

Premiers' Performance: Ball and Wynne bounce, Wall and Pallister slide

Saskatchewan's Wall remains most-approved of provincial leader but drops below majority endorsement

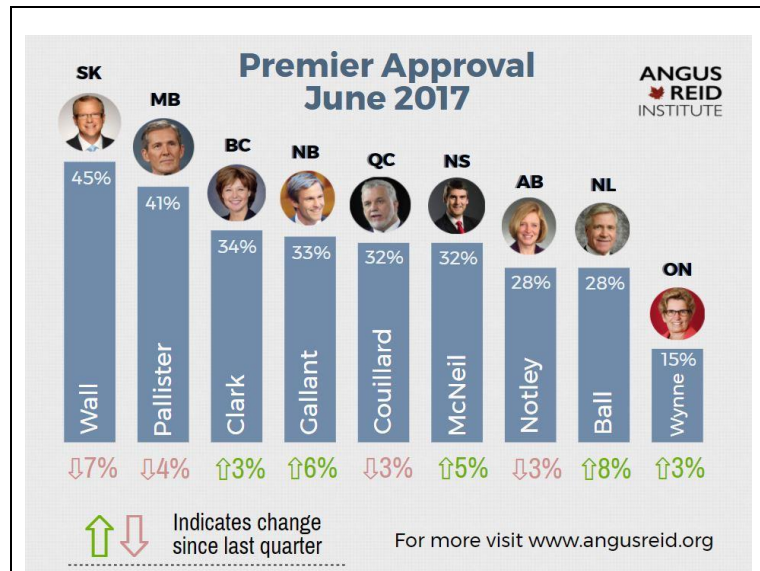
June 22, 2017 – Canadians appear increasingly underwhelmed by the performances of their provincial premiers.

While some are taking steps back from alarmingly low approval levels, others find themselves sliding into previously unknown territory. The rest find their fortunes largely unchanged over the last quarter. It should be noted that five premiers post higher approval than last quarter in their respective provinces, up from only one in March.

Bouncing Premiers:

Atlantic premiers are among those experiencing the largest increases in approval – Newfoundland and Labrador's Dwight Ball and New Brunswick's Brian Gallant are up eight points and six points respectively. In Nova Scotia, Stephen McNeil won a second straight majority government, though a slim one, in the May 30th general election. His rating increase five points. Given that three months ago all three leaders had approval levels in the 20-30 per cent range (Ball still does), this is no doubt welcome news for them.

Also in the plus column - Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne. Canada's least popular premier, Wynne rebounds slightly this quarter to 15 per cent, ending a precarious slide toward single digit approval. Facing an election about a year from now, Wynne's government has recently introduced a plan to raise the minimum wage from \$11.40 an hour to \$14 an hour in 2018 and \$15 in 2019. It also launched a [basic income pilot project](#) and tabled a budget that rolls back a significant and highly unpopular increase to hydro rates.



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METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute analyzed the results of an online survey conducted from June 5 - 12, 2017, among a representative randomized sample of 5,406 Canadian adults who are members of the [Angus Reid Forum](#). The survey data were donated by MARU/Matchbox. The sample plan included large over-samples in many provinces, weighted back to provide a national snapshot. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size with this sample plan would carry a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

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Related: Three-in-four Ontarians say their hydro bills are ‘unreasonable’; think they’ll rise further

BC Premier Christy Clark, whose party lost its majority in the May 9 general election now has the approval of one-third (34%) of British Columbians. Heading into an unprecedented legislative session on June 22, it is unclear how much longer she will hold the job should her caucus lose the confidence of the legislature.

Related: Most BC residents say Clark should “accept defeat”

Sliding Premiers:

Saskatchewan’s Brad Wall continues his tenure as most popular premier in the country – but from a weakened position. For the first time since November 2010, the number of people in that province who say he is doing a good job has fallen below the majority level, to 45 per cent this quarter. This represents a decline of seven points, largely attributable to a tightening of the provincial purse announced in the new budget.

