



Final Alberta Tracking Survey

Wildrose Leads by 10

WRP 41%, PC 31%, NDP 13%, ALP 12%, Other 3%

For Release: April 20, 2012

Conducted for:



Field Dates: April 18-19, 2012

All Respondents:

n=1,076 Albertans, 18 years of age and older

Margin of Error: $\pm 3.0\%$, 19 times of 20

Decided Voters:

n=985, 18 years of age and older

Margin of Error: $\pm 3.2\%$, 19 times of 20



Alberta Political Survey
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Wildrose Headed Towards Win

Wildrose leads in Calgary and outside the cities; PCs ahead in Edmonton

*Please refer to the survey as: Sun News Network - Abacus Data Poll
1,076 Albertans, 18 years of age and older, April 18 to 19, 2012*

Ottawa – A new survey from Abacus Data conducted for the Sun News Network finds that heading into the final weekend of the campaign, Wildrose has a 10 percentage point lead over the incumbent PCs. The Wildrose Party is poised to win the 2012 Alberta general election unless something dramatic happens during the final weekend.

Province-wide, the Wildrose Party has the support of 41% of decided voters (down five), followed by the PCs at 31% (up two), the NDP at 13% (up one) and the Liberals at 12% (up two). Ten percent of respondents said they were undecided even after being asked if they are leaning to one party.

This is the first week of tracking in which Wildrose is down from the previous week among decided voters. Nonetheless, PCs have not taken full advantage of the Wildrose drop with all three parties (PC, ALP, NDP) picking up some support from the previous week.

Regional Breakdown

The Wildrose Party's commanding lead in Calgary last week has tightened with Wildrose at 44% followed by the PCs at 29%, the Liberals at 13%, and the NDP at 12%. In Edmonton, the PCs continue to lead with 36%, followed by Wildrose at 29%, the Liberals at 17%, and the NDP at 16%.

Outside of the two major cities, the Wildrose Party has a commanding 25-point lead over the PCs with the Wildrose at 52%, PCs at 28%, and the NDP at 11%. The Liberals are in single digits at 6%.

Male Voters Are Wildrose Bedrock

As we have seen throughout the campaign, the Wildrose Party has a commanding lead among male voters. Forty six percent of male voters (46%) say they plan to vote Wildrose compared with 26% for the PC Party. Among women, the two main parties are statistically tied with Wildrose at 37% and the PCs at 35%.

Party Leadership

Respondents were also asked to rate their impression of each of the four main party leaders.

Wildrose leader Danielle Smith's personal numbers have taken a slight hit in the last week. The percentage of respondents viewing her favourably is down five percentage points to 36% while her unfavourable numbers are up seven points to 34%. Her net favourable-unfavourable score is +2, the lowest it has been since we started tracking in early March.

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Premier Alison Redford's personal numbers are also trending negatively with 37% of respondents saying they view her negatively compared with 30% who view her favourably. Her favourable-unfavourable score is -7, the lowest it has been throughout the campaign.

The only positive news from our leadership numbers comes for Brian Mason. The percentage of respondents viewing him favourably increased by six points to 24% while the 25% who view him unfavourable is three percentage points lower from the previous week. 41% of respondents have a neutral impression of the NDP leader.

Net Favourability (favourable – unfavourable)

PC Leader Alison Redford	-7
WRA Leader Danielle Smith	+2
ALP Leader Raj Sherman	-11
NDP Leader Brian Mason	-1

What these numbers suggest is that the negativity of the campaign in the past few days has hurt not only Danielle Smith but Alison Redford as well. Instead of trying to attract Liberal and NDP voters to their cause, the negative and personal tone of the PC attacks may have hurt the Wildrose Party but also made it difficult for Liberals and NDPs to vote PC.

Direction of the PC Government

Overall, about six in ten Albertans surveyed (58%) believed that the PC Government in Alberta is headed on the wrong track (down 3 points since last week) while 30% believed the PC Government was headed in the right direction (up 3 points).

Management of the Oil Sands

The Wildrose Party continues to hold a slight advantage on who Albertans trust most to manage the oil sands. One in three Albertans said they trust Wildrose the most (33%) followed by the PCs at 30%, and none of them at 13%.

The Bottom Line

Heading into the final three days of the campaign, the 2012 Alberta election is the Wildrose Party's to lose. Alberta is on the cusp of defeating the 41 year-old PC dynasty and replacing it with an up-start, new Wildrose Party.

Polling throughout the campaign has been relatively stable with Wildrose slowly gaining among decided voters until the last week of the campaign. After the Leaders Debate and a number of gaffes by Wildrose candidates, the gap between Wildrose and the PCs has closed.

The bruising campaign has left few unscathed. Both Danielle Smith and Alison Redford are viewed more unfavourably than when the campaign began.

