

# NEWS RELEASE



## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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**TORONTO**  
**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- It was found that if a provincial election were held today, close to one half of British Columbians would vote for the NDP (47%), and this represents more than twice the support for either the Liberals or the Conservatives, who are tied in distant second place (21% each).
- The NDP would come close to shutting out the opposition if an election were held today, capturing 75 out of 85 seats leaving the opposition parties with just ten seats to split between them – the Liberal party taking 9 and Vicki Huntington of Delta South keeping her seat as an Independent Candidate.
- Premier Christy Clark, opposition leader Adrian Dix and Conservative Party leader John Cummins have all seen their favourables drop about 4 or 5 points.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NDP Support Soars in British Columbia**

#### **Support for teachers is high in labour dispute**

Toronto, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – In a recent survey conducted by Forum Research among residents of British Columbia aged 18 years or older, it was found that if a provincial election were held today, close to one half of British Columbians would vote for the NDP (47%), and this represents more than twice the support for either the Liberals or the Conservatives, who are tied in distant second place (21% each). Just less than one-in-10 would back the Green party (9%), while 2% would back an ‘other’ party. The Conservative party enjoyed significantly stronger support from those aged over 65 (15% 18-34, 15% 35-44, 23% 45-54, 19% 55-64, and 29% 65+), while British Columbians under the age of 44 were significantly more likely to back the Green party (15% 18-34, 14% 35-44, 7% 45-54, 7% 55-64, and 3% 65+). The Liberal party was also found to enjoy significantly higher support among male British Columbians (24%; compared to 18% of females).

#### **NDP would run the table, forming overwhelming majority if election held today**

The NDP would come close to shutting out the opposition if an election were held today, capturing 75 out of 85 seats (up from 57 last month, and 35 in the provincial election) leaving the opposition parties with just ten seats to split between them – the Liberal party taking 9 (down from 16, and 49 in the election), and Vicki Huntington of Delta South keeping her seat as an Independent Candidate. These results will change as voting intentions change and are subject to the usual margins of error.

#### **Approval ratings down for all three party leaders**

Premier Christy Clark, opposition leader Adrian Dix and Conservative Party leader John Cummins have all seen their favourables drop about 4 or 5 points. NDP leader Adrian Dix has seen a drop in his favourability ratings to 39% (down from 43% last month; up from 35% in January), accompanied by a similar decrease for Conservative leader John Cummins – down to 23% (down from 27%; up from 21%), and Premier Christy Clark has seen her favourability ratings slip to 26% (down from 31%, 34%). On a regional level, disapproval for John Cummins was found to be significantly higher among British Columbians residing in the Vancouver Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island areas (40% each; compared to 27% in the Interior North).

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The recent poll also found that British Columbians are three times as likely to say they support the teachers themselves (45%) as they are to say they support the BCTF (16%) in the current labour dispute.
- More than half of adult British Columbians disapprove of Bill 22 (52%), compared to one third who approve of the bill (35%).
- British Columbians narrowly disapprove of teachers withdrawing extracurricular services and other job actions in response to Bill 22 (50%) over those who approve (40%) with one-in-10 having yet to form an opinion on the matter (10%).
- More than half of British Columbians disapprove of the job George Abbott is doing as Minister of Education (56%), while less than half disapprove of the job Susan Lambert is doing as head of the BCTF (46%).

## **British Columbians most likely to support teachers, least likely to support BCTF**

The recent poll also found that British Columbians are three times as likely to say they support the teachers themselves (45%) as they are to say they support the BCTF (16%) in the current labour dispute. Support for the teachers (and for Susan Lambert and the BCTF) is highest, not surprisingly, among provincial NDP supporters (55%; 27%; 51% respectively).

## **More than half disapprove of Bill 22**

More than half of adult British Columbians disapprove of Bill 22 which calls for a 6 month cooling-off period with no job action from teachers, changes to class sizes, teacher seniority and job assignments (52%), compared to one third who approve of the bill (35%). Once again, disapproval is highest among supporters of the NDP on a provincial level (80%; compared to 54% Green, 31% Conservative, and 20% Liberal).

