

## Premiers' Performance: Notley's job approval tumbles as Alberta's economy deteriorates

*Newfoundland and Labrador's Dwight Ball enjoys post-election honeymoon*

**February 17, 2016** – A collapsing resource sector, mounting job losses and a projected shrinking economy are not only causing serious problems for real people in once-booming Alberta, they're also taking a toll on the approval ratings of its premier.

Since her landmark victory propelling the NDP to government last spring, Albertans' endorsement of Rachel Notley's job performance has as declined steadily as the economic fortunes of the once-powerhouse province.

The latest Angus Reid Institute (ARI) analysis of quarterly survey results from more than 6,000 Canadian adults shows Notley's job approval down fully 12 points. In December, nearly half (45%) of people living in Alberta thought she was doing a good job. Today, one-third (33%) say the same. This represents a 20-point drop in approval since June of last year.

And while Alberta has borne the brunt of the effect of plummeting oil prices on the national economy, the mood has not soured towards provincial leadership in another resource-dependent province next door. Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall has the approval of the majority of people in his province (62%), a rating that is statistically unchanged since last quarter. He remains the most-approved-of premier in the country, seven weeks before a provincial election. (Granted, in the last year, [Alberta's unemployment rate](#) has grown three times as much [as Saskatchewan's](#).)

Pre-election job approval reveals a very different story in Manitoba for Greg Selinger. After nearly 17 years in government (ten as finance minister, seven more as premier), Selinger faces an uphill battle ahead of an April 19 vote in that province. His job performance is approved of by one-in-five Manitobans (19%) close to his lowest approval rating of 17 per cent – in December 2014 – a time when he was facing a [revolt from within his own party ranks](#).

### KEY FINDINGS

- **Highest Approval Ratings: Wall (SK) 62%, Ball (NL) 60%, Couillard (QC) 36%**
- **Lowest Approval Ratings: Selinger (MB) 19%, Wynne (ON) 27%, Clark (BC) 31%**

The Angus Reid Institute analyzed the results of an online survey of 6294 Canadian adults in a randomized and representative sample of [Angus Reid Forum](#) panelists from February 2 – 10, 2016. The data was donated by Vision Critical. A probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of +/- 1.2%, 19 times out of 20. Detailed tables and graphs are found at the end of this release.

