

**Three-Quarters (75%) of Ontarians Support
Ontario Campaign for More Federal Funding & Services**

**Moreover, 77% Advocate More Aggressive Action
until Feds Accept Demands for More Money**

**But, Ontarians remain Generally Supportive of Equalization,
as 65% Agree that the Feds should be Allowed to give
“Some of Our Tax dollars to the Provinces with Weaker
Economies” Because of Ontario’s Strong Economy**

**Neither Martin (30%) nor McGuinty (29%) Hold Advantage
on Credibility, as 27% Feel Neither is Believable on The Issue**

From March 8 to 13, 2005, Leger Marketing – the Canadian representative of the Gallup International Association – conducted telephone interviews among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,000 Ontarians. The margin of error for the total sample is $\pm 3.1\%$, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current regional, gender, and age Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the province.

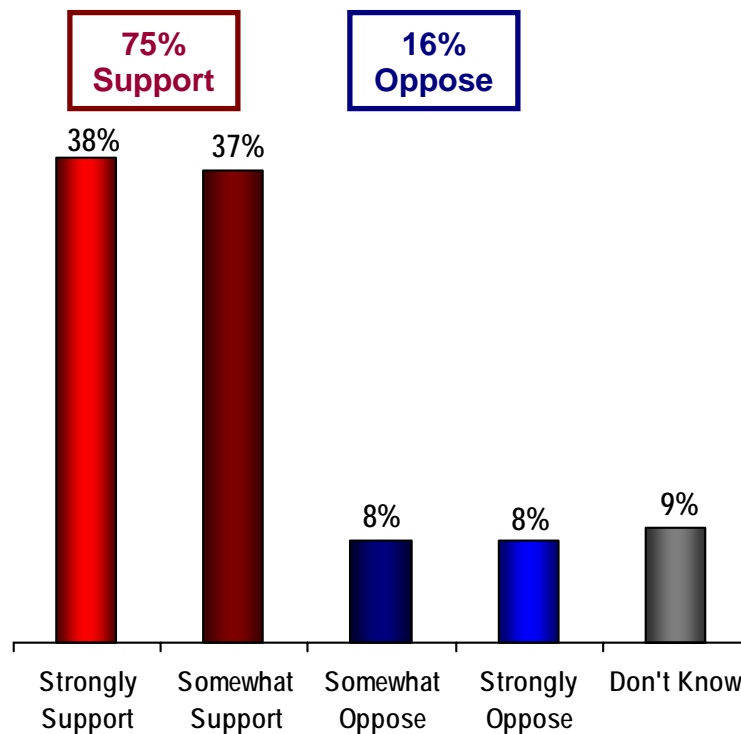
Founded in 1986, Leger Marketing is the largest independent full-service research firm in Canada, with more than 350 employees spread over its offices in Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Quebec City, New York City, and Shanghai. Leger conducts quantitative and qualitative research on behalf of an extensive array of public and private sector clients on a local, national, and global scale. Leger is the Canadian representative of the Gallup International Association, and is the polling Agency of Record for Sun Media, Marketing Magazine, and the Canadian Press news service.

THREE-QUARTERS OF ONTARIANS SUPPORT CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE “\$23 BILLION GAP”

- **Three-Quarters (75%) support the Ontario Government’s campaign to reduce the “\$23 Billion Gap” and obtain more money and services from the Federal Government.**
 - **38% are strongly supportive.**
- **Only 16% are opposed.**
 - **Just 8% are strongly opposed.**

Q1. For the past few weeks... Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and his Provincial Government have been publicly saying that Ontarians pay \$23 Billion more per year in taxes to the Government of Canada than it gives back to the Province in services and transfer payments. Because of this, the Provincial Government is demanding that Prime Minister Paul Martin and his Federal Government give more of this \$23 Billion back to Ontario, instead of to the other provinces.

Thinking about this, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the Ontario Provincial Government in their efforts to reduce this \$23 Billion Gap and get more money and services from the federal government? (N=1,000)

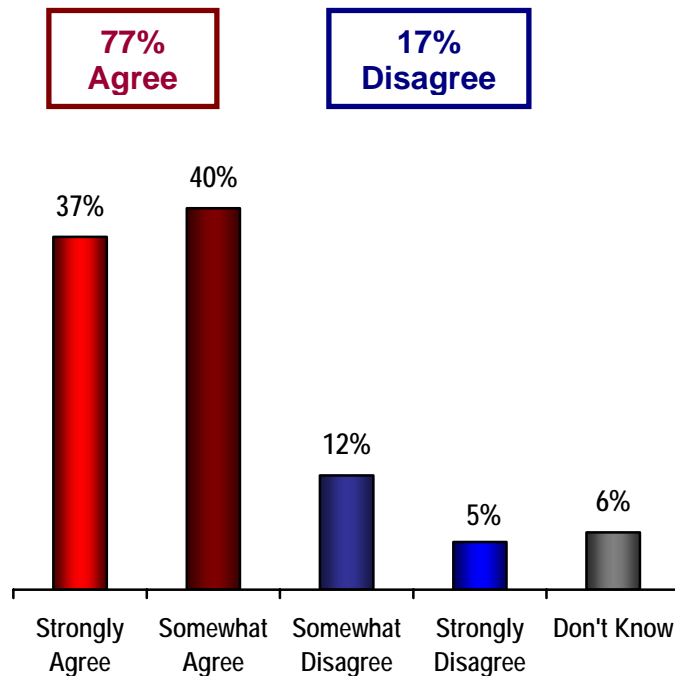


MOREOVER, 77% ADVOCATE MORE AGGRESSIVE ACTION

- Moreover, 77% agree with the following statement: *“The Ontario Government should take more aggressive action on this issue until the Federal Government agrees to their demands for more money.”*
 - 37% strongly agree.
- Only 17% disagree.
 - Just 5% strongly disagree.

