

**Despite Leadership Contest Tumult,
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Toronto – As the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario gets down to choosing a new leader on Saturday, March 10, 2018, a new poll conducted by **DART** Insight for NewsTalk 1010 suggests that despite the tumultuous month of leadership campaigning, Ontarians still prefer the PC's to govern the province versus all others.

The results were gathered during the meltdown of former PC leader Patrick Brown's attempt to regain his post and suggest that even in the midst of the campaign cacophony, when given a choice as to who should govern Ontario, voters still preferred the Ontario PC's (44%) to do so versus the Ontario New Democratic Party (24%), the Ontario Liberal Party (19%) or another party of their choice ("Other" 13%). Ontario voters go to the polls on June 7, 2018.

These preferences are against a backdrop where eight in 10 (81%) Ontarians believe it's time for another Party to take over and run the Province compared to just two in 10 (19%) who say the Liberal government under Premier Kathleen Wynne has done a good job and deserves to be re-elected.

The Online scientific poll was conducted between February 19 – 27, 2018, among almost 1000 Ontario adults (962 aged 18+), was weighted to the latest general population census and is considered accurate within +/- 3.6% using a Bayesian Credibility Interval measurement. Note that totals may be +/- 100% due to rounding.

Eight In 10 (81%) Ontarians Believe it's Time for Another Party to Take Over and Run the Province...

Those most likely to believe that it's time for another party to take over and run the province (81%) are demographically those earning \$50,000-\$100,000 household income per year (85%) followed by those who are middle aged (84% aged 35 – 54), women (83%), those with College/Technical School education (83%), those with high earnings (83% \$100,000 +), men (79%), those with University education (78%), and those who are younger aged (78% aged 18 – 34).

Those most likely to believe that it's time for another provincial party to take over and run the province (81%) come from Northern Ontario (86%) followed by Central Ontario (83%), Southwestern Ontario (82%), the Greater Toronto Area outside of Toronto proper (81%) and the city of Toronto (78%).

This is in Stark Contrast to Just Two In 10 (19%) Who Believe the Liberal Government Under Premier Kathleen Wynne Has Done a Good Job and Deserves to be Re-elected...

Those most likely to believe that the Liberal government deserves to be re-elected (19%) are demographically most likely to be lower income (24% less than \$50,000 household income per year), younger (22% aged 18 – 34), University educated (22%), and men (21%).

This is followed by older (20% aged 55+) Ontarians, women (17%), those with College/Technical School education (17%), higher income (17% \$100,000 + household income per year), middle aged (16% aged 35 – 54), middle income (15% \$50,000 – \$100,000 household income per year) and those with less than high school education (15%).

Regionally, those most likely to believe that the Wynne government deserves to be re-elected (19%), come from the city of Toronto (22%), followed by Eastern Ontario (21%), the Greater Toronto Area outside of Toronto proper (19%), Southwestern Ontario (18%), Central Ontario (17%) and Northern Ontario (14%).

Notably, for the Toronto results, a NEWSTALK 1010 poll in September 2017 showed 75% wanting a change in government versus 25% who preferred the current government being re-elected. *Today that difference is 78% wanting change versus 22% opting for a re-election of the government.*

Of the 81% Who Believe it's Time for Another Party to Take Over and Run the Province, a Majority (54%) Prefer the Ontario Progressive Conservatives...

Respondents indicating that it is *time for another provincial party to take over and run the province* (81%) were then asked to specify which provincial party they would prefer to replace the Kathleen Wynne Liberals. To this, **the majority (54%) preferred the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario followed by the new Democratic Party of Ontario (30%) or another party altogether ("Other" 16%).**

Those most likely to prefer the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario (54%) demographically are the highest income Ontarians (64% \$100,000 + annual household

income per year), followed by older (60% age 55+) Ontarians, men (59%), those who are lower educated (56% with less than high school), those who are middle aged (54% aged 35 – 54), middle and higher educated (53%), women (49%), middle income (49% \$50,000 – \$100,000 annual household income), those earning less than \$50,000 annual household income (46%) and younger Ontarians (46% aged 18 – 34). **Regionally**, they are most likely to come from the greater Toronto area outside of Toronto proper (65%), followed by those in Central Ontario (63%), Eastern Ontario (54%), Southwestern Ontario (50%), and the city of Toronto (46%).

Those most likely to prefer the New Democratic Party of Ontario (30%) demographically are most likely to be middle income (36% \$50,000 – \$100,000 annual household income), young (34% aged 18 – 34), women (34%), lower income (32% less than \$50,000 annual household income), followed by those who are middle aged (31% aged 35 – 54), those with University education (31%) and College/Technical School education (30%), men (26%), those who are older (26% aged 55+) and those who are the highest income earners (25% \$100,000 + annual household income). **Regionally**, they are most likely to come from Northern Ontario (46%) followed by those from the city of Toronto (40%), central/southwest and Eastern Ontario aged 30% and the greater Toronto area outside of Toronto proper (20%).

Those most likely to prefer another party (“Other”) to replace the Kathleen Wynne Liberals (16%) demographically are lower income (22% less than \$50,000 annual household income), young (20% aged 18 – 34), followed by women (17%), those with less than high school education (16%), College/Technical School education (16%), middle aged (15% age 35 – 54), University educated (53%), men (15%), middle income (15% \$50,000 – \$100,000 annual household income), older (13% age 55+) and earning the most (11% \$100,000 + annual household income). Regionally, they are most likely to be found in southwestern Ontario

(20%) followed by those in Eastern Ontario (16%), the greater Toronto area outside of Toronto proper (15%), the city of Toronto (14%) and Central Ontario (7%).

Calculating the Government Preference...

If we identify those who believe the Kathleen Wynne Liberal government deserves to be re-elected (19%) and contrast them with those who believe it's time for another provincial party to take over and run the province (81%), and then cross-tabulate that group by their preference of which political party they believe should govern the province (PC's 54%/NDP 30%/Another Party ("Other") 16%), we find the following for the various parties *across the province*:

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario **44%**

New Democratic Party **24%**

Ontario Liberal Party **19%**

Other **13%**

The following are the *regional results* using the same formula:

Toronto ("416")

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario **36%**

New Democratic Party **31%**

Ontario Liberal Party **22%**

Other **11%**

Greater Toronto Area ("905")

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario **53%**
New Democratic Party **16%**
Ontario Liberal Party **19%**
Other **12%**

Central Ontario

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario **52%**
New Democratic Party **25%**
Ontario Liberal Party **17%**
Other **6%**

Southwestern Ontario

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario **41%**
New Democratic Party **25%**
Ontario Liberal Party **18%**
Other **16%**

Eastern Ontario

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario **43%**
New Democratic Party **24%**
Ontario Liberal Party **21%**
Other **13%**

Northern Ontario

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario **27%**

New Democratic Party **40%**

Ontario Liberal Party **14%**

Other **20%**

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Methodology

*These are some of the findings of a **DART** Insight poll conducted February 19-27, 2018 on behalf of NEWSTALK 1010 Toronto. **DART** Insight constructed the questionnaire and analysis. A sample of 962 adults (18+) was surveyed across the province of Ontario using an Online scientific panel hosted by Maru/Matchbox. Weighting was employed to balance the demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflected that of the adult population of Ontario according to the most recent Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of this **DART** Insight online poll results is measured using a Bayesian Credibility Interval. In this case, the results are considered accurate to within +/- 3.6 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Ontario adults been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage and measurement.*



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The findings for these and other polling results, including detailed tables (weighted/unweighted), questions used and analysis, are provided freely at <http://www.dartincom.ca/polls/>

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