

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NDP maintains lead for crushing majority in BC; Liberals and Conservatives tied in distant second

Cummins' favourables up

Toronto, April 12th, 2012 – In a poll conducted among British Columbians 18 years of age and older, close to one half (46%) said they would vote NDP if the election were held today, and this is exactly twice as many as would vote either Liberal or Conservative (23% each). Just fewer than nine of 10 current federal NDP supporters would also back the provincial NDP if an election were held today (87%), while current federal Liberal and Conservative supporters form the lion's share of current provincial Liberal backers (55%, 33%), and just over half of current federal Green and Conservative party supporters indicated they would give their vote to the parties' provincial counterparts if an election were held today (56%, 53% respectively). The provincial Liberal party was found to have stronger support among males (26%; compared to 20% of females), and those with a higher household income (13% <\$20K, 15% \$20K-\$40K, 24% \$40K-\$60K, 17% \$60K-\$80K, 35% \$80K-\$100K, and 30% \$100K+).

NDP seat count down slightly

Taking in to account margin for error, these voting intention results — if they hold on Election Day — would see the NDP take 70 seats in the 85 seat legislature (down from 75 last month), compared to 12 for the Liberals (up from just 9 last month). The Conservatives would secure just 2 seats, and Vickie Huntington would maintain her Independent seat.

Dix leads in approval; Cummins' favourables up sharply

While approval rating for Premier Christy Clark (26%) and Adrian Dix (38%) have remained stable since last month, those for Conservative Party leader John Cummins have increased from less than one quarter (23%) to almost three-in-10 (28%). Approval of Dix was found to be significantly higher among current federal NDP backers (61%), while approval of Clark was highest among current federal Liberal and Conservative backers (39%, 37%). John Cummins was found to have significantly higher approval ratings among current federal Conservative supporters (53%).

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April 12th, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Close to one half (46%) said they would vote NDP if the election were held today, and this is exactly twice as many as would vote either Liberal or Conservative (23% each).
- Taking in to account margin for error, these voting intention results — if they hold on Election Day — would see the NDP take 70 seats in the 85 seat legislature (down from 75 last month), compared to 12 for the Liberals (up from just 9 last month). The Conservatives would secure just 2 seats, and Vickie Huntington would maintain her Independent seat.
- While approval rating for Premier Christy Clark (26%) and Adrian Dix (38%) have remained stable since last month, those for Conservative Party leader John Cummins have increased from less than one quarter (23%) to almost three-in-10 (28%).

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- While NDP supporters are the most enthusiastic about voting (50% "very enthusiastic"), this represents a decline since February, when two thirds took this position (62%). Liberal voters (44%) and Conservative voters (42%) are relatively equally enthusiastic about their voting preferences.
- If a federal election were held today, the NDP would be preferred very slightly to the Conservatives (38% to 35%), while the liberals would be the choice of fewer than one fifth (16%).
- "While the BC Liberals continue to founder, it is interesting to note the NDP have lost some momentum, and this may yet rebound in the Liberals' favour" said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, president of Forum Research.

NDP leads in voter enthusiasm

While NDP supporters are the most enthusiastic about voting (50% "very enthusiastic"), this represents a decline since February, when two thirds took this position (62%). Liberal voters (44%) and Conservative voters (42%) are relatively equally enthusiastic about their voting preferences. This represents a decline in enthusiasm for Conservatives (from 52%), but not for Liberals (46% in February). Enthusiasm was also found to be significantly higher among older British Columbians (35% 18-34, 36% 35-44, 46% 45-54, 52% 55-64, and 53% 65+).

NDP have slight lead over Conservatives in federal voting preference

If a federal election were held today, the NDP would be preferred very slightly to the Conservatives (38% to 35%), while the liberals would be the choice of fewer than one fifth (16%). Current provincial Liberal backers were significantly more likely to put their support behind the federal Conservative and Liberal parties (51%, 38%), while provincial Green party supporters were found to divide their vote between the federal Green party and NDP (55%, 23%). Current provincial Conservative and NDP backers were more likely to align themselves with their federal counterparts if an election were held today (83%, 76%). Support for the federal NDP was found to be significantly higher in the Vancouver Island region (45%; compared to 36% Vancouver Lower Mainland, and 35% Interior North), while Liberals found their support to be stronger in the Vancouver Lower Mainland region (18%; compared to 13% Vancouver Island, 11% Interior North).

"While the BC Liberals continue to founder, it is interesting to note the NDP have lost some momentum, and this may yet rebound in the Liberals' favour" said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, president of Forum Research.

