

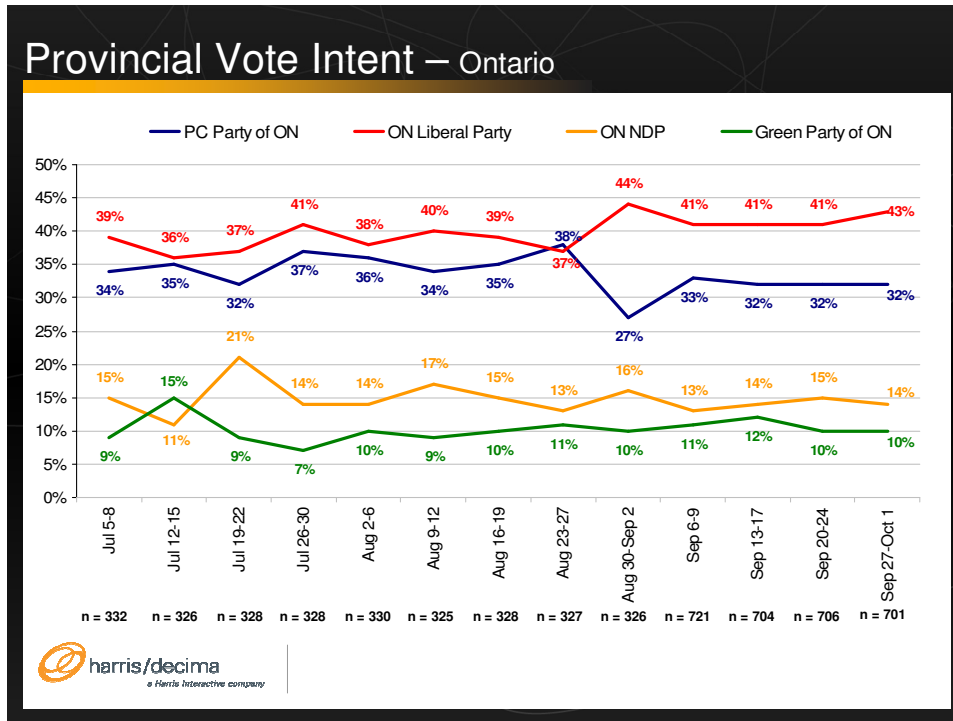
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Liberal Lead Firming

A new Canadian Press Harris/Decima survey on the Ontario provincial election shows the Liberal Party with what appears to be a slightly widening lead over the second place Progressive Conservatives.

The results show:

- The Liberal Party leads with 43% province wide, compared to 32% for the Conservatives, 14% for the NDP and 10% for the Green Party. This is a one week sample of 701 residents of the province with a margin of error of 3.7%. Field dates were September 27th through October 1st, 2007. (More than two-thirds of these interviews were done before Monday)



- 26% say Dalton McGuinty would make the best Premier of the province, compared to 25% for John Tory and 11% for Howard Hampton.
- 29% say the Liberals have the best policies for the future of the province, compared to 18% for the Progressive Conservatives and 12% for the NDP and 7% for the Green Party.

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According to Harris/Decima President Bruce Anderson, “Whatever momentum exists, is slight, and favours the Liberals right now.

Mr. Tory continues to run a dead heat with Mr. McGuinty when it comes to who would make the best Premier, however Mr. Tory’s party is now 11 points behind the Liberals in voting intention, and not coincidentally, trailing the Liberals by 11 points when it comes to which party has the better policy ideas.

Mr. Tory’s initiative yesterday to shift the focus of the campaign away from the faith based education promise appears to be a pre-condition for becoming competitive in these final days. These data reflect opinion gathered mostly before that announcement, so it remains to be seen whether the policy shift will produce the response he is looking for, and whether he can close a fairly substantial gap.”