

# Leger

IN COLLABORATION WITH



## POSTMEDIA-LEGER POLL

Report

**PROVINCIAL POLITICS IN  
ONTARIO - *March***

*THE RACE TO JUNE*

**Leger**

DATE 2022-04-01 PROJECT NUMBER 00 000-000



# METHODOLOGY

## Methodology



Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.



From March 25 to 28, 2022



1001 Ontario residents, 18 years of age or older, who are eligible to vote in Ontario, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.



Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to age and gender within Ontario regions, as well as by education and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.



For comparison purposes, a probability sample of 1001 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

## Methodology

### Notes on reading this report

The numbers presented have been rounded up. However, the numbers before rounding were used to calculate the sums presented and might therefore not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.

In this report, data in bold **red** characters indicate a significantly lower proportion than that of other respondents. Conversely, data in bold **green** characters indicate a significantly higher proportion than that of other respondents.

If you have questions about the data presented in this report, please contact Andrew Enns, Executive Vice-President at the following e-mail address: [aenns@leger360.com](mailto:aenns@leger360.com)

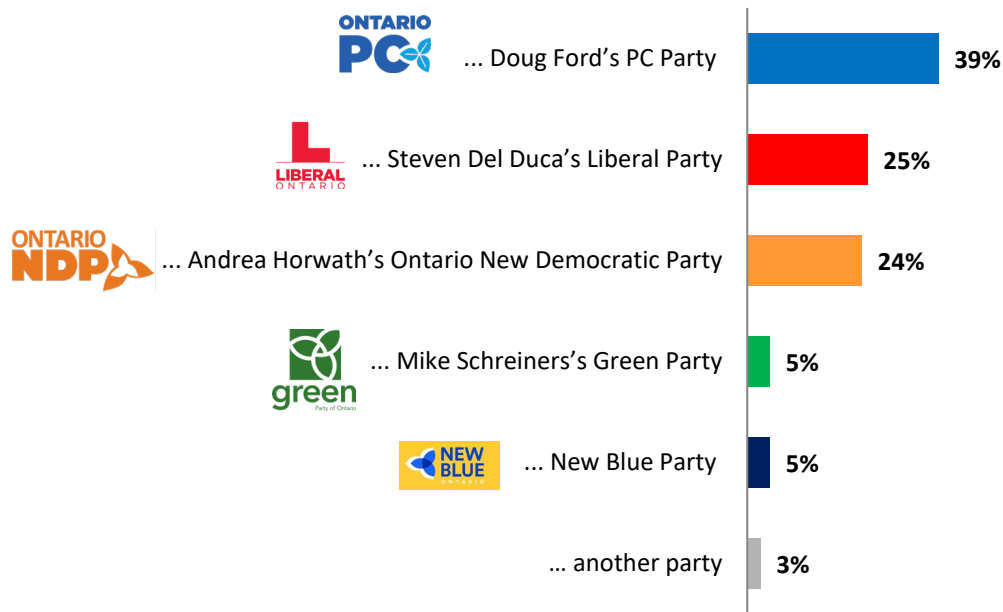
## Summary

- The provincial ballot story remains steady from last month. Ford's PC's continue to lead with the Liberals and the NDP in a tight contest for second place. Both Liberal and NDP support declined slightly from last month, with some shift to the Greens.
- Leader impressions are also stable month-over-month. Liberal leader, Stephen Del Duca's awareness levels are improving, albeit slowly.
- The issue matrix leading up to the election is dominated by voters feeling cost of living pressures (including the cost of housing) and wanting to see progress on economic and health system recovery post-pandemic.
- The recently announced Confidence and Supply agreement between the Federal Liberals and NDP in Ottawa is not likely to influence voters in the provincial election. However, it may be something that is somewhat more motivating for PC supporters to support Doug Ford in the election.

