



## **“Who is the best choice for Ontario?” Survey**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

09 April 2018 – (4:00 pm ET, Toronto, ON): According to the **Who is the best choice for Ontario** Survey, the Progressive Conservatives would win a large majority government with their new leader Doug Ford at the helm if an election were held last week, a new Quick Connect Solutions (QCS) survey finds.

The **Progressive Conservative** party is the choice of **49.5%** of decided voters in the Survey taken from Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> through to Friday April 6<sup>th</sup>. The governing **Ontario Liberals** are the choice of **27.8%** of decided voters while **Ontario’s NDP** are in third place with **15.8%** support, and the **Green party of Ontario** is favored by **6.9%**.

The next Provincial election in Ontario on June 7<sup>th</sup> is anticipated to be a race to replace the Liberal Party of Ontario (LPO) with either the Ontario New Democratic Party (ONDP), or the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario (PCPO).

The recent PCPO leadership race which elected Doug Ford has provided an immense amount of free publicity and media oxygen. This has enhanced the PC Party’s electoral chances.

The ONDP’s traditional strong-base in large urban centres in general, and amongst union households specifically has largely been undercut by the LPO’s significant minimum wage hike to \$14.00/hour on January 1, 2018, as well as additional deficit spending announced by the Liberals in their Budget on March 28th.

The QCS survey also finds that Doug Ford is the choice of 46.9% among decided voters across Ontario, while Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne has the support of 27.9 %, and Andrea Horwath as NDP Leader has 17.2% support, and Mike Schreiner of the Greens is supported by 6.4%.

"We fielded this survey after the recent Liberal election style Throne Speech and the Liberal budget of March 28th, and immediately after the Easter long weekend".

"The PCs are way ahead amongst decided voters, and in solid position to form a majority government on June 7th", said **Alice Portelli, President and CEO of Quick Connect Solutions**, a leading market research firm who authored this Survey.

"This is in large measure due to the PCs' large lead in the city of Toronto at 48% to 34% to 13% over the Liberals and NDP, and a massive lead in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA including in the crucial '905 region' in the Golden Horseshoe around the city of Toronto) of 59% to 25% and 11% respectively for PC/Liberals/NDP, and in the rest of Ontario at 49% vs. 22% vs. 20% (PC/Liberals/NDP)."

"That the Doug Ford led PC party has **almost 60%** (58.8%) support in the 905 region around Toronto, and **almost 50%** (48.1%) in the city of Toronto, and **almost 50%** (49%) support in the rest of Ontario, is **strongly indicative** of a **landslide majority government** for the **Progressive Conservatives**".

"That the PC's find themselves at over 48%, fourteen percentage points ahead of the Liberals in the city Toronto (where Doug Ford was a high profile local Councillor from 2010 to 2014), which is a traditional Liberal stronghold where the Tories have been totally shut out in three successive general elections, and have only one seat currently won in a by-election held in September 2016, is astounding and would be a true once in a generation game-changer in Ontario's political landscape – not seen since the Mike Harris sweep of the province on June 6, 1995".

"With just under two months still to go before the vote, it's entirely possible for the Liberals to retake the lead provincially, especially in their previous 'fortress Toronto', and throughout pockets of the '905 region' that voted for the Trudeau federal Liberals in 2015. (For a local example we need only look to the two previous Ontario races where the Tim Hudak led PC's blew pre-Writ leads in both of the 2014 and 2011 elections)".

"But if the election were held last week, Doug Ford and the PC Party would win a resounding majority government and would erase almost 15 years of Liberal rule in Canada's most populous province of Ontario.", said **Alice Portelli- President and CEO at Quick Connect Solutions**".

The poll also shows that 29% of Ontarians consider healthcare the number one issue facing the province today, while 25% support Ford's statements to hold the line on spending, and 17% of respondents are concerned with escalating hydro rates.

This Survey polled 2,721 Ontarian residents aged 18 and over and asked at least seven questions between April 3rd and April 6th, 2018 inclusive. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 1.88% and is accurate 19 times out 20.

### **About Quick Connect Solutions**

Quick Connect Solutions (QCS) is a leading provider of market research and cloud based multi-platform client contact solutions since 2008. QCS supports businesses, contact centers, non-profits and government organizations communicate with their clients and contacts efficiently and effectively.

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### **Survey Methodology and End Notes:**

For surveys of all voting age adults, the population targets and weighting are determined by the 2016 Statistics Canada Census data. For a political survey, the 2016 Census data provides a starting point with screening question(s) utilized to determine likely voters.

Responses for Quick Connect Solutions (QCS) surveys are collected using an automated interactive voice response (IVR) polling methodology.

In general, the automated survey process is identical to that of traditional, live agent and/or operator-assisted surveys. However, automated IVR surveys use a single, digitally-recorded voice to conduct the survey while live agent surveys rely wholly on individuals in call centres and/or hybrid IVR via dynamic transfer to live agent technology.

For IVR surveys, the built-in objectivity and advantage of the automated technology ensures that every respondent hears the same question, from the same voice, and asked with the same voice inflection and pronunciation each time.

All QCS' survey questions are digitally recorded and fed into a software calling platform that determines question order, branching options, and other factors. Calls are placed to randomly selected landline and mobile numbers through a process that ensures appropriate geographic representation.

Typically, calls are placed from 9 am to 9 pm local time during weekdays. Saturday and Sunday calls are generally made from 11 am to 6 pm local time (if applicable). To reach those that have abandoned traditional landline telephones, QCS includes mobile subscribers that are randomly selected participants from a diverse sampling.

After the survey is completed, the raw data is processed through a weighting program to ensure that the sample reflects the overall population in terms of age, gender, residence, and other factors. The Survey was weighted using Canada Census weightings from the 2016 Statistics Canada – Ontario demographic results. This processing step is required because different segments of the population answer (or don't answer) the telephone in varying ways. For example, women tend to answer the phone more than men, older residents in general answer more often than younger people, and rural residents on average answer more frequently than urban dwellers.