The other story heading into voting day is the likelihood of a very regionalized legislature. Edmonton looks poised to elect and re-elect a large number of PC MLAs while outside of Calgary and Edmonton, Wildrose is likely to do

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very well. Calgary remains the wildcard in the election. Although Wildrose, as of last night, holds a healthy 13-point lead in Alberta's largest city, the party is trending down. The question is whether the trend continues throughout the weekend or whether Wildrose can stop the bleeding. If Wildrose can keep a margin of 10% in Calgary, they will be in a good position to win enough seats to form a majority government.

Methodology

From April 18 to 19, 2012, Abacus Data conducted a provincial survey of 1,076 Albertans aged 18 and over using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology, which allows respondents to enter their preferences by punching the keypad on their phone, rather than telling them to an operator.

The survey was commissioned by Sun News Network.

A dual landline/cell phone RDD sampling frame was used in this study.

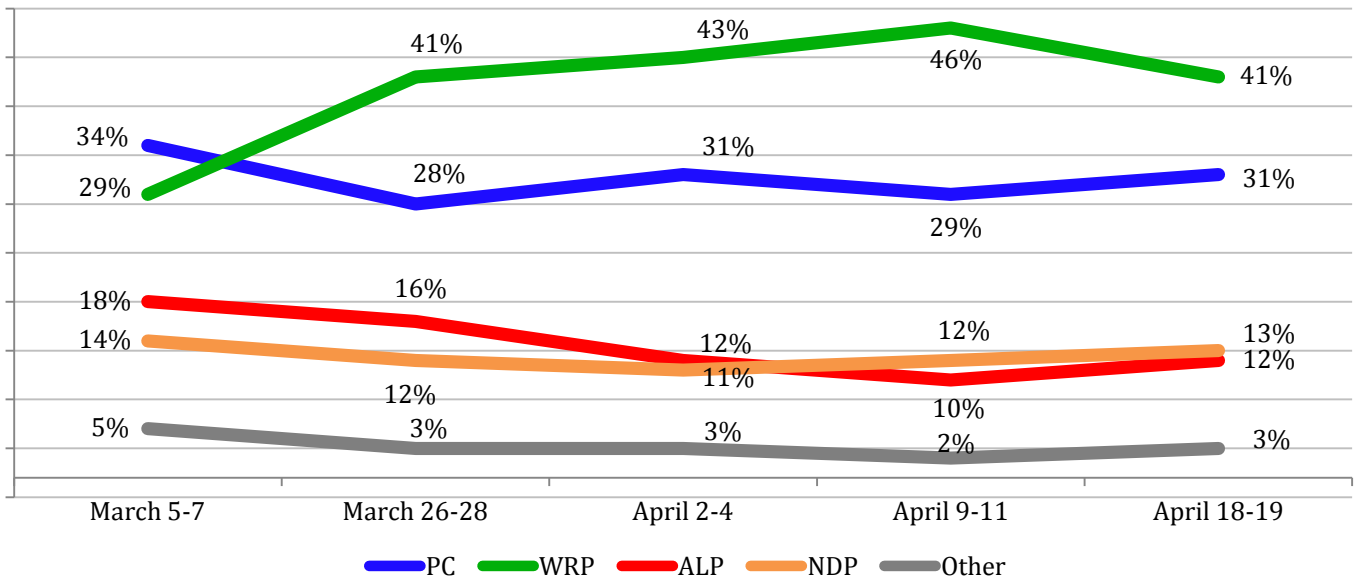
The margin of error for a sample size of 1,076 is \pm 3.0%, 19 times out of 20. Note that the margin of error is higher for subgroups and caution should be used when making conclusions of data in subgroups with small sample sizes.

For more information about the survey findings, please contact Dr. David Coletto, CEO Abacus Data Inc. at (613) 884-4730 or david@abacusdata.ca

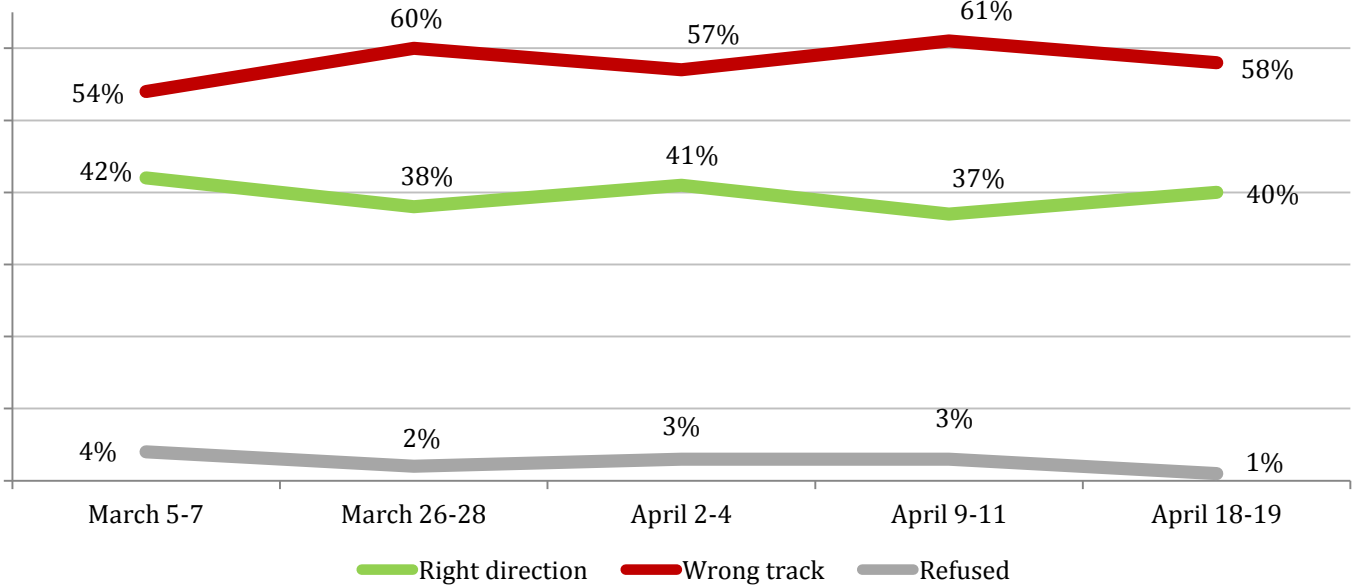
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Vote Intention Decided Voters