# ONTARIO BALLOT & LEADER IMPRESSIONS

# VOTING INTENTIONS - PROVINCIAL ELECTION

Q1/2. If a provincial election were held today which political party would you be most likely to vote? If undecided: Even if you have not yet made up your mind, for which of the following political parties would you be most likely to vote? Base: Decided voters (n=816)



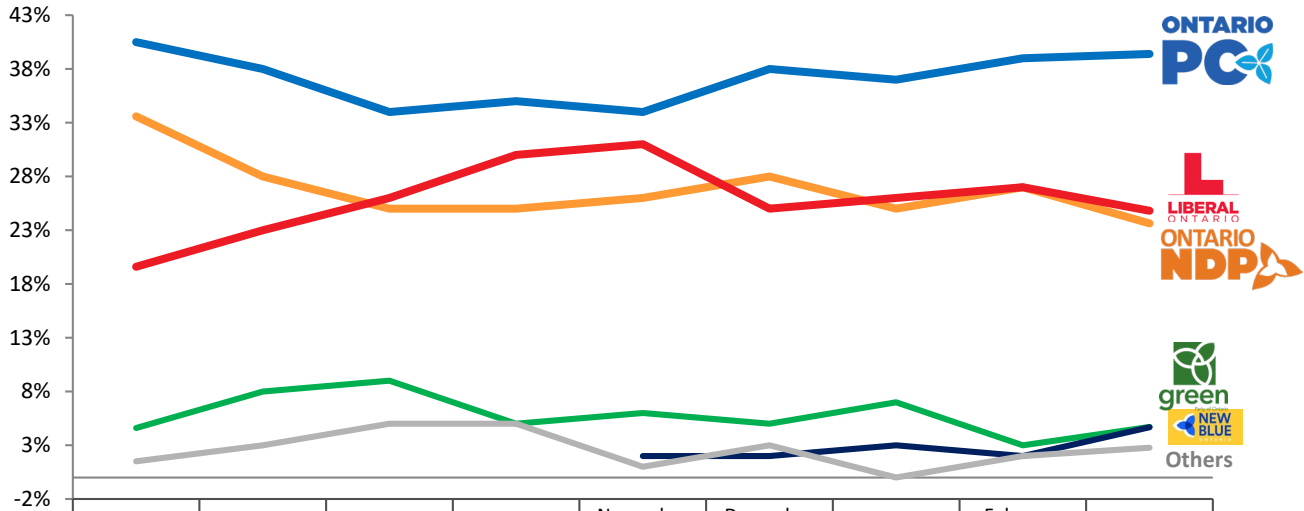


# PROVINCIAL VOTING INTENTIONS IN ONTARIO (2/2)

Q1/Q2. If a PROVINCIAL election were held today, for which political party would you be most likely to vote for?  
*In the event a respondent was undecided, the following was asked: Is there a Party you are leaning toward supporting, even just a little?* Base: All respondents/Decided Voters

	TOTAL Eligible voters	TOTAL Decided voters	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Metro 416	GTA 905	Hamilton/ Niagara	South	East	North
n =	1001	816	408	408	212	285	319	203	168	90	197	112	45
... Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	32%	39%	41%	38%	25%	37%	51%	32%	47%	45%	40%	36%	40%
... Andrea Horwath's Ontario New Democratic Party	19%	24%	22%	25%	38%	22%	15%	24%	21%	26%	29%	18%	21%
... Steven Del Duca's Ontario Liberal Party	20%	25%	23%	27%	19%	28%	26%	34%	22%	17%	17%	36%	18%
... Mike Schreiner's Green Party of Ontario	4%	5%	5%	5%	8%	4%	3%	4%	3%	6%	6%	4%	6%
... New Blue Party of Ontario	4%	5%	6%	3%	7%	5%	3%	2%	4%	3%	7%	4%	7%
... someone else	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%	2%	2%	8%
Don't know	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I will not vote	6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

