'Is that more a vote against the NDP, a vote against the Conservatives or a vote for the Liberals?'

[Liberal Voters]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	235	21	27	53	56	78	131	104
More a vote against the NDP	43	31	40	47	43	55	44	43
More a vote against the Conservatives	6	8	13	3	3	2	7	4
More a vote for the Liberals	51	61	47	51	54	43	49	53

Region

%	Total	Vancouver/Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior/North
Sample	235	203	19	13
More a vote against the NDP	43	40	67	35
More a vote against the Conservatives	6	8	0	0
More a vote for the Liberals	51	51	33	65

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	235	15	37	28	29	26	57
More a vote against the NDP	43	15	39	38	44	50	57
More a vote against the Conservatives	6	7	15	0	2	5	2
More a vote for the Liberals	51	78	46	62	54	45	41

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NDP Vote Strategic Intention

'Is that more a vote against the Liberals, more a vote against the Conservatives, or more a vote for the NDP?'

[NDP Voters]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	448	47	49	86	139	127	212	236
More a vote against the Liberals	32	20	39	42	37	23	35	29
More a vote against the Conservatives	10	18	13	6	3	8	6	14
More a vote for the NDP	58	62	48	52	60	69	59	57

Region

%	Total	Vancouver/Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior/North
Sample	448	363	66	19
More a vote against the Liberals	32	33	32	23
More a vote against the Conservatives	10	8	13	19
More a vote for the NDP	58	59	55	57

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	448	41	73	78	67	49	76
More a vote against the Liberals	32	14	36	34	31	31	47
More a vote against the Conservatives	10	22	8	12	18	1	6
More a vote for the NDP	58	65	56	55	51	68	47

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Conservative Vote Strategic Intention

'Is that more a vote against the Liberals, more a vote against the NDP or more a vote for the Conservatives?'

[Conservative Voters]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	207	12	24	23	58	90	98	109
More a vote against the Liberals	34	9	39	36	42	36	32	35
More a vote against the NDP	17	22	31	10	10	10	27	8
More a vote for the Conservatives	50	69	29	54	48	53	41	57

Region

%	Total	Vancouver/Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior/North
Sample	207	172	26	9
More a vote against the Liberals	34	36	35	16
More a vote against the NDP	17	21	13	0
More a vote for the Conservatives	50	44	51	84

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	207	24	35	28	28	13	29
More a vote against the Liberals	34	43	24	46	30	21	37
More a vote against the NDP	17	7	13	12	17	22	33
More a vote for the Conservatives	50	50	62	42	52	57	30

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Christy Clark Approval Rating as Premier of British Columbia

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Christy Clark is doing as premier?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1054	113	120	195	282	344	520	534
Approve	25	21	27	30	23	27	26	25
Disapprove	62	61	63	62	69	59	65	60
you Don't know	12	18	11	8	9	13	10	15

Region

%	Total	Vancouver/Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior/North
Sample	1054	876	127	51
Approve	25	26	22	27
Disapprove	62	61	68	60
you Don't know	12	13	10	13

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1054	107	167	148	145	99	194
Approve	25	32	32	20	23	18	24
Disapprove	62	48	56	73	68	74	65
you Don't know	12	20	13	8	9	8	11

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Lib	NDP	Cons	Green	Other Parties
Sample	1054	235	448	207	77	28
Approve	25	69	8	21	20	21
Disapprove	62	20	82	65	70	68
you Don't know	12	11	10	15	10	11

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Adrian Dix Approval Rating as Leader of the Opposition

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

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1054	113	120	195	282	344	520	534
Approve	39	30	34	43	51	43	43	35
Disapprove	31	28	29	34	29	34	36	26
you Don't know	30	42	37	24	20	23	20	40

Region

%	Total	Vancouver/Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior/North
Sample	1054	876	127	51
Approve	39	39	52	21
Disapprove	31	32	24	33
you Don't know	30	29	24	46

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1054	107	167	148	145	99	194
Approve	39	18	35	54	44	45	40
Disapprove	31	42	34	26	29	31	29
you Don't know	30	40	32	20	27	24	31

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Lib	NDP	Cons	Green	Other Parties
Sample	1054	235	448	207	77	28
Approve	39	15	67	18	25	22
Disapprove	31	60	8	47	40	59
you Don't know	30	25	24	35	35	18

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John Cummins Approval Rating as Leader of the Conservative Party

