

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alberta Progressive Conservative party support remains strong

New Alberta-wide poll finds Tories well ahead of Wildrose Alliance Party; Premier Redford's approval ratings at 38%

Toronto, December 15th, 2011 – In a recent survey conducted by Forum Research among Alberta residents 18 years or older, it was found that if a provincial election were held today, most Albertans would back the Progressive Conservative party (38%), followed by the Wildrose Alliance Party (23%), the New Democratic Party (13%), the Liberals (12%), and Alberta party (6%). Just less than one in 10 indicated they would support another party (9%). Support for Wildrose was found to be significantly higher among older Albertans (16% 18-34, 20% 35-44, 26% 45-54, 34% 55-64, and 31% 65+) while support for the Conservative party was found to be significantly higher among female voters (42%, compared to 33% among males). On a regional level, support for Wildrose was strongest amongst voters residing in Alberta South, and Calgary (28%, 27%, respectively), while support for the Liberal and New Democratic parties was strongest in Edmonton (22%, 21%, respectively).

Majority approve of increased penalties for driving near the legal blood alcohol limit as introduced in Bill 26

The recent poll also touched on the issue of Bill 26, and it was found that most Albertans approve of the measure (54%; 39% disapprove, 7% have yet to make up their mind). It was found that males were significantly more likely to disapprove of Bill 26 when compared to females (44%; compared to 33%).

Most Albertans favour negotiating alone when National Health Accords are renewed in 2014

When it comes to the renewal of the National Health Accords in 2014, it was found that most Albertans favour the provincial government negotiating a deal with the federal government alone to get the best deal for Alberta, as opposed to negotiating along with other provinces (54% want the best deal for Alberta; 37% want a national deal to be negotiated; 9% have yet to make up their mind). It was found that older Albertans were significantly more likely to support the idea of negotiating a national deal (30% 18-34, 31% 35-44, 43% 45-54, 43% 55-64, and 49% 65+), while younger residents preferred the idea of negotiating the best deal for Alberta. It was also

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- It was found that if a provincial election were held today, most Albertans would back the Progressive Conservative party (38%), followed by the Wildrose Alliance Party (23%), the New Democratic Party (13%), the Liberals (12%), and Alberta party (6%).
- Most Albertans approve of Bill 26 (54%; 39% disapprove, 7% have yet to make up their mind).
- It was also found that most Albertans favour the provincial government negotiating a deal with the federal government alone to get the best deal for Alberta, as opposed to negotiating along with other provinces (54% want the best deal for Alberta; 37% want a national deal to be negotiated; 9% have yet to make up their mind).

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found that males were more likely to support a national deal when compared to female voters (44%, compared to 30%).

Strong majority prefer refining crude oil locally instead of piping to international markets

The recent poll found that just more than seven of 10 Albertans would prefer local refining rather than supporting pipelines to carry crude oil abroad (71%; compared to 19%. 7% believe Alberta should do neither, and 3% have yet to form an opinion). Older Albertans were more likely to support building pipelines to carry crude oil abroad (15% 18-34, 16% 35-44, 20% 45-54, 21% 55-64, and 28% 65+)

Fewer than 7 of 10 approve of fixed spring election dates every 4 years

When asked if Albertans would support fixed election dates every four years in the spring as a result of legislation that was recently passed in the province, it was found that just fewer than seven of 10 approve of the idea (68%). Older Albertans were more likely to approve of the legislation when compared to younger Albertans (60% 18-34, 68% 35-44, 74% 45-54, 76% 55-64, and 79% 65+)

Fewer than 4 of 10 Albertans approve of the job Alison Redford is doing as Premier

Alberta Premier Alison Redford is facing public opposition to her performance, with fewer than four of 10 Albertans approving of the job she is doing as premier (38%; 29% disapprove, 33% do not have an opinion). Approval was found to be highest among female voters (43%; compared to 32% of males).

