

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberals widen gap, Conservatives stall in final poll

NDP down, razor-thin Liberal majority seen

TORONTO October 18th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1373 Canadian voters the day before the federal election, 4-in-10 will vote Liberal (40%), while 3-in-10 will vote Conservative (30%). The 10 point gap between the two parties has increased, 4 points higher since we last polled (October 14, Liberal - 37%, Conservatives - 31%). The NDP have one fifth of the vote (20%), down from about one quarter in our last poll (October 14 - 24%). The Green Party (3%) and the Bloc Quebecois (6%) are not competitive nationally, and very few will vote for other parties (1%).

Liberals Grasping at Majority Government

If these results are projected up to seats in the newly expanded House of Commons, the Liberals would take a slim majority of 171, which is 1 more than required for a majority, while the Conservatives would form the opposition with 109 seats. The NDP would seat 46 members, the Bloc 11, and the Greens would retain their single seat.

Liberals lead in every region but Alberta

Liberals have strong leads in the Atlantic provinces (59%), Quebec (36%) and Ontario (45%). They have smaller leads in the prairies (39%) and BC (37%), but it is only in Alberta that they are surpassed in voter preference by the Conservatives (57%). The NDP are in third everywhere except Quebec (21%) and they are challenged here by the Bloc (22%).

Justin Trudeau seen to be best PM

The largest group of voters, about 3-in-10, sees Justin Trudeau making the best Prime Minister (33%), compared to about one quarter for Stephen Harper (26%), and fewer for Tom Mulcair (20%).

One third vote in advance polls

One third of voters (30%) cast their vote before election day, and this is more likely to have been a New Democrat voter (35%) than either a Conservative (32%) or a Liberal (31%).

TORONTO

October 18th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 4-in-10 will vote Liberal (40%), while 3-in-10 will vote Conservative (30%). The 10 point gap between the two parties has increased, 4 points higher since we last polled (October 14, Liberal - 37%, Conservatives - 31%).
- If these results are projected up to seats in the newly expanded House of Commons, the Liberals would take a slim majority of 171.
- Liberals have strong leads in the Atlantic provinces (59%), Quebec (36%) and Ontario (45%).
- The largest group of voters, about 3-in-10, sees Justin Trudeau making the best Prime Minister (33%).
- One third of voters (30%) cast their vote before election day, and this is more likely to have been a New Democrat voter (35%).

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“Opinion polls are just snapshots in time, but at this time, it appears the race to govern Canada may be Justin Trudeau’s to lose. Stephen Harper has fallen out of favour and has relinquished the best tool in his box, his reputation for competence, as Trudeau has become entrenched as Canadians’ choice for best Prime Minister. It looks like we may have a new Prime Minister designate on Tuesday morning, and it’s not likely to be Tom Mulcair,” said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

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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 1373 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on October 18th, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 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

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables 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. Electoral success is dependant on the parties' skill at getting out the vote. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

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

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Federal Party Preference Trending

[Decided/Leaning]

%	Sample	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
October 18 th , 2015	1373	30	40	20	3	6	1
Oct. 13 th -14 th , 2015	1438	31	37	24	2	6	1
Oct. 9 th , 2015	1427	31	37	23	3	5	1
Oct 5 th -6 th , 2015	1447	31	35	26	3	4	1
Sept. 28-29 th , 2015	1449	34	27	28	5	5	1
Sept. 21-23 rd , 2015	1557	31	31	28	4	4	1
Sept. 18 th , 2015	922	33	29	29	4	4	1
Sept. 14-15 th , 2015	1402	32	28	30	6	4	1
Sept. 9-10 th , 2015	1308	28	29	36	3	3	1
August 30-Sept. 1 st , 2015	1384	24	32	36	4	4	1
August 23-24 th , 2015	1440	23	30	40	3	3	1
August 17-19 th , 2015	1473	29	28	34	4	4	1
August 10-11 th , 2015	1392	28	27	34	4	6	1
August 2 nd , 2015	1399	28	25	39	3	5	1
July 29 th , 2015	1397	33	25	33	4	4	1
July 21 st , 2015	1208	28	29	34	4	5	1
July 14 th , 2015	1251	27	27	34	5	7	1
July 8 th , 2015	1200	32	26	32	3	5	1
June 29 th , 2015	1221	27	29	32	4	6	1
June 23 rd , 2015	1268	28	28	36	2	5	1
June 16 th , 2015	1281	26	28	34	5	7	1
June 5 th , 2015	1156	31	32	28	5	3	1
May 14 th , 2015	1286	31	31	30	4	3	1
April 23 rd , 2015	977	35	31	23	6	5	1
April 16 th , 2015	1365	33	35	22	6	3	1
March 31 st , 2015	1239	31	34	23	5	5	1
March 14 th , 2015	1370	32	36	21	6	4	1
February 11 th , 2015	1018	32	39	17	5	4	1
January 27-28 th , 2015	1309	35	34	20	6	5	1
January 5-6 th , 2015	1650	33	37	20	5	4	1
Dec. 10-11 th , 2014	1560	33	41	17	5	3	1
Nov. 19-20 th , 2014	1442	33	36	18	8	4	1
Oct. 5-8 th , 2014	1504	34	38	19	4	4	1
Sept. 5 th , 2014	1267	34	40	18	3	4	1
August 18-19 th , 2014	1798	32	41	17	5	5	1
July 18 th , 2014	1624	28	44	18	3	5	1
June 16-17 th , 2014	1683	31	39	19	5	4	1
May 22 nd , 2014	1694	30	36	23	5	6	1

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Seat Distribution Projection Trending