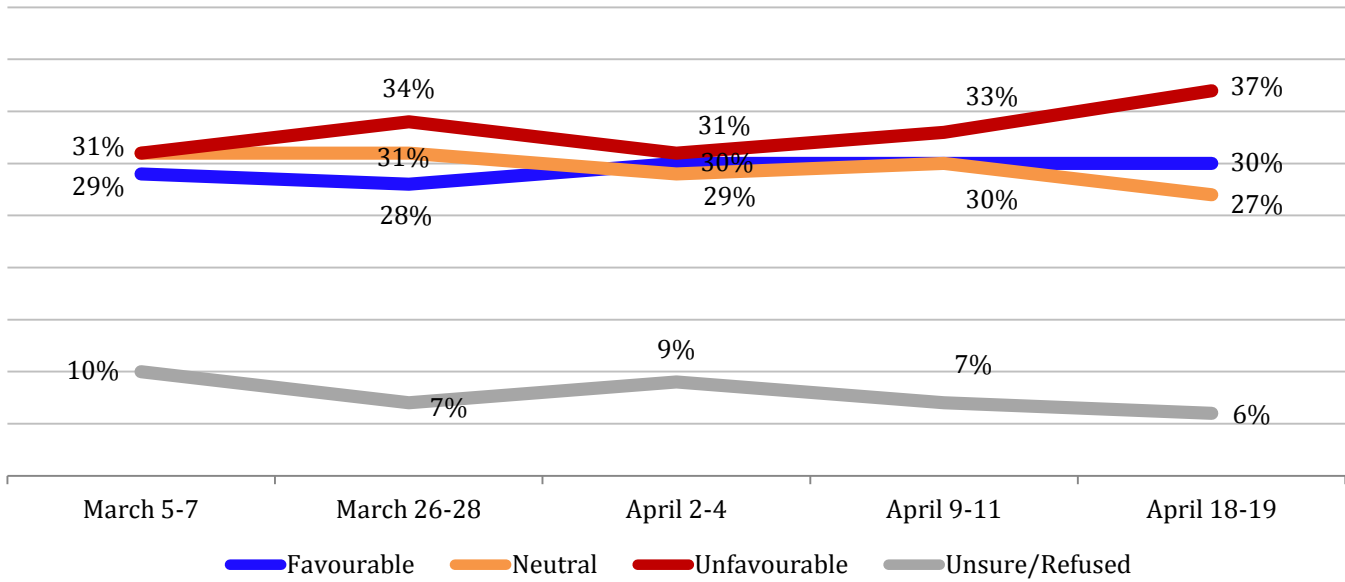


Direction of PC Government

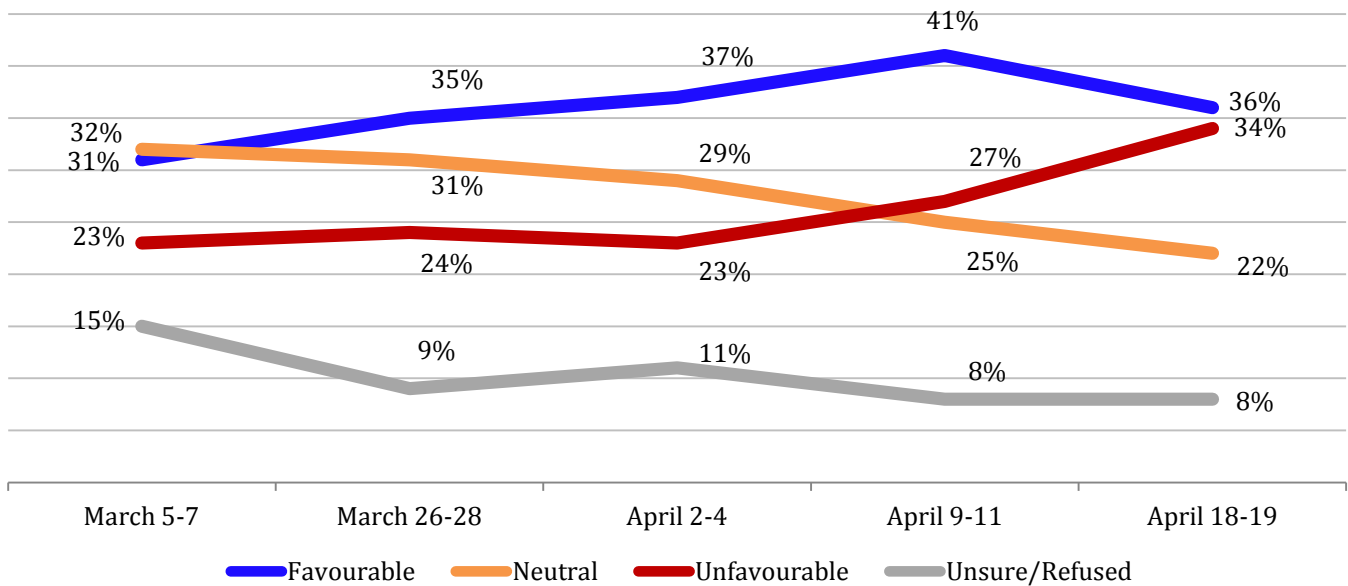


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Favourability: Alison Redford