Q3. Now, I am going to read to you a couple of statements about this issue. For each, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree. How about ... ? (N=1,000)

“The Ontario Government should take more aggressive action on this issue until the Federal Government agrees to their demands for more money.”

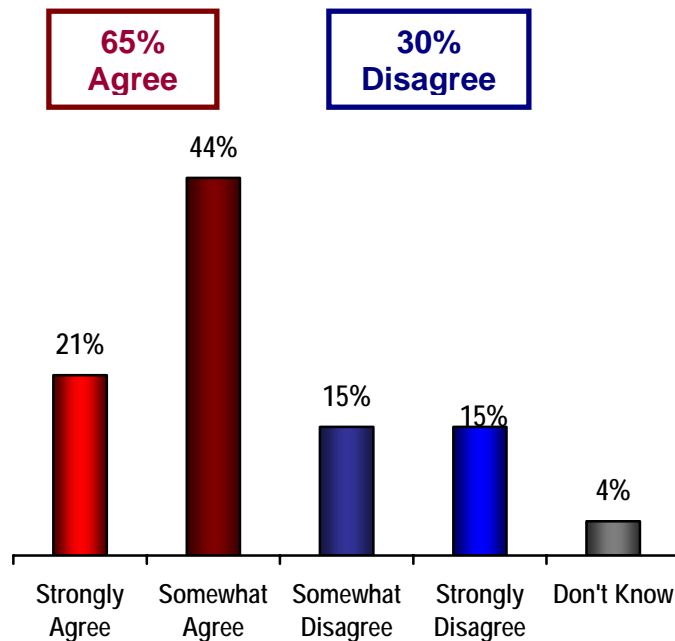


BUT, ONTARIANS REMAIN GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF EQUALIZATION

- A sign of Ontarians' support for the system of equalization in-general, 65% agree with the following statement: *"Because Ontario has a strong economy, we should let the Federal Government give some of our tax dollars to the provinces with weaker economies."*
 - This support is moderate, as 44% somewhat agree compared to 21% who strongly agree.
- Three-in-ten (30%)% disagree.
 - Fifteen percent (15%) strongly disagree.

Q3. Now, I am going to read to you a couple of statements about this issue. For each, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree. How about ... ? (N=1,000)

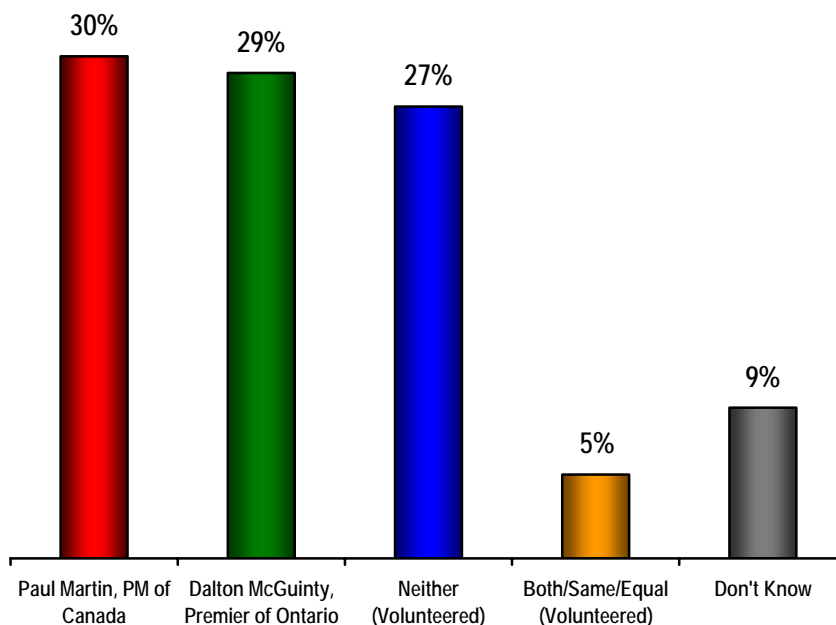
"Because Ontario has a strong economy, we should let the Federal Government give some of our tax dollars to the provinces with weaker economies."



NEITHER MARTIN (30%) NOR MCGUINTY (29%) HOLD ADVANTAGE ON CREDIBILITY

- When asked which of the two leaders is the most believable on this issue, an equal proportion of Ontarians chose Prime Minister Paul Martin (30%) as chose Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty (29%).
- Notably, a similar proportion (27%) voluntarily responded that neither leader is believable on the issue.
- A small proportion (5%) of Ontarians feel that both leaders are equally believable when talking about this issue.

Q2. And, which ONE do you feel is the MOST believable when they talk about this issue – Is it ... OR ... ? (N=1,000)



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Ontario Public Opinion Poll



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