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Methodology

The poll was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1069 randomly selected residents of British Columbia aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted on April 11th, 2012.

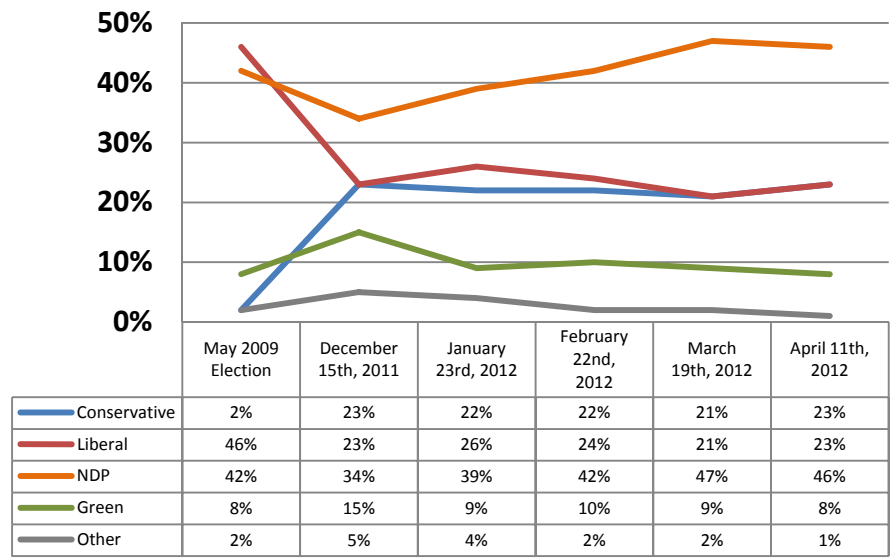
Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp.

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 www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp.

Provincial Party Preference Trending



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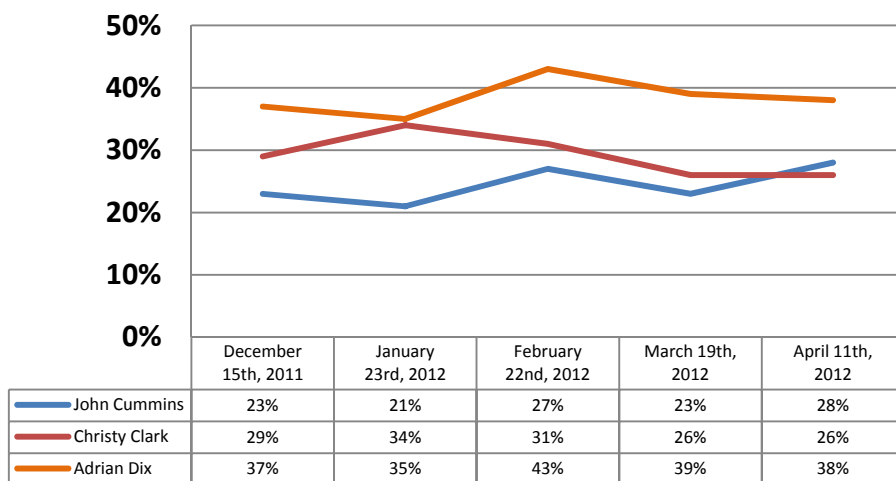
Provincial Party Preference Trending

%	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other
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

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Provincial Party Leader Approval Trending (% Approve)



Provincial Party Leader Approval Trending (% Approve)

%	Cummins	Clark	Dix
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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Seat Distribution

%	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Other
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 ^d , 2012	7	20	57	1
May, 2009 Election	-	49	35	1

Provincial Election Enthusiasm

%	Very enthusiastic	Somewhat enthusiastic	Not very enthusiastic	Not at all enthusiastic	Don't know
Apr 11 th , 2012 (n=1069)	43	26	18	8	5
Feb 22 nd , 2012 (n=858)	53	24	13	6	3

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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	1000	107	108	182	291	312	495	505
Liberal	23	20	22	21	24	26	26	20
NDP	46	50	45	46	49	40	43	48
Conservative	23	20	21	22	22	28	22	24
Green	8	9	12	10	5	6	8	9
Other Parties	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1

Region

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1000	632	243	125
Liberal	23	23	22	20
NDP	46	45	50	43
Conservative	23	24	19	24
Green	8	7	8	12
Other Parties	1	1	1	2

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1000	93	191	162	117	87	173
Liberal	23	13	15	24	17	35	30
NDP	46	46	51	45	52	37	44
Conservative	23	27	25	23	23	24	18
Green	8	12	8	7	7	3	7
Other Parties	1	2	2	0	0	1	0