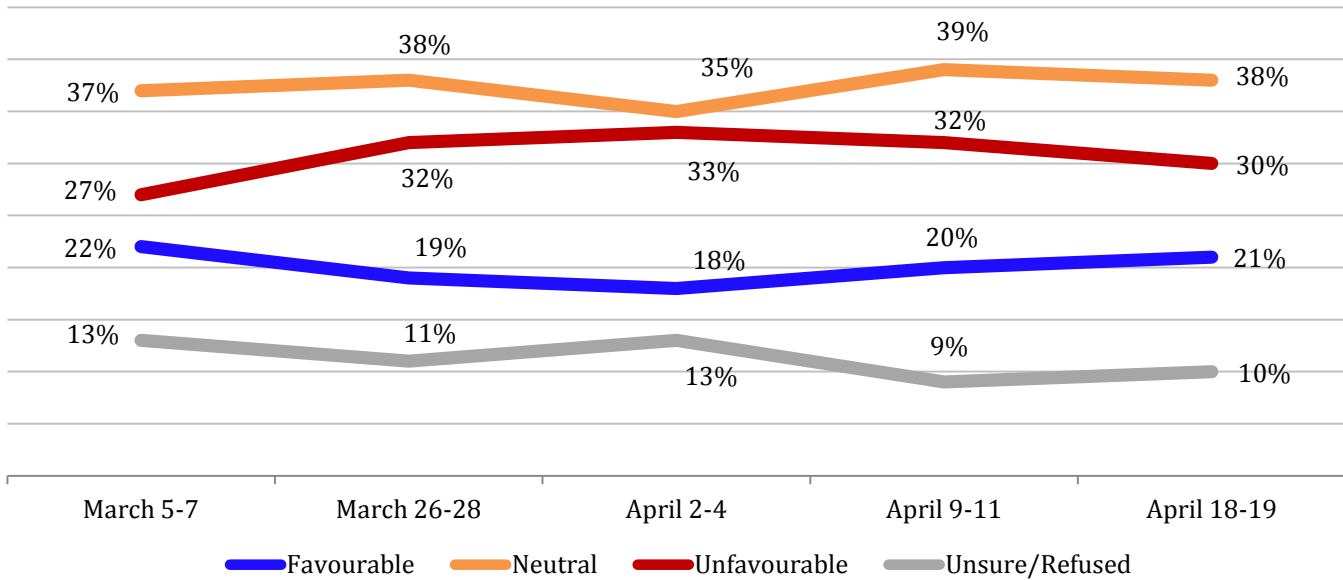
Favourability: Danielle Smith



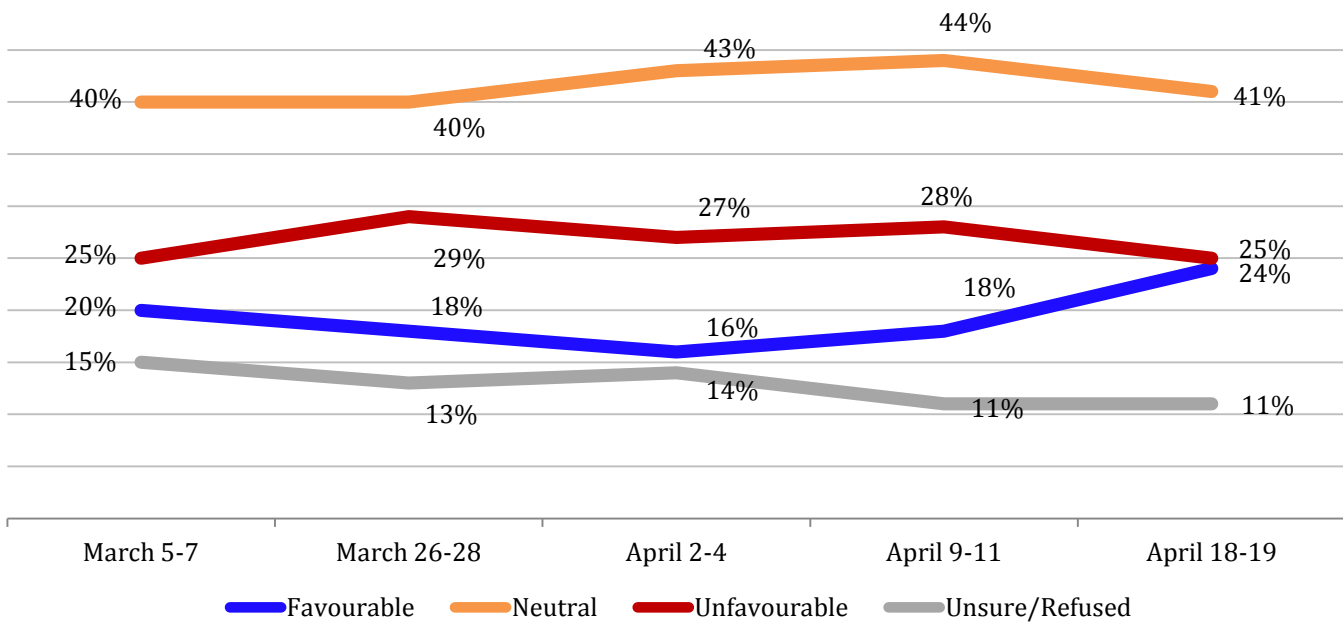
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Favourability: Raj Sherman