## **One half disapprove of BCTF call for job action**

British Columbians narrowly disapprove of teachers withdrawing extracurricular services and other job actions in response to Bill 22 (50%) over those who approve (40%) with one-in-10 having yet to form an opinion on the matter (10%). Disapproval was found to be significantly higher among those ages 65 or older (47% 18-34, 47% 35-44, 48% 45-54, 48% 55-64, and 61% 65+), while support for the proposed response was found to be significantly higher among current provincial NDP party supporters (65%; compared to 41% Green, 24% Conservative, and 14% Liberal).

## **More than half disapprove of job George Abbot is doing; fewer disapprove of Susan Lambert's performance**

More than half of British Columbians disapprove of the job George Abbott is doing as Minister of Education (56%), while less than half disapprove of the job Susan Lambert is doing as head of the BCTF (46%). Approval of Abbott was higher among those over the age of 65 (24% 18-34, 19% 35-44, 26% 45-54, 30% 55-64, and 38% 65+), and among males (32%; compared to 22% of females), and current provincial Liberal supporters (45%; compared to 21% Green, 20% Conservative, 15% NDP, and 11% 'other'). As would be expected, support for Susan Lambert was found to be strongest among current provincial NDP supporters (51%; compared to 26% Green, 19% Conservative, 14% Liberal, and 16% 'other').

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## **NDP would narrowly edge Conservatives in a federal election in BC**

The recent poll also found that if a federal election were held today, the NDP would capture just more than a third of the vote (37%), while the Conservatives would capture exactly one third (33%). Liberal Party voter preference would be at about half these levels (18%). Support for the federal Conservative party was found to be significantly higher among British Columbians over the age of 65 (25% 18-34, 28% 35-44, 34% 45-54, 31% 55-64, and 42% 65+), while support for the federal Green party was significantly higher among those under the age of 34 (18% 18-34, 10% 35-44, 6% 45-54, 8% 55-64, and 5% 65+).

"The BC provincial NDP have gone from strength to strength since December, and, with these seat projections, they run the risk of dominating the province the way the Liberals did New Brunswick in the 80s. It appears the teachers' dispute, while very divisive, is currently playing in the NDP's favour." said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, president of Forum Research.

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### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The recent poll also found that if a federal election were held today, the NDP would capture just more than a third of the vote (37%), while the Conservatives would capture exactly one third (33%). Liberal Party voter preference would be at about half these levels (18%).
- "The BC provincial NDP have gone from strength to strength since December, and, with these seat projections, they run the risk of dominating the province the way the Liberals did New Brunswick in the 80s. It appears the teachers' dispute, while very divisive, is currently playing in the NDP's favour." said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, president of Forum Research.

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## Methodology

The poll was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1063 randomly selected residents of British Columbia aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3.0%, 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).

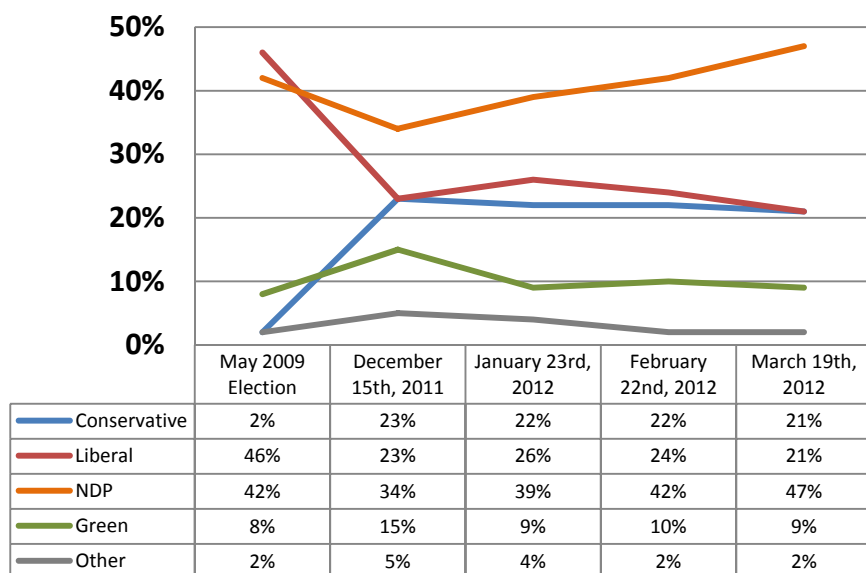
Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

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 and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at [www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp).

