

TORIES TAKE POST-ELECTION LEAD OVER THE NDP

*Six Months After Winning A Fourth Majority,
NDP Falls to Second Place Behind Leaderless PCs*

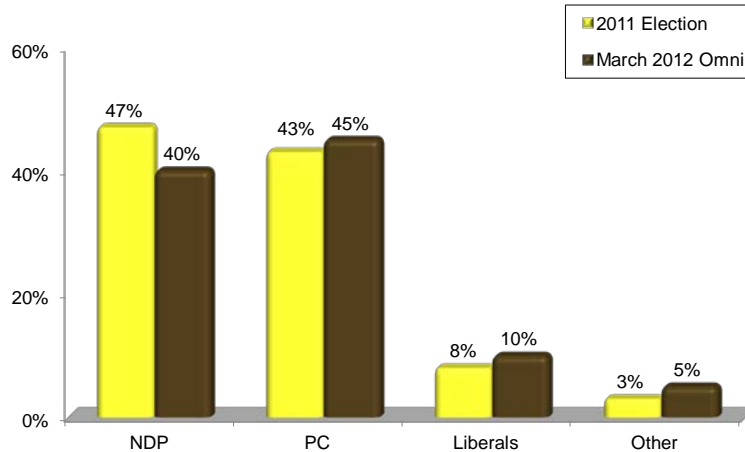
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Winnipeg – Even in the absence of a new leader (or very many candidates vying to replace the outgoing party boss) and without a chance of forming government for another three-and-a-half years, Manitoba's Progressive Conservative party has managed to leapfrog the governing New Democratic Party and become the top choice of decided Manitoba voters. This is according to a Probe Research telephone survey of 1,000 Manitoba adults conducted exclusively for the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

Six months after the NDP won a fourth majority government, the PCs have edged slightly higher in popular support, from 43 percent in the 2011 election to 45 percent today (+2%). Support for the NDP, meanwhile, has dropped significantly – from 47 percent when ballots were cast last October to just 40 percent in this current sounding (-7%). Support for the Liberal Party (+2%, from 8% to 10%) and other parties (5%, up from 3%) has remained essentially stable since last fall's provincial election. Overall, one-in-four voters (25%) are undecided or refuse to say which party they would support in a hypothetical election.

Provincial Party Support

"If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you be most likely to support?"
(n=1,000)



Base: Decided Voters

NDP Support Drops Outside of Winnipeg

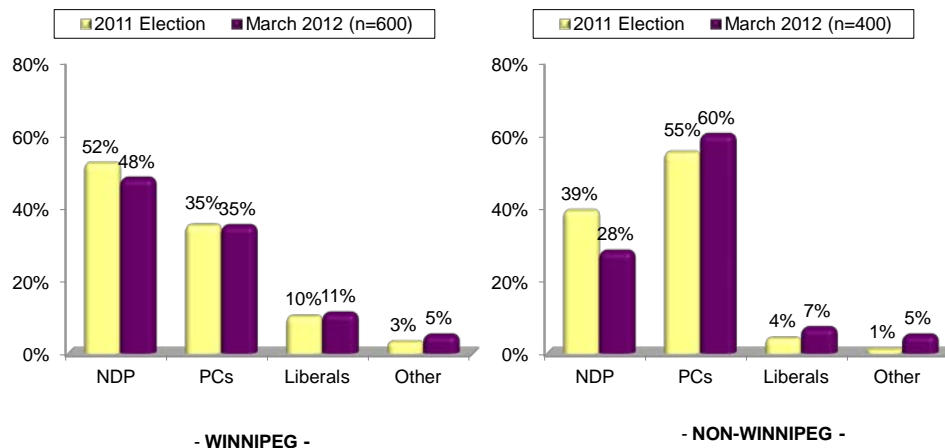
Much of the shift that has taken place can be explained by a significant drop in support for the NDP outside Winnipeg and a subsequent PC gain in this region. While the NDP are down slightly in the provincial capital compared to where they were during the election, the party still retains a commanding lead over the PCs among the urban electorate.

Within Winnipeg, the NDP are still the top choice for decided urban voters, but now slightly fewer than one-half of those surveyed indicate they would cast ballots for the New Democrats (48%, down from 52% in the 2011 election). Support for the PCs remains unchanged at 35 percent, while the Liberals (11%, +1% versus October 2011) and other parties (5%, up from 3%) have experienced negligible gains in popularity in the past six months.

