

Premiers' Performance: Six-in-ten approve of Legault, Moe; Horgan, Higgs hover at majority endorsement

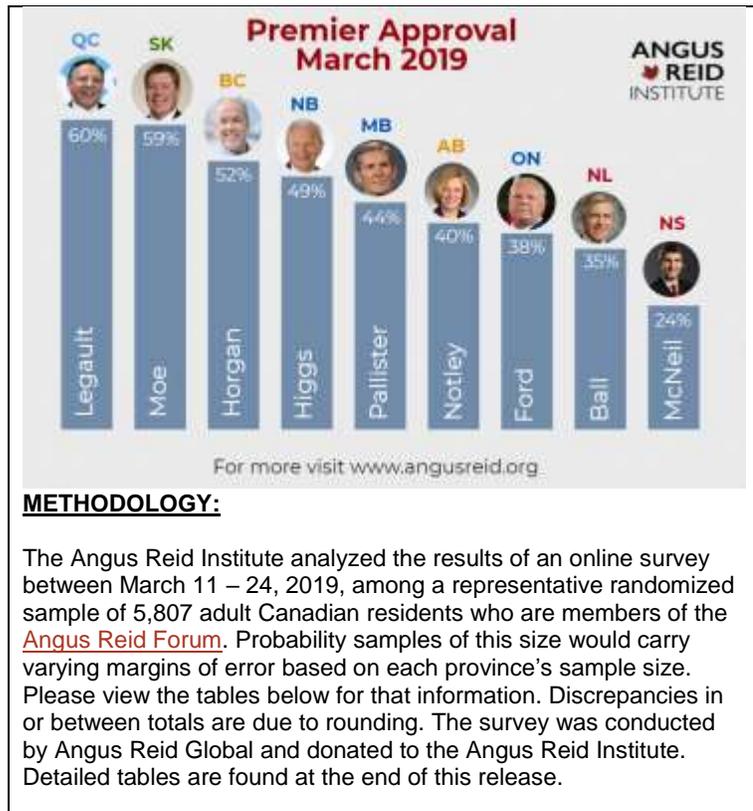
Ahead of Alberta election, Premier Notley's personal approval at forty per cent

March 26, 2019 – Springtime across the country puts the bloom back on the approval ratings of some Canadian premiers, while others find their hopes for a thumb's up from provincial constituents dampened with the change in season.

Views of the job performance of Canada's first ministers vary widely according to new public opinion polling data analyzed by the non-profit Angus Reid Institute and donated by [Angus Reid Global Public Affairs](#), though this quarterly survey finds a slight warming towards many premiers.

As Premier Rachel Notley fights what looks to be [an improbable bid](#) for re-election, Albertans appear to approve of her more today than they have at any time in the last three years.

Indeed, most premiers have seen their standing among their own constituencies improve – or at least hold – since December. The two exceptions are Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil.



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute analyzed the results of an online survey between March 11 – 24, 2019, among a representative randomized sample of 5,807 adult Canadian residents who are members of the [Angus Reid Forum](#). Probability samples of this size would carry varying margins of error based on each province's sample size. Please view the tables below for that information. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was conducted by Angus Reid Global and donated to the Angus Reid Institute. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

Trio enjoys majority approval

For the second consecutive quarter, Quebec Premier François Legault is Canada's most popular provincial head of government. In the month that his government [introduced its first budget](#) – showing the province's fifth consecutive surplus – the Coalition Avenir Quebec leader enjoys the approval of six-in-ten Quebecers (60%), a number that is statistically unchanged from where it was in December.

The high degree of approval for Legault suggests that the premier's political honeymoon is still very much ongoing, despite facing criticism for his [recent assertion](#) that there is no Islamophobia in Quebec and for [doing too little](#) to address climate change.

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe enjoys essentially the same level of personal approval, at 59 per cent. Moe's popularity with Saskatchewan residents has risen seven points since he succeeded former premier Brad Wall early last year.

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British Columbia Premier John Horgan also receives the approval of more than half of his province this quarter, earning the backing of 52 per cent of BC residents. This represents an increase of 9 percentage points since December, when four-in-ten (43%) approved of his performance. The current number ties Horgan's highest mark as premier, which was set in March 2018.