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job John Cummins is doing as Leader of the Conservative Party?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1054	113	120	195	282	344	520	534
Approve	21	11	18	25	29	29	23	19
Disapprove	41	43	39	46	41	35	47	36
Don't know	38	46	43	29	30	37	30	45

Region

%	Total	Vancouver/Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior/North
Sample	1054	876	127	51
Approve	21	22	23	16
Disapprove	41	42	44	35
Don't know	38	37	33	49

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1054	107	167	148	145	99	194
Approve	21	20	26	25	26	16	17
Disapprove	41	43	37	45	38	44	47
Don't know	38	37	37	30	36	40	36

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Lib	NDP	Cons	Green	Other Parties
Sample	1054	235	448	207	77	28
Approve	21	12	14	60	14	23
Disapprove	41	49	50	10	51	55
Don't know	38	39	36	29	35	22

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Enthusiasm about Voting For Party in Upcoming Election

'How enthusiastic are you about voting for your party in the upcoming election?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1054	113	120	195	282	344	520	534
Very enthusiastic	47	37	48	49	59	49	49	45
Somewhat enthusiastic	27	29	29	25	25	25	24	29
Not very enthusiastic	17	24	14	17	8	18	18	16
Not at all enthusiastic	4	3	3	6	5	5	6	3
Don't know	4	6	5	4	3	3	3	5

Region

%	Total	Vancouver/Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior/North
Sample	1054	876	127	51
Very enthusiastic	47	47	53	40
Somewhat enthusiastic	27	27	27	27
Not very enthusiastic	17	17	12	26
Not at all enthusiastic	4	5	5	1
Don't know	4	5	2	6

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1054	107	167	148	145	99	194
Very enthusiastic	47	37	38	64	52	47	46
Somewhat enthusiastic	27	24	28	21	28	34	30
Not very enthusiastic	17	31	24	9	16	15	12
Not at all enthusiastic	4	5	5	3	3	3	7
Don't know	4	4	6	3	2	1	5

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Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Lib	NDP	Cons	Green	Other Parties
Sample	1054	235	448	207	77	28
Very enthusiastic	47	35	64	42	32	35
Somewhat enthusiastic	27	35	24	25	30	29
Not very enthusiastic	17	23	9	19	27	15
Not at all enthusiastic	4	4	1	8	6	12
Don't know	4	3	2	6	4	9

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BC Liberal / Conservative Merger Opinion

'Do you agree or disagree the BC Liberal Party and the BC Conservative Party should merge before the next election to prevent an NDP victory?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1054	113	120	195	282	344	520	534
Agree the parties should merge	23	18	20	26	24	31	25	21
Disagree the parties should merge	62	66	64	63	63	55	60	64
Don't know	15	17	17	12	13	14	15	14

Region

%	Total	Vancouver/Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior/North
Sample	1054	876	127	51
Agree the parties should merge	23	25	16	24
Disagree the parties should merge	62	58	75	64
Don't know	15	17	10	12

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1054	107	167	148	145	99	194
Agree the parties should merge	23	23	21	19	21	26	29
Disagree the parties should merge	62	56	59	70	68	70	58
Don't know	15	21	20	11	11	5	13

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NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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TORONTO

May 3rd, 2012

Current Provincial Vote Preference

	%	Total	Lib	NDP	Cons	Green	Other Parties
Sample		1054	235	448	207	77	28
Agree the parties should merge		23	59	6	27	18	25
Disagree the parties should merge		62	31	84	55	66	56
Don't know		15	10	10	18	16	19

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Liberal Party Name Change Opinion

'Do you agree or disagree the BC Liberal Party should change its name before the next election?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1054	113	120	195	282	344	520	534
Agree	16	16	13	20	15	15	21	11
Disagree	61	60	68	57	61	60	59	63
Don't know	23	24	18	23	24	24	20	26

Region

%	Total	Vancouver/Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior/North
Sample	1054	876	127	51
Agree	16	17	10	18
Disagree	61	59	70	58
Don't know	23	24	20	25

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1054	107	167	148	145	99	194
Agree	16	14	10	11	24	24	14
Disagree	61	45	63	75	60	60	66
Don't know	23	41	27	14	16	17	20

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Lib	NDP	Cons	Green	Other Parties
Sample	1054	235	448	207	77	28
Agree	16	23	14	10	16	23
Disagree	61	55	71	56	64	45
Don't know	23	23	15	33	20	33

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