

# AMONG THE ONTARIO TORY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES, WHO WOULD BEAT DALTON MCGUINTY'S LIBERALS?

*None of the Above . . .*



**Public Release Date: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002 - 6:00 p.m. (EST)**

*Established in 1979, Ipsos-Reid is one of North America's leading market research and public opinion companies. Founded by Dr. Angus Reid, Ipsos-Reid is a \$70 million company which has conducted extensive market and social research in 80 countries and in 40 languages, and serves clients around the world through more than 300-professionals and 1,000 data collection staff in 11 offices. The company is a member of the Paris-based Ipsos Group, ranked among the top ten research companies in the world, with specialties in advertising, media, customer satisfaction, public opinion and market research. Visit [www.ipsos-reid.com](http://www.ipsos-reid.com)*

***For copies of other news releases, please visit***  
[http://www.ipsos-reid.com/media/content/PRE\\_REL.cfm](http://www.ipsos-reid.com/media/content/PRE_REL.cfm)

---

© Ipsos-Reid

***Washington • New York • Minneapolis • San Francisco  
Vancouver • Edmonton • Calgary • Winnipeg • Toronto • Ottawa • Montreal***



## AMONG THE ONTARIO TORY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES, WHO WOULD BEAT DALTON MCGUINTY'S LIBERALS?

### *None of the Above . . .*

**Toronto, ONTARIO** - The second part of a poll conducted for the Globe and Mail/globeandmail.com by Ipsos-Reid on who of the Ontario Conservative leadership candidates would beat Dalton McGuinty's Liberals in a head to head choice in an election if one were held tomorrow shows that none of the candidates fare better than former finance minister Ernie Eves, but not by much.

As indicated in a poll released yesterday, Ernie Eves, the perceived frontrunner and the candidate whose campaign has suggested that only their candidate would beat Dalton McGuinty in a province wide election is the choice of 35% of the public versus 49% for Dalton McGuinty, whereas 10% choose "neither" and 6% "don't know".

The poll released today profiles what the electorate choices would be with the other candidates and shows that all of them fall within eight points of the perceived leadership frontrunner when it comes to a head to head choice. Simply, all of the Conservative leadership candidates are well back of Dalton McGuinty and the Liberals, ranging from 14 points for Mr. Eves to the furthest of the other leadership candidates, some 27 points back.

*These are the findings of an Ipsos-Reid/Globe and Mail poll conducted between February 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002. The poll is based on a randomly selected sample of 1,000 adult Ontarians. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what*

---

© Ipsos-Reid



*they would have been had the entire adult Ontario population been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Ontario population according to the 1996 Census data.*

When asked to choose between Dalton McGuinty and the Liberal Party and Elizabeth Witmer and the Progressive Conservatives, Dalton McGuinty garners 51% support versus Environment Minister Elizabeth Witmer at 34%. Nine percent (9%) choose “neither” and 7 percent indicate “don’t know”.

Finance Minister and Deputy Premier Jim Flaherty chimes in with 28% versus 55% for Dalton McGuinty with 11% indicating “neither” and 5% who “don’t know”.

Health Minister Tony Clement gets the nod from 28% of the electorate versus 54% for Dalton McGuinty with 11% choosing “neither” and 7% who say they “don’t know”.

And lastly, but not by much, Labour Minister Chris Stockwell gets 27% support from the electorate versus 54% for Dalton McGuinty and the Liberal Party with 12% stating “neither” and 6% who say they “don’t know”.

Clearly, the choice as to whom the electorate prefer in a dead heat run-off comes without the benefit of an election campaign throughout the province which may change the dynamic of the choice. The poll suggests that while Mr. Eves is the frontrunner among the Conservative candidates, his lead is modest over his other leadership opponents. But, perhaps more importantly, Dalton McGuinty and the Liberals, at this time, best all of the leadership hopefuls ranging from 14 points for his closest rival to 27 points for the Conservative candidates at the back of the pack.



Ipsos Reid

-30-

*For more information on this news release, please contact:*

*John Wright  
Senior Vice-President  
Public Affairs  
Ipsos-Reid  
(416) 324-2900*

*For full tabular results, please visit our website at [www.ipsos-reid.com](http://www.ipsos-reid.com). News Releases are available at [http://www.ipsos-reid.com/media/content/PRE\\_REL.cfm](http://www.ipsos-reid.com/media/content/PRE_REL.cfm)*

---

© Ipsos-Reid

*Washington • New York • Minneapolis • San Francisco  
Vancouver • Edmonton • Calgary • Winnipeg • Toronto • Ottawa • Montreal*