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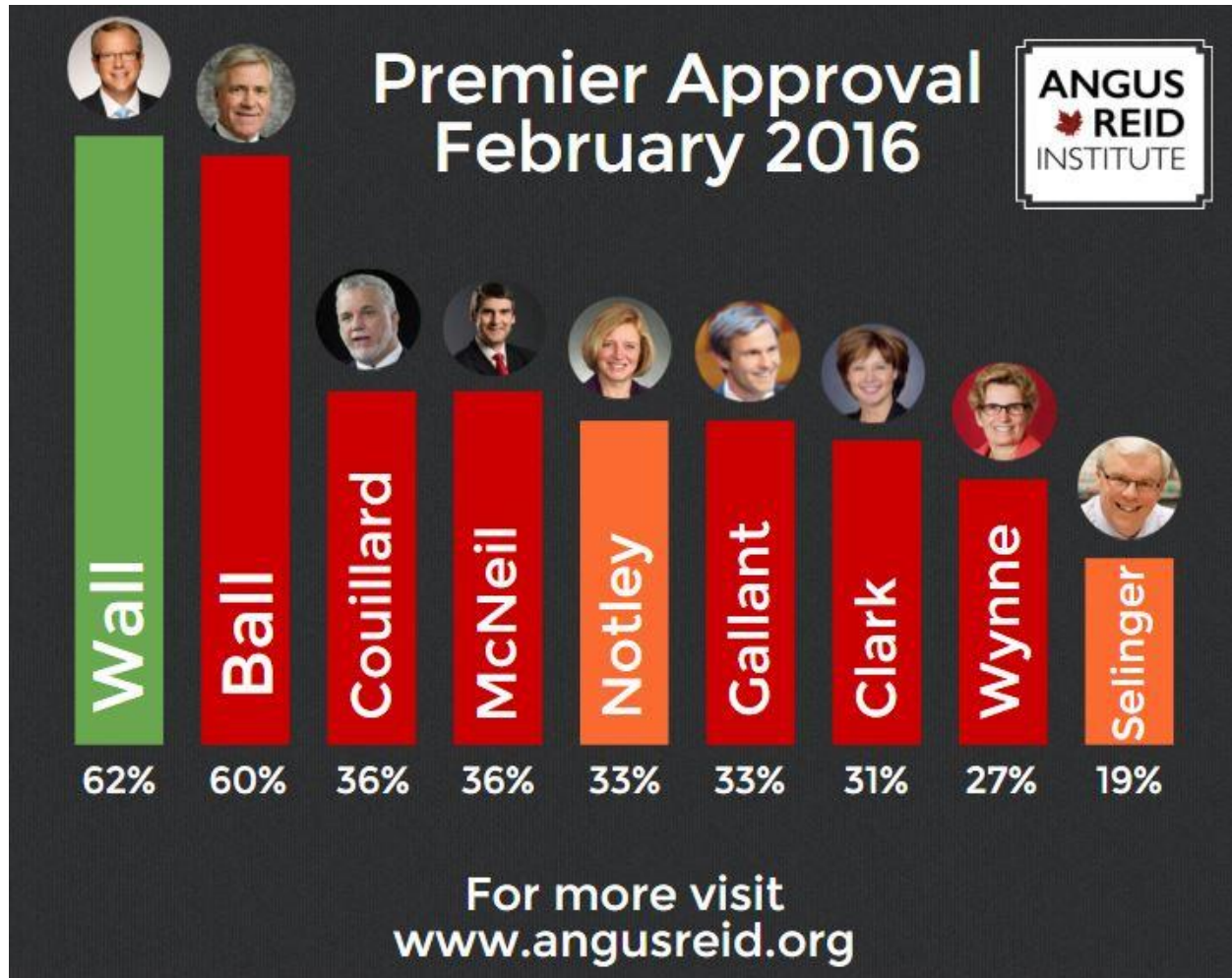
Rounding out the western provinces, BC Premier Christy Clark's approval rating is statistically unchanged – down three points from last quarter to 31 per cent. Clark has earned an approval rating in this range (between 30% and 34%) on job performance from British Columbians since September of 2014.

Turning to the other side of the country, Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Dwight Ball is enjoying his post-election honeymoon. Fully 60 per cent of people in that province approve of the job the newly sworn-in leader is doing. However, his counterparts in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick may offer a cautionary tale regarding the (usually) short life-spans of such adoration.

Nova Scotia's Stephen McNeil – who enjoyed the job performance approval of two-thirds of people (66%) in his province after the first six months of his administration, now stands at almost half that number (36%), down ten points since the last quarter as he faces criticism over [changes to Pharmacare](#) that province and an [investigation by the Nova Scotia Information and Privacy Commissioner](#) into the premier's former chief of staff.

Premier Brian Gallant in New Brunswick has seen his approval rating stabilize in the last quarter at 33 per cent. This is statistically unchanged since December (34%). Similarly unchanged is Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard. With the endorsement on job performance of 36 per cent of Quebecers, he does not enjoy more or less approval than he did three months ago (35%).

Finally, approval of Kathleen Wynne declines to less than one-third (27%) this quarter. The Ontario premier's job performance has not seen any positive momentum in the eyes of people there in fully six quarters, or – put another way – since she won re-election in June 2014.



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 organization 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.

