



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2019**

**DISPUTED ALLEGATIONS OF RCMP INVESTIGATION INTO SNC LAVALIN
WIPE OUT FEDERAL LIBERAL LEAD IN ONTARIO AT CAMPAIGN LAUNCH**

**SNC LAVALIN SEEN TO BE A BIG DEAL, PLURALITY
THINKS GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DEFEATED FOR IT**

DETAILED FINDINGS

**Alleged RCMP investigation into SNC Lavalin reported at campaign launch
stalls federal Liberal lead in Ontario**

TORONTO, September 17, 2019 - In an online sampling of public opinion taken among 811 Ontario voters 18 years of age and older on September 13 and 14, just one third of Ontario voters will support the federal Liberals in the upcoming October federal election (32%), compared to closer to 4-in-10 who will support the federal Conservatives (36%). This, a four-point lead for the Conservatives, is in comparison with last month, when the spread between the two parties federally was 8 points in the Liberals' favour (39% to 31%). The federal NDP (17%) have finally moved ahead of the Greens (11%) compared to being tied, as they were last month (14% and 12%, respectively). The Peoples' Party of Canada draws just less than one twentieth of the vote in Ontario (4%), and this is static from last month (4%). It must be expected this vote is coming from the Conservatives.

In contrast to the Liberals, for whom two thirds of their 2015 vote will return (65%), the Conservatives see close to 9-in-10 of their 2015 vote returning (86%). The NDP see two thirds of their 2015 vote staying with the party, while the Greens are especially tenacious (90% of 2015 vote - caution: small base size). One fifth of 2015 Liberals in Ontario will vote Conservative this time (18%) and this is up from one tenth last month (August - 11%). About one seventh of 2015 New Democrats will vote Liberal this time (14%, down from 18% last month), and about a tenth will vote Green (11%, down from 17% last month) or Conservative (10%).

Plurality sees SNC Lavalin as a "big deal", plurality thinks government should be defeated for it.

Respondents are presented with four scenarios:

- The SNCL affair is a big deal and the government should be defeated
- The SNCL affair is not a big deal, but the government should be defeated
- The SNCL affair is a big deal, but the government shouldn't be defeated
- The SNCL affair is not a big deal and the government shouldn't be defeated

The plurality, more than a third, agrees the SNCL affair IS a big deal and that the government should fall for it (38%). Add this to this the minority who think it isn't a big deal, but still think the government should fall (5%), and those who think the government should be defeated on this issue comprise more than 4-in-10 Ontario federal voters (43%) in total.

Approximately one fifth also believe the affair was a big deal but don't think the government should fall because of it (19%), and somewhat fewer find it not a big deal, which doesn't call for a new government (15%). In this case, the total who do not favour changing governments because of the SNC Lavalin affair amount to a little more than one third of Ontario voters (36%).

On the other hand, regardless of whether the government should fall or not, fully 6-in-10 Ontario voters think the SNC Lavalin affair is a "big deal" (57%), whereas those who think it's a petty beef comprise just one fifth of the Ontario electorate (20%). The balance (23%) don't have an opinion.

Liberals are equally likely to agree it's a big deal (42%) and it isn't a big deal (43%), but in neither case do they think it's worth changing governments. Conservatives overwhelmingly agree it's a big deal which deserves defeat (76%). New Democrats are slightly more likely to say it's a big deal which deserves defeat (29%) than they are to say it's a big deal but doesn't merit defeat of the government (21%).

Conclusion

"The Globe and Mail article alleging that the RCMP had opened an investigation into the possibility of obstruction of justice in the SNC Lavalin case, coming as it did on the heels of the election writs, was like a stick through a bicycle wheel for the Liberals; it spiked their momentum flat. It is immaterial that the story was disputed; it had its effect. There are still five weeks left, however, and this may a temporary slump".

"It is also interesting to note that, while the PPC is still pulling almost 5 points in the polls, all of which we must assume is coming from Conservative ranks, yet the Conservatives have managed to gather 5 points on their own, which appears to have drained straight from the Liberals. In addition, the idea that the NDP may be coming out of their slump has to be very worrying for Liberal strategists" said a pollster familiar with the poll's findings.

Federal Vote Intention in Ontario

	LIB	CON	NDP	GRN	PPC	Other
September 13, n=811	32%	36%	17%	11%	4%	-
August 16, n=1099	39%	31%	14%	12%	4%	1%
July 12, n=481	38%	33%	14%	13%	1%	-

Methodology

This poll was conducted on September 13 and 14, 2019, among an online sample of 811 Ontario voters 18 years of age and older. Online panel members are recruited to reflect the population profile described in 2016 Statistics Canada data.

As this is an opt-in sample, no margin of error is presented. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size would have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5%, nineteen out of twenty times asking.

Where appropriate, data have been weighted to ensure the sample matches the actual population profile according to the latest Statistics Canada data.

This poll is not intended to predict future outcomes but is a "slice of time" view of public opinion. The poll has been released in the public interest.

Detailed Tables

Let's talk about Canadian federal politics. Which party are you most likely to vote for in the upcoming Canadian federal election/Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time?