Less than 1 in 4 approve of the job Raj Sherman is doing as Leader of the Opposition

Raj Sherman is facing even stiffer opposition than Redford with less than one in four approving of his job performance as Leader of the Opposition (24%; 35% disapprove, 41% do not have an opinion). It was found that males were significantly more likely to disapprove of the job being done by Sherman (41%; compared to 29% of females). Approval was significantly higher for Sherman among residents of Edmonton (35%; compared to 25% in Calgary, 21% in Alberta South, and 17% in Alberta North).

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- The recent poll found that just more than seven of 10 Albertans would prefer local refining rather than supporting pipelines to carry crude oil abroad (71%; compared to 19%.
- When asked if Albertans would support fixed election dates every four years in the spring as a result of legislation that was recently passed in the province, it was found that just fewer than seven of 10 approve of the idea (68%).
- Alberta Premier Alison Redford is facing public opposition to her performance, with fewer than four of 10 Albertans approving of the job she is doing as premier (38%; 29% disapprove, 33% do not have an opinion).

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- It was found that slightly more than one of three Albertans approve of the job Danielle Smith is doing as leader of the Wildrose Alliance Party (35%).
- “This poll demonstrates just how strong the Progressive Conservative party’s grip on Alberta remains,” said Forum Research president Dr. Lorne Bozinoff. “That said, Premier Redford’s approval ratings are relatively low, indicating an area of potential vulnerability for the party. “Interestingly, Albertans’ desire for the best deal possible for their province as the premiers and federal government head into new Health Accord negotiations, could set the stage for a fragmented agreement when a deal is finally reached,” Bozinoff added. “This could further differentiate the health-care experience for Canadians across regions of the country.”

Third of Albertans approve of Danielle Smith’s performance as leader of the Wildrose Alliance Party

It was found that slightly more than one of three Albertans approve of the job Danielle Smith is doing as leader of the Wildrose Alliance Party (35%), with support being significantly higher among males (41%; compared to 30% of females). Residents of Edmonton were significantly more likely to disapprove of the job Danielle Smith is doing when compared to residents of all other regions in the province (37%; compared to 28% Calgary, 21% Alberta North, and 21% Alberta South).

“This poll demonstrates just how strong the Progressive Conservative party’s grip on Alberta remains,” said Forum Research president Dr. Lorne Bozinoff. “That said, Premier Redford’s approval ratings are relatively low, indicating an area of potential vulnerability for the party.

“Interestingly, Albertans’ desire for the best deal possible for their province as the premiers and federal government head into new Health Accord negotiations, could set the stage for a fragmented agreement when a deal is finally reached,” Bozinoff added. “This could further differentiate the health-care experience for Canadians across regions of the country.”

Methodology

The poll was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1,072 randomly selected residents of Alberta aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted on December 14th, 2011. Questions were asked of voters in the order reported as a standalone survey, not part of an omnibus.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 2.9%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp.

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country’s leading survey research firms.

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Provincial Election Voting Preference

'If a provincial election were held today, which party would you be most likely to vote for? + Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time?'

[Decided / Leaning]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1015	129	134	244	255	253	514	501
Conservative	38	29	44	47	35	40	33	42
Wildrose Party	23	16	20	26	34	31	28	18
New Democratic	13	18	13	9	8	13	13	13
Liberal	12	11	14	10	13	11	11	13
Alberta Party	6	8	5	2	7	3	5	6
Other Parties	9	18	3	5	4	2	10	9

Region

%	Total	Calgary	Edmonton	Alberta North	Alberta South
sample	1015	205	311	249	250
Conservative	38	35	33	42	41
Wildrose Party	23	27	14	21	28
New Democratic	13	13	21	10	9
Liberal	12	11	22	5	10
Alberta Party	6	5	2	8	6
Other Parties	9	9	7	14	5

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Bill 26 Approval

'Do you approve or disapprove of Bill 26, which increases penalties for driving near the legal blood alcohol limit?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1072	137	143	258	271	263	531	541
Approve	54	56	55	48	51	59	52	56
Disapprove	39	38	36	46	43	30	44	33
Don't know	7	6	10	5	6	11	3	11

