



Ontario Political Environment

Crosstabulations

Field Dates: February 5 to 6, 2013

Methodology

The survey was conducted online with 1,020 respondents in English and French using an internet survey programmed and collected by Abacus Data. A random sample of panelists was invited to participate in the survey from a panel of over 150,000 Canadians. The survey was completed from February 5 to 6, 2013.

Since the online survey was not a random, probability based sample, a margin of error could not be calculated. The Marketing Research and Intelligence Association prohibits statements about margins of sampling error or population estimates with regard to most online panels.

The margin of error for a probability-based random sample of 1,020 respondents using a probability sample is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

The data was weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Ontario's population according to age, gender, education level, and region.

These questions were posed as part of the Abacus Data monthly Omnibus survey.

For more information about the poll's methodology or the results, please contact David Coletto, CEO at david@abacusdata.ca or at 613-232-2806.

Ontario Politics: PC 33, NDP 31, Liberal 30, Green 5 No major bounce yet for Wynne; Liberals lead in Toronto but trail everywhere else.

*Please refer to the survey as: Abacus Data Poll
1,020 Ontarians, 18 years of age and older, February 5 to 6, 2013*

Ottawa, ON –As Kathleen Wynne and her new Cabinet are sworn in on Monday, a new provincial survey by public opinion firm Abacus Data finds the main political parties in Ontario in a tight three-way race. Province-wide the Progressive Conservative Party has the support of 33% of decided voters followed by 31% for the NDP led by Andrea Horwath, and 30% for the incumbent Liberals.

The results for each party are largely unchanged since Abacus Data's last survey in December 2012 that found the PCs (35%) with a four point lead over the NDP (31%) and the Liberals in third with 28%.

Party	2011 Provincial Election	December 2012 Decided Voters	February 2013 Decided Voters
Ontario Liberal	37%	28%	30%
Ontario PC	35%	35%	33%
Ontario NDP	23%	31%	31%
Ontario Greens	3%	5%	5%
Other parties	2%	1%	1%

"If Kathleen Wynne is to get a honeymoon coming out of the Liberal Leadership Convention, it has not started yet," said Abacus Data CEO, David Coletto. "Liberal support is only marginally up since December."

Regional Results

Regionally, the Liberal support is concentrated in Toronto (416 area code) where 45% of decided voters said they would vote Liberal if a provincial election was held at the time of the survey. In every region outside of Toronto, the Liberals trail in either second or third place.

The Progressive Conservatives lead in the Greater Toronto Area (905 area code), in Eastern Ontario, and in Southwestern Ontario while the NDP leads in Northern Ontario.

"Most troubling for the Ontario Liberals remains their weakness outside of the Toronto area," said Coletto. "While the Liberal vote may be more efficient, it will be difficult for them to retain even a minority government without improving in the 905 region around Toronto."

"But this poll is not great news for Tim Hudak and the Progressive Conservatives either," said Coletto. "Despite what has been a very bruising year for the McGuinty government, the PCs have not managed to increase their support beyond their 2011 election showing."

16% of Ontarians are “Undecided”

A significant portion of Ontarians remain undecided about which party they would support if a provincial election was held at the time of the survey. Overall, 16% said they were not leaning towards voting for any party.

In Abacus' December 2012 survey, 20% of past Liberal voters said they were undecided about which party they would vote for. That number is now down to 6%.

"For now, Kathleen Wynne seems have to have brought back some former Liberal voters who were undecided about which party to vote for," said Coletto. "However, for the Liberals to win, she needs to bring home those past Liberal voters who have gone over to the NDP."

Bottom Line

The Ontario political system is in a three-way standoff. Support for the Progressive Conservatives has reached a plateau despite Tim Hudak's efforts in recent weeks to release new policy white papers and increase his presence in the media.