		Total	Gender		Age		
		Ontario	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q1. Let's talk about Canadian federal politics. Which party are you most likely to vote for in the upcoming Canadian federal election/Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time?	Total	679	348	331	122	256	301
	Liberal	32%	31%	33%	34%	29%	35%
	Conservatives	36%	44%	27%	31%	32%	44%
	New Democrats	17%	13%	20%	17%	22%	10%
	Greens	11%	6%	15%	12%	12%	9%
	People's Party of Canada	4%	4%	3%	6%	4%	2%
	Another party	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%

		Total	Region						
		Ontario	GTA	416	905	Hamilton/Niagara	SouthWest	East	North
Q1. Let's talk about Canadian federal politics. Which party are you most likely to vote for in the upcoming Canadian federal election/Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time?	Total	679	288	132	156	68	150	123	50
	Liberal	32%	34%	42%	28%	31%	26%	38%	28%
	Conservatives	36%	38%	25%	48%	35%	30%	37%	37%
	New Democrats	17%	15%	22%	10%	15%	24%	12%	16%
	Greens	11%	8%	7%	8%	12%	13%	12%	15%
	People's Party of Canada	4%	4%	4%	5%	6%	4%	1%	4%
	Another party	0%	-	-	-	1%	2%	-	-

		Total	Party most likely to vote					
		Ontario	Liberals	Conservatives	New Democrats	Greens	Peoples Party of Canada	Another party
Q1. Let's talk about Canadian federal politics. Which party are you most likely to vote for in the upcoming Canadian federal election/Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time?	Total	679	226	249	103	74	24	3
	Liberal	32%	100%	-	-	-	-	-
	Conservatives	36%	-	100%	-	-	-	-
	New Democrats	17%	-	-	100%	-	-	-
	Greens	11%	-	-	-	100%	-	-
	People's Party of Canada	4%	-	-	-	-	100%	-
	Another party	0%	-	-	-	-	-	100%

		Total	Party vote for in the last Canadian federal election					
		Ontario	Liberal	Conservative	NDP	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Another party
Q1. Let's talk about Canadian federal politics. Which party are you most likely to vote for in the upcoming Canadian federal election/Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time?	Total	679	271	208	109	24	1	5
	Liberal	32%	65%	5%	14%	-	-	-
	Conservatives	36%	18%	86%	10%	-	100%	41%
	New Democrats	17%	7%	3%	63%	3%	-	-
	Greens	11%	7%	4%	11%	90%	-	11%
	People's Party of Canada	4%	2%	3%	2%	7%	-	26%
	Another party	0%	1%	-	-	-	-	23%

		Total	The SNC Lavalin scandal				
		Ontario	Is a big deal, and the government should be defeated	Is a big deal, but the government shouldn't be defeated	Is not a big deal, but the government should be defeated	Is not a big deal, and the government shouldn't be defeated	Don't know
Q1. Let's talk about Canadian federal politics. Which party are you most likely to vote for in the upcoming Canadian federal election/Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time?	Total	679	265	141	41	125	107
	Liberal	32%	2%	60%	9%	80%	24%
	Conservatives	36%	71%	11%	57%	1%	18%
	New Democrats	17%	13%	16%	17%	13%	31%
	Greens	11%	8%	9%	16%	6%	21%
	People's Party of Canada	4%	6%	3%	2%	0%	4%
	Another party	0%	0%	1%	-	-	1%

Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?

		Total	Gender		Age		
		Ontario	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q2. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?	Total	811	391	420	152	311	348
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is a big deal, and the government should	38%	48%	28%	28%	40%	43%
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is a big deal, but the government shouldn't be defeated	19%	19%	20%	23%	21%	15%
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is not a big deal, but the government should be defeated	5%	6%	3%	2%	6%	4%
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is not a big deal, and the government shouldn't be defeated	15%	14%	15%	11%	11%	22%
	Don't know	23%	13%	34%	35%	22%	16%

		Total	Region						
		Ontario	GTA	416	905	Hamilton/ Niagara	SouthWest	East	North
Q2. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?	Total	811	344	154	190	83	186	141	57
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is a big deal, and the government should be defeated	38%	37%	28%	44%	39%	38%	38%	42%
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is a big deal, but the government shouldn't be defeated	19%	21%	26%	17%	20%	14%	20%	27%
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is not a big deal, but the government should be defeated	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	3%	3%	5%
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is not a big deal, and the government shouldn't be defeated	15%	16%	20%	13%	14%	12%	19%	9%
	Don't know	23%	21%	22%	20%	21%	33%	19%	17%

		Total	Party most likely to vote					
		Ontario	Liberals	Conservatives	New Democrats	Greens	Peoples Party of Canada	Another party
Q2. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?	Total	811	226	249	103	74	24	3
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is a big deal, and the government should be defeated	38%	2%	76%	29%	30%	59%	17%
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is a big deal, but the government shouldn't be defeated	19%	42%	7%	21%	19%	17%	46%
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is not a big deal, but the government should be defeated	5%	1%	8%	5%	8%	3%	-
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is not a big deal, and the government shouldn't be defeated	15%	43%	0%	14%	10%	2%	-
	Don't know	23%	12%	8%	31%	33%	18%	37%

