



ONTARIO ELECTION 2007

TIGHT RACE DEVELOPING ACROSS ONTARIO

**Liberals (39%) barely ahead of PC (37%);
NDP at 13%, Greens at 10%**

**Voter retention rates: PC holds on to 80% of
their 2003 voters, Liberals keep 67%**

**John Tory (38%) edges Dalton McGuinty (28%) as
preferred Premier; 34% undecided**

**A third (33%) would keep current electoral system,
26% would switch to MMP, 38% not sure**

**Roughly half (49%) oppose Tory's
faith-based school proposal**

From September 7 to September 8, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 725 adults in Ontario. The margin of error for the total sample is +3.6 %, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

[TORONTO – Sept. 13, 2007] – The governing Liberal Party is barely ahead in the early stages of the provincial electoral campaign in Ontario, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 725 Ontario voters, 39 per cent of decided voters say they will cast a ballot for the Liberals in the Oct. 10 election. The Progressive Conservative Party is second with 37 per cent, followed by the New Democratic Party (NDP) with 13 per cent, and the Green Party with 10 per cent. In all, 28 per cent of respondents remain undecided.

When asked which of the two main party leaders would make the best Premier of Ontario, 38 per cent of respondents choose Progressive Conservative John Tory, while 28 per cent pick the current head of government—Liberal Dalton McGuinty. A third of respondents did not select either of the two politicians for the job.

The survey also shows that 80 per cent of Ontarians who voted for the Progressive Conservatives in 2003 will again support the party. Conversely, the Liberals are only holding on to 67 per cent of their voters in the last provincial ballot, and the NDP retains 56 per cent of its supporters from four years ago.

Across the province, 54 per cent of respondents believe it is time for a change in government, while 27 per cent think the current administration should be re-elected. In addition, 55 per cent of Ontarians think the province is on the right track, while 34 per cent believe it is on the wrong track.

The poll also asked Ontarians to voice their views on the referendum on electoral reform, which will take place on the same day as the legislative ballot. A third of respondents (33%) would keep the existing first-past-the-post electoral system, while 26 per cent would switch to the alternative mixed-member-proportional system. Three per cent of respondents would not participate on this plebiscite, and 38 per cent remain undecided.

Finally, the survey reviewed Tory's proposal to extend full funding to non-Catholic faith-based schools as long as they teach the Ontario curriculum, only hire fully-qualified Ontario teachers, and agree to ongoing student testing and inspections by the province. In all, 41 per cent of respondents support the plan, while 49 per cent oppose it, and 10 per cent are undecided.

Decided Voters :: Tight Race Across Regions, High Levels of Voter Uncertainty

Angus Reid Strategies

Decided Voters By Region	ONTARIO	Men	Women	Age 18-34	Age 35-54	Age 55+
Liberal	39% (-8)	35%	42%	40%	40%	35%
PC	37% (+2)	45%	29%	33%	34%	46%
NDP	13% (-2)	10%	17%	10%	17%	11%
Green	10%	9%	11%	15%	7%	8%
Other	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%
Undecided	28%	22%	33%	32%	30%	20%

Base: Decided Voters (n=605). And in the Ontario provincial election on October 10th, which one of the following parties are you most likely to vote for in your constituency?

Ontario Election 2007

Contact: Craig Worden, Vice President, Public Affairs
416-644-4038 or craig.worden@angus-reid.com

Voter Retention Pools :: PCs Strong, Liberals Less Healthy – Troublesome Sign

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2003 VOTERS ↓	CURRENT GROSS VOTE (INCLUDING LEANERS)						
	Liberal	PC	NDP	Green	Other	Undecided	Not Vote
2003 Liberal voters now voting →	67%	18%	4%	2%	-	9%	-
2003 PC voters now voting →	8%	80%	4%	4%	1%	4%	-
2003 NDP voters now voting →	16%	8%	56%	10%	3%	7%	-

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Leadership :: Tory Advantage on Key Factor. Notably, 34% Waiting for Campaign...

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Best Premier?



And, of the following two provincial party leaders, which one do you think would be the best Premier of Ontario?