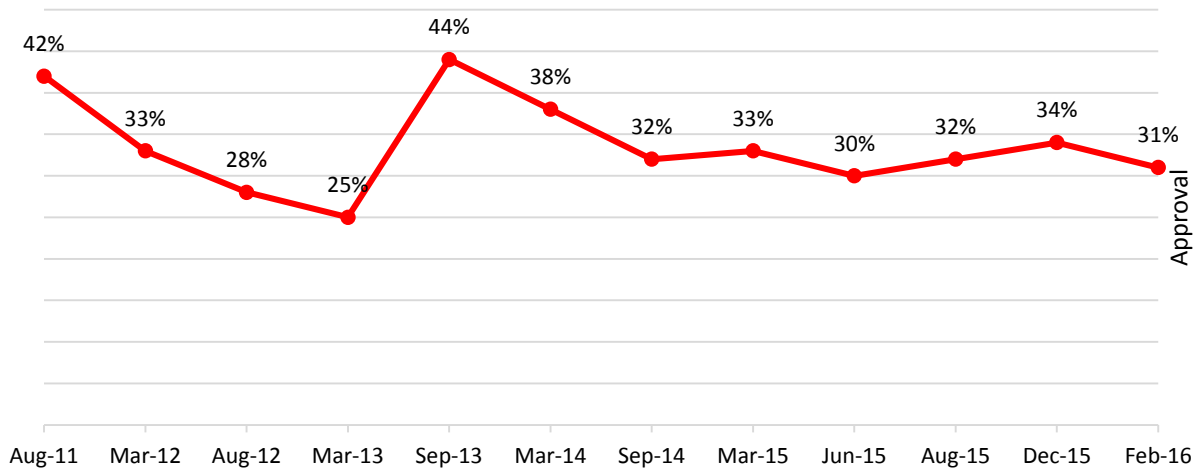
Detailed graphs and tables are on the following pages. Note: There are no trendline graphs for premiers who are relatively new to office.

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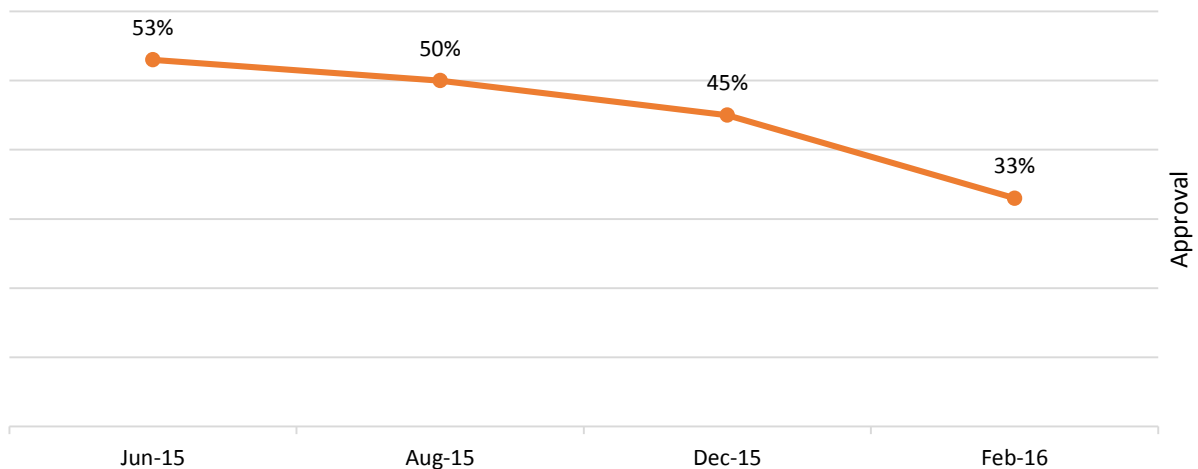
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\*Because its small population precludes drawing discrete samples over multiple waves, data on Prince Edward Island is not released.

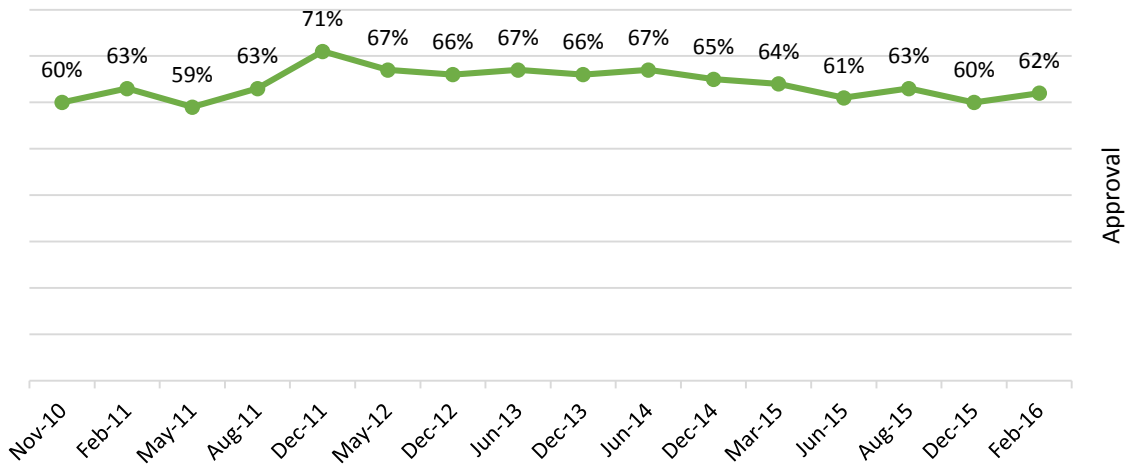
## British Columbia Premier Christy Clark (Liberal)



