

**ONTARIO LIBERALS (43%) CONTINUE TO LEAD
CONSERVATIVES (36%) BY 7 POINTS, WHILE NDP
(15%) AND GREEN PARTY (5%) TRAIL BEHIND**

*Majority (57%) Believe Time for Another Party to Take Over,
Just One in Three (37%) Say Tories Deserve Re-election*



Public Release Date: Thursday, February 27th, 2003 - 11:30 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

For copies of other news releases, please visit
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***



ONTARIO LIBERALS (43%) CONTINUE TO LEAD CONSERVATIVES (36%) BY 7 POINTS, WHILE NDP (15%) AND GREEN PARTY (5%) TRAIL BEHIND

***Majority (57%) Believe Time for Another Party to Take Over, Just
One in Three (37%) Say Tories Deserve Re-election***

Toronto, ONTARIO (Thursday, February 27th, 2003) – Over the past year, Ontario Premier Ernie Eves has been coy with the voters in the province regarding an election call – suggesting a possible general election this coming spring, summer, fall and as late as the spring of 2004. In this current environment of election anticipation, Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberal Party (43%, down two points since December) continue to lead Ernie Eves and the Progressive Conservatives (36%, down two points since December) by seven points, according to the latest Ipsos-Reid/CFTO/CFRB/Globe and Mail poll released today. Meanwhile, Howard Hampton and the NDP (15%, up one point) and the Ontario Green Party (5%, up two points) remain far behind the two front runners. Twelve percent of Ontarians are undecided or would not vote.

A majority (57%, up one point from October 2002) of Ontarians say that it is time for a new party to take over and run the province, while just over one in three (37%, unchanged) believes that the Conservatives deserve to be re-elected. In context, in May 1999, during the last provincial election, just under half (46%) said the Tories should be re-elected, while 52% said it was time for a change.

As for how the government has performed regarding many key policy areas, a majority of Ontarians express approval of the government's actions in terms of "increasing business investment in Ontario" (63%), "creating jobs" (62%) and "dealing with crime" (60%), but a at



least half express disapproval of the job the government has done regarding “spending taxpayers money wisely” (approve 34%, disapprove 63%), “managing the education system” (approve 36%, disapprove 60%), “preserving our system of healthcare” (approve 41%, disapprove 56%) and “protecting the environment” (approve 45%; disapprove 50%). Ontarians are split on their views regarding “providing honest and trustworthy government” (approve 49%, disapprove 47%) and “reducing taxes” (approve 47%, disapprove 47%).

In comparison to the results in February 1999, leading up to the last provincial election, approval has decreased or remained virtually the same for each area tested in both studies. The largest declines are recorded regarding “spending taxpayers money wisely” (-19 points), “reducing taxes” (-9 points), “managing the education system” (-8 points) and “increasing business investment in Ontario” (-7 points).

These are the findings of an Ipsos-Reid/CFTO/CFRB/Globe and Mail poll conducted between February 13th and February 20th, 2003. 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 ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what 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 2003 Census data.



Ontario Liberals (43%) Continue to Lead Conservatives (36%) by 7 Points, While NDP (15%) and Green Party (5%) Trail Behind

Dalton McGuinty and the Ontario Liberal Party (43%, down two points since December) continue to top the list among decided voters.