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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	1069	120	113	199	304	333	525	544
Approve	26	24	32	24	25	26	27	24
Disapprove	60	57	55	64	65	62	61	59
Don't know	14	19	13	12	10	12	11	17

Region

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1069	672	260	137
Approve	26	27	25	23
Disapprove	60	61	60	58
Don't know	14	13	15	19

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1069	102	201	169	125	91	182
Approve	26	27	21	24	29	34	27
Disapprove	60	51	63	60	64	57	63
Don't know	14	22	16	15	7	10	10

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1069	229	428	228	87	28
Approve	26	66	13	22	14	14
Disapprove	60	23	79	66	68	78
Don't know	14	11	8	13	18	8

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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	1069	120	113	199	304	333	525	544
Approve	38	33	38	39	45	39	38	37
Disapprove	35	37	36	36	31	35	41	30
Don't know	27	30	26	25	24	26	21	32

Region

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1069	672	260	137
Approve	38	38	38	36
Disapprove	35	35	35	36
Don't know	27	26	26	28

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1069	102	201	169	125	91	182
Approve	38	30	39	36	42	39	41
Disapprove	35	30	29	38	38	41	39
Don't know	27	40	33	26	20	20	20

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1069	229	428	228	87	28
Approve	38	16	64	23	30	30
Disapprove	35	65	14	48	37	47
Don't know	27	19	22	29	32	22

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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	1069	120	113	199	304	333	525	544
Approve	28	25	26	27	28	34	29	26
Disapprove	35	37	32	37	38	29	39	31
Don't know	37	38	42	36	34	37	31	43

Region

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1069	672	260	137
Approve	28	28	27	29
Disapprove	35	36	36	29
Don't know	37	36	36	43

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1069	102	201	169	125	91	182
Approve	28	26	28	29	31	36	26
Disapprove	35	36	40	29	44	28	38
Don't know	37	38	32	42	25	35	36

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1069	229	428	228	87	28
Approve	28	20	16	72	16	17
Disapprove	35	42	47	6	44	52
Don't know	37	38	37	23	40	31

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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	1069	120	113	199	304	333	525	544
Very Enthusiastic	43	35	36	46	52	53	44	43
Somewhat Enthusiastic	26	26	27	28	22	27	25	27
Not Very Enthusiastic	18	16	27	18	17	13	17	19
Not At All Enthusiastic	8	15	5	6	5	4	9	6
Don't Know	5	8	5	3	5	2	5	4

Region

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1069	672	260	137
Very Enthusiastic	43	41	49	45
Somewhat Enthusiastic	26	27	22	26
Not Very Enthusiastic	18	19	18	13
Not At All Enthusiastic	8	8	7	7
Don't Know	5	4	4	8

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1069	102	201	169	125	91	182
Very Enthusiastic	43	36	43	43	45	50	48
Somewhat Enthusiastic	26	24	26	26	34	21	21
Not Very Enthusiastic	18	21	15	13	16	22	26
Not At All Enthusiastic	8	15	9	13	2	8	2
Don't Know	5	5	7	5	2	0	2

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Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1069	229	428	228	87	28
Very Enthusiastic	43	44	50	42	44	46
Somewhat Enthusiastic	26	21	27	37	28	7
Not Very Enthusiastic	18	23	16	15	18	13
Not At All Enthusiastic	8	9	4	3	7	33
Don't Know	5	3	3	2	3	0

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Current Federal Vote Preference

'Now I'd like to ask you a question about federal politics. 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]

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Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1011	106	109	183	292	321	498	513
Conservative	35	25	34	33	36	46	38	33
Liberal	16	19	13	15	17	14	17	15
New Democratic	38	42	41	38	40	31	35	41
Green	9	10	10	13	5	7	7	10
Other Parties	2	4	2	2	2	2	3	1

Region

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1011	639	246	126
Conservative	35	36	32	38
Liberal	16	18	13	11
New Democratic	38	36	45	35
Green	9	8	9	12
Other Parties	2	2	2	4

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1011	92	191	163	120	87	176
Conservative	35	35	31	35	31	48	34
Liberal	16	7	9	14	17	15	27
New Democratic	38	45	41	42	42	30	33
Green	9	11	14	8	9	3	6
Other Parties	2	2	5	1	2	4	0

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Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1011	226	422	225	84	25
Conservative	35	51	8	83	11	25
Liberal	16	38	11	5	10	0
New Democratic	38	7	76	6	23	22
Green	9	3	4	5	55	5
Other Parties	2	1	1	1	2	47

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