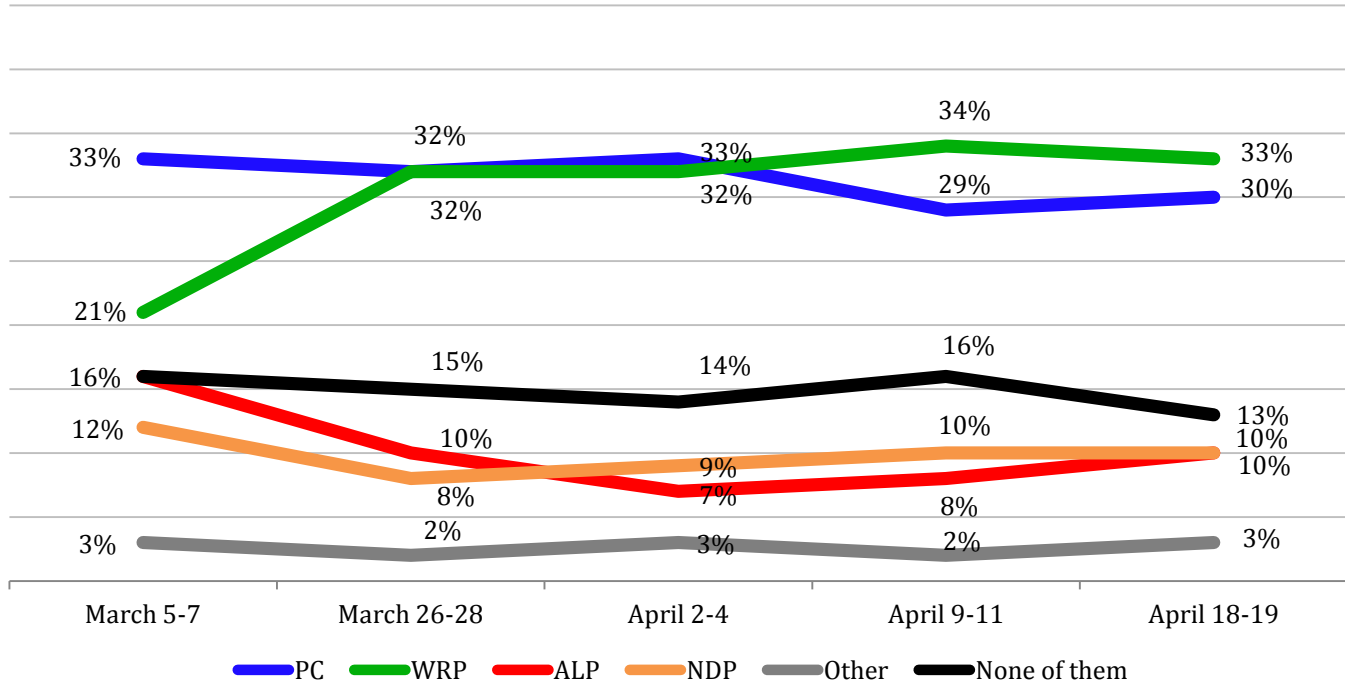


Favourability: Brian Mason



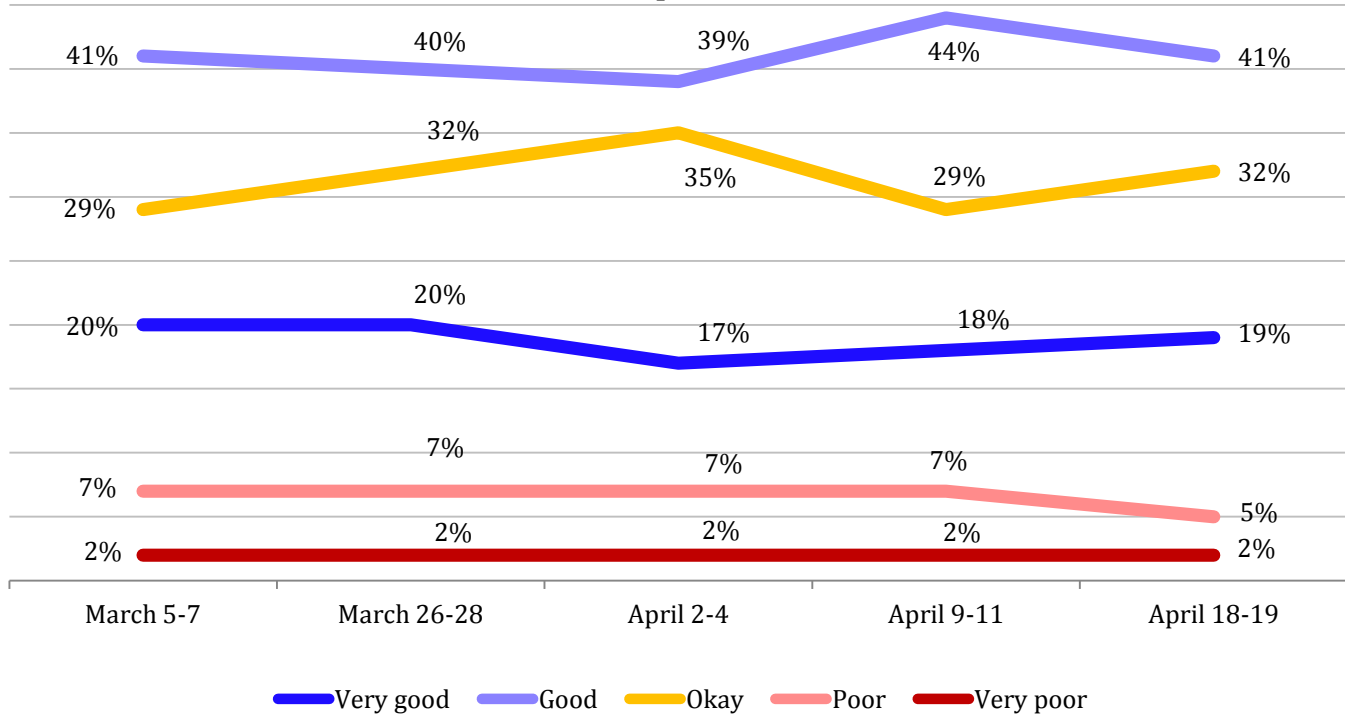
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Trust to Manage the Alberta Oil Sands All respondents



Alberta Political Survey
 n=1,076, April 18-19, ± 3.0%

State of Alberta Economy
 All respondents



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If the Alberta election was today, which party would you vote for in your local constituency?

		Progressive Conservative	Wildrose party	Liberal	NDP	Another party	Counts	
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Count	Unweighted Count
Region	Alberta	31	41	12	13	3	985	985
	Northern Alberta	31	45	11	10	3	66	104
	Edmonton and the surrounding municipalities	36	29	17	16	3	314	346
	Central Alberta including Red Deer	27	54	5	9	5	146	115
	Calgary and the surrounding municipalities	29	44	13	12	4	359	306
	Southern Alberta	27	52	3	17	1	101	114
Regions (three)	Calgary	29	44	13	12	4	359	306
	Edmonton	36	29	17	16	3	314	346
	Outside Metro	28	52	6	11	3	312	333
Gender	Female	35	37	12	13	3	493	526
	Male	26	46	12	13	3	491	459
Age Group	18 to 29	27	31	14	22	6	176	105
	30 to 44	27	43	13	14	2	272	178
	45 to 64	32	43	10	10	4	295	374
	65 and over	36	45	10	7	2	243	328
2008 Provincial Vote	Progressive Conservative	38	50	5	5	2	552	572
	Wildrose party	7	88	0	5	0	47	46
	Liberal	29	11	45	13	2	116	122
	NDP	13	20	13	51	3	100	100
	Another party	15	27	22	10	26	43	42
How likely are you to vote in the Alberta provincial election?	Did not vote	27	36	13	19	5	117	93
	Very likely	31	43	11	13	3	887	899
	Somewhat likely	41	30	15	7	7	61	54
	Not that likely	15	45	30	7	3	21	18
	Not going to vote	18	16	4	43	18	14	12

