CANADA PULSE INSIGHTS

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Premier Smith Faces Headwinds in Calgary: Six in Ten Rate Performance Poorly, Two-Thirds Say It's Time for Change

Premier Danielle Smith's support in Calgary is under significant pressure, with most residents saying it's time for change in who governs the province according to a new public opinion poll conducted for Rogers CityNews by Canada Pulse Insights. The poll also found little appetite for voting for an independent Alberta if a referendum question were put to the test: less than one in five (18%) support such an initiative—the identical potential outcome among those living in Edmonton surveyed in a companion opinion poll.

The poll finds that a minority (40%) of Calgarians believe Smith is doing a good job as Premier, while 60 percent say she is doing a bad job. When asked whether she deserves reelection, only 34 percent said yes compared to 66 percent who say it's time for a change and for someone new to take charge.

Smith's weaker standing in Calgary may also reflect the emergence of former mayor Naheed Nenshi as leader of the Alberta NDP. Once a three-term mayor widely popular in Calgary, Nenshi now anchors the Opposition from Edmonton and remains a familiar urban brand to Calgarians who previously supported his centrist and pragmatic style of governance.

These results place Smith below her provincial standing earlier this year and underline a challenging political environment in Alberta's largest city—a region that helped deliver her United Conservative Party's majority in 2023.

Little Public Appetite for Alberta Independence

The survey also finds minimal public support for Alberta separation. When asked how they would vote in a hypothetical referendum using the same question proposed by the Alberta Prosperity Project (APP), just 18 percent of respondents said the province should become a sovereign country independent of Canada, while 82 percent said it should remain in Canada. A companion poll of residents in Edmonton found an identical result.

About the Survey

This public opinion poll was undertaken for Rogers CityNews by Canada Pulse Insights. The online survey was administered by the sample and data collection experts at Sago from September 30 to October 6, 2025, among adult (aged 18+) residents of Calgary (n=410). The data has been weighted to represent the adult population based on the most recent census. For comparison purposes, a

probability sample of this size has a margin of error of ±4.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Canada Pulse Insights is an independent, Canadian owned public opinion research firm led by veteran pollster John Wright. The company adheres to the Canadian Research and Insights Council (CRIC) public opinion research standards and disclosure requirements. Sago, formerly the Schlesinger Group, is CRIC accredited and brings more than 55 years of experience in both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

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