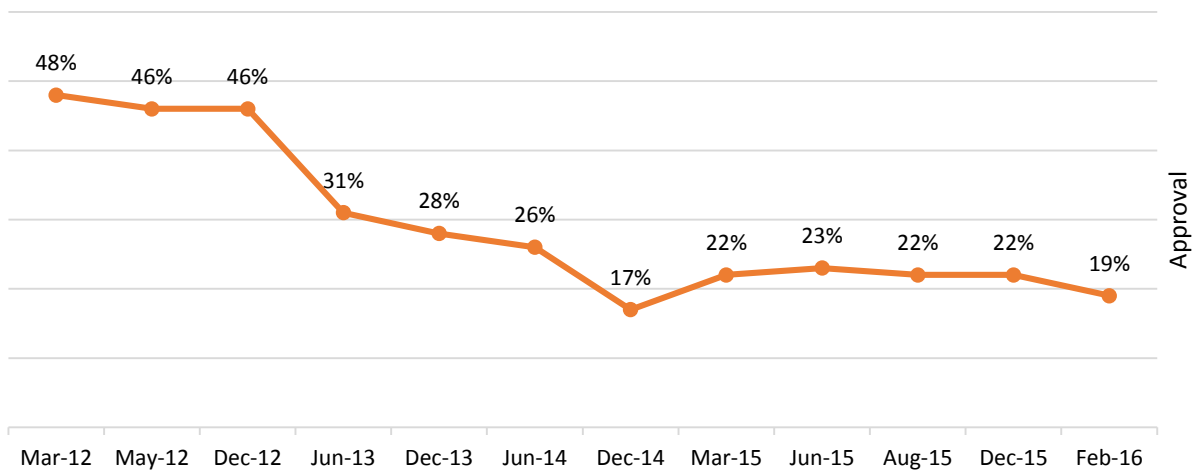
## Rachel Notley (NDP)



## Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall (Saskatchewan Party)



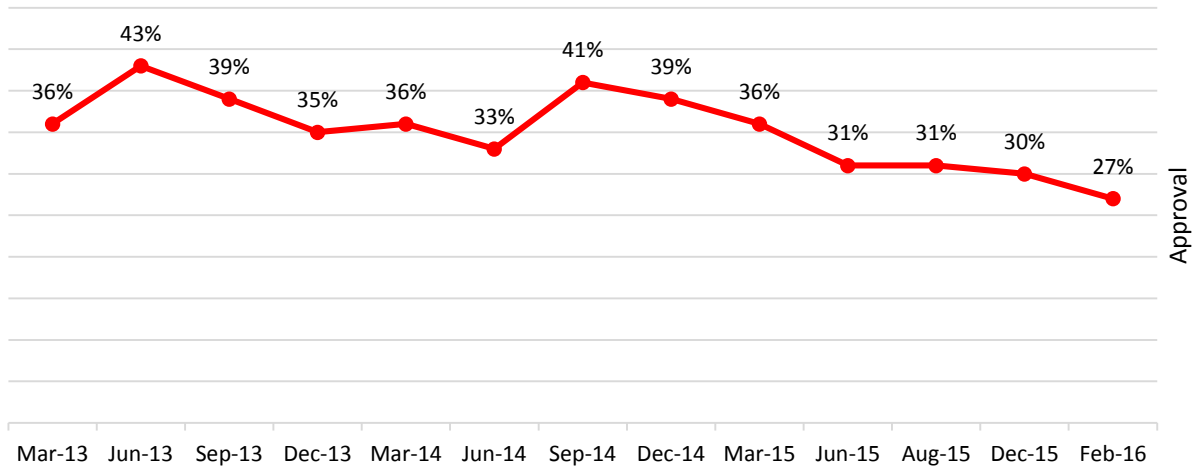
## Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger (NDP)