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		First of all, would you say the PC Government in Alberta is heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?				
		Right direction	Wrong direction	Refused	Counts	
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Count	Unweighted Count
Region	Alberta	40	58	1	1076	1076
	Northern Alberta	43	54	3	70	112
	Edmonton and the surrounding municipalities	48	51	1	351	386
	Central Alberta including Red Deer	35	64	1	157	123
	Calgary and the surrounding municipalities	38	61	1	385	329
	Southern Alberta	33	65	1	113	126
Regions (three)	Calgary	38	61	1	385	329
	Edmonton	48	51	1	351	386
	Outside Metro	36	63	2	340	361
Gender	Female	43	55	2	542	581
	Male	37	62	1	534	495
Age Group	18 to 29	41	58	1	195	115
	30 to 44	35	63	1	297	196
	45 to 64	42	57	1	325	414
	65 and over	44	54	1	259	351
If the Alberta election was today, which party would you vote for in your local constituency?	Progressive Conservative	90	10	0	302	320
	Wildrose party	8	92	0	408	408
	Liberal	33	67	0	115	113
	NDP	27	72	1	126	113
	Another party	44	47	8	33	31

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		Do you have a favourable, neutral, or unfavourable impression of PC Leader Alison Redford?						Counts	
		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	Unsure	Refused	Count	Unweighted Count	
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Count	Unweighted Count	
Region	Alberta	30	27	37	6	1	1076	1076	
	Northern Alberta	29	30	31	8	3	70	112	
	Edmonton and the surrounding municipalities	32	29	32	6	1	351	386	
	Central Alberta including Red Deer	29	23	45	3	0	157	123	
	Calgary and the surrounding municipalities	30	28	37	5	0	385	329	
	Southern Alberta	27	18	43	11	1	113	126	
Regions (three)	Calgary	30	28	37	5	0	385	329	
	Edmonton	32	29	32	6	1	351	386	
	Outside Metro	28	23	41	7	1	340	361	
Gender	Female	34	26	34	6	1	542	581	
	Male	27	28	39	5	1	534	495	
Age Group	18 to 29	23	31	39	7	0	195	115	
	30 to 44	27	24	42	5	2	297	196	
	45 to 64	32	27	36	4	0	325	414	
	65 and over	37	27	29	7	0	259	351	
If the Alberta election was today, which party would you vote for in your local constituency?	Progressive Conservative	71	21	5	2	0	302	320	
	Wildrose party	6	19	71	4	0	408	408	
	Liberal	25	40	30	5	0	115	113	
	NDP	25	46	26	3	0	126	113	
	Another party	27	44	28	2	0	33	31	

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Do you have a favourable, neutral, or unfavourable impression of Wildrose party Leader Danielle Smith?

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	Unsure	Refused	Counts	
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Count	Unweighted Count
Region	Alberta	36	22	34	7	1	1076	1076
	Northern Alberta	39	25	29	5	1	70	112
	Edmonton and the surrounding municipalities	25	21	45	8	1	351	386
	Central Alberta including Red Deer	45	26	24	5	1	157	123
	Calgary and the surrounding municipalities	42	22	30	6	0	385	329
	Southern Alberta	38	22	26	12	1	113	126
Regions (three)	Calgary	42	22	30	6	0	385	329
	Edmonton	25	21	45	8	1	351	386
	Outside Metro	41	24	26	7	1	340	361
Gender	Female	33	22	36	8	1	542	581
	Male	40	23	31	6	1	534	495
Age Group	18 to 29	27	18	46	9	0	195	115
	30 to 44	33	27	30	8	2	297	196
	45 to 64	39	22	33	6	0	325	414
	65 and over	42	21	29	7	1	259	351
If the Alberta election was today, which party would you vote for in your local constituency?	Progressive Conservative	7	31	54	8	0	302	320
	Wildrose party	83	14	2	2	0	408	408
	Liberal	7	22	64	7	1	115	113
	NDP	6	23	66	5	0	126	113
	Another party	13	42	40	5	0	33	31

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		Do you have a favourable, neutral, or unfavourable impression of Liberal Leader Raj Sherman?						Counts	
		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	Unsure	Refused	Count	Unweighted Count	
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Count	Unweighted Count	
Region	Alberta	21	38	30	10	1	1076	1076	
	Northern Alberta	25	39	27	8	2	70	112	
	Edmonton and the surrounding municipalities	26	35	30	9	1	351	386	
	Central Alberta including Red Deer	13	33	43	10	1	157	123	
	Calgary and the surrounding municipalities	22	40	28	9	0	385	329	
	Southern Alberta	12	48	23	16	1	113	126	
Regions (three)	Calgary	22	40	28	9	0	385	329	
	Edmonton	26	35	30	9	1	351	386	
	Outside Metro	15	39	33	12	1	340	361	
Gender	Female	22	37	28	11	1	542	581	
	Male	20	39	32	8	1	534	495	
Age Group	18 to 29	20	37	31	12	0	195	115	
	30 to 44	17	41	31	9	2	297	196	
	45 to 64	24	37	32	7	0	325	414	
	65 and over	23	37	26	13	0	259	351	
If the Alberta election was today, which party would you vote for in your local constituency?	Progressive Conservative	17	42	31	10	0	302	320	
	Wildrose party	12	40	42	6	0	408	408	
	Liberal	67	25	5	4	0	115	113	
	NDP	23	48	22	7	0	126	113	
	Another party	19	31	31	19	0	33	31	

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Do you have a favourable, neutral, or unfavourable impression of NDP Leader Brian Mason?