Horgan's resurgent popularity comes as opposition leader Andrew Wilkinson has struggled to connect with British Columbians. He's been accused of being "out of touch" over – among other things – [comments he made about renting](#), a touchy subject in and around Metro Vancouver because of [ongoing affordability issues](#).

Notley rises pre-election, Higgs rises post

Canada's newest premier – Blaine Higgs of New Brunswick – sees a nine-point increase in approval, rising from 40 to 49 per cent since December. Higgs' Conservatives introduced their first budget this month, posting a [meagre surplus and no tax increases](#). His minority government is searching for stability in its infancy, and has [tried to balance](#) spending increases and cuts.

Meanwhile, Manitoba's Brian Pallister has [hinted at an early election call](#), though a return to the ballot boxes is not required until October 2020. Pallister's government introduced a budget recently that proposes to cut the Provincial Sales Tax from eight per cent to seven per cent, following through on a key election promise. His approval this quarter rises to 44 per cent, its highest level since March 2017.

One premier who did call an election this month is Alberta's Rachel Notley. The NDP leader faces long odds ahead of the April 16 election day according to recent polls, including one released [by the Angus Reid Institute](#), which have consistently pointed to a substantial lead for the opposition United Conservative Party. That said, Notley's personal appeal appears to continue to rise. For the fifth consecutive wave of this quarterly survey, Notley's approval has increased. It is now up to four-in-ten (40%).

Three leaders below four-in-ten approval mark

Ontario Premier Doug Ford's approval drops four points this quarter to 38 per cent. Ford has faced [criticism for his government's decision](#) to increase class sizes under the province's new education plan. Ford was, however, cleared of personal wrongdoing in an ethics investigation looking into the appointment of his long-time friend Ron Taverner as Ontario Provincial Police commissioner. While Ford was found to have remained "[at arm's-length](#)" during the process, the integrity commissioner did express [serious doubts about the fairness of the process](#), given how the government handled it.

Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Dwight Ball faces an election later this year. In a move to potentially set the tone for the year, his government made several announcements in March, though Ball insisted he was [not kicking off campaign season](#) quite yet. These [included](#) the creation of an all-party committee on democratic reform, a new focus for the Office for the Status of Women, and details from the government's climate change action plan. Ball holds the favour of just over one-in-three residents this quarter (35%).

Rounding out the list of approval ratings is Canada's longest-serving premier, Nova Scotia's Stephen McNeil. The Liberal leader has the lowest approval of any premier at 24 per cent. McNeil has faced criticism over [perceived failures](#) in promised health care improvement, and [allocating spending](#) for an American ferry terminal, something the government says will help boost tourism.

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About ARI

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 impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.

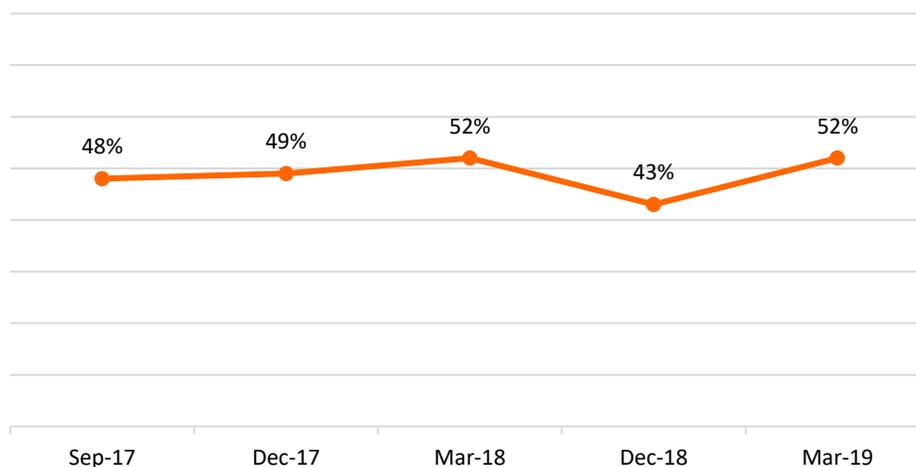
About ARG

Angus Reid is Canada’s most well-known and respected name in opinion and market research. Offering a variety of research solutions to businesses, brands, governments, not-for-profit organizations and more, the **Angus Reid Global** team connects technologies and people to derive powerful insights to inform your most important decisions. Data is collected through a suite of tools utilizing the latest technologies. Prime among that is the Angus Reid Forum, an opinion community consisting of engaged residents across the country who answer surveys on topical issues that matter to all Canadians.