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## Provincial Party Preference Trending



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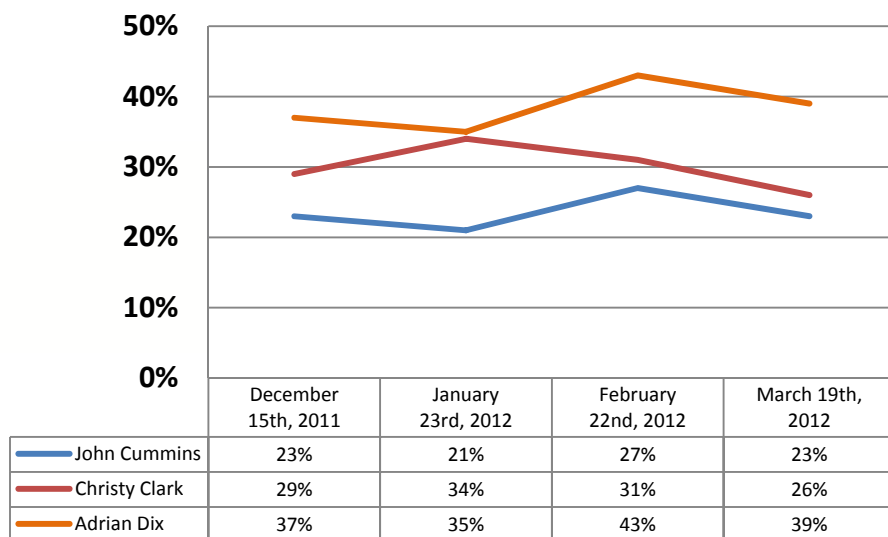


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**Provincial Party Leader Approval Trending (% Approve)**



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**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Provincial Election Voting Preference Trending**

%	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other
Mar 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided/Leaning) (n=1007)	21	21	47	9	2
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided/Leaning) (n=843)	22	24	42	10	2
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012 Forum Research Poll (Decided / Leaning) (n=914)	22	26	39	9	4
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2011 Forum Research Poll (Decided / Leaning) (n=986)	23	23	34	15	5
May, 2009 Election	2	46	42	8	2

**Provincial Party Leader Approval Trending (% Approve)**

%	Cummins	Clark	Dix
Mar 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 Forum Research Poll (All Respondents) (n=1063)	23	26	39
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2012 Forum Research Poll (All Respondents) (n=858)	27	31	43
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012 Forum Research Poll (All Respondents) (n=988)	21	34	35
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2011 Forum Research Poll (All Respondents) (n=1045)	23	29	37

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**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

***Seat Distribution***

%	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Other
March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	0	9	75	1
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2012	5	16	63	1
Jan 23 <sup>d</sup> , 2012	7	20	57	1
May, 2009 Election	-	49	35	1

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### Current Provincial Election Voting Preference

*'If a BC provincial 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	1007	82	133	194	290	308	515	492
Liberal	21	18	22	18	24	24	24	18
NDP	47	48	47	51	49	42	45	50
Conservative	21	15	15	23	19	29	21	21
Green	9	15	14	7	7	3	8	9
Other Parties	2	3	3	2	1	1	2	2

### Region

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1007	633	255	119
Liberal	21	23	19	17
NDP	47	46	50	48
Conservative	21	21	18	24
Green	9	8	9	9
Other Parties	2	2	3	3

### Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1007	108	184	162	130	108	139
Liberal	21	19	19	19	21	24	25
NDP	47	44	49	43	52	54	45
Conservative	21	18	24	25	19	16	22
Green	9	14	7	10	6	6	7
Other Parties	2	6	1	2	2	0	1

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**Christy Clark Approval Rating as Premier of British Columbia**

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Christy Clark is doing as premier?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1063	91	141	204	303	324	546	517
Approve	26	27	24	25	24	28	28	24
Disapprove	60	51	69	62	64	59	60	60
Don't know	14	23	6	13	12	12	12	16

**Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1063	664	270	129
Approve	26	27	26	19
Disapprove	60	61	58	58
Don't know	14	12	16	23

**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1063	120	192	163	135	112	144
Approve	26	32	28	27	24	19	28
Disapprove	60	41	55	57	71	75	64
Don't know	14	27	16	16	5	6	8

**Current Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1063	222	445	217	87	36
Approve	26	73	8	22	26	15
Disapprove	60	19	85	62	56	59
Don't know	14	8	7	16	18	26

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**Adrian Dix Approval Rating as Leader of the Opposition**

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

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1063	91	141	204	303	324	546	517
Approve	39	30	37	45	45	44	42	37
Disapprove	36	36	41	32	37	35	37	35
Don't know	25	34	22	23	19	21	21	28

**Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1063	664	270	129
Approve	39	42	34	36
Disapprove	36	35	40	36
Don't know	25	23	26	28

**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1063	120	192	163	135	112	144
Approve	39	27	41	48	43	47	40
Disapprove	36	38	29	36	45	33	38
Don't know	25	35	29	17	12	19	22

**Current Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1063	222	445	217	87	36
Approve	39	21	67	19	35	14
Disapprove	36	61	15	56	30	60
Don't know	25	18	18	25	35	26

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**John Cummins Approval Rating as Leader of the Conservative Party**

*‘Do you approve or disapprove of the job John Cummins is doing as Leader of the Conservative Party?’*

*[All Respondents]*

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1063	91	141	204	303	324	546	517
Approve	23	13	23	22	27	34	27	19
Disapprove	38	50	39	35	34	27	44	33
Don't know	39	38	38	43	38	39	30	48

**Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	858	664	270	129
Approve	27	25	17	21
Disapprove	41	40	40	27
Don't know	32	35	43	52

**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1063	120	192	163	135	112	144
Approve	23	15	26	25	25	19	32
Disapprove	38	46	37	36	45	34	36
Don't know	39	40	36	39	30	48	33

**Current Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1063	222	445	217	87	36
Approve	23	16	16	62	9	13
Disapprove	38	43	44	11	56	59
Don't know	39	41	41	27	35	28

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**Current BC Teachers Federation Dispute Support**

*'Who do you support in the current BC Teachers Federation dispute, the provincial government, the BC Teachers Federation or the teachers themselves?'*

*[All Respondents]*

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1063	91	141	204	303	324	546	517
Provincial Government	31	29	22	32	31	42	37	25
BC Teachers Federation	16	11	18	20	21	15	17	16
Teachers Themselves	45	49	54	42	42	36	39	51
Don't Know	8	12	6	6	6	8	7	8

**Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1063	664	270	129
Provincial Government	31	31	28	32
BC Teachers Federation	16	16	17	15
Teachers Themselves	45	45	43	47
Don't Know	8	7	11	5

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### *Household Income*

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K- \$40K	\$40K- \$60K	\$60K- \$80K	\$80K- \$100K	\$100K+
sample	1063	120	192	163	135	112	144
Provincial Government	31	32	30	31	32	25	30
BC Teachers Federation	16	12	16	23	19	18	16
Teachers Themselves	45	37	48	42	46	47	50
Don't Know	8	18	6	4	3	11	3

### *Current Provincial Vote Preference*

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1063	222	445	217	87	36
Provincial Government	31	60	13	43	29	45
BC Teachers Federation	16	6	27	10	15	8
Teachers Themselves	45	30	55	37	53	32
Don't Know	8	4	5	10	3	15

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**Approval of Bill 22**

*'Bill 22 calls for a 6 month cooling-off period with no job action from teachers. It also calls for changes to class sizes, teacher seniority and job assignments. Do you approve or disapprove of Bill 22?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1063	91	141	204	303	324	546	517
Approve	35	29	30	38	36	43	34	35
Disapprove	52	53	59	49	53	44	55	48
Don't Know	14	17	11	13	12	13	10	17

**Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1063	664	270	129
Approve	35	34	34	38
Disapprove	52	52	49	53
Don't Know	14	14	17	9

**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1063	120	192	163	135	112	144
Approve	35	32	32	40	32	41	42
Disapprove	52	43	55	52	60	51	51
Don't Know	14	25	13	7	8	8	7

