

# Daily Update – 22 October 2020

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## CFA Franchise Awareness Day

Register to join us for meetings with Ontario elected officials during the week of November 2

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## PEI makes extra \$1.1M available to small businesses

Innovation PEI will increase funding for eight programs to help Island businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, it announced Thursday, changes estimated to cost the province approximately \$1.1 million.

The government chose the eight programs that businesses use the most and increased the funding for each program. They are: capital acquisition, small business investment grant, information technology planning, information technology implementation, human resources planning, human resources implementation, marketing assistance and web presence assistance.

For example, small business grants had been capped at a reimbursement rate of 15 per cent or a maximum of \$3,750, and will now be increased to 30 per cent or \$7,500.

Government is currently reviewing all of Innovation PEI's programs with an aim to simplify things for businesses, and plans to reveal changes in the spring. The changes come into effect Nov. 1 and end March 31, 2021.

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## British Columbians are heading to the polls on Oct. 24

Saturday is election day in BC.

A new poll from the Angus Reid Institute suggests the margin between the B.C. New Democrats and the B.C. Liberals has narrowed. The NDP still holds the advantage and would most likely win the most seats, but their position is not as secure as it was earlier in the campaign. This is due to the Liberals solidifying their support in the Interior and the Greens on Vancouver Island, reducing NDP Leader John Horgan's margin for error. Nevertheless, the New Democrats are still clearly favoured.

The New Democrats still hold a big 17-point lead over the Liberals in Metro Vancouver, the region where roughly two-thirds of the NDP's seats are likely to come from. But the Liberals have moved ahead in the Interior and North by about 10 points. On Vancouver Island, the NDP is still ahead by about 27 points but somewhat better numbers for the Greens mean the risk that party would lose most or all of its seats has dropped.

Poll averages

- NDP: 46.8% (-1.8)
- LIB: 34.1% (+0.8)
- GRN: 14.8% (+1.3)
- OTH: 4.3% (-0.3)

Brackets show change in party support since Oct. 16, 2020.

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## WestJet to provide refunds (not just credits) for flights cancelled due to pandemic

WestJet says it will begin providing refunds to passengers whose flights were cancelled due to the pandemic. The Calgary-based airline said it will begin contacting all eligible flyers with WestJet and Swoop on Nov. 2. It will begin with those whose flights were cancelled in March 2020 at the onset of the pandemic, to offer refunds in the original form of payment. The process is expected to take six to nine months, the company said. It asked customers to wait to be contacted, in order to avoid overloading its call centre.

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## Saskatchewan heads to the polls on Monday October 26

Monday is election day in Saskatchewan.

Three polls have been published so far in this campaign, all of them giving Scott Moe's Saskatchewan Party a wide lead over Ryan Meili's New Democrats. The Sask. Party would be very likely to win a big majority government if an election were held today. The margin between the two parties is slightly closer than in 2016, however, which suggests the NDP could gain a few seats.

The Sask. Party's advantage in the rural areas of the province give it a stranglehold on a majority government. They are likely to win the 31 seats needed for a majority outside of Saskatoon and Regina. The race is more competitive in the two cities, with the NDP and Sask. Party in a virtual tie in Regina. The Sask. Party's edge in Saskatoon is more comfortable.

Poll averages

- SP: 58.8% (+2.2)
- NDP: 34.0% (-1.7)
- GRN: 2.1% (-0.2)
- OTH: 5.2% (-0.3)

Brackets show change in party support since Oct. 14, 2020.