Margins of error								
BC (802)	AB (843)	SK (842)	MB (666)	ON (1000)	QC (814)	NB (248)	NS (266)	NFL (264)
+/- 3.5%	+/- 3.4%	+/- 3.4%	+/-3.8%	+/-3.1%	+/- 3.4%	+/-6.2%	+/-6.0%	+/-6.0%

**Because its small population precludes drawing discrete samples over multiple waves, data on Prince Edward Island is not released.*

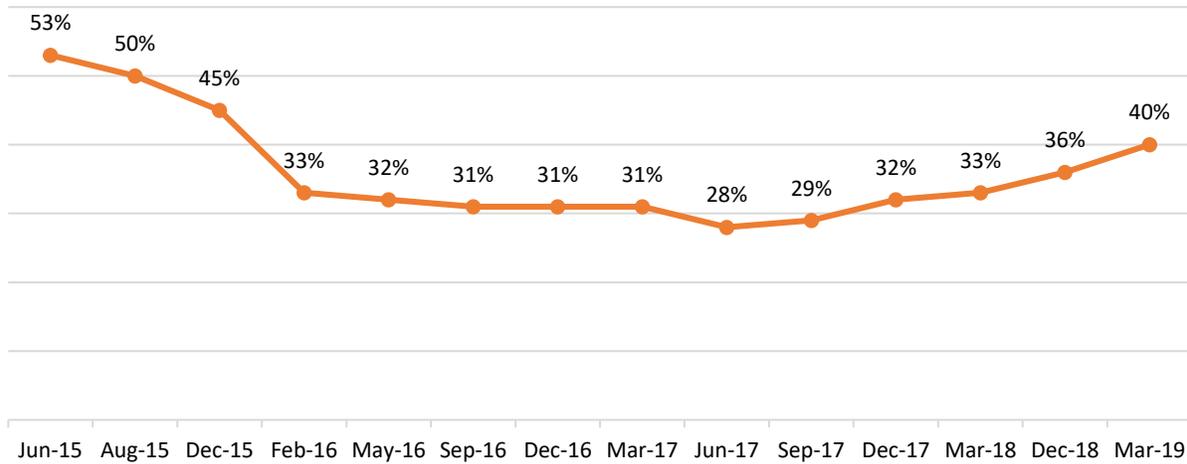
British Columbia Premier John Horgan (NDP)



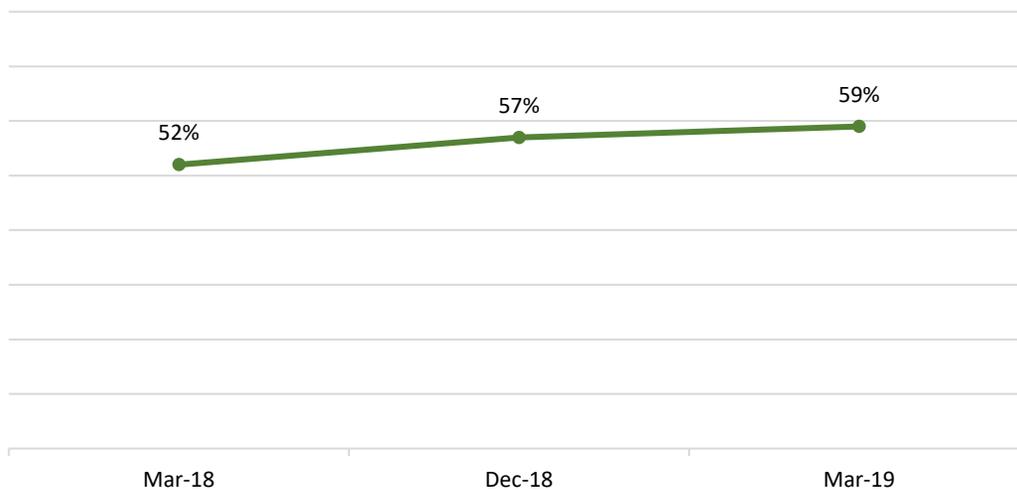
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Alberta Premier Rachel Notley (NDP)