# EVOLUTION OF VOTING INTENTIONS IN ONTARIO



	2018 Election	March 2021	May 2021	October 2021	November 2021	December 2021	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022
PC	41%	38%	34%	35%	34%	38%	37%	39%	39%
NDP	34%	28%	25%	25%	26%	28%	25%	27%	24%
Liberal	20%	23%	26%	30%	31%	25%	26%	27%	25%
Green	5%	8%	9%	5%	6%	5%	7%	3%	5%
New Blue					2%	2%	3%	2%	5%
Others	2%	3%	5%	5%	1%	3%	0%	2%	3%

**Q1/Q2. If a PROVINCIAL election were held today, for which political party would you be most likely to vote for?**  
*In the event a respondent was undecided, the following was asked: Is there a Party you are leaning toward supporting, even just a little?*

Base: Decided voters

## FIRMNESS OF CHOICE

**Q3. Is your vote final or are you likely to change your mind?**





Base: Decided Voters (n=816)

Based on people who intend to vote **PC**

Based on people who intend to vote **NDP**

Based on people who intend to vote **Liberal**

Based on people who intend to vote **Green**

	Total				
Vote is final	42%	46%	45%	38%	31%
May change my mind	53%	49%	51%	58%	63%
I don't know	4%	3%	5%	4%	4%

58% of those who intend to vote New Blue said they may change their mind

# AWARENESS & IMPRESSION OF PARTY LEADERS

Q5. Below are names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please indicate whether you have a favourable or unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name or know enough about the person, just indicate that. Base: All respondents (n=1000)



Overall Awareness:

**93%**

**82%**

**67%**

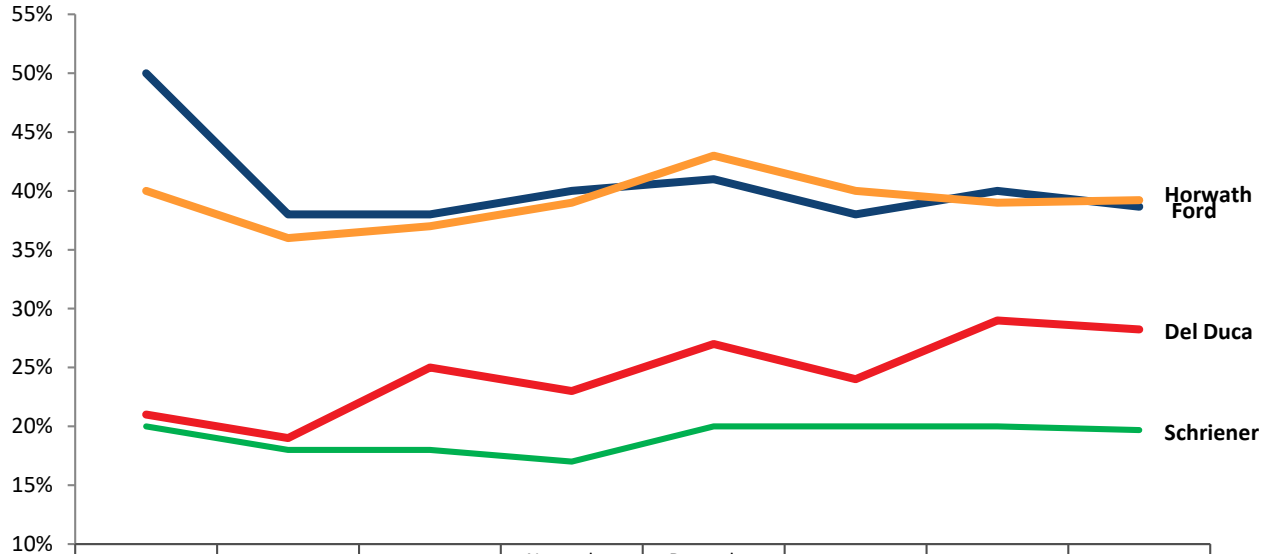
**52%**

	Ford	Horwath	Del Duca	Schreiner
n =	1001	1001	1001	1001
<b>TOTAL FAVOURABLE</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>20%</b>
Very Favourable	12%	10%	5%	4%
Somewhat Favourable	27%	29%	23%	16%
<b>TOTAL UNFAVOURABLE</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Somewhat Unfavourable	22%	18%	19%	17%
Very Unfavourable	32%	25%	20%	15%
Unaware/Don't know enough about the person	3%	13%	28%	44%

