

# NEWS RELEASE



## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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## **TORONTO**

**January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- It was found that if a provincial election was held today, most Ontarians would back the Progressive Conservative party (41%), followed by the Liberals (33%), NDP (20%), and Green Party (4%).
- Taking into account margin for error, these voting intention results would yield 56 seats for the Conservatives (up from 37), 38 seats for the Liberals (down from 53), and 13 for the NDP (down from 17).
- Andrea Horvath had the highest approval rating as leader of the NDP party (40%; considerably more popular than her party), followed by Dalton McGuinty as leader of the Liberals (33%; just as popular as his party), trailed somewhat distantly by Tim Hudak – leader of the Conservatives (26%; considerably less popular than his party).

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Ontario Tories take commanding lead over Liberals**

#### **Hudak's Conservatives would form slim majority if election held today**

Toronto, January 19th, 2011 – In a recent survey conducted by Forum Research among Ontario residents aged 18 years or older, it was found that if a provincial election was held today, most Ontarians would vote for the Progressive Conservative party (41%), followed by the Liberals (33%), NDP (20%), and Green Party (4%), with 1% backing 'other' parties (1%). Support for the Conservative party was found to be significantly higher among older Ontarians (27% 18-34, 41% 35-44, 39% 45-54, 47% 55-64, and 48% 65+), males (45%, compared to 38% of female Ontarians), and those residing in Eastern Ontario and the 905 (51%, 44%; compared to 42% Northern Ontario, 38% South-western Ontario, and 32% in the 416). Support for the NDP was concentrated among younger voters (34% 18-34, 25% 35-44, 17% 45-54, 17% 55-64, and 14% 65+) females (25%; compared to 16% of male Ontarians), and those with lower household incomes (26% <\$40K, 20% \$40K- \$75K, 23% \$75K-\$150K, and 8% \$150K or more). The Liberal party maintains a stronghold in the 416 (46%; compared to 33% 905, 31% South-western Ontario, 29% Northern Ontario, and 26% Eastern Ontario), and enjoys stronger support among those Ontarians with a higher household income (31% <\$40K, 29% \$40K- \$75K, 39% \$75K-\$150K, and 44% \$150K or more).

#### **Tories on track for narrow majority; Liberals set for major losses**

Taking into account margin for error, these voting intention results—if they hold on Election Day—would yield 56 seats for the Conservatives (up from 37), 38 seats for the Liberals (down from 53), and 13 for the NDP (down from 17). These results will change as voting intentions change and are subject to the usual margins of error.

#### **Hudak, McGuinty have poor approval ratings; Horvath shines**

When Ontarians were asked if they approved or disapproved of the job that respective party leaders are doing, it was found that NDP leader Andrea Horvath had the highest approval rating (40%; considerably more popular than her party which garnered the support of 20% of Ontarians polled), followed by Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty (33%; just as popular as his party at 33% support) and trailed somewhat distantly by Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak (26%; considerably less popular than his party which received the backing of 41% of Ontarians polled). Approval for McGuinty as leader of the Liberal party was significantly higher among those with a household earning exceeding \$150K (27% <\$40K, 35% \$40K-\$75K, 35% \$75K-\$150K, and 50% \$150K

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or more) and those residing in the 416 (49%; compared to 32% South-western Ontario, 31% 905, 28% Eastern Ontario, and 25% in Northern Ontario). It was also found that male Ontarians were significantly more likely to disapprove of the job Hudak is doing as leader of the opposition (53%; compared to 41% of females), and were also more likely to disapprove of the job Horvath is doing as leader of the NDP party (35%; compared to 21%), as were those Ontarians with a higher household income (25% <\$40K, 22% \$40K-\$75K, 37% \$75K-\$150K, and 35% \$150K or more).

“These recent findings show that the Liberal party stands to lose considerable ground if an election were held today, with both a drop in their popular vote and the loss of a significant number of seats,” said Forum Research president Dr. Lorne Bozinoff. “At first glance, this data paints a pretty picture for the Tories, but it should be noted that Hudak is struggling to gain traction in his approval rating, which could prove to be a weakness for the party moving forward.”