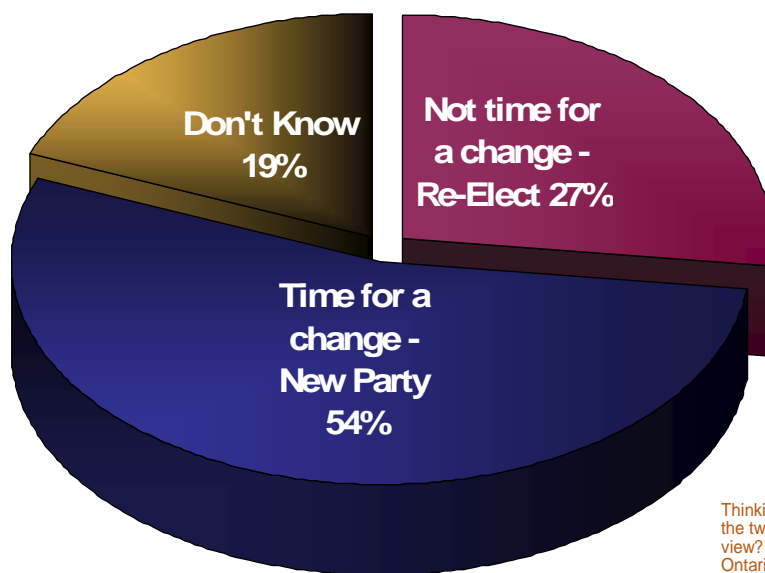
Don't Know
34%

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Restlessness :: Majority Appetite for Change, Coupled with Notable Degree of Uncertainty.

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Note:
45% of Pro-Change segment thinks Ontario is on the Right Track.

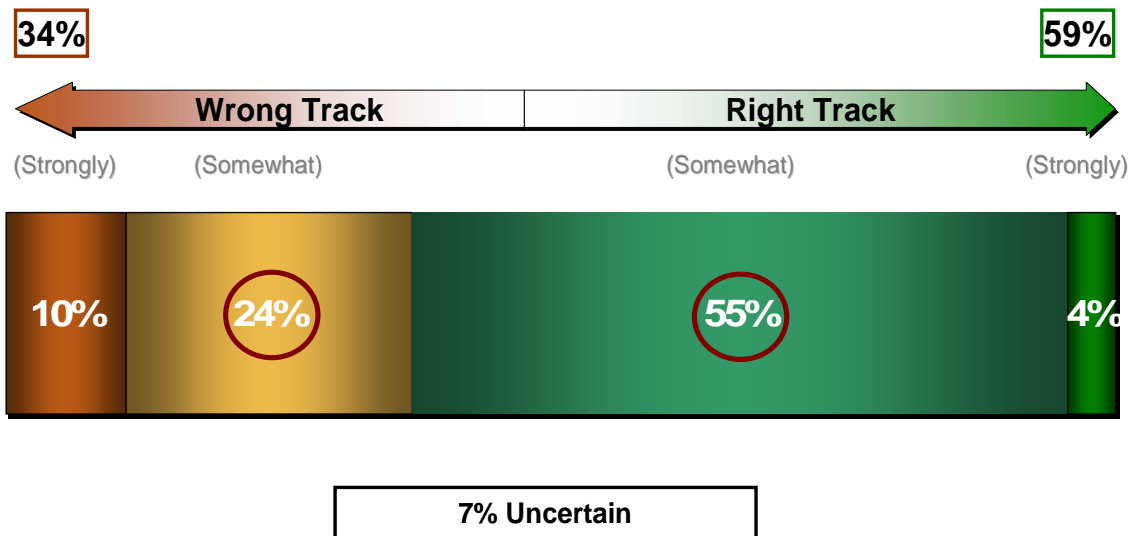
Thinking about the provincial election, which one of the two statements below best represents your own view? It is not time for a change in government in Ontario – the provincial Liberal Party should be re-elected. It is time for a change in government in Ontario – a different provincial party should be elected into power.

