

# NEWS RELEASE



## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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**TORONTO**  
**July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- More than one third would support the NDP if a federal election were held today (35%) compared to 3-in10 who would support the governing Conservatives (31%). Meanwhile, the Liberals have improved their support slightly from 19% last month to 22% this month. The Green Party and the Bloc Quebecois each claim about one twentieth of the vote (5% and 6%, respectively).
- Taking into account margin for error, these voting intention results - if they hold on Election Day - would see the NDP form a minority government with 128 seats in the 308 seat house, 14 more than the Conservatives' 114, and well up from the 103 they claimed in the election.
- Tom Mulcair's approval level is down very slightly to 36% from 39% last month. He has a net approval (approve minus disapprove) of +7. Bob Rae's approval is essentially steady at 34% (36% last month) and his net is +1. Stephen Harper's approval rating is down slightly to 32% from 35%, but his net favourable is an abysmal -27.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NDP leads in voter preference; Conservatives fall back**

#### **Liberal seat count up sharply**

Toronto, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – In a sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among Canadians 18 years of age and older, more than one third would support the NDP if a federal election were held today (35%) compared to 3-in10 who would support the governing Conservatives (31%). This represents a decline since last month in Conservative support (from 35%). Meanwhile, the Liberals have improved their support slightly from 19% last month to 22% this month. The Green Party and the Bloc Quebecois each claim about one twentieth of the vote (5% and 6%, respectively).

The Conservatives had the highest support among older Canadians (20% <34, 38% 35 to 44, 32% 45 to 54, 30% 55 to 64, and 35% 65+), males (34%; compared to 28% of females), and Albertans (57%). The Liberal party saw strongest support among those residing in the Atlantic region (36%), and those over the age of 65 (25%), while the NDP enjoyed stronger support from voters under the age of 35 (45% <34, 31% 35 to 44, 33% 45 to 54, 37% 55 to 64, and 31% 65+), and among females (38%; compared to 32% of males). On a regional level, support for the NDP was strongest in the Atlantic (43%), British Columbia (42%) Quebec and Manitoba / Saskatchewan (40% each).

#### **NDP seat count holds steady, Conservatives down, Liberals up sharply**

Taking into account margin for error, these voting intention results - if they hold on Election Day - would see the NDP form a minority government with 128 seats in the 308 seat house, 14 more than the Conservatives' 114, and well up from the 103 they claimed in the election. While this represents stasis for the NDP (127 seats projected last month), it represents a significant decline for the Conservatives (from 144 seats last month, and 166 in the election) and a commensurate increase for the Liberals (from 32 seats last month to an impressive 58 seats this month, well up from 34 at the election). The Bloc would take 7 seats and the Green Party would keep leader Elizabeth May's seat.

#### **Leader favourables hold steady; Mulcair in positive territory, Rae neutral, Harper negative**

Tom Mulcair's approval level is down very slightly to 36% from 39% last month. He has a net approval (approve minus disapprove) of +7. Bob Rae's approval is essentially steady at 34% (36% last month) and his net is +1. Stephen Harper's

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approval rating is down slightly to 32% from 35%, but his net favourable is an abysmal -27.

Approval of Mulcair was highest among those residing in Quebec and the Atlantic region (53%, 47% respectively). Bob Rae saw strongest approval ratings from older voters (27% <34, 31% 35 to 44, 33% 45 to 54, 41% 55 to 64, and 42% 65+), and males (38%; compared to 30% of females). Stephen Harper received highest approval ratings from older voters (18% <34, 37% 35 to 44, 39% 45 to 54, 32% 55 to 64, and 42% 65+), and those residing in Alberta and Manitoba / Saskatchewan (56%; 43% respectively).

## **One half of Liberals and NDP supporters want joint nominations**

More than one third of Canadians in total favour the idea of the Liberals, the NDP and the Green Party running joint nominations and candidates against the Conservatives in the next election (38%), but this increases to one half or more among Liberal supporters (50%) and NDP voters (52%). While Green Party supporters are slightly less enthusiastic (46% in favour), the Conservative voter does NOT favour the idea (15%). On a regional level, those residing in Manitoba / Saskatchewan were most likely to oppose the idea (61%).

