EKOS

Release Date: October 18, 2006

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Liberals With Clear Lead

Ontario Voting Intentions (n=584; decided voters n=492)	
Liberal Party	42.4
Progressive Conservative Party	36.2
New Democratic Party	19.6
Other	1.8

Dalton McGuinty's Liberals have a comfortable lead over John Tory's Progressive Conservatives according to a poll of Ontarians conducted by EKOS Research last week. The NDP lags the two leading parties by a substantial margin.

"The Liberals are performing well as a government, even from the perspective of many people planning to vote for one of the opposition parties," said Frank Graves, President of EKOS. "Liberal voters give the McGuinty government high ratings for its performance. But even prospective Conservative and NDP voters are about evenly split on whether the government is going in the right direction."

Still the Liberals are several points below where they were in the 2003 election, and both opposition parties are running ahead of their election performance.

The poll of 584 Ontarians was conducted between October 10th and October 12th.

Not surprisingly, the Liberals' strength appears to be greatest in Metro Toronto. In all the other regions of the province, the Liberals and Conservatives are in a dogfight, with the Liberals apparently at a slight advantage in the Southwest. The NDP's strength is spread quite evenly across the major geographic regions, with the exception of the Eastern part of the province, where the party lags far behind the frontrunners, and the North, where it is in a three-way fight.

METHODOLOGY

The EKOS survey sampled 584 residents of Ontario between October 10 and October 12, 2006. A sample of this size produces a statistical margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e. error margins for sub-groups).

All the data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's gender and age composition reflects that of the actual population according to Census data.