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ONTARIO PC TIED WITH GOVERNING LIBERALS

ONTARIO ELECTION UNLIKELY IN NEAR FUTURE

[Ottawa – April 16, 2013] – Back in February, our poll showed that Kathleen Wynne had been successful in breathing new life into the Ontario Liberal Party. The party had elected a new leader and, as is typical in the wake of a widely-covered and highly-energized leadership race, party supporters across the province were ecstatic. The party jumped from the losing end of a three-way tie to enjoying a small but statistically significant lead over the two opposition parties.

Two months later, the Ontario Liberal Party is holding steady. The Progressive Conservative Party (PC), however, has improved its fortunes during this period and now stands in a statistical tie with the governing Liberals. The four-point lead enjoyed by the Liberals has shifted to a one-point deficit. Furthermore, the PC does comparatively better with returning voters (specifically, those who voted in the 2011 federal election) who have a much higher propensity to actually show up and vote on Election Day.

The NDP, meanwhile, appears to have shed the support it picked up in the wake of Dalton McGuinty's resignation and the party has returned to its third place standing. If there is good news to be found for the Liberal Party in this poll, it is that these numbers may stave off the NDP's appetite for another election, at least for the time being. Indeed, if the Liberal government is open to co-operation with the NDP, they will likely succeed in extending their shelf-life.

Lastly, it is worth taking a look at the underlying demographic patterns behind these numbers. We find that the PC does impressively well among men, while NDP support is skewed somewhat towards women. The Ontario Liberals hold a commanding lead among the university educated, while the PC leads handily among high school and college graduates.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ontario provincial vote intention:**
 - ▣ **31.7% Progressive Conservative**
 - ▣ **30.8% Liberal**
 - ▣ **25.5% NDP**
 - ▣ **9.7% Green Party**
 - ▣ **2.4% Other**
- **"Likely voter" model:**
 - ▣ **38.2% Progressive Conservative**
 - ▣ **27.2% NDP**
 - ▣ **26.9% Liberal**
 - ▣ **5.7% Green Party**
 - ▣ **2.1% Other**

Please note that the methodology is provided at the end of this document.

Top Line Results:

Ontario vote intention

Q. If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

Provincial results



Provincial Results – “Likely voter” model



2011 Ontario Election Results



Note: The data on provincial vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only.

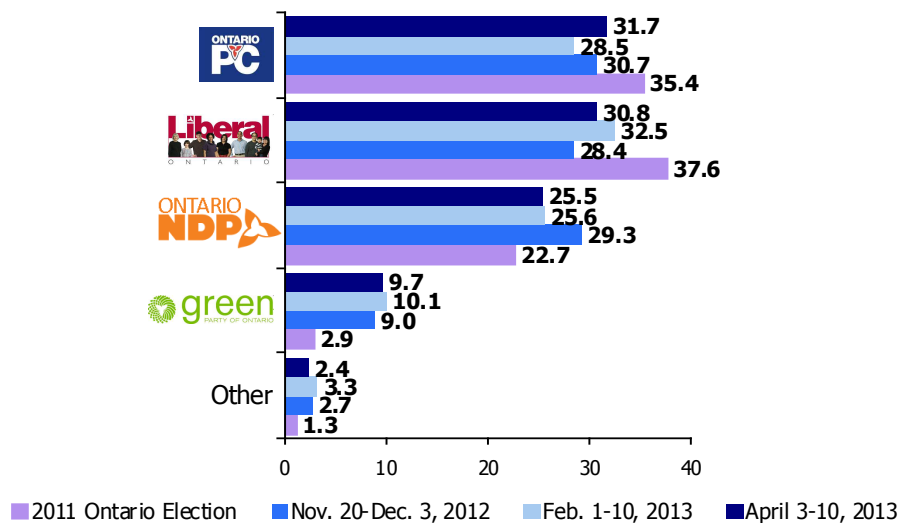
*Our “likely voters” involves dropping those respondents who did not vote in the 2011 Federal Election and then weighting the remaining cases by how they voted.

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BASE: Ontario residents; April 3-10, 2013 (n=1,084)

Tracking Ontario provincial vote intention

Q. If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?







Note: The data on provincial vote intention are based on decided and leaning voters only.

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BASE: Ontario residents; most recent data point April 3-10, 2013 (n=1,084)

Detailed Tables:

Provincial Vote Intention: Ontario							
<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>							
					Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
OVERALL	31.7%	30.8%	25.5%	9.7%	2.4%	913	3.2
REGION							
Toronto/Core GTA	27.7%	37.9%	27.2%	5.1%	2.1%	193	7.1
Suburban GTA	34.7%	28.7%	24.0%	11.1%	1.6%	227	6.5
Southwest Ontario	33.9%	27.7%	24.5%	9.6%	4.4%	173	7.5
Ottawa and Eastern Ontario	36.6%	31.4%	23.4%	6.6%	2.1%	183	7.2
Northeast and Central Ontario	19.6%	27.2%	33.6%	17.8%	1.8%	114	9.2
Northwest Ontario	34.5%	28.5%	17.6%	15.6%	3.9%	23	20.4
GENDER							
Male	35.4%	29.9%	22.9%	8.5%	3.4%	466	4.5
Female	27.8%	31.6%	28.6%	11.0%	0.9%	435	4.7
AGE							
<25	20.4%	30.5%	18.4%	28.7%	2.0%	49	14.0
25-44	30.6%	28.5%	30.8%	8.3%	1.9%	183	7.2
45-64	33.0%	30.2%	27.5%	6.8%	2.6%	384	5.0
65+	38.5%	34.8%	19.6%	4.6%	2.5%	280	5.9
EDUCATION							
High school or less	33.6%	28.1%	23.0%	12.5%	2.8%	239	6.3
College or CEGEP	37.2%	23.0%	29.6%	9.1%	1.1%	275	5.9
University or higher	26.9%	37.6%	24.4%	8.3%	2.8%	388	5.0
COUNTRY OF BIRTH							
Canada	32.9%	28.2%	26.1%	10.5%	2.3%	694	3.7
Other	28.1%	39.3%	23.6%	6.9%	2.1%	213	6.7
FEDERAL VOTE INTENTION							
Liberal Party	9.4%	68.9%	14.8%	6.0%	0.9%	295	5.7
Conservative Party	80.2%	10.8%	7.1%	1.4%	0.5%	293	5.7
NDP	8.8%	13.2%	73.0%	2.5%	2.5%	172	7.5
Green Party	4.7%	15.9%	12.8%	66.6%	0.0%	70	11.7
Other	21.5%	0.0%	13.9%	22.4%	42.1%	18	23.1

Methodology:

This study was conducted using Interactive Voice Response (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. This methodology is not to be confused with the increasing proliferation of non-probability opt-in online panels which have recently been incorrectly reported in major national media with inappropriate margin of error estimates.

The field dates for this survey are April 3-10, 2013. In total, a random sample of 1,084 Ontario residents aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-3.0 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 sex, age, education and region). All the data have been statistically weighted to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.