The Angus Reid Institute has a more detailed analysis of the political landscape in that province [here](#).

Next door in Manitoba, Premier Brian Pallister’s approval levels have dropped for the third time in as many quarters, down four points to 41 per cent. That said, he maintains his spot as the second most popular premier in the country. The sojourning premier continues to face questions about the [amount of time](#) he spends in Costa Rica and [his methods of communication](#) with staff while he is abroad.

In more policy related news from the past few months, Pallister took umbrage with Ontario’s minimum wage hike announcement and the preceding rate bump in Alberta in [a video](#) posted early this month. His government announced an alternative plan - to tie minimum wage to inflation increases. This, after freezing Manitoba’s wage rate at \$11 an hour after last year’s election victory.

Related: Canadian opinion of basic income programs

Declining three points each are Quebec’s Phillippe Couillard and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley.

Couillard made waves recently by voicing his desire to reopen the constitutional debate over his province’s place in the Canadian Constitution. His government released a 200-page document restating the “[five conditions](#)” put forth by premier Robert Bourassa in 1986, including the recognition of Quebec as a distinct society and a guarantee of Quebec’s representation on the Supreme Court. Quebecers’ response to this appears muted - his approval stands at 32 per cent.

In Alberta, pipeline politics are once again front and centre. The election result in British Columbia has put the future of the Kinder Morgan TransMountain pipeline in some doubt. Notley has been vigorously defending the project in the name of Alberta’s economic interests, but it may not be enough in the face of a renewed, refreshed challenge from a newly-united right-of-centre movement. While a unified opposition led by Jason Kenney gains steam, the premier’s approval drops three points this quarter to 28 per cent.

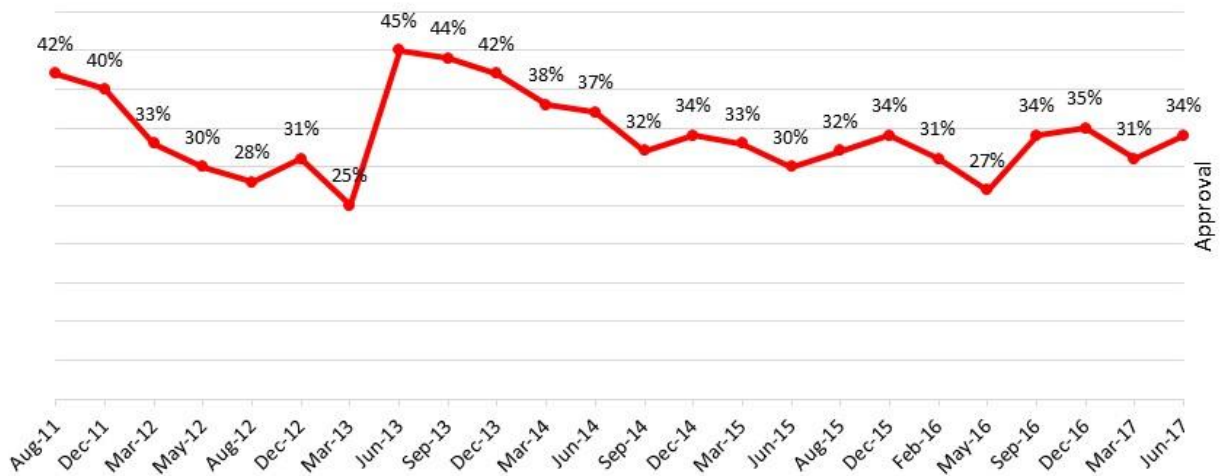
*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research foundation established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and*

