

FROM ORANGE CRUSH TO RED CRUSHED: NEW ONTARIO VOTE SPLITTING FAVOURS CONSERVATIVES

EKOS SEAT PROJECTION

From time to time, EKOS offers seat projections based on its opinion polling. The projections are based on national, regional, and, in some cases, sub-regional polling projected onto the results of the last election. They do not pretend to predict individual ridings.

[OTTAWA – April 29, 2011] In an interesting development, as the Conservative Party's overall margin over the NDP has shrunk to a mere five points, the newfound parity of the NDP and Liberal Party in Ontario appears to have produced significant benefits in terms of seat returns. So while the Conservatives have lost ground to the NDP and have remained flat in Ontario, the new tie between Liberals and NDP in Ontario is causing vote splitting that has elevated the Conservative Party's prospects. While they have remained under 40 points in Ontario, they would now be ticketed to receive the lion's share of Ontario seats with less than two-fifths of its votes. With 61 of Ontario's 106 seats, the Conservatives are now projected to win 146 seats. This means that they would basically reproduce their current number of MPs although their caucus would be a dramatically different Ontario-based government. The vote splitting also would reduce the joint total of NDP and Liberal seats (109 and 42, respectively) to 151, which is shy of the 155 needed to have a majority.

At these numbers, the prospects of deposing the CPC would be much lower. In fact, with 146 seats, the Conservatives may well be in the range of a secure minority and even though they are down significantly from their position in the polls last election, they are only 9 seats shy of majority. In one final piece of irony, the Liberal collapse may mean that a diminished Conservative performance may yield their elusive majority. The final weekend, particularly in Ontario, will determine what happens but it is conceivable that the Conservatives could back into a majority with just slightly more than one-third of the overall votes. It is hard to imagine what impact this would have on the Canadian public's view of its first past the post system.

Today, EKOS is releasing two sets of seat projections. The first table contains seat projections that are based only on respondents who say they are absolutely certain to vote. The second table contains our standard forecasts, based on the responses from all decided voters.

Seat projection: April 26-28, 2011

Base: Only those who say they are absolutely certain to vote.

						Other	Total
CANADA	146	42	109	0	10	1	308
Atlantic Canada	12	12	8	0	0	0	32
Quebec	3	2	59	0	10	1	75
Ontario	61	22	23	0	0	0	106
Manitoba	9	1	4	0	0	0	14
Saskatchewan	12	1	1	0	0	0	14
Alberta	26	0	2	0	0	0	28
British Columbia	22	3	11	0	0	0	36
Yukon/NWT/Nunavut	1	1	1	0	0	0	3

Seat projection: April 26-28, 2011

Base: All decided voters

						Other	Total
CANADA	143	43	106	0	15	1	308
Atlantic Canada	11	12	9	0	0	0	32
Quebec	3	3	53	0	15	1	75
Ontario	62	22	22	0	0	0	106
Manitoba	7	3	4	0	0	0	14
Saskatchewan	13	0	1	0	0	0	14
Alberta	26	0	2	0	0	0	28
British Columbia	21	2	13	0	0	0	36
Yukon/NWT/Nunavut	0	1	2	0	0	0	3