

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Liberals headed towards another majority, research institute finds**

WATERLOO – An analysis of new polls shows the Liberal Party of Ontario is headed towards a slight majority in the run up to tomorrow’s general election, according to The Laurier Institute for the Study of Public Opinion and Policy (LISPOP).

LISPOP analysis of recent polls projects a seat distribution of 54 seats for Dalton McGuinty’s Liberals, a loss of 17 since the 2007 results, but a majority just the same. This is a much improved showing for the Liberals during this election campaign. The party has trailed Tim Hudak’s Progressive Conservative Party for months and throughout most of the campaign.

Today’s projection is based on an aggregation of polls conducted by Nanos Research, Léger Marketing, Angus Reid and Ipsos Reid, conducted from Sept. 28 to Oct. 3, 2011, with a blended sample of about 6,000 individuals. The regional swing model also projects 32 seats for the PC party and 21 for Andrea Horwath’s New Democratic Party, more than double its 2007 results.

“Now that we are at the end of the Ontario election campaign, we see evidence from two reliable pollsters that public opinion is moving from the dead heat that has pertained throughout the month of September,” says Laurier Political Science Professor Barry Kay, an associate of LISPOP. “New polls from Nanos Research and Ipsos Reid indicate that the Liberal Party has moved into a clear and possibly decisive lead.”

Nanos Research currently shows a 4 per cent Liberal lead over the Conservatives while Ipsos Reid presents a 10 per cent Liberal margin. “Were it just one poll, there might be a temptation to suggest it was a rogue finding,” says Kay.

If voter momentum continues to favour the Liberals, Kay believes it is probably for the Liberals to win a majority of about 60 seats.

The seat projection is one of several features on LISPOP’s election tracker coverage of the 2011 campaign. Visitors to [lispop.ca](http://lispop.ca) can view a map of all Ontario constituencies, colour-coded to reflect the standing of each of the main parties and general level of competitiveness, as per LISPOP’s analysis of the latest surveys.

**About LISPOP:** The Laurier Institute for the Study of Public Opinion and Policy is a research centre at Wilfrid Laurier University which studies issues pertaining to the creation, use and representation of public opinion in the policy process. The institute serves as a catalyst to promote individual and collaborative research on these issues. In addition, the institute monitors the practices and claims of the public opinion and interest group industries, and serves as an educational resource to the university and the larger community on questions and issues pertaining to those claims and practices. Twitter account: @LaurierInst.