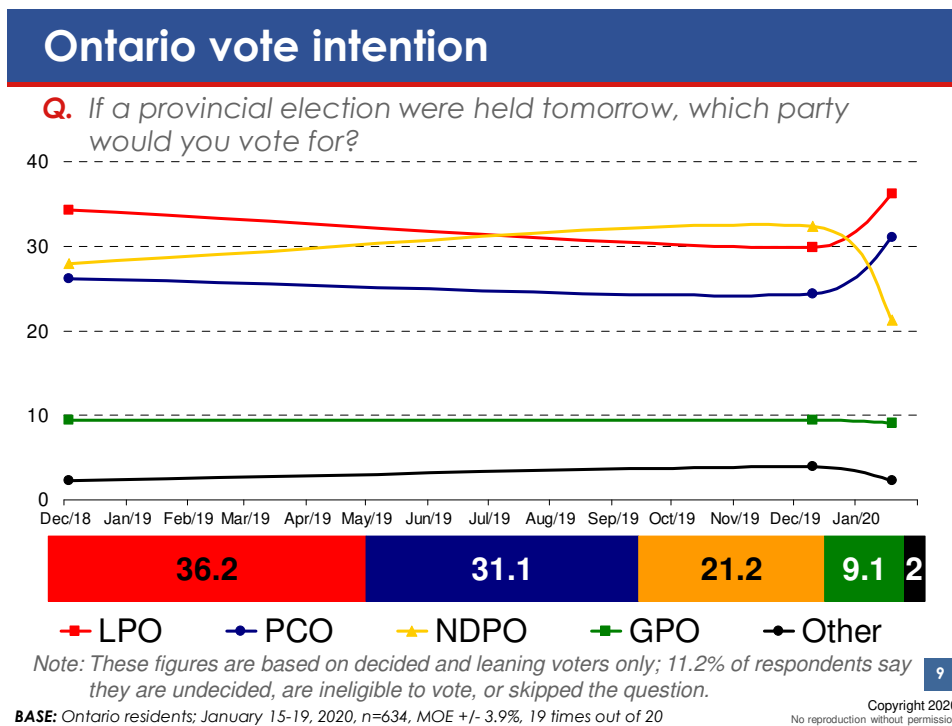


ONTARIANS SIDE WITH TEACHER UNIONS:

EVEN WITH NO PERMANENT LEADER, ONTARIO LIBERALS LEAD PCs

[Ottawa – January 23, 2020] The leaderless (or, more precisely, the ‘official leader’-less) Ontario Liberal Party has now opened up a significant lead over the Doug Ford-led Progressive Conservative Party. The Liberals and the PCs are both up from December, while the Official Opposition NDP has been declining. The Green Party is holding steady at a respectable nine per cent but, as we have seen in the past, much of this does not translate into votes on Election Day.



As in the federal numbers¹, the largest divide is across education, which is interesting given the public response to Doug Ford’s educational policies and the current teachers’ strike. At nearly 45 points, the Liberals win decisively with the university-educated. In contrast, the PCs, at 48 per cent, do exceptionally well with Ontario’s high school-educated cohort. Education, both as a policy and as a critical demographic divide, is emerging as one of the biggest fault lines in Canadian politics.

When we break down provincial vote intention by federal vote intention, we see that the Ontario PCs are pretty well the federal Conservatives in Ontario. Given the last election, what is going on in Ontario is relevant not only to Doug Ford’s PCs, but also to whoever succeeds Andrew Scheer federally.

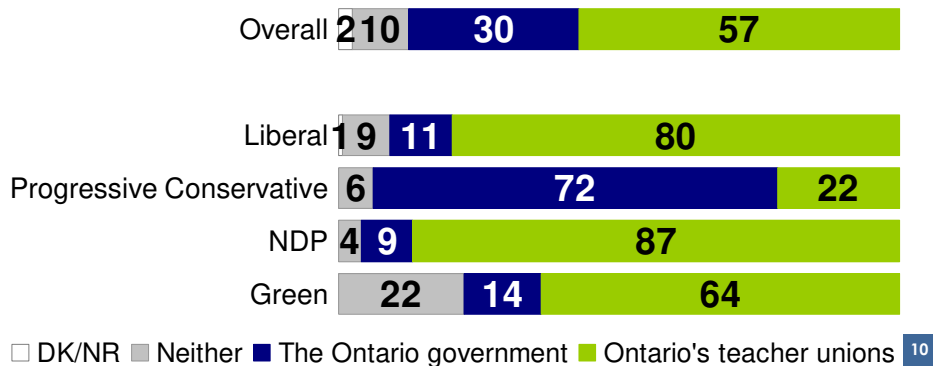
¹ EKOS Research Associates, “Political Landscape Frozen”, December 12, 2019. Available online at: <http://bit.ly/30LBvMb>

Ontarians side with teacher unions

We asked Ontarians about their views on the ongoing labour dispute between the Ontario government and the province's teacher unions. By a margin of nearly two-to-one (57 per cent versus 30 per cent), the public are siding with the unions, not the Ontario government. Notably, a significant 22 per cent of Progressive Conservative voters are not supporting their party's position. This would normally not be that troubling for the incumbent, but they party is down nine points from the last election and is now trailing the Liberals; losing even a handful of supporters at this juncture could cost them.

