

MANITOBA PCs ENJOY MODEST HONEYMOON

PC lead down slightly since election day

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winnipeg – Premier Brian Pallister's Progressive Conservatives remain highly popular with Manitobans, but have seen a small erosion in public support since their historic majority victory in April.

If an election were held tomorrow, 46 per cent of decided or leaning voters would support the PCs. That's down from the party's April 19 victory, which earned the PCs 53 per cent of the popular vote.

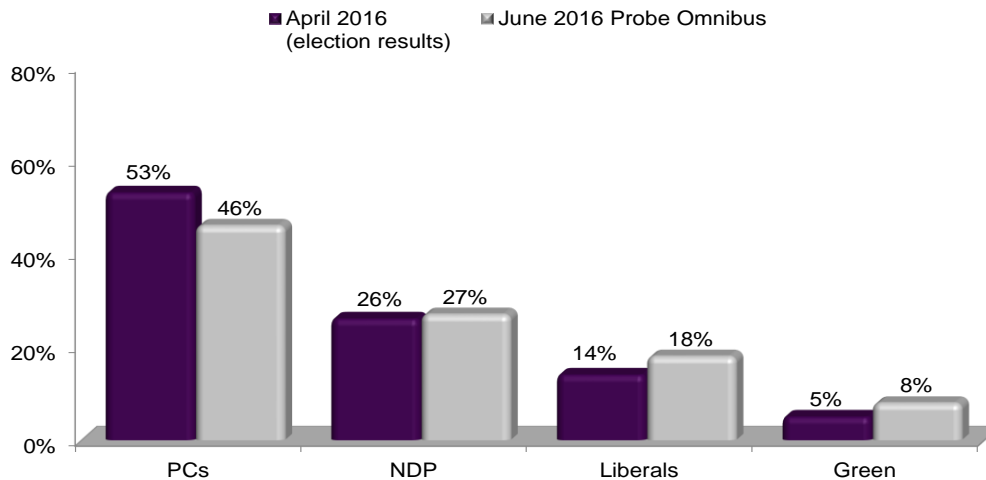
These results emerged from a province-wide telephone survey of 1,000 adults conducted by Probe Research Inc. for the *Winnipeg Free Press* just after the PCs delivered their inaugural Speech from the Throne and unveiled their first provincial budget.

Since 2011, the Progressive Conservatives have enjoyed very stable support among Manitobans, typically hovering in the range of 45 per cent.

According to Probe Research's survey, more than a quarter (27%) of decided voters would support the NDP, which is comparable to the choice of voters in April, while 18 per cent of voters would choose the Liberals, up slightly from their election performance.

Provincial Party Support

If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you be most likely to support?



Base: Decided/Leaning Voters

Modest Honeymoon for the PCs

Despite a strong lead among decided voters and broad support in most demographic groups, the PC's remarkable level of popular support in April's election has diminished somewhat in the last two months.

As illustrated above, there has been a seven-point decline in province-wide PC support since the April 19 provincial election (53% on April 19 to 46% support now.) That brings the PCs back into the stable range of public support they've enjoyed since 2011.

In 1999, the last time Manitoba saw a change in government, the newly-elected NDP had a more durable honeymoon. Under Premier Gary Doer, the NDP retained the same level of public support - 47 per cent - in the months following the September election as it did on voting day.

Meanwhile, the NDP, reduced to 14 seats on April 19, saw its support hold steady at 27 per cent, putting the party in second place among decided voters.

The provincial Liberals saw a slight improvement in public support (from 14% on April 19 to 18%).

Overall, 21 per cent of voters were undecided or refused to indicate a party preference.

PC's Broad Support Still Solid

Other research findings reveal the Progressive Conservatives continue to lead across most major demographic groups – among men and women, among rural and Winnipeg residents and among voters of all education levels.

The exception, as illustrated below, is among younger voters (ages 18-34) and among low-income voters (household incomes below \$30,000.) Among these cohorts, traditionally reliable NDP voters, support for the NDP and PCs is presently tied.

