

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberals advance in Quebec; Parti Quebecois leads, but slips in voter preference and seat count

Charest's favourables up slightly' Marois' down

Toronto, April 11th, 2012 – In a poll conducted among Quebecers 18 years of age and older, just fewer than four-in-ten said they would vote for the Parti Quebecois if an election were held today (39%), just more than the one third who said this of the Liberals (34%). This represents a significant increase in preference for the Liberals, accompanied by a slight decline for the PQ since last month. Just fewer than one fifth would vote CAQ (18%) and the Green Party (4%) and Quebec Solidaire (6%) would split the rest of the vote. On a regional level it was found that the Liberal party was significantly higher among those residing in Quebec City and Montreal (44%, 36% respectively), while support for the PQ was significantly stronger outside of major urban centers (44% North Shore, and 43% South Shore) and among francophone voters (42%; compared to only 13% of non-francophone voters). CAQ enjoyed stronger support among those Quebecers with a higher household income (11% <\$20K, 13% \$20K-\$40K, 20% \$40K-\$60K, 22% \$60K-\$80K, 23% \$80K-\$100K, and 25% \$100K+), and among younger voters 65 (18% 18-34, 27% 35-44, 19% 45-54, 15% 55 to 64, and 11% 65+). Support for the Liberals was also significantly higher among those over the age of 65 (28% 18-34, 26% 35-44, 33% 45-54, 32% 55 to 64, and 46% 65+), and among non-francophone voters (67%; compared to 29% of francophone voters).

PQ sees seat count dwindle; Liberal benefit

Taking in to account margin for error, these voting intention results — if they hold on Election Day — would see the Parti Quebecois capture a slim majority of 69 seats in the Assemblée Nationale, down from 85 last month. The Liberals would stand to reap 50 seats, up from 30 last month. CAQ would secure 5 seats (down from 9), and QS would pick up 1 (unchanged). These results will change as voting intentions change and are subject to the usual margins of error.

Charest's favourables up slightly; Marois' down

Approval ratings for Premier Jean Charest stand at 29%, up slightly from 26% last month, while those for Parti Quebecois leader Pauline Marois have declined slightly from a high of 42% to 38%. Francois Legault's favourables are steady at 31%. On a regional level Marois enjoyed significantly stronger support among residents of the North Shore (45%). Marois also enjoyed stronger support from francophone voters (41%; compared to 15% of non-francophone voters). Francois Legault was found to trend higher among younger voters (33% 18-34,

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Just fewer than four-in-ten said they would vote for the Parti Quebecois if an election were held today (39%), just more than the one third who said this of the Liberals (34%).
- Taking in to account margin for error, these voting intention results — if they hold on Election Day — would see the Parti Quebecois capture a slim majority of 69 seats in the Assemblée Nationale, down from 85 last month.
- Approval ratings for Premier Jean Charest stand at 29%, up slightly from 26% last month, while those for Parti Quebecois leader Pauline Marois have declined slightly from a high of 42% to 38%. Francois Legault's favourables are steady at 31%.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than four-in-ten of those polled said they supported the government's position in the conflict over tuition fees (42%; up from 38% last month), whereas the proportion of those supporting the students has stayed stable (37%; down slightly from 38%).
- "These findings demonstrate that the Liberal party is regaining some of the ground they have lost recently to the PQ, and this may be because people are starting to talk seriously about a spring election" said Forum Research president, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

37% 35-44, 31% 45-54, 29% 55 to 64, and 22% 65+), males (35%; compared to 27% of females), and francophone voters (32%; compared to 20% of non-francophone voters). The Premier, Jean Charest, garners significantly higher favourable from older Quebecers (26% 18-34, 24% 35-44, 23% 45-54, 30% 55 to 64, and 43% 65+), males (32%; compared to 26% of females), and among non-francophone voters (44%; compared to 26% of francophone voters).

More now favour government in student strike than previously

More than four-in-ten of those polled said they supported the government's position in the conflict over tuition fees (42%; up from 38% last month), whereas the proportion of those supporting the students has stayed stable (37%; down slightly from 38%). As one would expect, younger Quebecers were significantly more likely to support the students in the dispute (49% 18-34, 42% 35-44, 32% 45-54, 32% 55 to 64, and 25% 65+), as were those with a lower household income (47% <\$20K, 41% \$20K-\$40K, 37% \$40K-\$60K, 36% \$60K-\$80K, 36% \$80K-\$100K, and 28% \$100K+), Quebecers who would back the provincial QS, Green, and PQ parties if an election were held today (67%, 54%, 50%; compared to 32% CAQ, and 19% Liberal), and those residing outside of Quebec City (44% Montreal, 34% North Shore, 34% South Shore; compared to only 23% in Quebec City).

"These findings demonstrate that the Liberal party is regaining some of the ground they have lost recently to the PQ, and this may be because people are starting to talk seriously about a spring election" said Forum Research president, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Provincial Election Voting Preference Trending

%	Liberal	PQ	CAQ	QS	ADQ	Green	Other
April 10th, 2012 (n=1493)	34	39	18	6	-	4	0
March 21st, 2012 (n=1518)	29	41	19	8	-	4	0
February 23rd, 2012 (n=1519)	30	39	19	6	-	5	0
2008 Election	42	35	-	4	16	2	0

Provincial Party Leader Approval Trending (% Approve)

%	Charest	Legault	Marois
April 10th, 2012 (n=1565)	29	31	38
March 21st, 2012 (n=1603)	26	32	42
February 23rd, 2012 (n=1589)	28	31	38

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Seat Distribution

%	Liberal	PQ	CAQ	QS	ADQ	ON	ION
April 10th, 2012	50	69	5	1	-	-	-
March 21st, 2012	30	85	9	1	-	-	-
February 23rd, 2012	37	77	10	1	-	-	-
Current Distribution	64	44	9	1	-	1	1
2008 Election	66	51	-	1	7	-	-

Direction of Support in the Current Tuition Fee Dispute

%	The Students	The Government	Neither	Don't know
April 10th, 2012 (n=1565)	37	42	19	2
March 21st, 2012 (n=1603)	38	38	22	2

Methodology

The poll was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1565 randomly selected residents of Quebec aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted on April 10th, 2012.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 2.5%, 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.

