

# **TORIES (37%) AND LIBERALS (37%) REMAIN DEAD-LOCKED**

***But Approval Rating For Liberals Is Up Slightly (53%, +5 Points)  
From October 2005***

***Momentum Is Positive For The Tories (+11 Points) And NDP  
(+11 Points), But Sharply Negative For Liberals (-22 Points)***



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Points), But Sharply Negative For Liberals (-22 Points)*

**Toronto, ON** – According to a new Ipsos Reid survey, conducted on behalf of Global News and CFRB, Ontario's Liberal and Progressive Conservative parties are tied atop the polls with 37% support each. Howard Hampton and the NDP would trail further back with 18% support, while the Green Party led by Frank de Jong would garner a modest percentage of total votes (7%).

*Thinking of how you feel right now, if a PROVINCIAL election were held tomorrow, which of the following parties' candidates would you, yourself, be most likely to support ?*

	Oct-05	Feb-06	Change
The Ontario Progressive Conservatives (PC), led by John Tory	38%	37%	-1%
The Ontario Liberals, led by Dalton McGuinty	37%	37%	0%
The Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP), LED BY Howard Hampton	17%	18%	1%
The Ontario Green Party, led by Frank de Jong	7%	7%	0%

- Support for the Progressive Conservatives is highest among those age 55 and over (44%) and among men (45% vs. 30% among women).
- Support for the Liberal Party is strongest among women (40% vs. 33% among men).

## ***Just Over Half (53%, +5 Points From October) Approve Of The Job Dalton McGuinty And Liberals Are Doing...***

Just over half (53%) of Ontarians say they either “strongly approve” (8%) or “somewhat approve” (45%) of the job the provincial government of Premier Dalton McGuinty is doing governing Ontario – this is up 5 points from 48% who said they approved in October 2005. Meanwhile 43% disapprove (20% “strongly disapprove”).

- Approval for the Liberals is highest in Southwest Ontario (61%) and the GTA (56%).
- Younger adults age 18-34 are the most likely to approve of the Liberal’s performance (59% vs. 51% for those over age 34).

## ***John Tory And Progressive Conservatives Have Positive Momentum (+11 Points), While Dalton McGuinty And Liberals Are Negative (-22 Points)...***

John Tory and the Progressive Conservatives appear to be enjoying a good measure of positive momentum (+11 points), as 21% of Ontarians say their opinion of this party and leader has “improved” over the past few months, against 10% who say it has “worsened” and 60% who say it has “stayed the same”.

*Thinking about the past few months, would you say that your opinion of [INSERT PARTY AND LEADER] has improved, worsened, or stayed the same?*

<b>John Tory and the Progressive Conservatives</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>GTA</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Eastern</b>	<b>Southwest</b>	<b>Northern</b>
<b>Improved</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Worsened</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Gap</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>18%</b>

- Momentum for the Conservatives is highest in Northern Ontario and the GTA. But the Conservatives have negative momentum in Southwest Ontario.

Overall, Dalton and McGuinty and the Liberals have negative momentum among the public (-22 points). More than twice as many respondents say their opinion of this party and leader

has “worsened” (34%) over the past few months than say it has “improved” (12%) – 50% say their opinion has stayed the same.

*Thinking about the past few months, would you say that your opinion of [INSERT PARTY AND LEADER] has improved, worsened, or stayed the same?*

Dalton McGuinty and the Liberals	TOTAL	GTA	Central	Eastern	Southwest	Northern
Improved	12%	14%	12%	10%	8%	13%
Worsened	34%	32%	37%	38%	32%	36%
Gap	-22%	-18%	-25%	-28%	-24%	-23%

- Negative momentum for the Liberals runs deepest in Eastern Ontario and Central Ontario.

Howard Hampton and the NDP have equally positive momentum as do the Tories (+11 points). Seventeen percent of Ontarians say their opinion of this party and leader has “improved” over the past few months, juxtaposed against 6% who say their opinion has “worsened” and 64% who say it has “stayed the same”.

*Thinking about the past few months, would you say that your opinion of [INSERT PARTY AND LEADER] has improved, worsened, or stayed the same?*

Howard Hampton and the NDP	TOTAL	GTA	Central	Eastern	Southwest	Northern
Improved	17%	14%	17%	19%	19%	19%
Worsened	6%	8%	4%	4%	5%	4%
Gap	11%	6%	13%	15%	14%	15%

- Momentum for the NDP is strongest in Eastern, Northern and Southwest Ontario.

Twelve percent say their opinion of Frank de Jong and the Green Party has “improved” over the past few months, 5% say it has “worsened”, 57% say it has “stayed the same”.

*Thinking about the past few months, would you say that your opinion of [INSERT PARTY AND LEADER] has improved, worsened, or stayed the same?*

Frank de Jong and the Green Party	TOTAL	GTA	Central	Eastern	Southwest	Northern
Improved	12%	12%	17%	10%	10%	9%
Worsened	5%	5%	5%	3%	3%	7%
Gap	7%	7%	12%	7%	7%	2%



**Ipsos Reid**

*These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest/Global and CFRB from February 7<sup>th</sup> to February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 710 adult residents of Ontario were interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult population of Ontario been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual population of Ontario according to the 2001 Census data.*

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