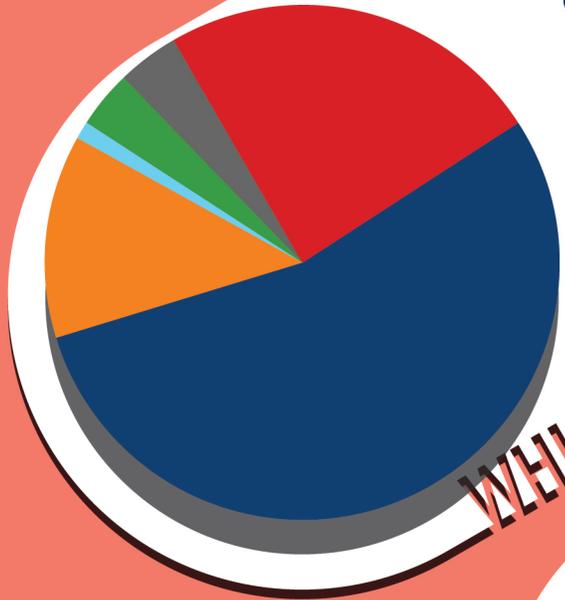


MOCK ELECTION RESULTS IN A SNAP



Liberal 24.4%
 Conservative 54.4%
 NDP 12.5%
 Bloc Québécois 1.2%
 Green 3.7%
 Other 3.7%

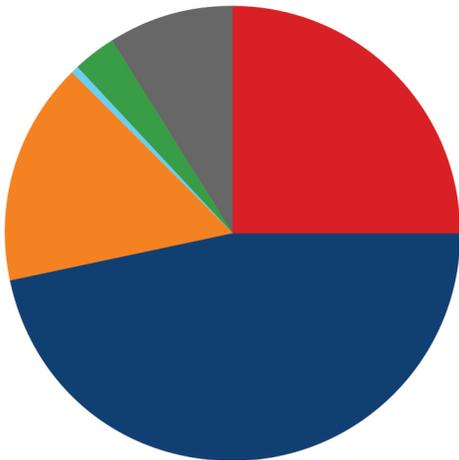
WHICH PARTY WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?

OUTCOME PREDICTIONS

Liberal majority 3.8%
 Liberal MSWM 49.4%
 Conservative majority 9.4%
 Conservative MSWM 33.1%
 NDP majority 0.6%
 NDP MSWM 1.2%
 Other 2.5%

MSWM = Most Seats Without Majority

SEPTEMBER 2021 CONVERGENCE



Trudeau 25.0%
 O'Toole 46.9%
 Singh 15.6%
 Blanchet 0.6%
 Paul 3.1%
 Other 8.8%

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AS YOUR NEXT LEADER?

UCC STUDENTS PREFER TORIES, BUT DOUBT THEY WILL WIN

Between September 2 and 10, 2021, *Convergence* conducted a school-wide survey to gauge student opinions regarding the upcoming Canadian Federal Election to be held on September 20. We received a total of 160 student responses, the results of which are summarized on the infographic cover page designed by our talented new Graphic Designer **Nicolas Albornoz**.

Based on the survey results, a majority of UCC students (54.4%) would vote for the Conservative Party if they were voting in the election, followed by 24.4% for the Liberal Party, 12.5% for the NDP, 3.7% for the Green Party, 1.2% for the Bloc Québécois, and 3.7% for "Other". Roughly in line with party preference, 46.9% of UCC students would like to see Erin O'Toole as our next Prime Minister, while 25% and 15.6% prefer Justin Trudeau and Jagmeet Singh respectively. The slight difference between party choice and Prime Minister preference might be attributable to differing judgements of the leaders' personalities or strategic voting in Canada's first-past-the-post voting system.

In this mock election, UCC students maintain their conservative bias. In our 2019 Federal Mock Election, 60.4% of UCC students chose the Tories when answering the question "Which political party do you agree with the most?". Even though UCC students favor the Tories overall, they doubt the Tories will actually win. Only 42.5% of students think the Conservatives will win a majority or most seats, while 53.2% believe the Liberals will do so. Among the 53.2% who predict the Liberals will win, however, only 3.8% think the Liberal will take the majority seats - apparently, this is not something Prime Minister Trudeau had hoped for when he called this snap election.

Many students who have strong opinions also justified their preferences in the comments section of the survey. As in the past, we chose to publish all students' comments in their entirety, barring one unrelated joke. These 30+ comments feel like mini-articles, as many of them are very enthusiastically written. We thank everyone who participated in this survey and those who left these insightful comments.

Kevin Liu, Editor in Chief

The below comments are written by students of the Upper School and do not represent the political view of Convergence.

"We need a prime minister and a party that can think ahead and solve the hard problems like climate change instead of making false promises."

"We've had years of mismanagement by Justin Trudeau. Our budget is in deep deficit, and every student at the college can and will be led to pay taxes up the wazoo to pay it off one day, all because of a government that hasn't passed Day 1 of IB Econ. We've had scandal after scandal and our global standing has significantly diminished."

"Canadians are frustrated by the obvious attempt of a power grab by our Prime Minister in the middle of a pandemic. Adding insult to injury, taxpayers will have to reconcile with the cool \$600 million price tag of this election. We would be wise to punish this behaviour by ousting the incumbent on September 20th."

