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NDP (16%), Greens (10%)*

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Toronto, ON – As John Tory officially hits the hustings leading up to a by-election on March 5, 2009 that could put him back in the Ontario Legislature as the Official Leader of the Opposition, a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Canwest News Service and Global Television has revealed that Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and his Liberal Party continue to have a large province-wide lead over the other parties.

Despite a struggling economy and the Premier's admission that tough decisions are on the way due to declining government revenue that will expand a growing deficit, if a provincial election were held tomorrow his Liberal party would receive the support of 45% of decided voters, unchanged since June of 2008.

This compares to the Progressive Conservatives at 29% support (unchanged), who have not had their leader in the House since he failed to win a seat in the October 2007 election.

The NDP under outgoing leader Howard Hampton would receive 16% of the vote (up 1 point), while the Green Party currently led by Frank de Jong would receive 10% (down 1 point).

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted exclusively for Canwest News Service and Global Television from January 13 to January 22, 2009. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 800 adults living in Ontario was interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this

size, the results are considered accurate to within ± 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult population living in 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 that the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Ontarian population according to Census data.

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