

Morning Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction Plan - December 4, 2017

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MEDIA SCAN: HYDRO RATE REDUCTION PLAN

December 4, 2017

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[Toronto Sun: Tories Lead The Pack; Kathleen Wynne's Liberals trail Brown's PCs, NDP: Poll; A5; 2017.12.04](#)

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Print Coverage

Toronto Sun: Tories Lead The Pack; Kathleen Wynne's Liberals trail Brown's PCs, NDP: Poll; A5; 2017.12.04

PUBLICATION: Toronto Sun

PAGE: A5

DATE: 2017.12.04

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BYLINE: Antonella Artuso

SOURCE: Toronto Sun

KEYWORDS: kathleen,wynne,liberals,heading,toward,thirdplace

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WORD COUNT: 450

Tories Lead The Pack; Kathleen Wynne's Liberals trail Brown's PCs, NDP: Poll

The Kathleen Wynne Liberals are heading toward a thirdplace finish in the next provincial election despite popular moves like a \$15-an-hour minimum wage, a new Forum poll shows.

Forum Research President Lorne Bozinoff said the numbers didn't improve for the Ontario Liberal government even after it cut hydro bills by an average 25%.

"The announcement had no impact on Liberal fortunes," Bozinoff added. "And then people's hydro bills started going down and it still did not have an impact on the Liberal fortunes.

"I think, for the Liberals to grow, it's a lot harder than you might normally imagine it's going to be, and that might all be due to the 15 years in government," he said.

The Forum poll shows the Ontario Progressive Conservatives, under leader Patrick Brown, dropped 5% from October but are still heading toward a "massive majority."

Voters polled by Forum put the Tories at 40%, Andrea Horwath's NDP at 26% and the Liberals at 24%. The pollster projects that if the numbers hold, the NDP would form the official opposition.

Bozinoff noted the drop in Tory support coincided with an aggressive media campaign by union-funded Working Families and Working Ontario Women that targeted Brown as a Donald Trump clone and social conservative.

"This shows a minimal impact - the Tories are down a little bit, the NDP are up a little bit," he said.

The Liberals are down pretty much to their base - those who will vote for them regardless of events, he said.

Wynne's popularity numbers aren't helping, he said.

The Forum poll found that 15% approve of her performance as premier, compared to 74% who thought she was doing a bad job of it, while 10% had no opinion.

Former premier Dalton McGuinty came close to winning a third majority government despite popularity

numbers in the low 20s, but these findings are even lower, Bozinoff said.
It's still about six months away from a provincial election and voters might be tuned out at the moment or just parking their vote to make up their minds later, he said.
One problem that will face all political leaders - the same poll found that almost nobody faithfully believes their promises.
One percent - practically zero - say they have a lot of trust in election promises, Forum found. Another 28% said they have some trust, 46% said not a lot of trust.
Roughly one out of every three people polled, 32%, said they had no trust at all in preelection offerings.
Forum Research polled 861 Ontario voters between Nov. 29-30 through an interactive voice response telephone survey, and its results are considered accurate plus or minus 3%, 19 times out of 20.
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Ottawa Sun: Tories Lead The Pack; Kathleen Wynne's Liberals trail Brown's PCs, NDP: Poll; A5; 2017.12.04

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