Views on Ontario labour dispute

Q. *As you may know, there is an ongoing labour dispute between the Ontario government and the province's teacher unions over issues such as wages and the province's plan to increase class sizes and introduce mandatory e-learning. Based on what you know, would you say you side mainly with the Ontario government or mainly with Ontario's teacher unions?*



BASE: Ontario residents; January 15-19, 2020, n=634, MOE +/- 3.9%, 19 times out of 20

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All in all, the Ford Government was already in some difficulty with Ontario voters. This current dispute with the teacher unions is the last thing they need at this point and, depending on the outcome, it could end up crippling their prospects in 2022.

Detailed Results:

Ontario Vote Intention (decided voters/leaning voters only)								
<i>Q. If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for? [IF UNDECIDED] Even if you do not have a firm idea, are you leaning towards a party? [IF YES] As it stands, towards which party are you leaning?</i>								
	Liberal Party of Ontario	Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	New Democratic Party of Ontario	Green Party of Ontario	Other	Sample Size		Margin of Error (+/-)
						Weighted	Un-weighted	
OVERALL	36.2%	31.1%	21.2%	9.1%	2.3%	575	554	4.2
GENDER								
Male	36.2%	34.6%	16.7%	9.4%	3.2%	290	281	5.9
Female	36.4%	28.1%	26.3%	7.8%	1.3%	272	261	6.1
AGE								
<35	26.1%	30.6%	31.2%	8.2%	3.9%	146	53	13.5
35-49	42.7%	26.2%	20.7%	9.4%	1.0%	146	97	10.0
50-64	37.3%	34.2%	15.8%	10.7%	2.0%	155	184	7.2
65+	38.3%	33.8%	17.5%	8.2%	2.2%	123	217	6.7
EDUCATION								
High school or less	26.3%	48.2%	13.6%	8.7%	3.1%	108	112	9.3
College or CEGEP	25.9%	31.1%	29.9%	9.1%	4.0%	153	154	7.9
University or higher	44.8%	25.6%	19.9%	8.6%	1.1%	310	286	5.8
SOCIAL CLASS								
Poor	28.0%	32.3%	13.6%	11.3%	14.8%	42	42	15.1
Working class	28.9%	31.1%	25.6%	12.2%	2.2%	171	148	8.1
Middle class	41.3%	30.6%	20.4%	6.7%	0.9%	320	316	5.5
Upper class	40.0%	38.3%	16.3%	5.4%	0.0%	38	44	14.8
VOTE INTENTION								
Liberal	71.0%	5.7%	19.6%	3.7%	0.0%	244	234	6.4
Conservative	6.5%	84.7%	3.8%	3.7%	1.2%	172	177	7.4
NDP	17.7%	7.8%	70.7%	1.2%	2.5%	73	63	12.4
Green	12.7%	6.1%	21.5%	58.8%	1.0%	55	50	13.9
People's Party	0.0%	40.8%	0.0%	15.4%	43.7%	16	10	31.0

Views on Ontario Labour Dispute

Q. As you may know, there is an ongoing labour dispute between the Ontario government and the province's teacher unions over issues such as wages and the province's plan to increase class sizes and introduce mandatory e-learning. Based on what you know, would you say you side mainly with the Ontario government or mainly with Ontario's teacher unions?

	The Ontario government	Ontario's teacher unions	Neither	Skip	Sample Size		Margin of Error (+/-)
					Weighted	Un-weighted	
OVERALL	30.3%	57.2%	10.2%	2.4%	657	634	3.9
GENDER							
Male	38.1%	51.8%	9.7%	0.5%	315	308	5.6
Female	23.8%	65.2%	11.0%	0.0%	311	295	5.7
AGE							
<35	28.4%	56.0%	15.5%	0.0%	164	59	12.8
35-49	25.2%	66.2%	7.7%	0.9%	157	104	9.6
50-64	37.7%	53.9%	8.4%	0.0%	179	212	6.7
65+	31.2%	59.2%	9.7%	0.0%	136	238	6.4
EDUCATION							
High school or less	35.5%	50.9%	12.7%	0.8%	121	126	8.7
College or CEGEP	32.4%	55.1%	12.5%	0.0%	180	181	7.3
University or higher	28.5%	62.8%	8.3%	0.4%	336	309	5.6
VOTE INTENTION							
LPO	11.0%	79.8%	8.5%	0.7%	208	208	6.8
PCO	72.1%	21.7%	6.2%	0.0%	179	180	7.3
NDPO	9.2%	86.7%	4.0%	0.0%	122	102	9.7
GPO	13.8%	63.8%	22.4%	0.0%	53	52	13.6
Other	32.4%	52.4%	15.2%	0.0%	13	12	28.3

Methodology:

This survey was conducted using High Definition Interactive Voice Response (HD-IVR™) technology, which allows respondents to enter their preferences by punching the keypad on their phone, rather than telling them to an operator. In an effort to reduce the coverage bias of landline only RDD, we created a dual landline/cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research. As a result, we are able to reach those with a landline and cell phone, as well as cell phone only households and landline only households.

The field dates for this survey are January 15-19, 2020. In total, a random sample of 634 Ontario residents aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/- 3.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as region, sex, age, education). All the data have been statistically weighted by **age, gender, and region** to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Ontario according to Census data.