"While joint nominations are controversial among the party chatterati, it appears the idea has considerable appeal to rank and file supporters, and it is especially significant that Conservative voters are so opposed to the idea. They may fear its success" said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- More than one third of Canadians in total favour the idea of the Liberals, the NDP and the Green Party running joint nominations and candidates against the Conservatives in the next election (38%), but this increases to one half or more among Liberal supporters (50%) and NDP voters (52%). While Green Party supporters are slightly less enthusiastic (46% in favour), the Conservative voter does NOT favour the idea (15%).
- "While joint nominations are controversial among the party chatterati, it appears the idea has considerable appeal to rank and file supporters, and it is especially significant that Conservative voters are so opposed to the idea. They may fear its success" said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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## Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1,639 randomly selected residents of Canada aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted from July 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 2.42%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at [www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp)

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at [www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

## Party Preference Trending

[Decided/Leaning]

%	Sample	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
July 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1545	31	22	35	5	6	1
June 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1114	35	19	35	3	6	1
June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1482	30	22	37	5	6	1
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012	1756	32	20	36	6	5	1
Apr 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1669	33	22	36	2	6	1
Mar 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1591	36	19	34	5	5	1
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1565	35	19	35	3	7	1
Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012	1603	37	25	28	4	5	1
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1148	36	26	28	3	6	1
Jan 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1140	35	25	28	4	6	1
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	1160	33	21	27	8	6	5
Federal Election May 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2011	n/a	40	19	31	4	6	0

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***Seat Distribution Projection Trending***

%	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
July 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	114	58	128	1	7	0
June 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	144	32	127	1	4	0
June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	114	53	136	1	4	0
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012	123	42	138	1	4	0
Apr 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	118	54	133	1	2	0
Mar 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	142	36	126	1	3	0
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	151	25	120	1	11	0
Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012	145	69	78	1	15	0
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	151	60	88	1	8	0
Federal Election May 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2011	166	34	103	1	4	0

***Federal Leader Approval Rating Trending (% Approve)***

*[All Respondents]*

%	Sample	Rae	Harper	Mulcair
July 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1639	34	32	36
June 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1165	36	35	39
June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1529	40	31	39
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012	1836	33	33	41
Apr 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1669	35	34	41
Mar 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1675	36	34	32
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	1638	32	34	32

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### Current Federal Party Preference

*'If the federal election were held today, which party are you most likely to vote for?'+ 'Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time?'*

[Decided/Leaning]

### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1545	153	186	329	462	415	757	788
Conservative	31	20	38	32	30	35	34	28
Liberal	22	17	18	23	24	25	23	20
New Democratic	35	45	31	33	37	31	32	38
Green	5	10	5	5	2	3	4	6
Bloc Quebecois	6	8	6	7	7	4	6	7
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

### Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC
Sample	1545	118	397	568	99	160	203
Conservative	31	18	18	37	34	57	32
Liberal	22	36	18	27	19	13	15
New Democratic	35	43	40	30	40	22	42
Green	5	2	3	5	6	6	10
Bloc Quebecois	6	0	22	0	0	0	0
Other	1	0	0	1	2	1	1

### Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1545	186	267	225	180	158	236
Conservative	31	27	27	29	28	29	33
Liberal	22	22	23	22	18	19	24
New Democratic	35	30	37	36	42	39	36
Green	5	9	6	3	6	5	4
Bloc Quebecois	6	9	7	9	6	8	2
Other	1	2	1	1	1	0	0

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### *Past Vote (2011 Federal Election)*

%	Total	PAST - Cons	PAST - Lib	PAST - NDP	PAST - Green	PAST - Bloc	PAST - Other Parties
Sample	1545	512	332	391	71	93	45
Conservative	31	80	5	4	8	8	34
Liberal	22	10	67	9	11	4	12
New Democratic	35	7	24	79	21	28	31
Green	5	1	3	5	51	1	10
Bloc Quebecois	6	1	1	3	7	59	2
Other	1	1	0	1	1	0	12

