

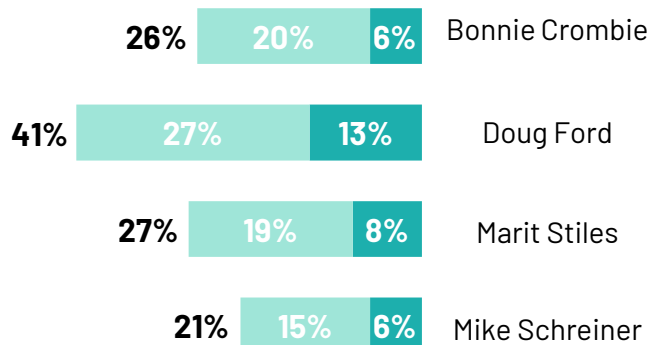
# THOUGH POLARIZING, DOUG FORD CLEAR WINNER OF ONTARIO LEADERSHIP DEBATE, SEEN AS BEST TO DEAL WITH TRUMP

FEBRUARY 21 | 2025

## WHAT DO ONTARIANS THINK OF THEIR PROVINCIAL LEADER CANDIDATES?

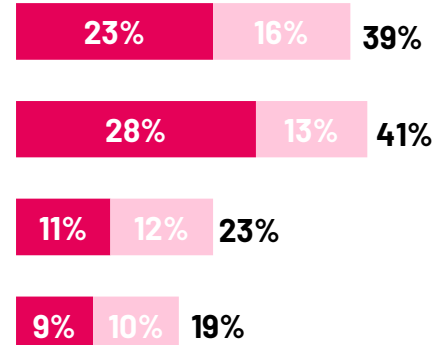
### % SOMEWHAT/VERY FAVORABLE

Somewhat Favorable Very Favorable



### % SOMEWHAT/VERY UNFAVORABLE

Very Unfavorable Somewhat Unfavorable



Premier Doug Ford leads the provincial party leaders in favourability ratings with 41%, closely followed by Marit Stiles at 27%, Bonnie Crombie at 26%, and Mike Schreiner at 21%. However, Ford's favourability matches his unfavourability at 41%, indicating a polarized perception among the Ontario public. For Crombie, her unfavourability score significantly

exceeds her favourability (39% vs 26%) suggesting an uphill battle to change public perceptions. Conversely, both Stiles and Schreiner enjoy higher favourability than unfavourability, with net positive scores of +4 and +2, respectively.





## WHO WON THE DEBATE?



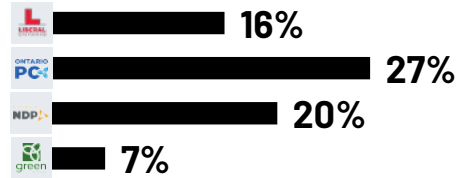
Just a quarter (24%) of Ontarians say they tuned in to watch the leaders' debate. Among those who say they did, a significant 38% identified Premier Doug Ford as the debate's winner. In contrast, Marit Stiles was deemed the winner by 12% of viewers, followed by Bonnie Crombie at 9%, and Mike Schreiner at 7%.

Interestingly, at third (34%) of viewers felt there was no winner in the debate.

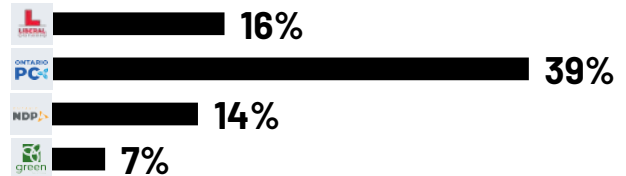
## WHICH MAJOR PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADER IS BEST DESCRIBED BY THE FOLLOWING TRAITS?

 Bonnie Crombie
  Doug Ford
  Marit Stiles
  Mike Schreiner

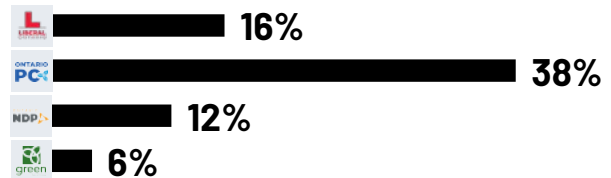
Someone who will protect the interests of cultural, religious and other minorities in Ontario



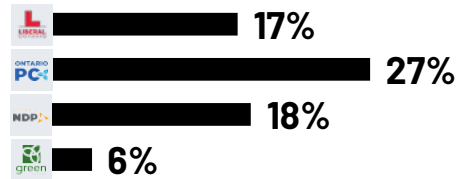
Someone who will get things done



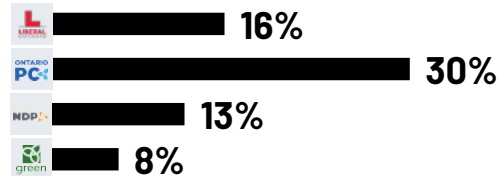
Someone who is best to manage during tough economic times



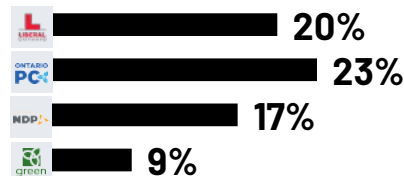
Someone who will help make things more affordable for the middle class



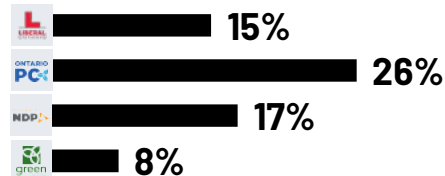
Someone who will manage Ontario's budget well