		Total	Party vote for in the last Canadian federal election					
		Ontario	Liberal	Conservative	NDP	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Another party
Q2. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?	Total	811	302	221	129	29	1	11
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is a big deal, and the government should be defeated	38%	22%	70%	36%	20%	-	66%
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is a big deal, but the government shouldn't be defeated	19%	29%	8%	26%	16%	100%	-
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is not a big deal, but the government should be defeated	5%	3%	8%	5%	10%	-	-
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is not a big deal, and the government shouldn't be defeated	15%	31%	4%	10%	7%	-	-
	Don't know	23%	15%	11%	23%	47%	-	34%

		Total	The SNC Lavalin Scandal				
		Ontario	Is a big deal, and the government should be defeated	Is a big deal, but the government shouldn't be defeated	Is not a big deal, but the government should be defeated	Is not a big deal, and the government shouldn't be defeated	Don't know
Q2. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?	Total	811	306	150	42	129	184
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is a big deal, and the government should be defeated	38%	100%	-	-	-	-
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is a big deal, but the government shouldn't be defeated	19%	-	100%	-	-	-
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is not a big deal, but the government should be defeated	5%	-	-	100%	-	-
	The SNC Lavalin scandal is not a big deal, and the government shouldn't be defeated	15%	-	-	-	100%	-
	Don't know	23%	-	-	-	-	100%

Which party did you vote for in the last Canadian federal election, held in October 2015?

		Total	Gender		Age		
		Ontario	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q3. Which party did you vote for in the last Canadian federal election, held in October 2015?	Total	811	391	420	152	311	348
	Liberals	36%	36%	36%	32%	35%	40%
	Conservative	25%	28%	22%	14%	22%	37%
	NDP	17%	16%	17%	11%	24%	13%
	Green	3%	3%	4%	5%	3%	3%
	Bloc Quebecois	0%	1%	-	1%	-	-
	Another party	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
	Did not vote	18%	16%	20%	37%	15%	6%

		Total	Region						
		Ontario	GTA	416	905	Hamilton/ Niagara	SouthWe st	East	North
Q3. Which party did you vote for in the last Canadian federal election, held in October 2015?	Total	811	344	154	190	83	186	141	57
	Liberals	36%	38%	42%	36%	32%	28%	41%	35%
	Conservative	25%	24%	13%	33%	29%	21%	32%	20%
	NDP	17%	16%	22%	12%	15%	16%	14%	30%
	Green	3%	3%	5%	1%	5%	4%	4%	4%
	Bloc Quebecois	0%	1%	-	1%	-	-	-	-
	Another party	1%	1%	1%	1%	-	2%	1%	3%
	Did not vote	18%	17%	17%	17%	20%	28%	9%	9%

		Total	Party most likely to vote					
		Ontario	Liberals	Conservative s	New Democrat s	Greens	Peoples Party of Canada	Another party
Q3. Which party did you vote for in the last Canadian federal election, held in October 2015?	Total	811	226	249	103	74	24	3
	Liberals	36%	78%	20%	18%	27%	16%	63%
	Conservative	25%	4%	68%	5%	10%	25%	-
	NDP	17%	8%	5%	65%	17%	9%	-
	Green	3%	-	-	1%	31%	7%	-
	Bloc Quebecois	0%	-	1%	-	-	-	-
	Another party	1%	-	1%	-	1%	5%	37%
	Did not vote	18%	11%	5%	12%	15%	38%	-

		Total	Party vote for in the last Canadian federal election					
		Ontario	Liberal	Conservative	NDP	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Another party
Q3. Which party did you vote for in the last Canadian federal election, held in October 2015?	Total	811	302	221	129	29	1	11
	Liberals	36%	100%	-	-	-	-	-
	Conservative	25%	-	100%	-	-	-	-
	NDP	17%	-	-	100%	-	-	-
	Green	3%	-	-	-	100%	-	-
	Bloc Quebecois	0%	-	-	-	-	100%	-
	Another party	1%	-	-	-	-	-	100%
	Did not vote	18%	-	-	-	-	-	-

		Total	The SNC Lavalin scandal				
		Ontario	Is a big deal, and the government should be defeated	Is a big deal, but the government shouldn't be defeated	Is not a big deal, but the government should be defeated	Is not a big deal, and the government shouldn't be defeated	Don't know
Q3. Which party did you vote for in the last Canadian federal election, held in October 2015?	Total	811	306	150	42	129	184
	Liberals	36%	20%	54%	27%	76%	22%
	Conservative	25%	46%	10%	44%	7%	11%
	NDP	17%	16%	22%	17%	12%	17%
	Green	3%	2%	3%	8%	2%	7%
	Bloc Quebecois	0%	-	2%	-	-	-
	Another party	1%	2%	-	-	-	2%
	Did not vote	18%	14%	10%	5%	4%	41%