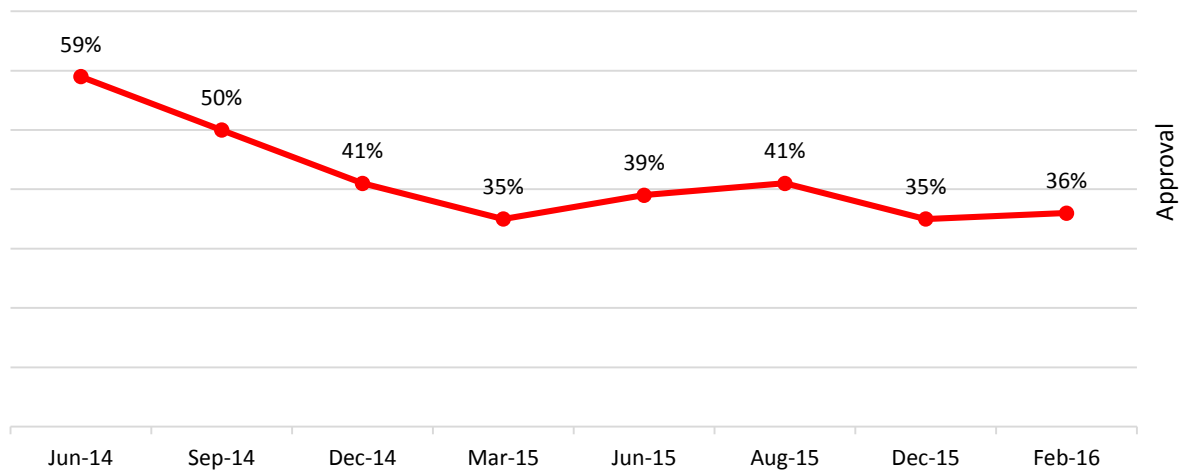
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## Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne (Liberal)



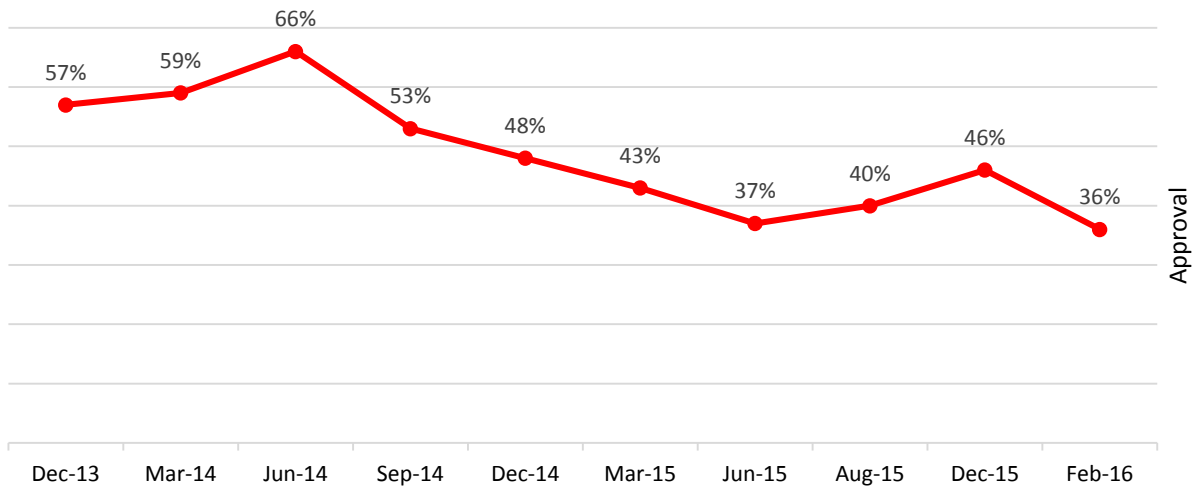
## Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard (Liberal)