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Provincial Election Voting Preference

'If a Quebec 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	1493	245	224	292	353	379	679	814
Liberal	34	28	26	33	32	46	34	33
PQ	39	37	37	41	41	36	37	40
CAQ	18	18	27	19	15	11	19	16
QS	6	9	6	4	7	3	5	6
Green	4	7	4	2	5	3	4	4
Other	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1493	654	178	294	367	1290	203
Liberal	34	36	44	27	30	29	67
PQ	39	35	34	44	43	42	13
CAQ	18	18	13	20	17	19	8
QS	6	7	4	6	5	6	3
Green	4	4	4	4	4	4	8
Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1493	226	314	267	196	137	178
Liberal	34	35	39	28	32	23	31
PQ	39	40	37	41	38	45	36
CAQ	18	11	13	20	22	23	25
QS	6	6	6	7	5	7	4
Green	4	7	5	4	2	2	3
Other	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

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Jean Charest Approval Rating as Premier

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jean Charest is doing as premier?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1565	253	231	320	367	394	703	862
Approve	29	26	24	23	30	43	32	26
Disapprove	63	67	68	65	63	46	60	65
Don't know	9	7	7	11	6	11	8	9

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1565	686	191	304	384	1349	216
Approve	29	28	34	26	30	26	44
Disapprove	63	62	56	66	64	66	43
Don't know	9	10	10	8	6	8	13

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1565	236	329	277	203	142	185
Approve	29	31	31	26	28	29	27
Disapprove	63	59	61	65	65	67	66
Don't know	9	9	8	10	8	4	7

Current Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Lib	PQ	CAQ	QS	PVQ	Other
sample	1565	454	506	237	93	76	127
Approve	29	73	7	17	15	17	13
Disapprove	63	18	88	76	80	76	66
Don't know	9	9	4	7	5	7	20

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Pauline Marois Approval Rating as Leader of the Opposition

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Pauline Marois is doing as Leader of the Opposition?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1565	253	231	320	367	394	703	862
Approve	38	38	35	38	42	35	35	40
Disapprove	48	46	51	48	45	49	53	42
Don't know	15	17	14	14	13	16	12	18

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1565	686	191	304	384	1349	216
Approve	38	35	34	45	38	41	15
Disapprove	48	49	54	44	46	45	64
Don't know	15	16	13	12	16	14	21

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1565	236	329	277	203	142	185
Approve	38	38	36	39	40	44	39
Disapprove	48	44	50	46	45	44	53
Don't know	15	19	15	15	15	12	8

Current Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Lib	PQ	CAQ	QS	PVQ	Other
sample	1565	454	506	237	93	76	127
Approve	38	14	74	26	40	21	17
Disapprove	48	73	15	62	43	56	57
Don't know	15	13	10	12	17	22	25

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Francois Legault Approval Rating as Leader of the Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ)

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Francois Legault is doing as Leader of the Coalition Avenir Quebec or CAQ?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1565	253	231	320	367	394	703	862
Approve	31	33	37	31	29	22	35	27
Disapprove	42	38	36	45	46	49	45	39
Don't know	27	29	27	25	25	29	20	34

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1565	686	191	304	384	1349	216
Approve	31	29	28	33	32	32	20
Disapprove	42	42	48	44	39	43	39
Don't know	27	29	24	23	28	25	41

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1565	236	329	277	203	142	185
Approve	31	25	27	34	34	34	41
Disapprove	42	45	45	42	41	42	39
Don't know	27	30	29	23	25	24	19

Current Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Lib	PQ	CAQ	QS	PVQ	Other
sample	1565	454	506	237	93	76	127
Approve	31	24	26	77	19	23	11
Disapprove	42	51	50	10	51	38	47
Don't know	27	25	24	13	30	39	42

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Direction of Support in the Current Tuition Fee Dispute

'In the current tuition fee dispute, who do you support, the students or the provincial government or neither?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1565	253	231	320	367	394	703	862
Students	37	49	42	32	32	25	35	39
Government	42	33	40	46	46	52	47	38
Neither	19	17	17	21	20	21	18	20
Don't Know	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	2

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1565	686	191	304	384	1349	216
Students	37	44	23	34	34	37	37
Government	42	39	56	43	41	42	46
Neither	19	16	20	21	22	20	13
Don't Know	2	2	1	1	2	1	4

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1565	236	329	277	203	142	185
Students	37	47	41	37	36	36	28
Government	42	30	40	44	41	46	56
Neither	19	20	17	18	22	18	17
Don't Know	2	3	2	1	1	0	0

Current Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Lib	PQ	CAQ	QS	PVQ	Other
sample	1565	454	506	237	93	76	127
Students	37	19	50	32	67	54	33
Government	42	68	26	48	23	27	38
Neither	19	10	23	20	11	19	26
Don't Know	2	2	2	0	0	1	3

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