

Riding-by-riding poll indicates Conservatives have huge lead here

A poll conducted for the *Toronto Star* by Forum Research indicates Ontario is headed for a minority government with the race in Wellington-Halton Hills potentially being a Progressive Conservative landslide.

The poll, the largest ever conducted for the *Star*, surveyed 40,750 people and showed the ruling Liberals and Progressive Conservatives in a dead heat with 35 per cent support each. The New Democratic Party was at 23 per cent while the Green Party was at 5 per cent.

Because of the large numbers of voters surveyed, Forum was also able to provide riding-to-riding results.

For Wellington-Halton Hills, the survey showed incumbent Conservative Ted Arnott with 46.3 per cent support—a nearly 16 per cent lead over Liberal Moya Johnson (30.4 per cent). The NDP's Dale Hamilton has 16.9 per cent while Raymond Dartsch of the Green Party trails with 5.3 per cent.

The margin of error in most cases is roughly 5 per cent, which means each result could be five per cent more or less than the numbers listed above. A sample size of roughly 400 respondents per riding was used.

The poll, which was paid for by Forum president Lorne Bozinoff as a public service, was conducted using interactive voice response technology. Forum Research contacted 40,750 Ontario residents, ages 18 or older, in all 107 Ontario ridings last Thursday and Friday.

Arnott won the 2007 election by almost 19 per cent (8,221 votes) over Liberal Marg Bentley.

The Forum poll showed at least 28 Ontario ridings were within the 5 per cent margin of error making seat projections difficult.

However, based on the poll's results, the Liberals and Conservatives would each get 47 seats with the NDP garnering 13.

A total of 54 seats are needed for form a majority government.



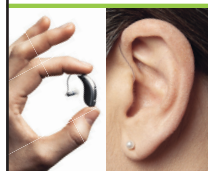
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