

ONTARIO POLITICAL LANDSCAPE: PROVINCIAL VOTE INTENT & PREMIER PREFERENCE

**Ontario Grits (43%, +1) Increase Lead over Tories (31%; -3),
from 8 Points to 12 Points since May.
NDP (15%) Drops Two Points**

**McGuinty (24%) holds Edge in Statistical Tie With Tory (22%),
as Almost Four-in-Ten (39%) are either Unsure (26%)
of their Preference for Premier,
or Do Not Like the Current Choices (13%)**

From September 21 to 26, 2005, Leger Marketing – the Canadian representative of the Gallup International Association – conducted telephone interviews among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,010 adult 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.

The total Decided Voters sample (n=795) has an associated margin of error of $\pm 3.5\%$, 19 times out of 20. Across the regions, Decided Voters sub-samples are as follows: Toronto (n=206; $\pm 6.8\%$), 905 Belt (n=197; $\pm 6.9\%$), Hamilton-Niagara (n=110; $\pm 9.3\%$), Southwest (n=110; $\pm 9.3\%$), East (n=102; ± 9.7 and North (n=70; $\pm 11.1\%$). Discrepancies between totals due to rounding.

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.



Grits (43%) Increase Lead Over Tories (31%)

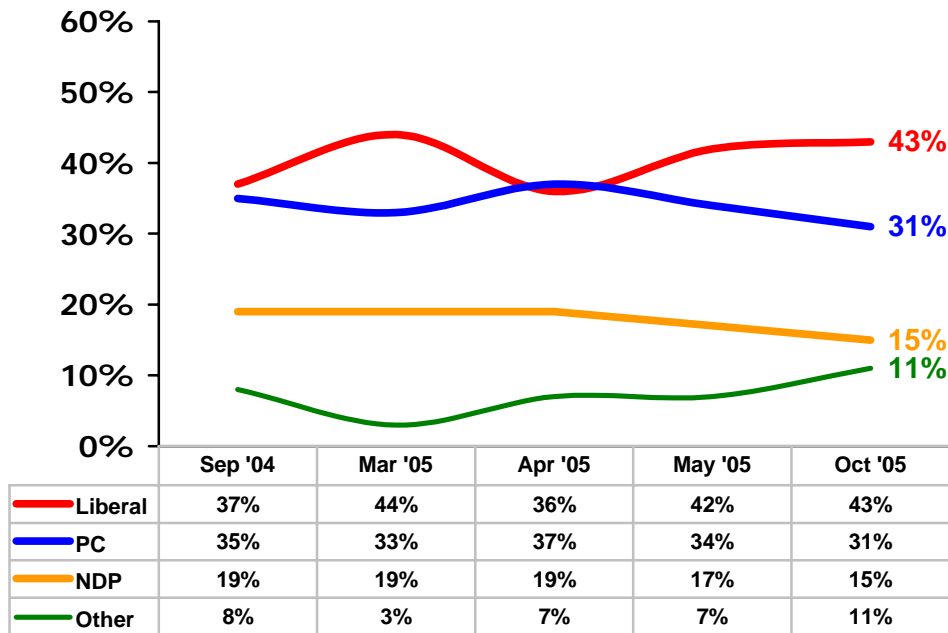
- The provincial Liberals now post a comfortable 12-point lead over Progressive Conservatives.
- Since April, the Tories (-6) and NDP (-4) experience steady losses.

Q1A. Thinking about how you feel right now, if a provincial election were held tomorrow, which of the following parties would you, yourself, be most likely to vote for?

Q1B. Well, which party would you say you are leaning towards?

Decided Voters (n=795 Decided Voters (Q1A) + Leanners (Q1B), comprising 79% of electorate. Undecided Voters = 15%. Abstain/Spoil Ballot = 4%. Refuse to Say=2%.

Provincial Voting Intentions in Ontario





Provincial Vote Intent Across Ontario’s Regions

- The Liberals lead in all regions except the 905 Belt (tie). They record strongest voter support in Toronto (49%), the Hamilton-Niagara region (46%) and the North (43%). In May 2005, the Liberals also recorded strong support in the 905 Belt. However, this has dropped from 50% to 39%.
- The PCs do not lead in any region, but are tied for the lead in the 905 Belt. PCs record strongest voter support in the 905 Belt (39%), the East (34%) and Southwest (34%). The PCs post a noticeable increase in the 905 area (+7), while experiencing drops in the East (-13) and the Southwest (-8).
- The NDP record strongest voter support in the North (25%), Toronto (20%) and the Hamilton-Niagara region (19%).

Provincial Vote Intentions in Ontario: Regional Results							
Region \ Party	ONTARIO	Toronto	905 Belt (Suburbs)	Hamilton-Niagara	South West	East	North
Liberals	43%	49%	39%	46%	44%	38%	43%
PCs	31%	25%	39%	24%	33%	34%	21%
NDP	15%	20%	11%	19%	12%	14%	25%
Some Other Party	11%	6%	12%	12%	12%	14%	11%



McGuinty Holds Edge in Statistical Tie with Tory

- One-quarter (24%) of Ontarians feel Dalton McGuinty would make the best Premier for Ontario, only two points higher than John Tory (22%). McGuinty’s support is highest in the East (32%) and the North (28%).
- John Tory leads McGuinty in the GTA, with 27% of Torontonians and 26% of 905-ers believing he would make the best Premier.
- Howard Hampton runs strongest in the North (20%) and Southwest (18%).

Premier Preference: Regional Results							
<i>And thinking of the three main party leaders, which ONE do you think would make the BEST Premier of Ontario? Is it ... [RANDOMIZE] ?</i>							
Region \ Leader	ONTARIO	Toronto	905 Belt (Suburbs)	Hamilton-Niagara	SouthWest	East	North
Dalton McGuinty	24%	22%	21%	22%	22%	32%	28%
John Tory	22%	27%	26%	18%	20%	21%	13%
Howard Hampton	15%	15%	10%	17%	18%	12%	20%
None	13%	8%	18%	16%	13%	10%	12%
Don't Know/Refused	26%	28%	25%	27%	27%	25%	27%

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For more information, please contact our spokesperson:

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