

ONTARIO POLITICAL SCENE

# Progressive Conservatives Lead Liberals by Seven Points in Ontario

*Governing Grits ahead in the 416 region, but Tories dominating in other areas of the province.*

[TORONTO – Aug. 31, 2011] – The Progressive Conservative Party holds the lead in the early stages of Ontario's provincial campaign, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll conducted in partnership with the *Toronto Star* has found.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 1,002 Ontario adults, 38 per cent of decided voters and leaners would cast a ballot for the Progressive Conservative candidate in their riding.

The governing Liberal Party is second with 31 per cent, followed by the provincial New Democratic Party (NDP) with 24 per cent, and the Green Party with six per cent.

The Liberals are leading in the 416 area, but are trailing the Tories in all other regions. At least two-in-five decided voters would support the Progressive Conservatives in the 905 area, Southwest Ontario and Eastern Ontario.

Among male voters, the Tories hold a five-point lead over the Grits (39% to 34%). Female voters are also primarily supporting the Progressive Conservatives (36%), but there is a close race for second place, with 28 per cent of women supporting the Liberals, and 27 per cent backing the NDP.

A three-way race is developing among voters aged 18-to-34, but the Progressive Conservatives are clearly ahead among Ontarians aged 35-to-54 and those over the age of 55.

The Progressive Conservatives are holding on to an impressive 92 per cent of the voters who supported the party in the 2007 election, while the NDP keeps four-in-five of its voters in the last provincial ballot

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Voting Intention: Progressive Conservatives 38%, Liberals 31%, New Democrats 24%, Greens 6%**

*Full topline results are at the end of this release.*

*From August 25 to August 28, 2011, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,002 randomly selected Ontario adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%, 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 Ontario. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

**CONTACT:**

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 613-691-0948, [jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com](mailto:jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com)

(80%). The retention rates are lower for the Liberals (72%) and the Greens (57%). In fact, one-in-four 2007 Liberal voters are now saying they would cast a ballot for either the Progressive Conservatives (14%) or the NDP (12%).

### **Analysis**

Since the 2007 election, the Liberals are down 11 points, while both the Progressive Conservatives and the New Democrats have made substantial gains. Compared to a survey conducted by Angus Reid Public Opinion in [September 2010](#), the Progressive Conservatives have dropped slightly, while the Liberals and NDP are up.

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### **About Angus Reid Public Opinion**

[Angus Reid Public Opinion](#) is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.

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

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## Ontario Political Scene

As you may know, the Ontario provincial election is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>. If the provincial election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?— *Decided voters including leaners*

|                          | Ontario Region |     |     |                      |                      |                    |                     |                  |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----|-----|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|                          | TOTAL          | 416 | 905 | Hamilton/<br>Niagara | Southwest<br>Ontario | Eastern<br>Ontario | Northern<br>Ontario | 2007<br>Election |
| Progressive Conservative | 38%            | 28% | 43% | 34%                  | 40%                  | 43%                | 33%                 | 32%              |
| Liberal                  | 31%            | 36% | 35% | 22%                  | 27%                  | 36%                | 21%                 | 42%              |
| NDP                      | 24%            | 28% | 16% | 31%                  | 25%                  | 15%                | 44%                 | 17%              |
| Green Party              | 6%             | 6%  | 5%  | 11%                  | 7%                   | 6%                 | 1%                  | 8%               |
| Other / Independent      | 1%             | 2%  | 0%  | 1%                   | 1%                   | 0%                 | 0%                  | 1%               |

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|                          | Gender |      |        | Age   |       |     | Household Income |          |         |
|--------------------------|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|-----|------------------|----------|---------|
|                          | TOTAL  | Male | Female | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | <\$50K           | \$50-99K | \$100K+ |
| Progressive Conservative | 38%    | 39%  | 36%    | 29%   | 38%   | 45% | 27%              | 40%      | 46%     |
| Liberal                  | 31%    | 34%  | 28%    | 32%   | 29%   | 34% | 31%              | 31%      | 35%     |
| NDP                      | 24%    | 21%  | 27%    | 29%   | 26%   | 17% | 34%              | 20%      | 17%     |
| Green Party              | 6%     | 5%   | 7%     | 9%    | 6%    | 4%  | 7%               | 8%       | 2%      |
| Other / Independent      | 1%     | 0%   | 1%     | 1%    | 0%    | 1%  | 1%               | 1%       | 0%      |

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| Party Support in 2007 Ontario Election |            |            |            |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|  | TOTAL      | PC         | Liberal    | NDP        | Green      |
| <b>Progressive Conservative</b>        | <b>38%</b> | <b>92%</b> | <b>14%</b> | <b>12%</b> | <b>7%</b>  |
| <b>Liberal</b>                         | <b>31%</b> | <b>2%</b>  | <b>72%</b> | <b>5%</b>  | <b>14%</b> |
| <b>NDP</b>                             | <b>24%</b> | <b>4%</b>  | <b>12%</b> | <b>80%</b> | <b>19%</b> |
| <b>Green Party</b>                     | <b>6%</b>  | <b>2%</b>  | <b>2%</b>  | <b>1%</b>  | <b>57%</b> |
| <b>Other / Independent</b>             | <b>1%</b>  | <b>0%</b>  | <b>0%</b>  | <b>1%</b>  | <b>3%</b>  |

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