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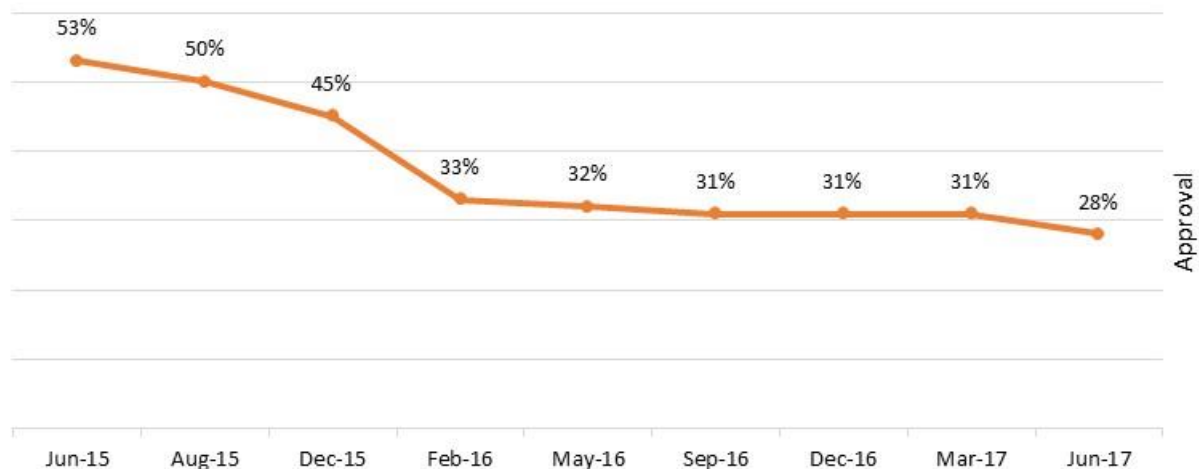
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British Columbia Premier Christy Clark (Liberal)



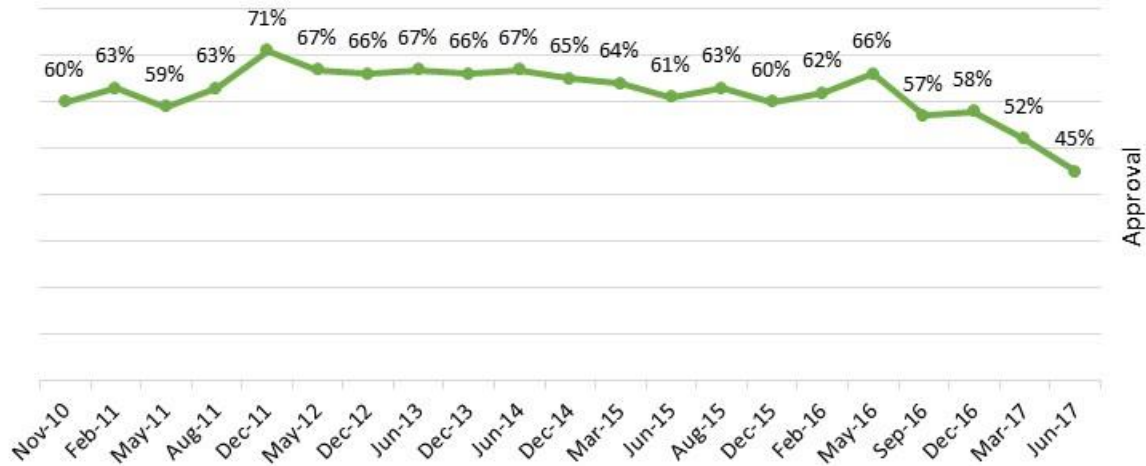
Rachel Notley (NDP)