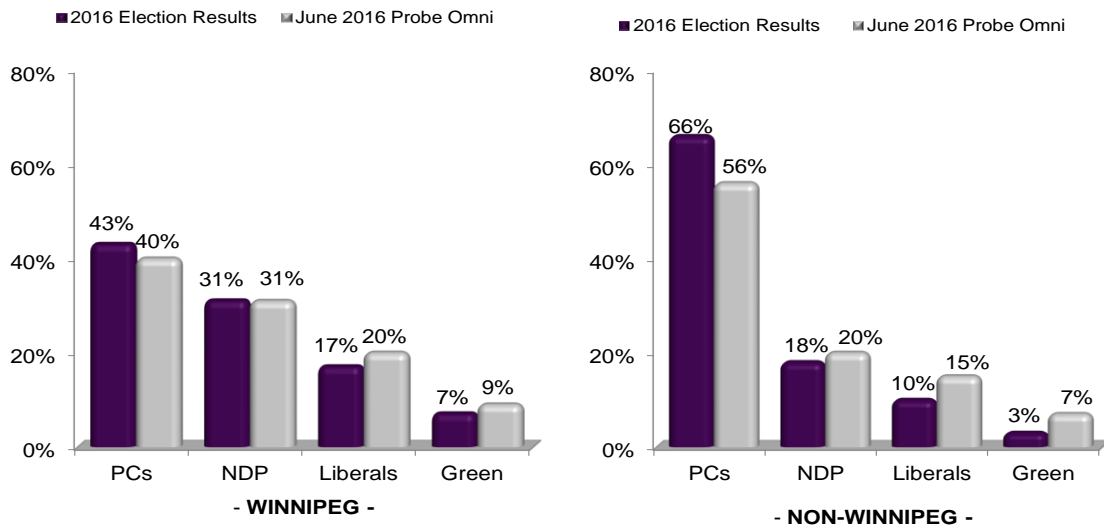
PROVINCIAL PARTY STANDINGS AMONG SELECTED SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS -- June 2016 -- Decided/Leaning Voters							
<i>If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you be most likely to support?</i>							
	Total	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	
(Base)	(1000) (%)	(484) (%)	(516) (%)	(319) (%)	(360) (%)	(285) (%)	
PC	46	52	40	36	50	53	
NDP	27	25	29	35	23	23	
Liberal	18	13	23	20	20	14	
Green	8	9	7	9	7	9	
	Education			Income			
	HS or Less	Some Post-Sec.	Post-Sec. Grad	<\$30K	\$30K-\$59K	\$60K+	\$100K+
(Base)	(297) (%)	(173) (%)	(511) (%)	(115) (%)	(233) (%)	(240) (%)	(244) (%)
PC	51	40	46	28	45	47	51
NDP	20	31	30	28	28	27	25
Liberal	18	23	15	32	15	17	16
Green	11	5	8	11	11	8	7

Unusually, PC support in the party's stronghold of rural Manitoba, while still strong, has declined by ten points since election day (from 66% to 56%). That shift accounts for much of the overall drop in the party's province-wide support.

In Winnipeg, where the party picked up 13 seats on election day, the PCs maintained their support (40%, compared with 43% on election day). In fact, as the graph below illustrates, all three major parties have seen little change in public support inside the Perimeter Highway since April 19.

P R B E **Provincial Party Support**
RESEARCH INC. -By Region -

"If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you be most likely to support?"

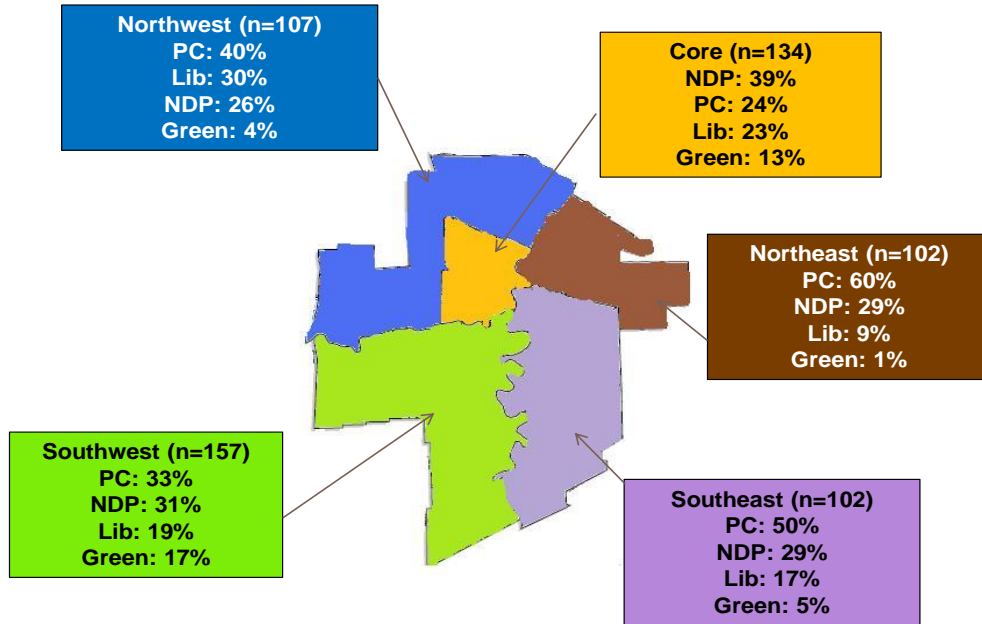


Base: Decided/Leaning Voters

As shown in the breakdown of Winnipeg support below, the Progressive Conservatives still lead in most areas of the city. PC support is particularly strong in the Northeast (60%) and the Southeast (50%) but is weakest in Core area neighbourhoods (24%).

Provincial Party Support

- By Winnipeg Region -



Base: Decided/Leaning Voters
Caution: Small base

This province-wide survey was designed and conducted by Probe Research Inc. via telephone interviews conducted between June 7, 2016 and June 16, 2016 among a random and representative sampling of 1,000 Manitoba adults. With a sample of 1,000, one can say with 95 per cent certainty that the results are within +/- 3.1 percentage points of what they would have been if the entire adult population of Manitoba had been interviewed. The margin-of-error is higher within each of the survey's population sub-groups. Modified random-digit dialing was used to ensure that all Manitoba adults would have an equal opportunity to participate in this Probe Research survey. Minor statistical weighting has been applied to this sample to ensure that the age and gender balance correspond with the province as a whole.

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