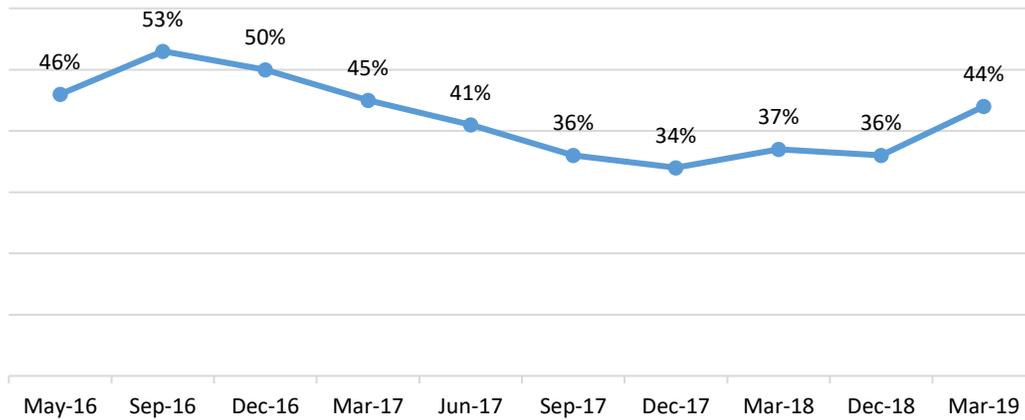
Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe (Saskatchewan Party)



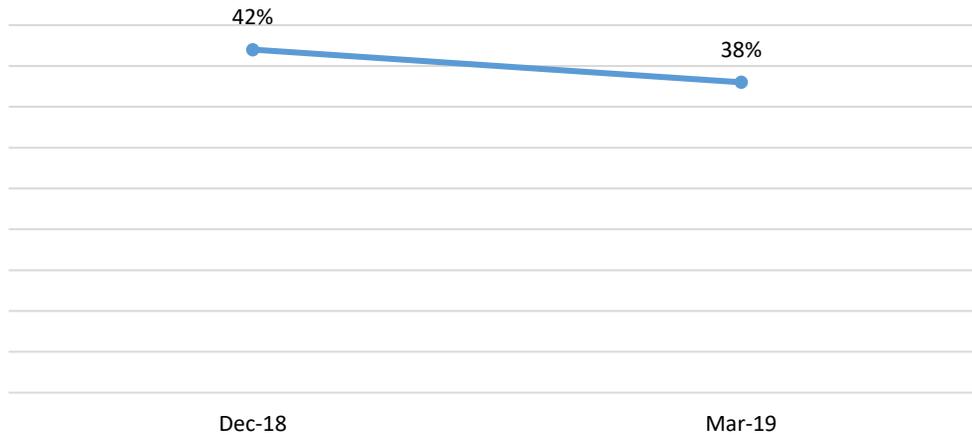
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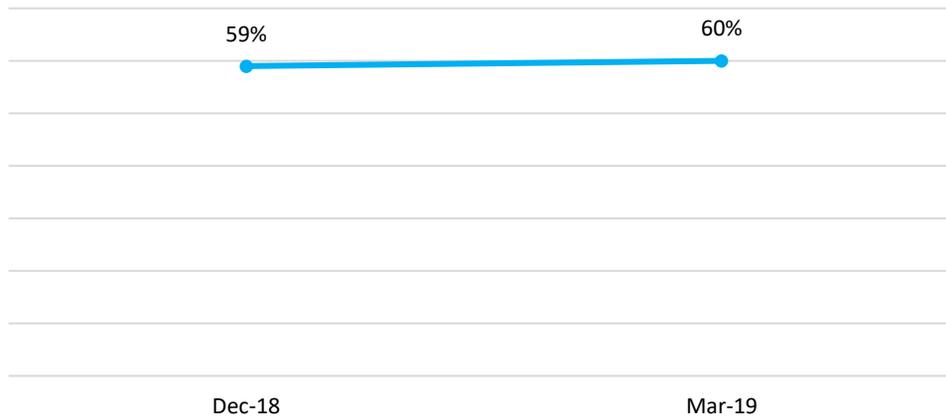
Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister (Progressive Conservative)



