

# NDP MOVES AHEAD OF BC LIBERALS

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*Christy Clark (34%) Leads Adrian Dix (23%) as Best Premier*



Ipsos Reid

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**Vancouver, BC** – Christy Clark’s decision not to hold a provincial election this fall is supported by a new Ipsos Reid poll showing her BC Liberals trailing the NDP by 7 points among decided voters. Christy Clark is still the number one choice as best Premier of BC, leading NDP leader Adrian Dix by 11 points.

### **Ballot**

The NDP currently have the support of 45% of the province’s decided voters. This is a 7 point lead over the BC Liberals who are at 38% support. The BC Conservative Party is well back in third place at 12% support, followed by the Green Party at 6%. These results exclude the 20% of British Columbians who are undecided or express no preference.

These results show the NDP making the biggest shift since a May 2011 Ipsos Reid poll. The NDP are up 6 points (from 39% to 45%), while the BC Liberals have dropped 3 points (from 41% to 38%). The BC Conservatives are up 2 points (from 10% to 12%) and the Green Party is down 2 points (from 8% to 6%). Support for other parties has fallen by 2 points (from 2% to less than 1%).

- **Region:** The NDP have opened up a 10 point lead in Metro Vancouver (45% NDP vs. 35% BC Lib) and enjoy a 23 point lead on Vancouver Island (54% NDP vs. 31% BC Lib). The BC Liberals have a 7 point lead in the Southern Interior/North (46% BC Lib vs. 39% NDP).
- **Gender:** A substantial gender gap exists for the BC Liberals and NDP, with men favouring the Liberals by 7 points (43% BC Lib vs. 36% NDP) and women favouring the NDP by 22 points (54% NDP vs. 32% BC Lib).
- **Age:** The NDP lead by 20 points with younger voters 18-34 years (48% NDP vs. 28% BC Lib) and by a narrower 6 points with voters 35-54 years (45% NDP vs. 39% BC Lib). The two main parties are essentially tied among older voter 55+ years (43% BC Lib vs. 41% NDP).

## Leader Approval Ratings

British Columbians are split on the job that **Christy Clark** has been doing as Premier. Currently 45% say they approve of her performance (8% 'strongly'), while 46% disapprove (24% 'strongly'). One-in-ten (9%) are undecided about her performance as Premier.

- Clark has higher approval among older residents (51% among 55+ years vs. 44% among 35-54 years, 38% among 18-34 years).

**Adrian Dix** has a 43% approval rating as NDP and Opposition leader (10% 'strongly'). Slightly less than four-in-ten (36%) residents say they disapprove of his performance (18% 'strongly') and two-in-ten (21%) are undecided.

- Dix has higher approval among women (48% vs. 39% among men).

British Columbians look at **John Cummins'** performance as BC Conservative leader with more disapproval (32%) than approval (23%). However, almost of half (45%) of residents have not yet formed an impression of his performance as leader.

- Women are much more likely to have no impression of Cummins (55% vs. 35% among men).

Nearly six-in-ten (58%) residents say they have no impression of the job **Jane Sterk** is doing as Green Party leader. Currently 20% say they approve of her performance while 22% disapprove.

- Sterk has higher approval among Vancouver Island residents (27% vs. 20% in Metro Vancouver, 16% in Southern Interior/North).

## Best Premier

Christy Clark is the top leader in terms of who voters think would make the best Premier of British Columbia. Clark is selected by one-third (34%) of British Columbians, placing her 11 points ahead of Adrian Dix (23%). John Cummins is next best at 12%, followed by Jane Sterk at just 4%. Nearly three-in-ten (27%) British Columbians are unsure which of the four party leaders would make the best Premier.

- Clark leads Dix across all regions, age groups, genders and income groups.

*These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll of 1,000 adult British Columbians conducted online using Ipsos Reid's national online household panel between September 28 and October 3, 2011. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error would be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual BC population according to 2006 Census data.*

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For more information on this news release, please contact:

**Kyle Braid**  
**Vice-President**  
**Ipsos Reid Public Affairs**  
**778-373-5130**

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