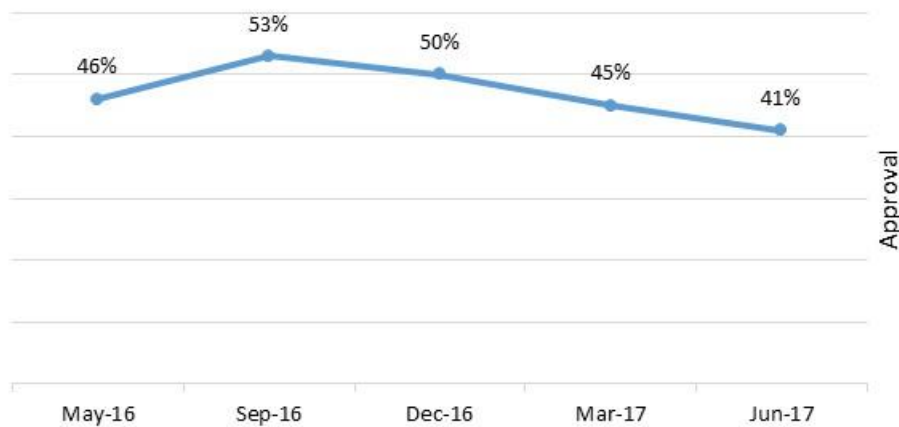
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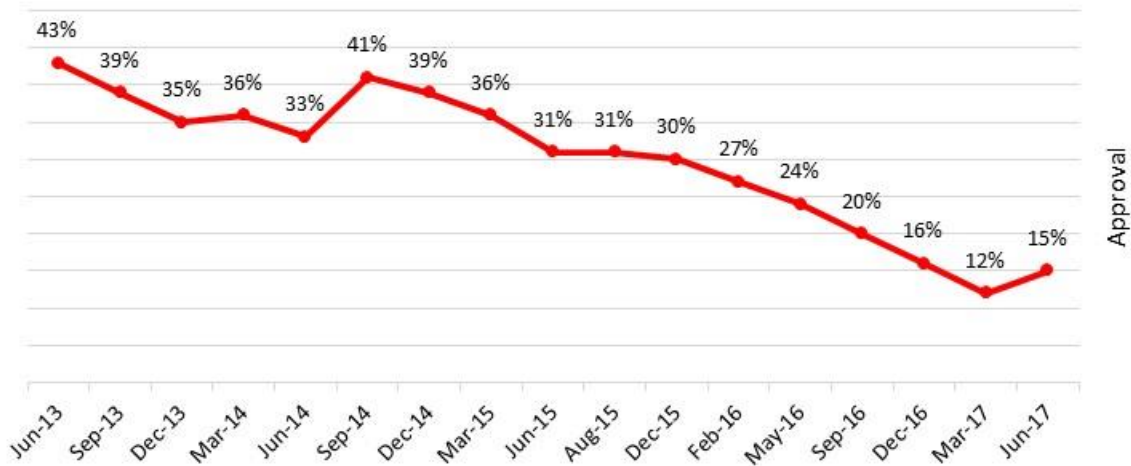
Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall (Saskatchewan Party)



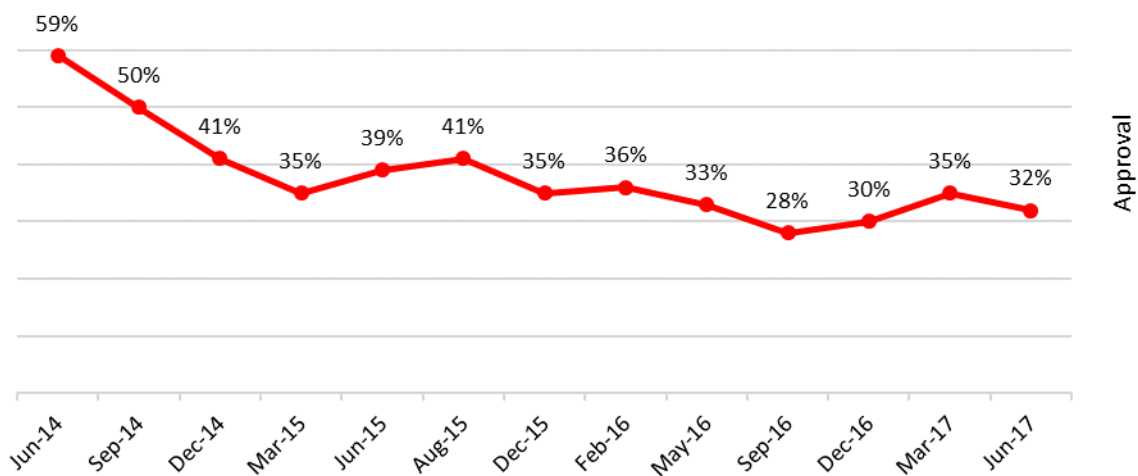
Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister (Progressive Conservative)



