



## *NEWS RELEASE*

# Ontario Budget Gets Thumbs Up

May 19, 2005

### Overview:

In sharp contrast with last year's Ontario provincial budget, this year's budget has been a success with voters, according to an EKOS poll commissioned by the Toronto Star.

### Highlights:

#### *BUDGET RECEIVES THUMBS UP*

Just like last year, most respondents (74 per cent) recalled hearing about the budget. But that's where the comparison between this year's budget and last year's ends:

- 37 per cent of Ontarians rate this year's budget as "good"; this compares to just 15 per cent last year and 21 per cent for the last Progressive Conservative budget in March 2003. Overall, only 18 per cent rate this year's budget as "poor" (last year it was 40 per cent).
- Just 20 per cent say this year's budget will leave them worse off (last year 57 per cent said that). Instead, most now believe that the budget will have little impact on them (58 per cent).

#### **OTTAWA OFFICE**

99 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1100  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L7  
T: 613.235.7215  
F: 613.235.8498

#### **TORONTO OFFICE**

480 University Avenue, Suite 1006  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V2  
T: 416.598.8002  
F: 416.598.2543

#### **EDMONTON OFFICE**

9925 109th St. NW, Suite 606  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J8  
T: 780.408.5225  
F: 780.408.5233

## *PROVINCIAL RACE COMPETITIVE*

Despite a much better received budget, the Ontario political landscape is still competitive, with the Liberals having a modest but significant lead over their closest rivals, the Progressive Conservatives. There are considerable regional differences throughout the province, particularly between the 905 and 416 areas. Also notable is the rise in NDP support and the appearance of the Green Party on the radar screen.

Interestingly, Belinda Stronach's move to the federal Liberals appears to have had the unintended consequence of bolstering support for Dalton McGuinty's Liberals in Ontario.

<b>Ontario Provincial Voting Intentions</b> (overall n=717)	
Ontario Liberal Party	42.7
Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	34.7
New Democratic Party of Ontario	17.1
Green Party of Ontario	5.1

## *METHODOLOGY:*

These data are based on telephone interviews conducted May 13 to May 17, 2005 with a random sample of 717 Ontarians aged 18 and over. A sample of this size provides a margin of error of +/- 3.7 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 such as regions).

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