Outside Winnipeg, the drop in NDP support is more dramatic – just slightly more than one-quarter of decided voters support this party (28%, versus 39% of non-Winnipeg voters who cast ballots for this party in October 2011). Support for the PCs, meanwhile, has increased slightly since the election (60%, up from 55%) while support for the Liberals (7%, up from 4%) and other parties (5%, up from 1%) has also inched upward.

P R O B E **Provincial Party Support**
RESEARCH INC. **-By Region -**

"If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you be most likely to support?"
 (n=1,000)



Base: Decided Voters

Looking at the different areas within Winnipeg, the PCs and the NDP are statistically tied in northeast Winnipeg (47% each) and in southwest Winnipeg (43% NDP, versus 40% PC). The NDP continue to hold a significant advantage over the PCs in the Core area (59%, versus 28% respectively) as well as in southeast (47%, versus 32%) and northwest (45%, versus 30%) regions of the city.

PROVINCIAL PARTY STANDINGS IN RURAL AND URBAN MANITOBA -- March 2012 -- Net Voting Intentions Among Decided Voters					
<i>"If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you be most likely to support?"</i>					
	Total Manitoba	Winnipeg	Non- Winnipeg		
(Base)	(1,000) (%)	(600) (%)	(400) (%)		
PC	45	35	60		
NDP	40	48	28		
Liberal	10	11	7		
Other	5	5	5		
	Northwest Winnipeg	Southwest Winnipeg	Southeast Winnipeg	Northeast Winnipeg	Core Area
(Base)	(130) (%)	(138) (%)	(98) (%)	(117) (%)	(117) (%)
PC	30	43	32	47	28
NDP	45	40	47	47	59
Liberal	17	14	13	5	6
Other	8	3	8	2	6

Gender Gap Remains In Place

As the table below shows, even though the NDP continue to have a slight advantage among female voters (44%, versus 41% who would cast ballots for a PC candidate), the PCs are much more popular among male voters (49%, versus just 36% of men who would vote for a NDP candidate).

Other key differences among these sub-groups include:

- The PCs are slightly more popular among voters with a high school diploma or less (50%, versus just 39% who would cast ballots for a NDP candidate), while the two parties are statistically tied among those who have completed post-secondary education (43% NDP vs. 42% PC).
- Lower-income Manitobans are much more likely to support the NDP (54% among those earning less than \$30,000/year, versus 31% PC).
- Although the PCs hold a slight edge over the NDP in all age categories, the differences are not considered to be statistically significant.

PROVINCIAL PARTY STANDINGS AMONG SELECTED SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS -- March 2012 -- Net Voting Intentions Among Decided Voters							
<i>"If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you be most likely to support?"</i>							
	Total	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	
(Base)	(1,000) (%)	(484) (%)	(516) (%)	(315) (%)	(355) (%)	(281) (%)	
PC	45	49	41	42	46	46	
NDP	40	36	44	38	41	42	
Liberal	10	10	10	10	10	9	
Other	5	5	5	10	3	3	
	Education			Income			
	HS or Less	Some Post-Sec.	Post-Sec. Grad	<\$30K	\$30K-\$59K	\$60K-\$99K	\$100K+
(Base)	(311) (%)	(173) (%)	(494) (%)	(105) (%)	(236) (%)	(268) (%)	(186) (%)
PC	50	44	42	31	44	45	46
NDP	39	35	43	54	39	41	41
Liberal	8	13	9	12	9	10	12
Other	2	9	6	2	9	4	2

This province-wide survey was designed and conducted by Probe Research Inc. via telephone interviews conducted between March 19th to April 4th, 2012 among a random and representative sampling of 1,000 Manitoba adults. With a sample of 1,000, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results are within +/- 3.1 percentage points of what they would have been if the entire adult population of Manitoba had been interviewed. The margin-of-error is higher within each of the survey's population sub-groups. Modified random-digit dialing was used to ensure that all Manitoba adults would have an equal opportunity to participate in this Probe Research survey. Minor statistical weighting has been applied to this sample to ensure that the age and gender balance correspond with the province as a whole.

For more information on this survey, please contact:

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