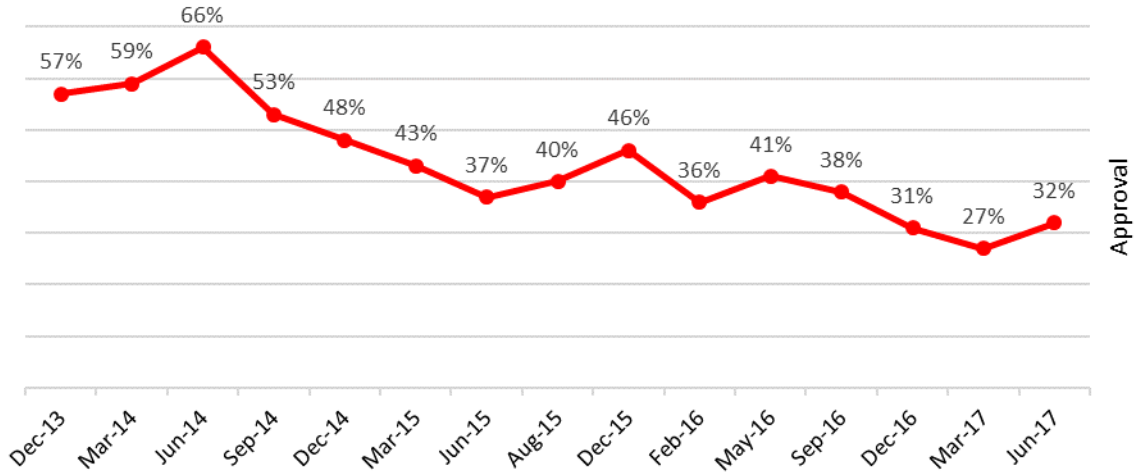
Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne (Liberal)



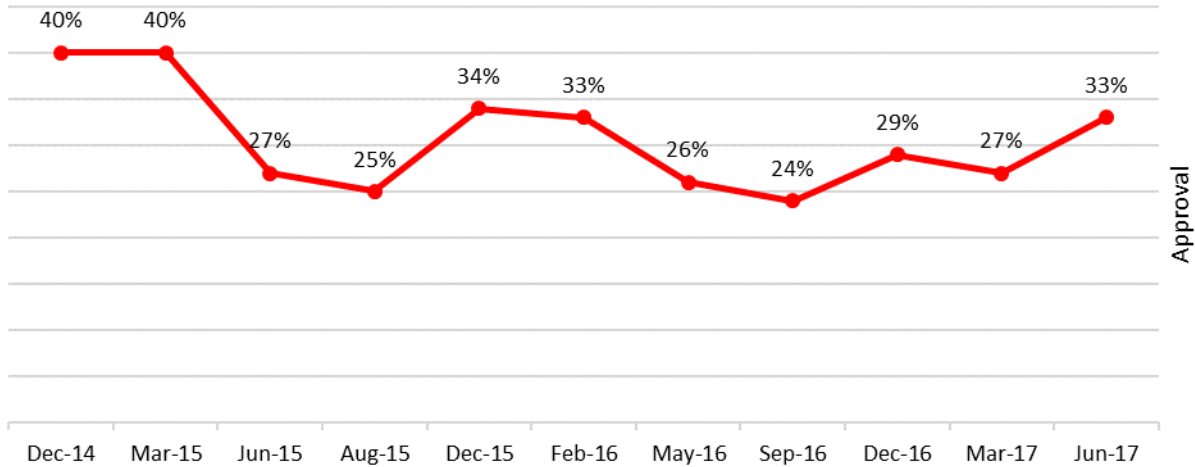
Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard (Liberal)