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	Unsure	Refused	Counts	
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Count	Unweighted Count
Region	Alberta	24	41	24	10	1	1076	1076
	Northern Alberta	24	40	25	9	2	70	112
	Edmonton and the surrounding municipalities	28	43	22	6	1	351	386
	Central Alberta including Red Deer	17	43	32	5	3	157	123
	Calgary and the surrounding municipalities	25	39	22	14	0	385	329
	Southern Alberta	17	40	30	14	0	113	126
Regions (three)	Calgary	25	39	22	14	0	385	329
	Edmonton	28	43	22	6	1	351	386
	Outside Metro	18	41	30	9	2	340	361
Gender	Female	25	43	21	10	2	542	581
	Male	23	39	29	9	0	534	495
Age Group	18 to 29	29	34	21	14	2	195	115
	30 to 44	22	43	25	9	1	297	196
	45 to 64	24	42	26	8	0	325	414
	65 and over	23	42	25	9	1	259	351
If the Alberta election was today, which party would you vote for in your local constituency?	Progressive Conservative	19	50	21	9	1	302	320
	Wildrose party	12	42	39	7	0	408	408
	Liberal	37	43	14	5	0	115	113
	NDP	73	21	1	6	0	126	113
	Another party	25	48	19	8	0	33	31

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Which political party do you trust the most to manage Alberta's oil sands?

		Progressive Conservative	Wildrose party	Liberal	NDP	Another party	None of them	Refused	Counts	
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Count	Unweighted Count
Region	Alberta	30	33	10	10	3	13	2	1076	1076
	Northern Alberta	27	30	13	11	3	11	4	70	112
	Edmonton and the surrounding municipalities	35	22	11	12	2	15	3	351	386
	Central Alberta including Red Deer	26	45	6	9	3	11	0	157	123
	Calgary and the surrounding municipalities	30	37	9	8	3	12	2	385	329
	Southern Alberta	21	39	11	10	3	16	0	113	126
Regions (three)	Calgary	30	37	9	8	3	12	2	385	329
	Edmonton	35	22	11	12	2	15	3	351	386
	Outside Metro	24	40	9	10	3	13	1	340	361
Gender	Female	29	29	11	11	2	17	2	542	581
	Male	30	37	9	9	3	10	1	534	495
Age Group	18 to 29	20	27	12	17	3	17	4	195	115
	30 to 44	29	34	11	9	3	11	2	297	196
	45 to 64	30	35	9	9	3	14	1	325	414
	65 and over	37	35	7	7	1	12	1	259	351
If the Alberta election was today, which party would you vote for in your local constituency?	Progressive Conservative	79	4	4	3	1	9	1	302	320
	Wildrose party	4	81	2	3	1	8	1	408	408
	Liberal	18	2	55	10	3	11	1	115	113
	NDP	19	3	9	53	0	15	1	126	113
	Another party	14	2	5	11	43	19	5	33	31

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		Overall, how would you rate the current state of the Alberta economy?						Counts	
		Very good	Good	Ok	Poor	Very poor	Refused	Count	Unweighted Count
		Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Count	Unweighted Count
Region	Alberta	19	41	32	5	2	0	1076	1076
	Northern Alberta	28	37	25	7	2	1	70	112
	Edmonton and the surrounding municipalities	21	40	33	5	2	0	351	386
	Central Alberta including Red Deer	17	38	33	9	2	0	157	123
	Calgary and the surrounding municipalities	18	46	29	5	2	0	385	329
	Southern Alberta	17	36	41	4	2	0	113	126
Regions (three)	Calgary	18	46	29	5	2	0	385	329
	Edmonton	21	40	33	5	2	0	351	386
	Outside Metro	19	37	34	7	2	0	340	361
Gender	Female	16	42	34	5	3	0	542	581
	Male	23	41	30	5	1	0	534	495
Age Group	18 to 29	19	39	32	6	3	0	195	115
	30 to 44	18	42	32	3	4	1	297	196
	45 to 64	22	39	32	7	1	0	325	414
	65 and over	17	45	32	5	1	0	259	351
If the Alberta election was today, which party would you vote for in your local constituency?	Progressive Conservative	31	46	21	0	1	0	302	320
	Wildrose party	14	39	36	9	2	0	408	408
	Liberal	16	49	31	2	2	0	115	113
	NDP	16	38	41	3	2	0	126	113
	Another party	18	41	31	10	0	0	33	31