# TOTAL FAVOURABLE IMPRESSIONS – DETAILED RESULTS

	March 2022	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
n =	1001	481	520	275	344	381
<b>TOTAL FAV. FORD</b>	<b>39%</b>	38%	39%	24%	38%	50%
<b>TOTAL FAV. HORWATH</b>	<b>39%</b>	38%	40%	41%	42%	35%
<b>TOTAL FAV. DEL DUCA</b>	<b>28%</b>	31%	26%	24%	30%	29%
<b>TOTAL FAV. SCHRIENER</b>	<b>20%</b>	25%	15%	22%	20%	17%

# EVOLUTION OF LEADER FAVOURABILITIES



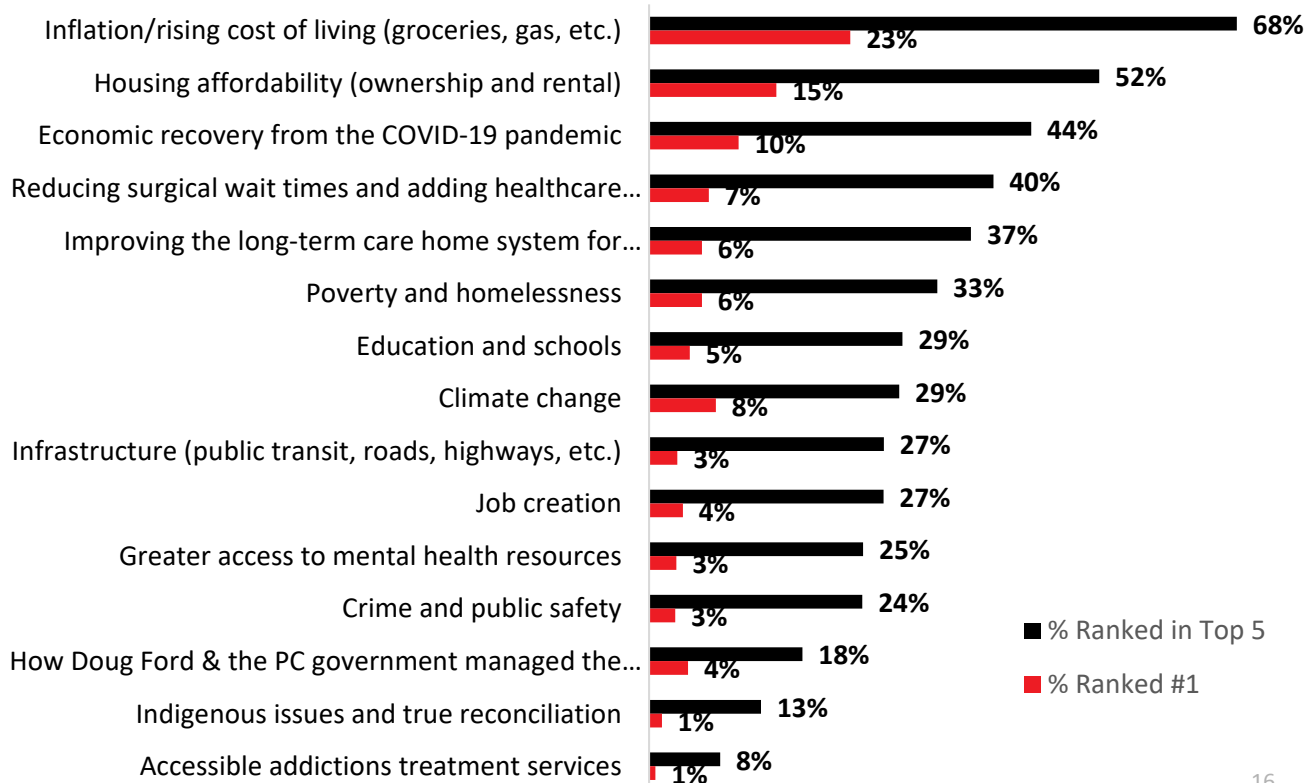
	March 2021	May 2021	October 2021	November 2021	December 2021	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022
<b>Ford</b>	50%	38%	38%	40%	41%	38%	40%	39%
<b>Horwath</b>	40%	36%	37%	39%	43%	40%	39%	39%
<b>Del Duca</b>	21%	19%	25%	23%	27%	24%	29%	28%
<b>Schriener</b>	20%	18%	18%	17%	20%	20%	20%	20%