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## Approval of Leaders:

### Conservative

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Stephen Harper is doing as Prime Minister?'*

[All Respondents]

### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1639	160	203	350	490	436	798	841
Approve	32	18	37	39	32	42	35	30
Disapprove	59	72	55	54	60	49	58	61
Don't know	9	10	8	7	8	10	7	10

### Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC
Sample	1639	128	412	615	105	166	213
Approve	32	18	22	34	43	56	31
Disapprove	59	75	69	55	53	39	64
Don't know	9	7	9	11	4	5	5

### Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1639	204	280	237	183	163	240
Approve	32	28	30	34	29	31	32
Disapprove	59	54	61	61	67	66	63
Don't know	9	18	9	5	5	4	5

### Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1639	478	334	498	102	86	47
Approve	32	89	13	7	15	9	22
Disapprove	59	8	77	87	80	81	61
Don't know	9	3	10	6	5	10	17

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## NDP

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Tom Mulcair is doing as Leader of the Opposition?'*

[All Respondents]

### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1639	160	203	350	490	436	798	841
Approve	36	35	34	34	41	40	39	34
Disapprove	29	26	29	33	29	31	35	24
Don't know	35	39	38	33	30	29	26	42

### Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC
Sample	1639	128	412	615	105	166	213
Approve	36	47	53	28	29	22	39
Disapprove	29	21	16	34	41	46	23
Don't know	35	32	30	38	29	32	37

### Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1639	204	280	237	183	163	240
Approve	36	26	41	42	35	46	41
Disapprove	29	18	22	32	35	31	33
Don't know	35	55	37	26	30	23	26

### Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1639	478	334	498	102	86	47
Approve	36	15	38	61	35	41	25
Disapprove	29	52	29	12	24	28	29
Don't know	35	33	32	27	41	31	46

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### Liberal

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bob Rae is doing as leader of the Liberal Party?'*

[All Respondents]

### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1639	160	203	350	490	436	798	841
Approve	34	27	31	33	41	42	38	30
Disapprove	33	30	33	38	34	31	37	29
Don't know	33	44	35	29	25	27	26	40

### Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC
Sample	1639	128	412	615	105	166	213
Approve	34	34	37	33	37	24	36
Disapprove	33	29	28	39	30	37	26
Don't know	33	37	36	28	33	39	38

### Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1639	204	280	237	183	163	240
Approve	34	22	28	39	34	40	44
Disapprove	33	33	33	35	35	36	28
Don't know	33	45	39	26	31	25	28

### Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1639	478	334	498	102	86	47
Approve	34	20	64	36	32	15	25
Disapprove	33	46	19	32	21	50	41
Don't know	33	34	17	31	47	36	33

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### Joint Nomination Opinion

*'It has been suggested the NDP, the Liberals and the Green Party hold joint nomination meetings prior to the next federal election, and only run the one strongest candidate from the three parties against the Conservative candidate in any riding. Do you favour or oppose this idea?'*

[All Respondents]

### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1639	160	203	350	490	436	798	841
Favour this idea	38	42	38	35	38	34	39	37
Oppose this idea	43	34	44	46	49	47	47	39
Don't know	19	24	18	20	13	19	14	24

### Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC
Sample	1639	128	412	615	105	166	213
Favour this idea	38	44	45	35	29	36	35
Oppose this idea	43	42	32	45	61	50	41
Don't know	19	15	23	20	10	14	24

### Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100K+
Sample	1639	204	280	237	183	163	240
Favour this idea	38	33	34	38	43	45	45
Oppose this idea	43	33	44	48	42	43	43
Don't know	19	34	22	14	15	12	12

### Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1639	478	334	498	102	86	47
Favour this idea	38	15	50	52	46	49	19
Oppose this idea	43	71	38	30	38	31	24
Don't know	19	14	12	19	16	20	57

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