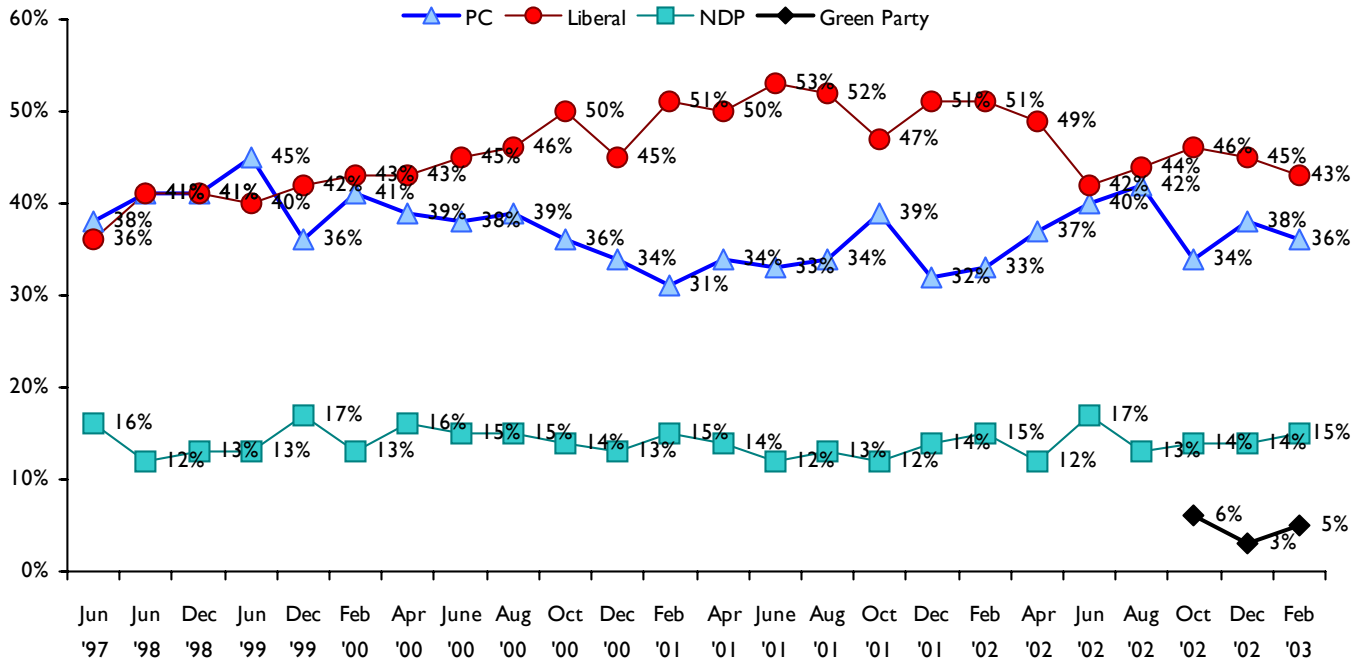
- The Liberals lead in all regions of the province, with the exception of Southwestern Ontario (Liberals 40%, Conservatives 40%) and in the '905' Belt (Conservatives 43%, Liberals 41%). Dalton McGuinty's party receive their strongest support among residents of Northern Ontario (53%), followed by the City of Toronto (46%), Eastern Ontario (44%), and Hamilton/Niagara (41%).
- Demographically, Liberal support is stronger among younger (52%) residents and women (46%).

Ernie Eves and the Progressive Conservatives (36%, down two points since December) continue to trail the leading Liberals by seven points.

- The Conservatives receive their highest level of support in the '905' Belt (43%), followed by Southwestern Ontario (40%), Eastern Ontario (37%), Hamilton/Niagara (33%) and the City of Toronto (32%). They receive their lowest support level in Northern Ontario where they are in a statistical tie with the NDP (NDP 23%, Conservatives 20%).
- Tory support is stronger among older (44%) and middle aged (40%) Ontarians than among younger (26%) residents. Men (39% versus 33% of women) and those in upper income households (39% versus 28% in lower income households) are more likely to express support for the governing Conservatives.

Meanwhile, Howard Hampton and the NDP (15%, up one point) and the Ontario Green Party (5%, up two points) remain far behind the two front runners.

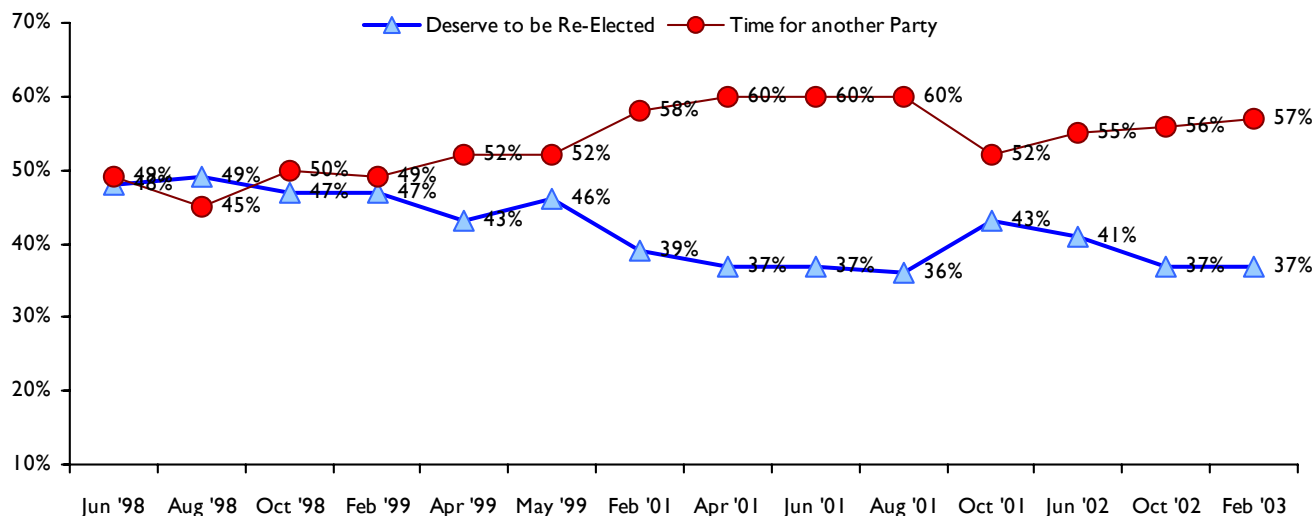
- Regionally, the NDP receive stronger support among voters in the North (23%) and in Hamilton/Niagara (21%), while their lowest level of support is found among residents of the Southwest (13%), Eastern Ontario (13%) and the '905' Belt (12%). The NDP also receive stronger support among decided voters in lower income households (22%) than in upper income households (11%).
- Support for the Green Party is strongest among younger (9%) residents.



