



Media Release

One of Two Ontario Provincial Voters Want Change PCs Still Strong on Law & Order, Taxes and Jobs

Ottawa, June 6, 2003 - A provincial survey of Ontarians released by polling firm SES Research and the Osprey Media Group indicates that although one of every two voters (52%) think that it is time for a change, a significant number of Ontarians still think the Eves-led government is on the right track on law and order, taxes and jobs.

When asked if the Eves-led government was on the right track and deserved re-election or if it was time for a change, 52% of Ontarians said it was time for change, 32% preferred to re-elect the PCs and 15% were unsure.

Law and order, taxes and creating jobs were the key Conservative strengths (right track 50%, 47% and 47% respectively). Conversely, the Eves-led PCs were vulnerable on healthcare, education and to a lesser extent the environment (wrong track 47%, 47% and 41% respectively).

“Clearly the winning strategy for the Eves-led PCs is a focus on traditional Conservative core strengths such as law and order, taxes and jobs,” noted Nikita Nanos, President of SES Research. “The pre-writ battle will be over how the ballot question is framed. If Ontarians cast their vote on fiscal and economic issues, the PCs will have the advantage. A ballot question is on health or education plays to the Liberals. The mood for change will be one of the key polling barometers as one moves toward the next provincial election in Ontario.”

Polling also indicates that Ontarians support the PC proposals to eliminate mandatory retirement (64%) and giving the provincial government more power on issues related to immigration (60%). One of every two Ontarians also supported the concept of allowing communities to reverse municipal amalgamation through local votes (50%).

SES’s Ontario Omnibus Survey is conducted every four months. It is based on a random telephone sample of 500 Ontarians, 18 years of age and older and was conducted on May 26th and May 27th, 2003. The margin of accuracy for the survey is 4.5 percentage points,



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plus or minus, 19 times out of 20. Validation of the demographic profile of respondents indicates that the poll is a fair representation of the Canadian voting populace.

Established in 1987, SES Canada Research Inc. is a full service marketing and public opinion research firm.

For a detailed review of the survey tables, please visit the SES Research website at <http://www.sesresearch.com> in the on-line polling library.

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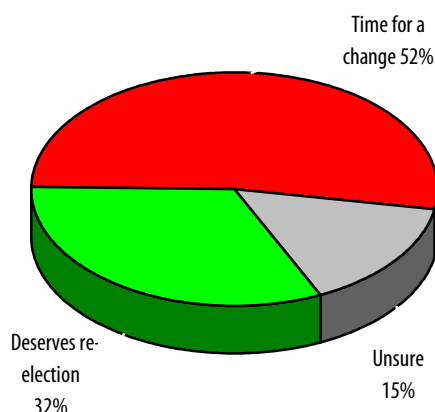
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Electoral Mood

Some people think that the Ontario PC government led by Ernie Eves is on the right track and deserves to be re-elected. Others think that it's time for a change. Which of these two opinions best reflects your views?

**COMMENTARY**

Polling shows that there is currently a major appetite for change provincially. The Ontario PCs are seen on the right track when on issues related to law and order, taxes in the economy and do not do as strongly on health, education and the environment. Support exists for eliminating mandatory retirement and getting more power on immigration. One of every two Ontario would support allowing local votes to revisit amalgamation.

THE METHODOLOGY

Between on May 26th and 27th, 2003, SES conducted a total of 500 telephone interviews across Ontario with eligible voters. Aggregate results of the survey are accurate to within 4.5 percentage points, plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Validation of the demographic profile of respondents indicates that the poll is a fair representation of the voters of Ontario.

Right or Wrong Track

Now, I'm going to read you a series of issues and for each I'd like you to tell me whether you think the Ontario PC government led by Premier Ernie Eves is on the right track or the wrong track.

Issue	Right Track	Unsure	Wrong Track
Taxes	47%	23%	30%
Healthcare	39%	14%	47%
Education	39%	14%	47%
Environment	32%	27%	41%
Creating jobs	47%	25%	28%
Law and order	50%	26%	24%

Issue Testing

For each of the following, tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

Issue	St/S Agree	Unsure	St/S Disagree
Eliminating mandatory retirement for seniors who want to keep working past 65.	64%	4%	32%
Giving the Province of Ontario more power on issues related to immigration like the Province of Quebec	60%	12%	38%
Allowing recently amalgamated municipalities to have local votes to reverse and undo the merger of municipal governments.	50%	17%	32%

ABOUT SES

Established in 1987, SES Canada Research Inc. is a full service public opinion research and management consulting firm.

In order to maximize turn-around time and increase efficiency, SES has a 110-line call centre complete with a predictive dialer. SES is regularly called upon by corporate, government and para-public clients in Canada and the United States to conduct research and provide strategic advice.

For more information on our full range of services please visit our website

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