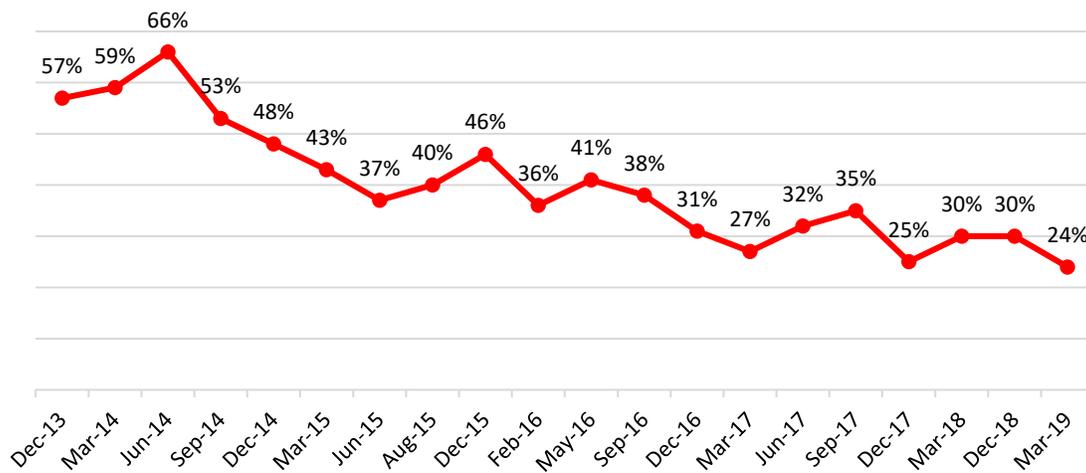
Ontario Premier Doug Ford (Progressive Conservative)



Quebec Premier François Legault (Coalition Avenir Quebec)



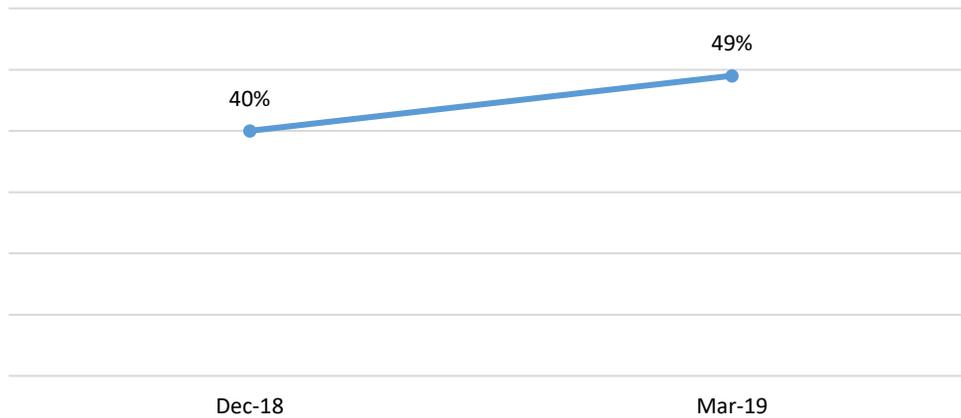
Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil (Liberal)