%	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
October 18 th , 2015	109	171	46	1	11	0
Oct. 13 th -14 th , 2015	114	127	77	1	19	0
October 9 th , 2015	116	145	69	1	7	0
October 5 th -6 th , 2015	122	120	94	1	1	0
September 28-29 th , 2015	151	76	104	1	6	0
September 21-23 rd , 2015	125	107	104	1	1	0
September 18 th , 2015	145	97	95	1	0	0
September 14-15 th , 2015	138	86	113	1	0	0
September 9-10 th , 2015	113	85	139	1	0	0
August 30-September 1 st , 2015	73	123	141	1	0	0
August 23-24 th , 2015	87	76	174	1	0	0
August 17-19 th , 2015	123	79	133	1	2	0
August 10-11 th , 2015	120	89	125	1	3	0
August 2 nd , 2015	118	58	160	1	1	0
July 29 th , 2015	156	58	122	1	1	0
July 21 st , 2015	121	78	134	1	4	0
July 14 th , 2015	107	79	132	1	19	0
July 8 th , 2015	155	59	120	1	2	1
June 29 th , 2015	104	106	119	1	8	0
June 23 rd , 2015	116	65	149	1	3	0
June 16 th , 2015	112	86	120	1	18	1
June 5 th , 2015	151	101	83	1	1	1
May 14 th , 2015	131	95	111	1	0	0
April 23 rd , 2015	146	101	77	1	12	1
April 16 th , 2015	142	137	58	1	0	0
March 31 st , 2015	129	125	65	1	17	1
March 14 th , 2015	130	138	65	1	4	0
February 10 th , 2015	112	194	30	1	1	0
January 27-28 th , 2015	145	125	61	1	5	1
January 5-6 th , 2015	137	126	70	1	0	1

Switch from 308 to 338 seat distribution

Dec. 10-11 th , 2014	109	164	34	1	0	0
Nov. 19-20 th , 2014	125	124	52	1	6	0
Oct. 5-8 th , 2014	132	130	44	1	1	0
Sept. 5 th , 2014	113	162	30	1	2	0
August 18-19 th , 2014	110	142	51	1	4	0
July 18 th , 2014	84	192	30	1	1	0
June 16-17 th , 2014	109	142	53	1	3	0
May 22 nd , 2014	111	110	75	1	11	0
Apr 29 th , 2014	100	158	39	1	10	0
Mar 25-28 th , 2014	99	159	40	1	9	0

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Federal Vote Preference

‘Which party are you most likely to vote for, or have you already voted for, in the federal election on October 19?’+ 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	1321	253	176	235	311	346	722	599
Conservative	30	24	31	32	28	35	32	28
Liberal	40	39	36	41	43	42	42	39
New Democratic	20	26	19	21	18	15	17	23
Green	3	3	4	2	3	3	3	3
Bloc Quebecois	6	7	8	3	8	4	5	6
Other	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	1

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1321	128	278	523	85	127	180	1054	267
Conservative	30	15	19	33	36	57	31	33	20
Liberal	40	59	36	45	39	27	37	43	32
New Democratic	20	23	21	18	19	14	27	19	22
Green	3	2	2	3	4	2	4	3	2
Bloc Quebecois	6	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	23
Other	1	2	0	1	3	0	1	1	0

Past Federal Vote

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1321	429	267	300	53	61	19
Conservative	30	70	8	6	6	7	11
Liberal	40	19	77	42	53	11	20
New Democratic	20	8	13	46	17	19	10
Green	3	2	2	3	23	3	13
Bloc Quebecois	6	1	0	4	0	60	23
Other	1	1	0	0	2	0	23

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Best Prime Minister

‘Regardless of which party you plan to vote for, who do you think would make the best Prime Minister?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1373	267	183	245	321	357	743	630
Stephen Harper	26	19	25	29	26	35	29	24
Justin Trudeau	33	31	29	38	35	33	33	33
Tom Mulcair	20	23	20	19	18	16	19	21
Elizabeth May	7	11	7	4	8	5	8	7
Gilles Duceppe	4	4	7	2	4	2	3	4
None of these	7	8	8	6	5	5	5	8
Don't know	3	3	3	1	3	4	2	4

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1373	135	292	537	90	133	186	1091	282
Stephen Harper	26	11	16	28	25	52	29	29	17
Justin Trudeau	33	39	32	36	29	23	32	34	30
Tom Mulcair	20	24	26	19	17	7	19	18	26
Elizabeth May	7	15	1	8	14	5	12	9	2
Gilles Duceppe	4	2	13	1	0	2	0	1	14
None of these	7	7	7	7	9	7	3	6	7
Don't know	3	2	4	2	6	4	5	3	4

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1373	392	520	259	70	60	20
Stephen Harper	26	86	2	3	8	5	16
Justin Trudeau	33	4	77	12	9	12	0
Tom Mulcair	20	3	7	68	17	20	5
Elizabeth May	7	0	8	10	42	2	13
Gilles Duceppe	4	1	1	1	8	46	0
None of these	7	4	3	5	15	13	57
Don't know	3	1	2	2	1	1	9

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Advance Polls

'Did you vote at the advance polls or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1373	267	183	245	321	357	743	630
Yes	30	30	24	31	31	34	29	31
No	70	70	76	69	69	66	71	69

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1373	135	292	537	90	133	186	1091	282
Yes	30	31	27	29	35	28	33	31	26
No	70	69	73	71	65	72	67	69	74

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1373	392	520	259	70	60	20
Yes	30	32	31	35	24	14	25
No	70	68	69	65	76	86	75

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