"Although it's not an option on this survey, I would support the People's Party of Canada in this election. In my opinion the Conservative Party has become controlled opposition, particularly on issues I am quite invested in, such as gun rights, immigration reform, and the protection of fundamental political freedoms such as freedom of expression. Thus, while I don't fully agree with it and am aware of its internal issues, the PPC presents a platform that diversifies the political spectrum in our parliament and provides an alternative for right wing voters."

"I think that similarly to 2019 the Liberals will keep the government, but will lose seats and the popular vote. The Conservatives will win the popular vote, and the seats will likely be taken by the NDP with a few odd Conservative flips. In this line of possibilities I find it likely that there will be a vote of no-confidence and in the ensuing election the Liberals lose their government to the Conservatives. If the vote of no-confidence scenario does not pan out, I would predict something along the lines of Stephen Harper's Conservatives in 2015 after calling a snap

election.”

“I believe Trudeau called an election too early going into a potential fourth wave of COVID-19. In my opinion this will lead to underwhelming support for the Liberals. I also don’t see the NDP gaining enough support to win the most seats. O’Toole will likely draw a silent majority on election day.”

“I sincerely hope that The Green Party will be successful in the election. I think people recognize the urgency of the impending (and unfortunately, already present) climate disaster, and the Green Party has the only platform that can adequately address the issue.”

“Every single syllable Justin Trudeau has uttered over the past six years has been a grotesque, hysterical platitude. Whether it be failed economics, a destructive culture war, tribal politics, a neutered foreign policy, or unscientific & authoritarian COVID-19 policy, Justin Trudeau has brought a sledgehammer to the foundations of western liberal democracy. If you are a classical liberal who supports natural law, meritocracy, and all the rights outlined in the Charter, don’t conflate your position with that of the illiberality that Justin Trudeau represents. None of the other candidates are good, but a change has to be made.”

“As long Justin Trudeau isn’t the Prime Minister anymore I am more than happy with the results.”

“I think it’s absolutely ridiculous that Canada’s PM would do such a thing for self gain during the fourth wave of a whole pandemic while campaigning on empty promises as he has done for the last two terms, making ordinary Canadians feel as though they have to vote for him or suffer from slashes to the social safety net and lax environmental policy, all for the sake of a power grab.”

“Those who follow the norm will often lose majority to the variety of those who differ in opinion. If the consensus is stray under these circumstances, progress will halt and the norm will begin to deteriorate.”

“Can’t wait to see the radical right wingers’ comments.”

“Canadian elections are somewhat meaningless because no matter the outcome, the government is still at the behest of the US.”

“All of people running here are horrible. Liberals: handing out money to people as they raise taxes. Conservatives: handing out money but not taxing as much. NDP: making everyone poorer. And the Green are just more focused on the environment than anything else.”

“Trudeau is responsible for the record debt, growing deficits, inflation, high taxes for the middle class, a mental health crisis (especially for young people), an economic crisis, a worsening opioid crisis, foreign military failures, vaccine mandates, lies about electoral reform, and much more.”

“I went with a Conservative outcome all three times here, but

one of the reasons I am skeptical is O’Toole’s stance on mandatory vaccination and vaccine passports. COVID-19 must be dealt with in ways harsher than his campaign currently eludes to or supports, but I am hopeful that, if elected, his stance will toughen up. At first, I was convinced that a Liberal minority would be our outcome, but after seeing what has formulated from the maritimes, Justin Trudeau may have seen his last term. Not overly enthusiastic about any of the options, but at least we see a more centre-cut Conservative candidate.”

“What about the PPC? They are polling higher than the Green Party and are more significant in the election.” (**Convergence:** the PPC was not included on the survey since they were not invited to the Federal Election Debate and was not on CBC’s official poll tracker at the time the survey was sent. In retrospect, maybe we should have included the PPC in the survey more explicitly.)

“Bernier, despite polling higher than Annamie Paul, is not included on this list.” (**Convergence:** please see above explanation.)

“Trudeau ran around like a headless chicken plunging Canada into more debt than most prime ministers combined; he can’t be re-elected.”

“I believe in what the Liberal Party is trying to do, but with more people seeing how Justin Trudeau has led this country I think that they want change. This is making more people that believe in the Liberal Party actually vote for the Conservatives.”

“I love politics. Thank you for this survey.”

“Hopefully if someone promises to do away with the first-past-the-post system, they will actually keep the promise.”

“No great option here, to be honest.”

“Lol we doomed.”

“Unless there are any promising developments from the Conservative Party, the Liberals are most likely to come out on top, especially given how certain Conservative premiers (i.e. Doug Ford) have not managed the COVID waves optimally.”

“We need change. Trudeau has come in a racked up debt and deficits that will hurt us when we move on into working careers in the future.”

“I very much hope this is confidential.” (**Convergence:** Don’t worry - it 100% is!)

“I feel that the Liberals will have less seats compared to what they got last election. I also feel that the Conservatives will gain more seats compared to what they previously had.”

“Other = PPC.”

“O’Toole, more like O’Fool.”