

2014 Ontario Election: Week Six *Tuesday Update*

June 10, 2014

*Election Day is this Thursday, June 12th – **don't forget to vote!** To check where your polling station is, [click here](#). For voter identification information, [click here](#).*

The final weekend of the campaign was a busy one, with a flurry of campaign activity, polls and newspaper endorsements.

The campaigns continued in full force over the weekend. The PCs and NDP continued to [attack](#) the Liberals on the gas plant file. Tim Hudak spoke to media at the Mississauga gas plant location with stacks of fake bills placed behind him. Hudak said that the billion dollars spent on the cancellation could have gone toward a new hospital or other causes. Andrea Horwath wrote an open letter to the other leaders, calling on them to ask the Speaker to turn over documents being sought by the OPP. Kathleen Wynne [suggested](#) that the attacks “showed desperation.”

Wynne appeared particularly focused on [persuading](#) past and potential NDP voters to vote for the Liberals. She penned an editorial in Sunday's Toronto Star accusing Horwath of abandoning the NDP's principles and blamed her for creating “the very real possibility of a Tim Hudak-led government.” Several target ridings across the province are close races between the Liberals and NDP.

On Monday, in response to accusations from Wynne that Horwath would prop up a Tory minority government, the NDP leader stated that she would [not support](#) the PC plan to cut 100,000 jobs. On Tuesday, Horwath further clarified that she would [not join](#) Hudak in a formal [coalition](#) but also said that “she is going to respect the decision of voters.” Wynne stated that she would [not prop up](#) a PC minority government and continued to call on progressives to support the Liberals to stop Hudak.

Hudak visited [Ottawa](#) on Monday to announce that he would provide funding for the second phase of the city's LRT project once the government balances the budget. This was a reversal from statements he made last week, when he said he would not fund the second phase.

Newspaper endorsements from two major newspapers were published this past weekend, adding to the endorsements made by The Globe and Mail and The Toronto Star last Friday. [The National Post](#) endorsed Hudak, calling him “the principled, competent, strong-willed and compassionate fiscal conservative Ontario needs.” The Post criticized the Liberals for the mismanagement of several public services, including ORGNE and eHealth, and high government spending despite the deficit. The PC plan, which includes corporate tax cuts, reducing regulations and downsizing the public service workforce, was touted in the endorsement. [The Toronto Sun](#) also endorsed Hudak, agreeing with his stance to reduce the public service by 100,000 jobs and calling on Hudak to control government spending. The Sun criticized the spring Budget, voicing concerns about overspending and increasing debt.

Of course, only the Globe endorsement was really in play; it was a forgone conclusion that the Post and Sun would support the Hudak Tories and the Star would endorse Wynne and the Liberals.

The Polls

A flurry of late Friday polls showed a neck-and-neck race to the finish line. The [Forum](#) poll had the Liberals leading with 39%, followed by the PCs at 37% and the NDP at 17%. [Ipsos Reid](#) found the Liberals and PCs tied at 35% and the NDP at 26%. The firm continues to be the outlier in the likely voter category, showing the PCs with a big lead over the Liberals, 40% versus 32%.

[Abacus Data](#) released a poll on Monday showing the Liberals and PCs tied at 34% among likely voters. The NDP is at 26%. Among all eligible voters, it's a close three-way race - the Liberals at 34%, PCs at 31% and the NDP at 28%. The NDP's support is notably higher in this Abacus poll compared to the findings of other firms.

The huge range in difference in NDP support in recent polls – from 17% to 26% -- is a real complicating factor in forecasting the potential outcome. If the NDP popular vote is the teens or very low 20's, the Liberals should pick up a substantial seat edge even if their vote percentage is very similar to the Tories. If the NDP vote is higher, it will play to the PC's advantage – hence Kathleen Wynne's pitch this week that “A vote for Horwath is a vote for Hudak.”

The EKOS daily tracking poll shows that last week's PC momentum has stalled. The PCs and Liberals are now in a virtual dead heat. The EKOS likely voter model consistently shows the Liberals with the lead, findings which conflict with the numbers put out by Ipsos Reid:

- [Saturday](#): The PCs lead with 36% over the Liberals at 34% and NDP at 21%, but the Liberals continue to have the advantage over the PCs among likely voters, with 41% support compared to 36%.
- [Monday](#): The Liberals and PCs are in a dead heat, with both parties tied at 36%. The numbers appear to have stabilized since last week's surge of support for the PCs. The NDP continues to trail far behind at 18%. The Liberals continue to have a sizeable advantage over the PCs with likely voters, with the Liberals at 42% and the PCs at 35%.
- [Tuesday](#): The polls continue to show the Liberals and PCs tied for the lead, with both parties polling at 35%. The NDP is third with 20%. Among likely voters, the Liberal lead over the PCs has narrowed by 5 points, with the Liberals at 38% and the PCs at 36%.

Firm	Poll Dates	Liberal	PC	NDP	Green
<i>Post-Debate</i>					
Forum	June 3	40%	35%	22%	2%
EKOS	June 4	36%	31%	19%	8%
EKOS	June 5	36%	31%	20%	10%
EKOS	June 6	34%	35%	21%	8%
Forum	June 6	39%	37%	17%	6%
Ipsos Reid*	June 6	32%	40%	24%	-
EKOS	June 7	34%	36%	21%	7%
EKOS	June 9	36%	36%	18%	8%
Abacus Data*	June 9	34%	34%	26%	-
EKOS	June 10	35%	35%	20%	7%

*Using Likely Voter models (as opposed to all eligible and committed/leaning voters)

On the Leaders’ Tour

At this point in the campaign, the leaders are visiting target ridings. The leaders’ itineraries provide a clear indication of the constituencies that are high on the priority list for the parties as the writ period comes to a close.

All the party leaders had a packed weekend, with most events being held in Toronto, the GTA, Southwestern Ontario and the Niagara Region. The schedule was even more hectic on Monday and Tuesday, with the leaders swinging through Eastern Ontario, Toronto, the GTA, and Southwestern Ontario.

Date	Kathleen Wynne	Tim Hudak	Andrea Horwath
Sat June 7	Waterdown Niagara Falls Hamilton	Mississauga Kitchener Strathroy	Toronto Hamilton Guelph London
Sun June 8	Mississauga Waterloo Kitchener	St. Catharines Fort Erie	Toronto
Mon June 9	Cambridge Stratford London	Ottawa Brampton Brantford Dundas	Toronto Sarnia Wallaceburg Chatham Windsor
Tues June 10	Kingston Trenton Pickering	Richmond Hill Oakville London	Essex London Brantford Kitchener/Waterloo

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