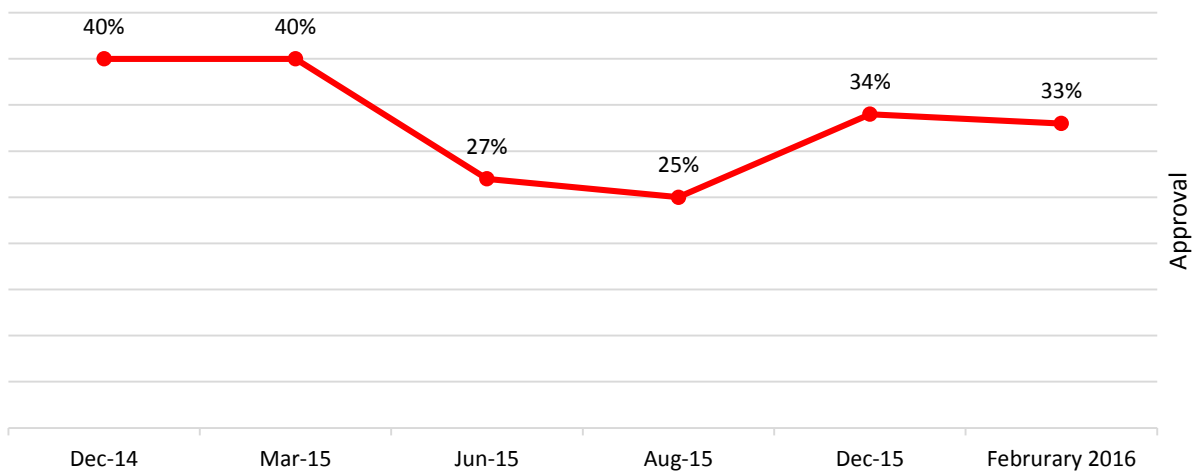
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## Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil (Liberal)



## New Brunswick Premier Brian Gallant (Liberal)



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<b>Provincial Governments</b>			
Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of each of the following Premiers?			
	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
<b>Saskatchewan:</b> Brad Wall (Saskatchewan Party) N=1052	62%	33%	4%
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador:</b> Dwight Ball (Liberal) N=303	60%	30%	11%
<b>Québec:</b> Philippe Couillard (Liberal) N=808	36%	56%	8%
<b>Nova Scotia:</b> Stephen McNeil (Liberal) N=303	36%	55%	9%
<b>Alberta:</b> Rachel Notley (New Democratic Party) N=808	33%	56%	10%
<b>New Brunswick:</b> Brian Gallant (Liberal) N=301	33%	56%	11%
<b>British Columbia:</b> Christy Clark (Liberal) N=804	31%	61%	7%
<b>Ontario:</b> Kathleen Wynne (Liberal) N=1006	27%	64%	9%
<b>Manitoba:</b> Greg Selinger (New Democratic Party) N=809	19%	72%	10%

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<b>Provincial Governments</b>				
Do you approve of the performance of each of the following Premiers?				
	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2015	Sept. 2015	June 2015
<b>Saskatchewan:</b> Brad Wall (Saskatchewan Party)	62%	60%	63%	61%
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador:</b> Dwight Ball (Liberal)	60%	N/A*	N/A	N/A
<b>Québec:</b> Philippe Couillard (Liberal)	36%	35%	41%	39%
<b>Nova Scotia:</b> Stephen McNeil (Liberal)	36%	46%	40%	37%
<b>Alberta:</b> Rachel Notley (New Democratic Party)	33%	45%	50%	53%
<b>New Brunswick:</b> Brian Gallant (Liberal)	33%	34%	25%	27%
<b>British Columbia:</b> Christy Clark (Liberal)	31%	34%	32%	30%
<b>Ontario:</b> Kathleen Wynne (Liberal)	27%	30%	31%	31%
<b>Manitoba:</b> Greg Selinger (New Democratic Party)	19%	22%	22%	23%

\*Dwight Ball became Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador in the November 30, 2015 election

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