

### **PALLISTER HONEYMOON CONTINUES AS LEADERLESS OPPOSITION PARTIES COMPETE FOR CENTRE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

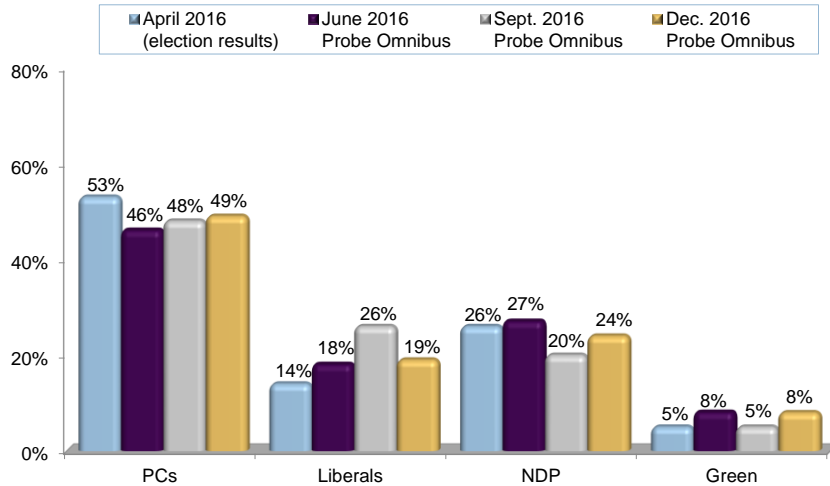
**Winnipeg** – As 2016 draws to a close, Brian Pallister's recently elected Progressive Conservatives finish the year on a high note with broad and impressive levels of public support. Meanwhile, neither of Manitoba's two main (and leaderless) opposition parties has succeeded in consolidating the attention of centre or centre left voters. These findings emerge from a Probe Research Inc. telephone survey of 1,000 adults taken for the *Winnipeg Free Press* between November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

#### ***PCs hold firm as support Ebbs and Flows for NDP, Liberals***

After capturing just over one-half of all votes cast in last spring's provincial election, Brian Pallister's Progressive Conservatives remain conspicuously popular with the support of 49 percent of decided voters. This level of support remains virtually unchanged in this the third consecutive Probe Research sounding taken since the April 2016 provincial election (the PCs were at 48% in September and 46% in June).

## 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

Manitoba's official opposition NDP now garner the support of one in four voters (24%) – up four percentage points since September and about on-par with their April 2016 election performance (the NDP captured 26% of the vote at the ballot box).

The provincial (and now leaderless) Liberal party had been showing steady increases in support since capturing 14 percent of the vote last April (rising to 18% in June and then increasing again to 26% in September), however, their popularity has now taken a downward turn – falling to 19 percent from 26 percent in our last sounding.

Green Party support has appreciated to its current level of eight percent from the five percent that they achieved in last April's election.

## *Tory Support is Wide and Deep*

Manitoba's governing Progressive Conservatives enjoy solid support from voters from all walks of life although they remain especially popular among rural voters (60%), men (53% versus 44% among women) and among those from higher income households (55% among those earning \$100,000+).

### PROVINCIAL PARTY STANDINGS AMONG SELECTED SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS

-- December 2016 --

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

	Total	Region		Gender		Age		
		Winnipeg	Rest of Manitoba	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
(Base)	(1000) (%)	(600) (%)	(400) (%)	(484) (%)	(516) (%)	(321) (%)	(362) (%)	(287) (%)
PC	49	41	60	53	44	42	45	58
NDP	24	25	22	22	25	27	23	15
Liberal	19	24	11	15	22	17	23	23
Green	8	9	6	9	7	12	9	3
	Education			Income				
	HS or Less	Some Post-Sec.	Post-Sec. Grad	<\$30K	\$30K-\$59K	\$60K- \$99K	\$100K+	
(Base)	(257) (%)	(177) (%)	(552) (%)	(103) (%)	(217) (%)	(322) (%)	(240) (%)	
PC	49	52	47	40	46	48	55	
NDP	20	17	27	14	22	25	27	
Liberal	18	19	19	26	22	19	14	
Green	11	10	6	14	8	9	14	

*This province-wide survey was designed and conducted by Probe Research Inc. via telephone interviews conducted between November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.*

For more information on this survey, please contact:

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