Region

%	Total	Calgary	Edmonton	Alberta North	Alberta South
sample	1072	221	331	259	261
Approve	54	53	52	55	58
Disapprove	39	40	39	39	36
Don't know	7	7	9	6	6

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Health Accord Renewal Opinion

'When the national health accords are renewed in 2014, should the provincial government negotiate with the federal government along with the other provinces to ensure a national deal, or should the provincial government negotiate with the federal government alone to get the best deal for Alberta?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1072	137	143	258	271	263	531	541
Negotiate a national deal	37	30	31	43	43	49	44	30
Negotiate the best deal for Alberta	54	58	60	50	52	45	50	59
Don't know	9	12	9	7	5	5	7	11

Region

%	Total	Calgary	Edmonton	Alberta North	Alberta South
sample	1072	221	331	259	261
Negotiate a national deal	37	40	44	34	29
Negotiate the best deal for Alberta	54	53	44	56	64
Don't know	9	7	12	11	7

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Pipeline vs. Refining

'Do you think the provincial government should support pipelines to carry Alberta crude oil to Texas and Asia to be refined there, or should the provincial government support building refining capacity here in Alberta, or should the provincial government do neither?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1072	137	143	258	271	263	531	541
Support pipelines to carry crude abroad	19	15	16	20	21	28	19	18
Build refineries here	71	72	73	73	70	62	72	69
Do neither	7	12	5	4	5	7	7	8
Don't know	3	1	6	4	5	3	2	5

Region

%	Total	Calgary	Edmonton	Alberta North	Alberta South
sample	1072	221	331	259	261
Support pipelines to carry crude abroad	19	22	18	16	17
Build refineries here	71	69	71	72	73
Do neither	7	6	8	9	5
Don't know	3	2	3	3	5

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Fixed Provincial Election Date Approval

'The next provincial election will be held between March and May of 2012, because of legislation just passed creating fixed election dates in Alberta. Do you approve or disapprove of the idea of having fixed election dates every four years in the Spring?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1072	137	143	258	271	263	531	541
Approve of fixed election dates	68	60	68	74	76	79	67	70
Disapprove of fixed election dates	18	21	17	17	14	17	18	19
Don't know	14	20	15	9	10	4	16	11

Region

%	Total	Calgary	Edmonton	Alberta North	Alberta South
sample	1072	221	331	259	261
Approve of fixed election dates	68	73	63	63	76
Disapprove of fixed election dates	18	16	23	23	8
Don't know	14	11	14	14	16

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Alison Redford Approval Rating as Premier

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Alison Redford is doing as premier?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1072	137	143	258	271	263	531	541
Approve	38	30	45	40	43	41	32	43
Disapprove	29	34	22	29	30	26	40	19
Don't know	33	36	32	31	27	34	28	38

Region

%	Total	Calgary	Edmonton	Alberta North	Alberta South
sample	1072	221	331	259	261
Approve	38	36	43	36	37
Disapprove	29	31	26	29	30
Don't know	33	33	31	35	33

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Raj Sherman Approval Rating as Leader of the Opposition

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Raj Sherman is doing as Leader of the Opposition?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1072	137	143	258	271	263	531	541
Approve	24	20	20	28	32	29	26	22
Disapprove	35	38	31	32	35	35	41	29
Don't know	41	42	48	40	33	36	33	48

Region

%	Total	Calgary	Edmonton	Alberta North	Alberta South
sample	1072	221	331	259	261
Approve	24	25	35	17	21
Disapprove	35	31	32	40	38
Don't know	41	44	34	42	41

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Danielle Smith Approval Rating as Leader of the Wildrose Party

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Danielle Smith is doing as Leader of the Wildrose Party?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1072	137	143	258	271	263	531	541
Approve	35	27	37	40	46	38	41	30
Disapprove	27	27	23	25	27	32	30	24
Don't know	38	45	40	35	27	31	30	47

Region

%	Total	Calgary	Edmonton	Alberta North	Alberta South
sample	1072	221	331	259	261
Approve	35	37	26	36	43
Disapprove	27	28	37	21	21
Don't know	38	36	38	43	36

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