## Methodology

The poll was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1,041 randomly selected residents of Ontario aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3.0%, 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 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.

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January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- “These recent findings show that the Liberal party stands to lose considerable ground if an election were held today, with both a drop in their popular vote and the loss of a significant number of seats,” said Forum Research president Dr. Lorne Bozinoff. “At first glance, this data paints a pretty picture for the Tories, but it should be noted that Hudak is struggling to gain traction in his approval rating, which could prove to be a weakness for the party moving forward.”

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### *Seat Distribution*

%	Conservative	Liberal	NDP
Current Distribution	37	53	17
Jan 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	56	38	13

### *Provincial Election Voting Preference Trending*

%	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other
Popular Vote – October 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2011 Provincial Election Results	35	38	23	3	1
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided / Leaning)	41	33	20	4	1

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### Provincial Election Voting Preference

*'If a provincial election were held today, which party would you be 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	986	110	142	213	263	258	459	527
Conservative	41	27	41	39	47	48	45	38
Liberal	33	28	28	40	34	34	34	33
New Democratic	20	34	25	17	17	14	16	25
Green	4	10	5	2	2	2	5	4
Another Party	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1

### Region

% Total	E. Ont	Toronto					
		416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont	
sample	986	156	176	257	433	225	172
Conservative	41	51	32	44	39	38	42
Liberal	33	26	46	33	38	31	29
NDP	20	16	19	19	19	25	22
Green	4	6	2	2	2	5	6
Another Party	1	1	1	2	1	1	1

### Income

%	Total	<40K	40-60K	60-100K	100K+
sample	986	291	237	202	82
Conservative	41	36	45	33	43
Liberal	33	31	29	39	44
NDP	20	26	20	23	8
Green	4	5	5	4	4
Another Party	1	2	1	1	2

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**McGuinty approval 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	1041	116	154	230	273	268	484	557
Approve	33	33	29	36	32	35	35	32
Disapprove	56	53	59	55	59	54	56	55
Don't know	11	13	12	9	9	10	9	13

**Region**

%	Total	Toronto					
		E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
sample	1041	166	186	276	462	236	177
Approve	33	28	49	31	38	32	25
Disapprove	56	64	35	58	49	59	64
Don't know	11	8	17	11	13	8	11

**Income**

%	Total	<40K	40-60K	60-100K	100K+
sample	1041	306	247	209	84
Approve	33	27	35	35	50
Disapprove	56	59	55	58	45
Don't know	11	14	10	7	5

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***Hudak approval 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	1041	116	154	230	273	268	484	557
Approve	26	23	27	23	29	32	29	24
Disapprove	48	52	46	50	48	41	53	42
Don't know	26	26	27	27	23	27	18	34

***Region***

%	Total	Toronto					
		E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
sample	1041	166	186	276	462	236	177
Approve	26	27	22	30	27	23	28
Disapprove	48	40	56	46	50	50	45
Don't know	26	34	22	24	23	27	27

***Income***

%	Total	<40K	40-60K	60-100K	100K+
sample	1041	306	247	209	84
Approve	26	24	29	25	27
Disapprove	48	46	45	56	54
Don't know	26	30	25	20	19

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### **Horvath approval as leader of the NDP**

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Andrea Horvath is doing as Leader of the New Democratic Party?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1041	116	154	230	273	268	484	557
Approve	40	40	39	42	39	41	37	43
Disapprove	28	30	24	29	30	24	35	21
Don't know	32	30	37	29	31	34	28	36

#### **Region**

%	Total	Toronto					
		E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
sample	1041	166	186	276	462	236	177
Approve	40	37	46	40	42	41	36
Disapprove	28	30	23	30	27	29	25
Don't know	32	33	31	30	30	30	39

#### **Income**

%	Total	<40K	40-60K	60-100K	100K+
sample	1041	306	247	209	84
Approve	40	37	45	46	36
Disapprove	28	25	22	37	35
Don't know	32	38	34	18	29

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For more information:

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