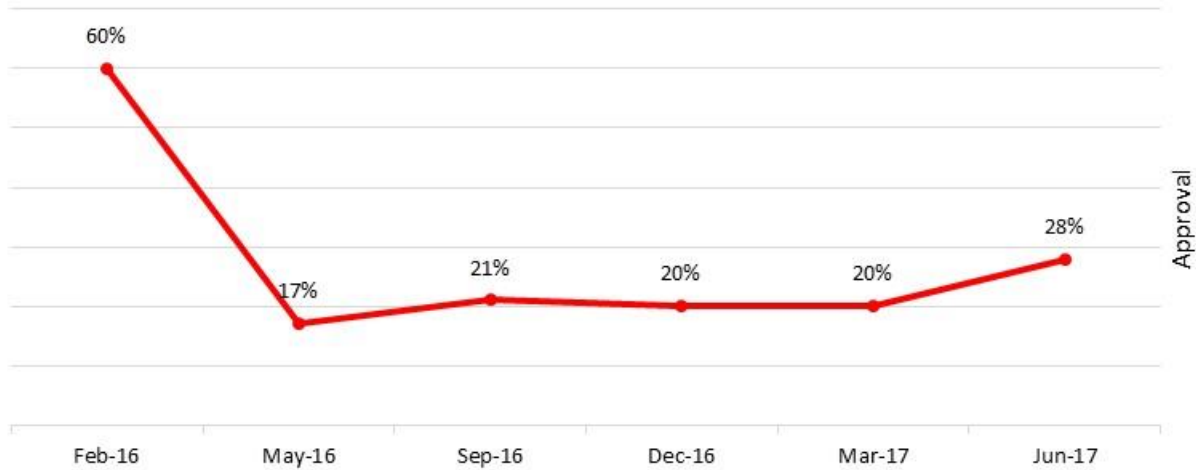
Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil (Liberal)



New Brunswick Premier Brian Gallant (Liberal)



Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Dwight Ball (Liberal Party)



Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following Premiers?

	June 2017	March 2017	Dec. 2016	Sept. 2016
Saskatchewan:				
Brad Wall (Saskatchewan Party)	45%	52%	58%	57%
Manitoba:				
Brian Pallister (Progressive Conservative)	41%	45%	50%	53%
Québec:				
Philippe Couillard (Liberal)	32%	35%	30%	28%
British Columbia:				
Christy Clark (Liberal)	34%	31%	35%	34%
Alberta:				
Rachel Notley (New Democratic Party)	28%	31%	31%	31%
Nova Scotia:				
Stephen McNeil (Liberal)	32%	27%	31%	38%
New Brunswick:				
Brian Gallant (Liberal)	33%	27%	29%	24%
Newfoundland and Labrador:				
Dwight Ball (Liberal)	28%	20%	20%	21%
Ontario:				
Kathleen Wynne (Liberal)	15%	12%	16%	20%

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Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following Premiers?			
	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
Saskatchewan: Brad Wall (Saskatchewan Party) N=1053	45%	51%	5%
Manitoba: Brian Pallister (Progressive Conservative) N=773	41%	47%	13%
Québec: Philippe Couillard (Liberal) N=603	32%	58%	10%
British Columbia: Christy Clark (Liberal) N=600	34%	61%	5%
Alberta: Rachel Notley (New Democratic Party) N=599	28%	62%	10%
Nova Scotia: Stephen McNeil (Liberal) N=294	32%	53%	15%
New Brunswick: Brian Gallant (Liberal) N=289	33%	60%	7%
Newfoundland and Labrador: Dwight Ball (Liberal) N=295	28%	68%	4%
Ontario: Kathleen Wynne (Liberal) N=804	15%	76%	9%