Issues

# Top Issues Ontarians Want Party Leaders Focused On

Q6. Below is a list of issues that impact the people and province of Ontario. Please rank the top 5 issues you believe are most important for Party leaders to focus on and address during the upcoming Ontario provincial election. Base:

All respondents (n=1001)





## Top Issues Ontarians Want Party Leaders Focused On – *By Party Support*

**Q6. Below is a list of issues that impact the people and province of Ontario. Please rank the top 5 issues you believe are most important for Party leaders to focus on and address during the upcoming Ontario provincial election. Base:**

All respondents (n=1001)

	% Ranked Top 5	PC	NDP	Liberal	*Green	*New Blue
n =	1001	321	193	202	38	38
Inflation/rising cost of living (groceries, gas, etc.)	68%	72%	67%	69%	52%	83%
Housing affordability (ownership and rental)	52%	52%	59%	51%	43%	48%
Economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic	44%	53%	33%	43%	38%	54%
Reducing surgical wait times and adding healthcare resources	40%	48%	31%	43%	31%	31%
Improving the long-term care home system for seniors	37%	40%	29%	37%	39%	28%
Poverty and homelessness	33%	28%	43%	35%	32%	24%
Education and schools	29%	27%	33%	36%	23%	16%
Climate change	29%	18%	42%	39%	50%	2%
Infrastructure (public transit, roads, highways, etc.)	27%	33%	29%	21%	26%	33%
Job creation	27%	30%	21%	24%	23%	35%
Greater access to mental health resources	25%	19%	29%	29%	42%	18%
Crime and public safety	24%	31%	19%	16%	17%	30%
How Doug Ford & the PC government managed the COVID-19 pandemic	18%	15%	22%	16%	12%	37%
Indigenous issues and true reconciliation	13%	7%	20%	18%	22%	6%
Accessible addictions treatment services	8%	8%	7%	10%	7%	4%