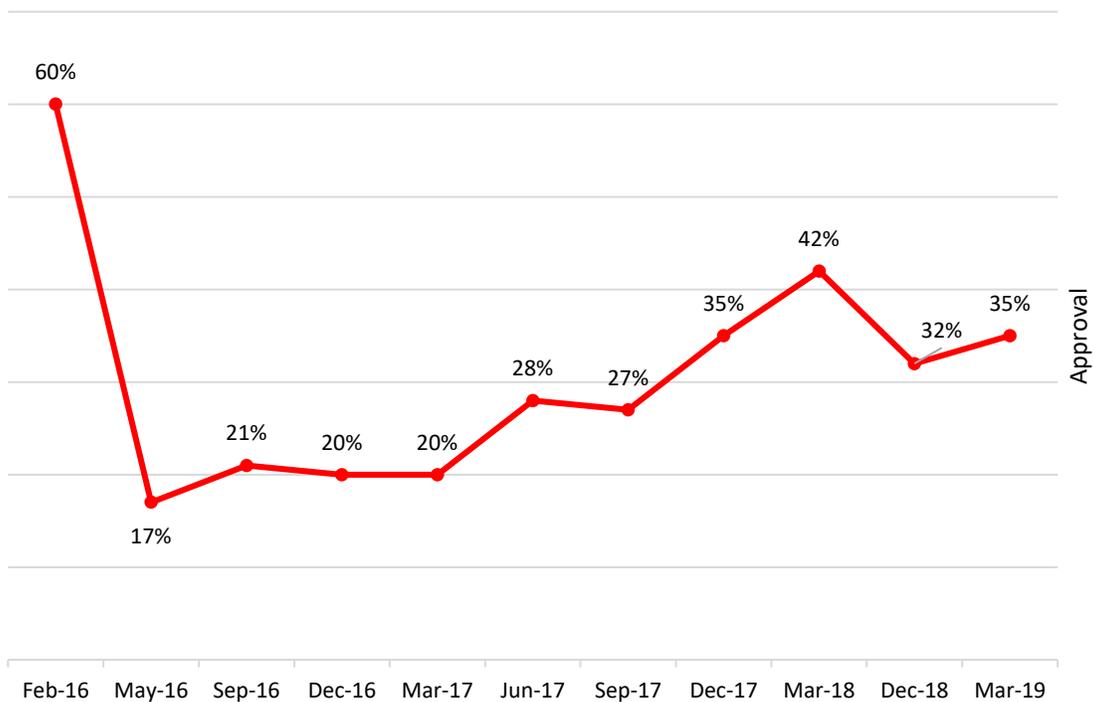
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New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs (Progressive Conservative)



Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Dwight Ball (Liberal)



Do you approve or disapprove of each of the following people?			
(unweighted sample sizes)	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure/Can't say
British Columbia (N=802): Premier and New Democratic Party leader John Horgan	52%	43%	6%
Alberta (N=843): Premier and New Democratic Party leader Rachel Notley	40%	59%	1%
Saskatchewan (N=824) Premier and Saskatchewan Party leader Scott Moe	59%	36%	5%
Manitoba (N=666) Premier and Progressive Conservative leader Brian Pallister	44%	51%	4%
Ontario (N=1000) Premier and Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford	38%	59%	3%
Quebec (N=814) Premier and Coalition Avenir Quebec leader François Legault	60%	33%	6%
New Brunswick (N=248) Premier and Progressive Conservative leader Blaine Higgs	49%	42%	9%
Nova Scotia (N=266) Premier and Liberal Party leader Stephen McNeil	24%	72%	4%
Newfoundland and Labrador (N=264) Premier and Liberal Party leader Dwight Ball	35%	61%	4%

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Do you approve or disapprove of each of the following people?				
(unweighted sample sizes)	December 2017	March 2018	December 2018	March 2019
British Columbia (N=802): Premier and New Democratic Party leader John Horgan	49%	52%	43%	52%
Alberta (N=843): Premier and New Democratic Party leader Rachel Notley	32%	33%	36%	40%
Saskatchewan (N=824) Premier and Saskatchewan Party leader Scott Moe	-	52%	57%	59%
Manitoba (N=666) Premier and Progressive Conservative leader Brian Pallister	34%	37%	36%	44%
Ontario (N=1000) Premier and Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford	-	-	42%	38%
Quebec (N=814) Premier and Coalition Avenir Quebec leader François Legault	-	-	59%	60%
New Brunswick (N=248) Premier and Progressive Conservative leader Blaine Higgs	-	-	40%	49%
Nova Scotia (N=266) Premier and Liberal Party leader Stephen McNeil	25%	30%	30%	24%
Newfoundland and Labrador (N=264) Premier and Liberal Party leader Dwight Ball	35%	42%	32%	35%

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