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Toronto, ON – The Wynne Liberals are losing ground since the last election in Ontario but still hold a tenuous lead over the PCs, according to a new Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of Global News.

While the governing Liberals are under siege by provincial teachers' unions, along with parents and other groups not happy with the new sex-ed curriculum, if the election were held tomorrow the Liberals under Premier Kathleen Wynne would receive 34% of the decided popular vote, down 5 points from 39% since last year's election. The Liberals hold a tenuous two-point lead over the Progressive Conservatives (32%) and their newly-elected leader Patrick Brown. Despite the Liberal tumble, the PCs are only up 1 point since the last election.

The Ontario NDP under Andrea Horwath would receive 25% of the decided popular vote, up just 1 point since the last election – suggesting that the orange crush that swept through Alberta earlier this month has not materialized in Ontario. Other parties, including the Green Party under Mike Schreiner, would receive 8% of the vote (up 2 points since the last election). One in ten (13%) remain undecided.

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- In the **416** (Toronto), the Liberals (39%) lead the NDP (32%), PCs (20%) and other parties (9%)
- In the **905** (GTA), the PCs (37%) and Liberals (36%) are tied, with the NDP (19%) and other parties (8%) well behind.
- In **Southwest** Ontario, the PCs (34%) have a slight lead over the Liberals (30%) and NDP (26%), while other parties (10%) are further behind.
- In **Central** Ontario, the PCs (45%) have the hammer over the Liberals (32%), NDP (17%) and other parties (6%).
- In **Eastern** Ontario, the PCs (41%) also lead the Liberals (34%), NDP (17%) and other parties (8%).
- In **Northern** Ontario, the NDP (52%) has a sizeable lead over the Liberals (27%), PCs (16%) and other parties (6%).

Wynne Tumbles on Choice for Best Premier as Horwath Improves...

The political landscape has a new name for Ontarians to become familiar with, with Patrick Brown being elected leader of the Progressive Conservatives less than two weeks ago. Despite his new arrival, one in three (33%) believe he would make the best premier of Ontario, ahead of incumbent Premier Kathleen Wynne of the Liberals (31% -- down nine points from 40% from Ipsos' Ontario Election Day Poll in 2014). Both of these leaders, however, are trailing NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, who is chosen as the best Premier by 36% of Ontarians (up 3 points from Election Day 2014). Patrick Brown (33%) is up 6 points from where his predecessor Tim Hudak (27%) was on E-Day.

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Four in Ten (42%) Approve of Government, But only One in Three (31%) Say Liberals Deserve Re-Election...

The Liberals have been in power in Ontario for twelve years – a long tenure for any government. Reflecting on the performance of the government, four in ten (42%) ‘approve’ (7% strongly/36% somewhat) of the performance of the Liberal government under the leadership of Kathleen Wynne. Conversely, 58% ‘disapprove’ (35% strongly/23% somewhat) of the government’s performance. If all of those who approve of the government’s performance go on to vote for the incumbent during the next election, the result would be that the Liberals would cruise to victory.

However, the desire for change is strong: just one in three (31%) Ontarians believe that ‘the Liberal government under Premier Kathleen Wynne has done a good job and deserves to be re-elected during the next provincial election’ (down 7 points since E-Day 2014), which likely isn’t to take place until 2018. Conversely, most (69%) Ontarians are ready for a change (up 7 points), believing that it’s ‘time for another provincial party to take over and run the province’.

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between May 15th and 20th, 2015, on behalf of Global News. For this survey, a sample of 1,002 Ontarian adults from Ipsos’ Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample’s composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Ontarian adults been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among

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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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