**Current Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1063	222	445	217	87	36
Approve	35	68	13	52	31	32
Disapprove	52	20	80	31	54	41
Don't Know	14	12	6	17	15	27

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**Approval of BC Teachers Federation’s Position Regarding Bill 22**

*‘The BC Teachers Federation has called for job action against Bill 22, including withdrawing non-curricular services like music and sports and engaging in a walkout. Do you approve or disapprove of this position?’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1063	91	141	204	303	324	546	517
Approve	40	42	43	42	44	29	41	39
Disapprove	50	47	47	48	48	61	51	48
Don’t Know	10	11	10	10	8	10	8	12

**Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1063	664	270	129
Approve	40	41	39	38
Disapprove	50	49	49	52
Don’t Know	10	10	12	10

**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1063	120	192	163	135	112	144
Approve	40	26	36	41	46	39	54
Disapprove	50	59	54	50	47	53	42
Don’t Know	10	15	10	9	7	8	4

**Current Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1063	222	445	217	87	36
Approve	40	14	65	24	41	25
Disapprove	50	81	26	68	53	47
Don’t Know	10	5	10	8	6	27

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**Approval of George Abbot's Performance as Minister of Education**

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job George Abbott is doing as Minister of Education?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1063	91	141	204	303	324	546	517
Approve	27	24	19	26	30	38	32	22
Disapprove	56	54	64	57	58	47	56	56
Don't Know	17	22	17	17	12	15	12	22

**Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1063	664	270	129
Approve	27	29	26	21
Disapprove	56	53	61	65
Don't Know	17	19	14	14

**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1063	120	192	163	135	112	144
Approve	27	22	31	31	24	28	32
Disapprove	56	55	52	53	69	55	56
Don't Know	17	23	17	16	8	17	12

**Current Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1063	222	445	217	87	36
Approve	27	62	10	37	20	26
Disapprove	56	20	82	43	59	58
Don't Know	17	18	9	20	21	16

**TORONTO**  
**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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# NEWS RELEASE



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**TORONTO**  
**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Approval of Susan Lambert’s Performance as Head of BC Teachers Federation**

*‘Do you approve or disapprove of the job Susan Lambert is doing as head of the BC Teachers Federation?’*

*[All Respondents]*

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1063	91	141	204	303	324	546	517
Approve	31	25	32	35	39	28	28	34
Disapprove	46	47	43	45	44	51	53	40
Don't Know	23	28	24	20	17	21	18	27

**Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1063	664	270	129
Approve	31	31	30	33
Disapprove	46	48	45	40
Don't Know	23	21	26	26

**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1063	120	192	163	135	112	144
Approve	31	25	34	38	33	29	32
Disapprove	46	43	45	40	56	51	52
Don't Know	23	32	22	22	11	19	17

**Current Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1063	222	445	217	87	36
Approve	31	14	51	19	26	16
Disapprove	46	67	29	59	51	66
Don't Know	23	20	19	22	23	17

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**Current Federal Vote Preference**

*'If a 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]*

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**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1003	84	129	194	285	311	521	482
Conservative	33	25	28	34	31	42	35	31
Liberal	18	14	22	16	19	21	19	18
New Democratic	37	40	38	41	39	29	34	40
Green	9	18	10	6	8	5	9	9
Other	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	2

**Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior / North
sample	1003	626	254	123
Conservative	33	35	27	35
Liberal	18	20	19	12
New Democratic	37	36	38	40
Green	9	8	12	9
Other	3	2	4	4

**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1003	110	184	157	130	108	140
Conservative	33	31	31	36	27	24	43
Liberal	18	10	21	17	24	22	17
New Democratic	37	41	36	35	36	44	32
Green	9	14	8	12	9	9	7
Other	3	4	4	1	3	1	1

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### *Current Provincial Vote Preference*

%	Total	Liberal	NDP	Conservative	Green	Other
sample	1003	217	437	212	86	32
Conservative	33	48	9	83	5	27
Liberal	18	42	15	7	8	7
New Democratic	37	6	71	5	17	5
Green	9	3	4	5	64	8
Other	3	1	1	0	6	53

**TORONTO**  
**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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