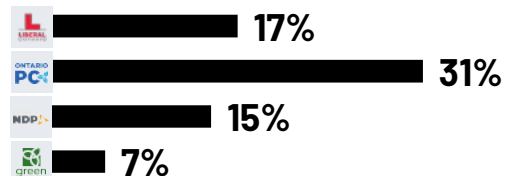
Someone who will improve healthcare



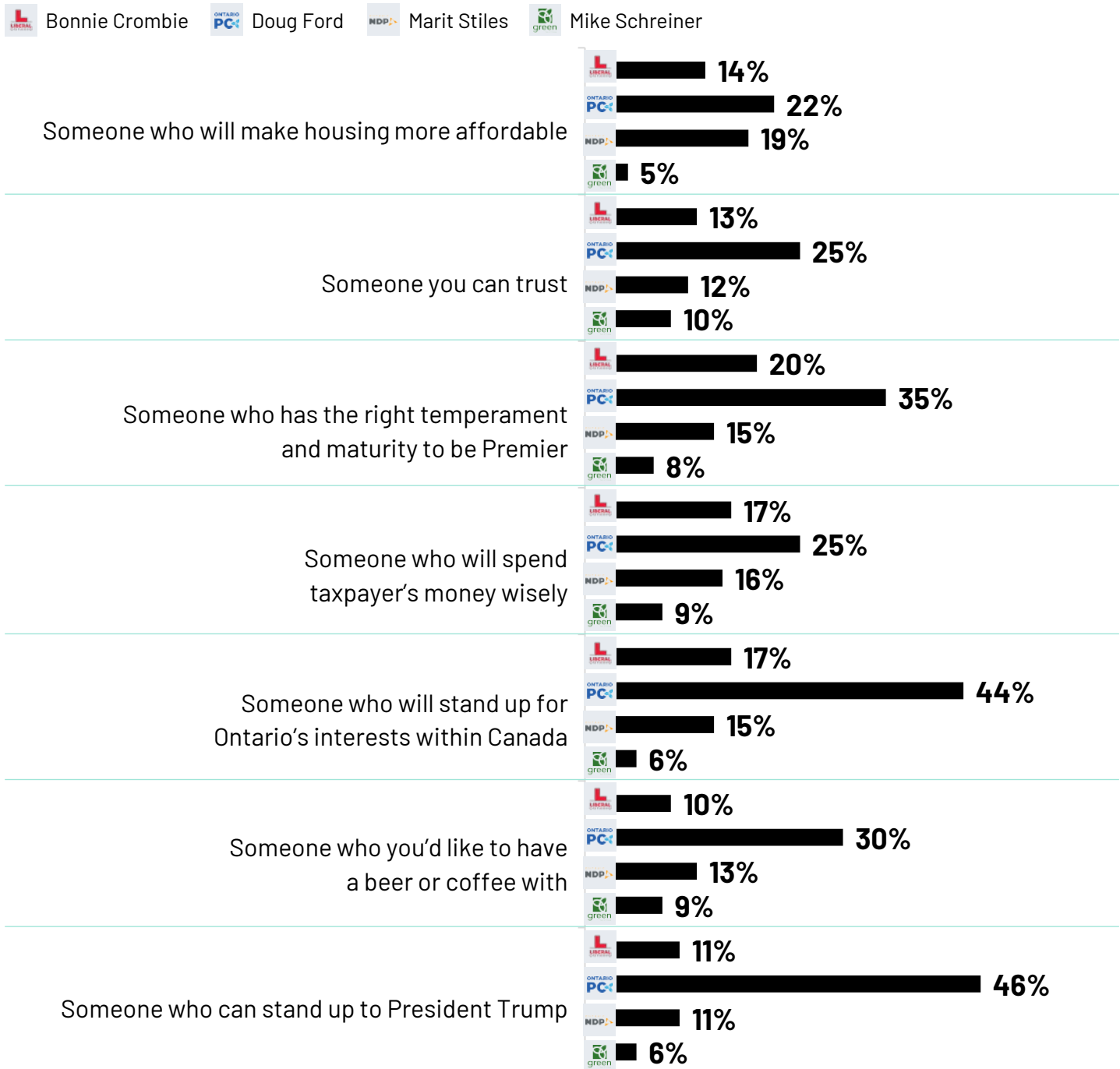
Someone who will provide open, ethical and honest government



Someone whose views best represent my own



## WHICH MAJOR PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADER IS BEST DESCRIBED BY THE FOLLOWING TRAITS? (cont'd)



Doug Ford leads in all the leadership attributes tested, highlighting his perceived strength across various traits. During a period of economic uncertainty and potential challenges from the USA, Ford is regarded as the best leader to stand up to President Trump, with 46% of respondents attributing this capability to him. His most significant advantages are in areas such as standing up for

Ontario's interests within Canada (44%) and getting things done (39%). Ford is also viewed favorably in managing economic challenges (38%) and budget management (30%). However, Ford's leadership is perceived as being weaker in improving healthcare (23%) and in protecting the interests of cultural, religious, and other minorities (27%) where his lead is considerably smaller.

# About This Study

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## ABOUT THE STUDY

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These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between February 18 and 20, 2025, on behalf of Global News. For this survey, a sample of 800 Ontario residents aged 18+ was interviewed online. Quotas and weighting were employed to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the population of Ontario according to census parameters. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within  $\pm 4.2$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Ontarians aged 18+ been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.

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