Majority (57%) Believe Time for Another Party to Take Over, Just One in Three (37%) Say Tories Deserve Re-election

A majority (57%, up one point from October 2002) of Ontarians continue to indicate that it is time for a new party to take over and run the province, while just over one in three (37%, unchanged) believes that the Conservatives deserve to be re-elected.

- The call for another party to take over is strongest in Northern Ontario (69%) and lowest in the '905' Belt (53%).
- Women (62%) are more likely than men (52%) to indicate that it is time for another party to take over and run the province.
- Among decided voters, eight in ten (80%) decided Conservative voters say that the Tories deserve to be re-elected, while 17% say that it is time for a change. In comparison, nine in ten (92%) NDP supporters say that it is time for a change, while 79% of Liberal supporters concur.





***Majority of Ontarians Approve Government Actions Regarding
“Increasing Business Investment” (63%), “Creating Jobs” (62%), and
“Dealing with Crime” (60%)***

A majority of Ontarians express approval of the governments actions in terms of “increasing business investment in Ontario” (63%), “creating jobs” (62%) and “dealing with crime” (60%).

However, at least half of Ontarians express disapproval of the job the government has done regarding “spending taxpayers money wisely” (approve 34%, disapprove 63%), “managing the education system” (approve 36%, disapprove 60%), “preserving our system of healthcare” (approve 41%, disapprove 56%) and “protecting the environment” (approve 45%; disapprove 50%). Residents are split in their views regarding “providing honest and trustworthy government” (approve 49%, disapprove 47%) and “reducing taxes” (approve 47%, disapprove 47%).

In comparison to the results recorded in February 1999, leading up to the last provincial election, approval has decreased or remained virtually the same for each area tested in both studies. The largest declines are recorded regarding “spending taxpayers money wisely” (-19 points), “reducing taxes” (-9 points), “managing the education system” (-8 points) and “increasing business investment in Ontario” (-7 points).

The following tables include tracking results for December 1998 or February 1999 (depending on when asked previous to the 1999 Ontario election) and February 2003.



Creating jobs	Feb '99	Feb '03
Strongly approve	17	15
Somewhat approve	48	47
Somewhat disapprove	20	20
Strongly disapprove	12	12
Don't know	2	6
Approve	65	62
Disapprove	32	32
Reducing taxes	Feb '99	Feb '03
Strongly approve	15	14
Somewhat approve	41	34
Somewhat disapprove	22	24
Strongly disapprove	18	23
Don't know	3	6
Approve	56	47
Disapprove	40	47
Managing the education system	Feb '99	Feb '03
Strongly approve	14	10
Somewhat approve	30	27
Somewhat disapprove	19	22
Strongly disapprove	36	38
Don't know	1	3
Approve	44	36
Disapprove	55	60



Increasing business investment in Ontario	Feb '99	Feb '03
Strongly approve	14	17
Somewhat approve	56	46
Somewhat disapprove	13	15
Strongly disapprove	7	9
Don't know	10	12
Approve	70	63
Disapprove	20	25
Spending taxpayer's money wisely	Feb '99	Feb '03
Strongly approve	13	6
Somewhat approve	40	28
Somewhat disapprove	23	29
Strongly disapprove	21	33
Don't know	3	3
Approve	53	34
Disapprove	44	63
Preserving our system of healthcare	Feb '99	Feb '03
Strongly approve	11	10
Somewhat approve	29	32
Somewhat disapprove	20	25
Strongly disapprove	40	31
Don't know	-	3
Approve	40	41
Disapprove	60	56



Dealing with crime	Feb '99	Feb '03
Strongly approve	10	13
Somewhat approve	52	47
Somewhat disapprove	20	20
Strongly disapprove	13	13
Don't know	5	7
Approve	62	60
Disapprove	33	33
Providing honest and trustworthy government	Dec '98	Feb '03
Strongly approve	20	8
Somewhat approve	39	40
Somewhat disapprove	19	24
Strongly disapprove	22	23
Don't know		4
Approve	59	49
Disapprove	41	47
Protecting the environment	Dec '98	Feb '03
Strongly approve	14	8
Somewhat approve	41	37
Somewhat disapprove	24	28
Strongly disapprove	21	22
Don't know		5
Approve	55	45
Disapprove	45	50



Ipsos Reid

-30-

For more information on this news release, please contact:

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

For full tabular results, please visit our website at www.ipsos-reid.com. News Releases are available at http://www.ipsos-reid.com/media/content/PRE_REL.cfm

© Ipsos-Reid

10

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