Kathleen Wynne's victory at the Liberal Leadership Convention at the end of January has yet to produce to a significant bounce in Liberal support but with the exit of senior and controversial members of the previous government (including Dalton McGuinty himself), Wynne has an opportunity to recast the government and rebuild trust with past Liberal voters who have decided to vote PC or NDP now.

The NDP is perhaps in the best position right now only because its standing is significantly better than its showing in the last provincial election. Its growth may have stalled for now but as the most popular leader in the province, Andrea Horwath likely has the best opportunity to grow support across the province.

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		If a provincial election was held today, which party are you most likely to vote for in your local constituency?							
		Decided voters only							
		Ontario Liberal Party	Ontario PC Party	Ontario NDP	Green Party of Ontario	Another party	Count	Unweighted Count	
		%	%	%	%	%	Count	Unweighted Count	
		Ontario	30	33	31	5	1	842	848
Region (Ontario)	Toronto (416)	45	21	30	3	1	181	173	
	Greater Toronto Area (905)	30	38	27	4	0	228	222	
	Hamilton/Niagara	25	26	39	7	3	94	69	
	Eastern Ontario	30	41	25	3	1	110	135	
	Southwestern Ontario	23	37	31	7	2	169	160	
	Northern Ontario	20	29	42	8	1	61	89	
Gender	Male	27	39	29	4	1	421	461	
	Female	34	27	32	6	1	421	387	
Age Group	18 to 29	23	23	37	13	3	157	134	
	30 to 44	33	30	32	3	1	216	208	
	45 to 59	26	34	36	4	1	238	275	
	60 and over	38	40	20	2	1	231	231	
Do you live in an urban, suburban, or rural environment?	Urban	34	23	36	6	1	373	370	
	Suburban	30	38	25	5	1	338	333	
	Rural	20	47	30	3	1	131	145	
Which party did you vote for in the 2011 Ontario provincial election?	Ontario Liberal Party	74	7	17	2	0	272	227	
	Ontario PC Party	4	88	7	0	1	254	279	
	Ontario NDP	5	4	89	3	0	164	179	
	Green Party of Ontario	11	3	21	65	0	20	29	
	Another party	12	0	8	9	71	8	10	
	Did not vote/Don't know	27	20	37	14	2	122	124	

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**If a provincial election was held today, which party are you most likely to vote for in your local constituency?
All Respondents, includes leaners**

		Ontario Liberal Party	Ontario PC Party	Ontario NDP	Green Party of Ontario	Another party	Undecided	Count	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	Count	Unweighted Count
Ontario		25	27	26	4	1	16	1008	1020
Region (Ontario)	Toronto (416)	39	18	26	3	1	14	210	202
	Greater Toronto Area (905)	24	31	22	3	0	19	281	273
	Hamilton/Niagara	22	23	35	6	2	12	107	78
	Eastern Ontario	24	33	20	3	1	20	138	170
	Southwestern Ontario	19	32	26	6	2	15	199	189
	Northern Ontario	16	24	35	6	1	18	74	108
Gender	Male	23	33	25	3	1	15	492	541
	Female	28	22	27	5	1	18	515	479
Age Group	18 to 29	19	19	30	10	2	20	197	169
	30 to 44	27	24	26	3	1	19	267	259
	45 to 59	22	29	30	3	1	16	281	327
	60 and over	33	35	17	2	1	12	263	265
Do you live in an urban, suburban, or rural environment?	Urban	28	19	30	5	1	17	451	452
	Suburban	26	32	21	4	1	16	401	396
	Rural	16	39	25	3	1	16	156	172
Which party did you vote for in the 2011 Ontario provincial election?	Ontario Liberal Party	70	7	16	2	0	6	289	243
	Ontario PC Party	4	82	6	0	1	7	272	300
	Ontario NDP	4	4	84	3	0	6	174	191
	Green Party of Ontario	10	3	19	58	0	11	23	32
	Another party	9	0	6	7	55	22	11	13
	Did not vote/Don't know	14	10	19	7	1	49	239	241