

“Hot Topics”

On Friday, May 2, the Ontario Government was dissolved, resulting in an election called for June 12. At the time of dissolution, the Liberal Party had 48 seats, the Progressive Conservative Party had 37 seats and the New Democratic Party had 21 seats.

Here’s an update on Election Campaign Activities:

What do voters think?

A poll taken at the start of the election campaign indicated that the New Democratic Party would garner 17% of the vote, with the Progressive Conservatives attracting 28% of the vote, and the Liberals leading with 33% of the vote. The Green Party would capture 6% of the vote, leaving 16% of voters undecided. (Source: Innovative Research, Wednesday, May 7)

A subsequent poll confirmed that the New Democratic Party would receive 28% of the vote, with the Liberal Party capturing 31% and the Progressive Conservative Party garnering 37% of the vote. The Green Party would only capture 4% of the vote, while 16% of voters remain undecided. (Source: Ipsos-Reid, Friday, May 9)

This week, the polls started to paint a different picture with the Liberals leading with 38% of the vote and the Progressive Conservatives following with 35% of the vote. The New Democratic Party dropped slightly to 21% of the vote, and the Greens held steady with about 5% of the vote. (Source: Forum Research Inc., Monday, May 12)

What’s happening on the campaign trail?

Liberal Party

- Promises to provide skills jobs for young people and balance the budget in 2017-18
- Promises to invest in infrastructure over the course of ten years to promote job creation

Progressive Conservative Party

- The Million Jobs Plan released today (<http://ontariopc.com/millionjobsplan/>) promises to balance the provincial budget by 2016-17. The PC party has made headlines by suggesting cuts to 100,000 civil servant jobs (except police, nurses and doctors). Some of the proposed job cuts could affect teachers and educational assistants.
- The Plan also promises to focus on issues of importance to our sector such as: making health care more patient-focused; making mental health a priority; promoting healthy and active children; and, investing in students with special needs in the classroom.
- The Plan promises to break down barriers for persons with disabilities in the workplace and provide supports to help connect employers with persons with disabilities: “Our plan is founded on the belief that every Ontarian has the right to lead his or her life to its fullest potential” (p 11)

New Democratic Party

- Promises to provide \$100 million for licensed child care in Ontario.
- The purpose of this one-time funding would be “stabilizing” a system that has been destabilized by the Liberal government (the provincial government currently distributes \$970 million to municipalities to cover child care costs). This announcement was made on Sunday, May 10 (Mother’s Day) at a water-front park.

Stay tuned for the next update on May 21st!