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The Mood – Direction of Province: Improved, but Lukewarm

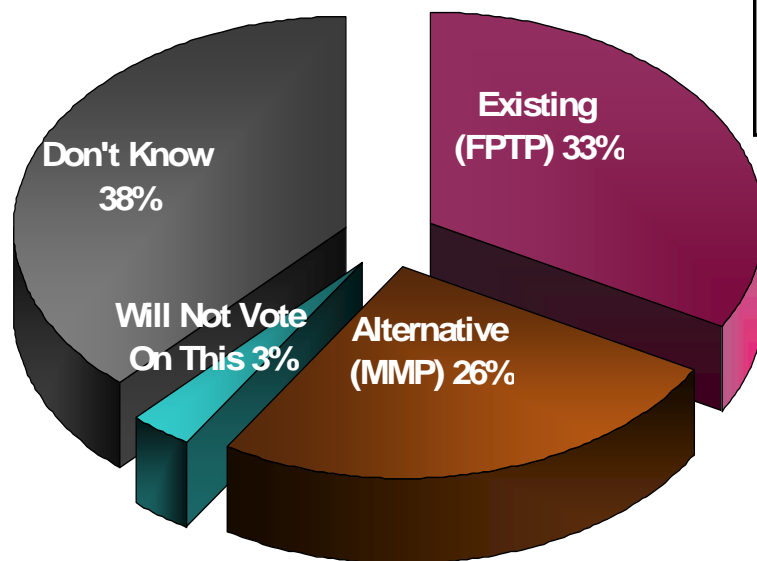
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Overall, do you think that the province of Ontario is currently on the right or wrong track?

Forgotten Issue: Referendum on Electoral Reform

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Decided Vote:
Current: 54%
Alternative: 46%

As you may know, there is also a provincial referendum on electoral reform being held simultaneously with the election on October 10th. When voting on election day, in addition to the standard political party ballot, you will be given a second ballot which will ask you the question below. Please indicate which option you are most likely to vote for in this referendum in response to this question: Which electoral system should Ontario use to elect members to the provincial legislature? The existing electoral system (First-Past-the-Post) The alternative electoral system proposed by the Citizens' Assembly (Mixed Member Proportional).

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Faith-Based Schools :: Presenting the Arguments

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As you may know, the Ontario provincial government is constitutionally required to fully fund the Roman Catholic separate school system. Faith-based schools associated with other religions do not receive public funding, and are only partially subject to the standards of the public education system if they grant provincially-accredited secondary school diplomas.

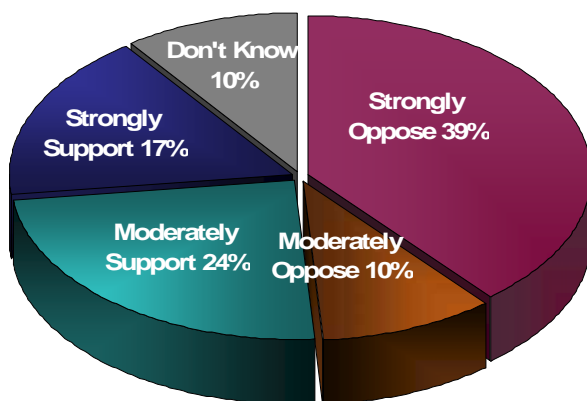
If elected, John Tory's Progressive Conservatives have promised to extend full funding to these non-Catholic faith-based schools as long as they teach the Ontario curriculum, only hire fully-qualified Ontario teachers, and agree to ongoing student testing and inspections by the province.

Which of the following views on this proposal best represent your own?

- I support this proposal – It eliminates the unfair practice of only funding Catholic schools, and it encourages other faith-based schools to adopt Ontario's public school standards and curriculum.
- I oppose this proposal – The costs of doing this would remove too much money from secular public schools and it will result in a society segregated by religion.

Faith-Based Schools :: 49% Oppose vs. 41% Support, but 39% Strongly Oppose.

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If Ballot Issue:

PC: 41%
Lib: 38%
NDP: 10%
Green: 7%
Other: 3%

Angus Reid Strategies is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies has been successful in predicting the outcome of this year's provincial elections:

In Quebec: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=37>

In Manitoba: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=56>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF_WHITE_PAPER.pdf

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**