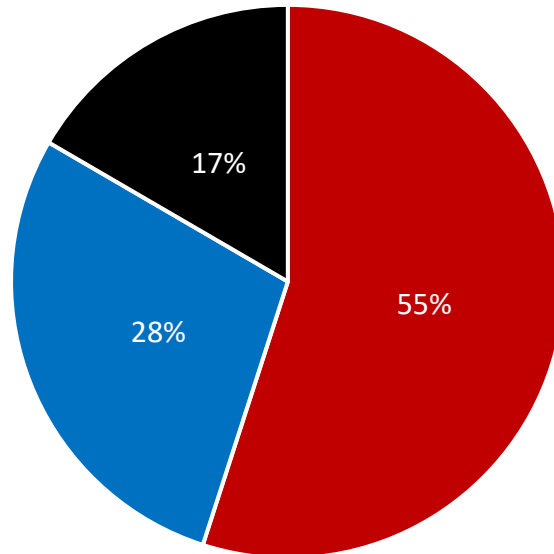
\* Caution small N size

## Top Issues Ontarians Want Party Leaders Focused On – By Region

	% Ranked Top 5	Metro 416	GTA 905	Hamilton/ Niagara	South	East	North
n =	1001	203	168	90	197	112	45
Inflation/rising cost of living (groceries, gas, etc.)	68%	63%	69%	59%	70%	75%	70%
Housing affordability (ownership and rental)	52%	53%	46%	65%	56%	45%	41%
Economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic	44%	41%	52%	36%	47%	37%	42%
Reducing surgical wait times and adding healthcare resources	40%	37%	38%	33%	44%	42%	42%
Improving the long-term care home system for seniors	37%	29%	35%	43%	35%	45%	53%
Poverty and homelessness	33%	35%	32%	41%	31%	27%	32%
Education and schools	29%	24%	33%	24%	32%	29%	31%
Climate change	29%	36%	18%	29%	29%	33%	25%
Infrastructure (public transit, roads, highways, etc.)	27%	31%	29%	17%	22%	30%	34%
Job creation	27%	28%	30%	26%	24%	30%	22%
Greater access to mental health resources	25%	23%	21%	30%	24%	30%	26%
Crime and public safety	24%	29%	29%	26%	18%	22%	19%
How Doug Ford & the PC government managed the COVID-19 pandemic	18%	23%	16%	13%	15%	19%	15%
Indigenous issues and true reconciliation	13%	10%	11%	18%	14%	12%	16%
Accessible addictions treatment services	8%	11%	4%	11%	8%	6%	12%

# Liberal-NDP Confidence-and-Supply Agreement: Impact on Provincial Vote

Q7. A few days ago, Justin Trudeau’s federal Liberal government and Jagmeet Singh’s federal NDP announced a formal agreement that will keep Trudeau & the Liberals securely in power until 2025. How might this federal Liberal-NDP pact in Ottawa influence your vote in June’s Ontario provincial election? Base: ‘Don’t knows’ removed (n=793)



21% of respondents said *don't know*

- The federal Liberal-NDP agreement in Ottawa will have no influence on my vote in the upcoming provincial election
- I'm more likely to vote for Doug Ford & the PCs provincially now
- I'm less likely to vote for Doug Ford & the PCs provincially now

# Liberal-NDP Confidence-and-Supply Agreement: Impact on Provincial Vote – *By Party Support*

Q7. A few days ago, Justin Trudeau’s federal Liberal government and Jagmeet Singh’s federal NDP announced a formal agreement that will keep Trudeau & the Liberals securely in power until 2025. How might this federal Liberal-NDP pact in Ottawa influence your vote in June’s Ontario provincial election? Base: ‘Don’t knows’ removed (n=793)

	TOTAL	PC	NDP	Liberal	*Green	*New Blue
n =	793	296	159	181	34	35
The federal Liberal-NDP agreement in Ottawa will have no influence on my vote in the upcoming provincial election	55%	35%	64%	74%	66%	57%
I'm more likely to vote for Doug Ford & the PCs provincially now	28%	60%	3%	4%	10%	33%
I'm less likely to vote for Doug Ford & the PCs provincially now	17%	5%	33%	22%	24%	10%

\* Caution small N size

# APPENDIX

## Detailed Methodology

### Sampling Frame

Participants were randomly selected from LEO's online panel.

Leger owns and manages an Internet panel that includes more than 400,000 Canadians coast to coast. An online panel consists of Web users profiled according to different demographic variables. The majority of Leger's panel members (60%) were randomly recruited over the phone in the past ten years, which makes this panel very similar to the current Canadian population on a number of demographic characteristics. Moreover, 35% of panellists were recruited through affiliate programs and 5% through partner campaigns and programs.

To be eligible, respondents were required to be 18 years of age or older and have the right to vote in Ontario.

## Detailed Methodology

### Weighted and Unweighted Sample

The table below presents the geographic distribution of respondents before weighting and after weighting.

Region	Unweighted	Weighted
Metro 416	270	239
GTA 905	180	225
Hamilton/ Niagara	110	105
Southern Ontario	246	242
Eastern Ontario	135	131
Northern Ontario	60	58

GENDER	Unweighted	Weighted
Male	547	481
Female	454	520

AGE	Unweighted	Weighted
Between 18 and 34	274	275
Between 35 and 55	384	344
55 or over	343	381

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# Leger

*We know Canadians*

