

Red Wave Lifts Ontario Liberals (44%) over PCs (31%) and NDP (20%) on Provincial Vote, But Undercurrent for Change Strong

Seven in Ten (70%) Think it's Time for Another Party to Take Over, Similar Sentiment Measured in Federal Election

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*Seven in Ten (70%) Think it's Time for Another Party to Take Over,
Similar Sentiment Measured in Federal Election*

Toronto, ON – The Ontario Liberal party is flying high, riding a red wave from the honeymoon of its federal cousins as a new Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of Global News reveals that the Ontario Liberals have a big lead over the Progressive Conservatives and slumping NDP. Despite a substantial lead in popular vote, the desire for change in Ontario is strong – hovering around numbers witnessed in the most recent Federal Election that saw the Harper Conservatives defeated, suggesting the Ontario Liberals' advantage might not last.

If a provincial election were held tomorrow, the Ontario Liberal Party lead by Premier Kathleen Wynne would receive 44% of the decided vote, up 10 points from an Ipsos poll conducted in May, while Patrick Brown and the Progressive Conservatives would receive 31% of the vote, down 1 point. Most of the Liberal gains have come at the expense of Andrea Horwath's NDP (20%) and other parties, including Mike Schreiner's Green Party (4%), who are down 5 and 4 points, respectively, since May's poll.

Not only do the Liberals have a wide lead province wide, they also lead in almost every region of the province, with the exception of the north:

- In the **416**, Toronto proper, the Liberals (56%) have a commanding lead over the PCs (28%), NDP (15%) and other parties (1%).

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- In the **905**, the Liberals (42%) lead over the PCs (34%), NDP (18%) and other parties (6%) is more narrow, but still significant.
- In **Central Ontario**, the Liberals (42%) have a seven-point lead over the PCs (35%), NDP (18%), and other parties (4%).
- In **Southwest Ontario**, the Liberals (37%) have an advantage over the PCs (31%), NDP (26%) and other parties (6%).
- In **Eastern Ontario**, the Liberals (53%) have a massive lead over the PCs (29%), NDP (15%) and other parties (3%).
- In **Northern Ontario**, the NDP (37%) and PCs (35%), lead the Liberals (28%), but it's a relatively tight race compared to other regions.

Liberals Flying High, but Desire for Change Remains Strong...

While the Liberals have a substantial lead in the popular vote, the desire for change in Ontario is strong. Seven in ten (70%) Ontarians believe it is 'time for another provincial party to take over' (up 1 point), compared to just three in ten (30%) who think 'the Wynne government has done a good job and deserves re-election' (down 1 point).

By comparison, in the recent Federal Election (where the Harper Conservative's ultimately received 32% of the popular vote), Ipsos' Election Day poll of voters revealed that 33% believed Harper deserved re-election, while 67% wanted change. In other words, the desire for change is just as strong – if not stronger – in Ontario now as it was federally during the federal election.

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The desire for change remains strong, even though four in ten (41%) Ontarians ‘approve’ (7% strongly/33% somewhat) of the performance of the Liberal government under the leadership of Kathleen Wynne, compared to six in ten (59%) who ‘disapprove’ (36% strongly/23% somewhat).

Kathleen Wynne Regains Edge as Best Premier...

When thinking about which of the major party leaders would make the best Premier of Ontario, Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne (36%, up 5 points) has regained the edge as the leader who Ontarians think would make the best premier. In second position is NDP Leader Andrea Horwath (34%, down 2 points), while PC Leader Patrick Brown (30%, down 3 points) appears yet to make a strong impression and is in third place.

No One Leader Has the Hammer in Leadership Attributes...

Below is a list of leadership attributes, and the proportion of Ontarians who believe each leader is best described by that attribute. Interestingly, Premier Wynn only leads on one of these attributes.

Table: Leadership Attributes

<u>Attributes</u>	Kathleen Wynne	Patrick Brown	Andrea Horwath
Someone you can trust	30%	35%	36%
Someone who will get things done	35%	36%	29%
Someone who has what it takes to lead	33%	35%	31%
Someone who is best to manage during tough economic times	34%	38%	28%
Someone who has a vision of Ontario that you can support	33%	34%	33%
Someone whose values best represent my own	32%	35%	33%

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Someone who is best to deal with unions in Ontario	28%	35%	37%
Someone who will keep home ownership affordable	32%	32%	36%
Someone who will manage Ontario's finances responsibly	32%	37%	31%
Someone who will manage Ontario's healthcare system effectively	32%	34%	35%
Someone who will help create jobs in Ontario	33%	36%	31%
Someone who will help Ontarians save for their retirement	38%	33%	30%

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between November 5 and 9, 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 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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