

# NEWS RELEASE



## MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Support for marijuana legalization steady at more than half

#### Just one tenth think current laws are appropriate

TORONTO August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 -In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1473 Canadian voters, the majority, more than half, favour the legalization of marijuana (53%), and this is very similar to the proportion who said this in March (55%). One third disagree with legalization now (34%) and this proportion is stable since March (34%). One tenth don't have an opinion, then (11%) and now (12%). Enthusiasm for legalization is highest among the youngest (61%), males (59%), wealthier groups (\$60K to \$100K - 61%), in Atlantic Canada (63%) and BC (67%), but not in Quebec (46%), among Liberals (63%) and New Democrats (60%) but not among Conservatives (32%).

#### 7-in-10 favour legalization or decriminalization

When voters are asked specifically how the government should deal with Marijuana, close to 7-in-10 say either it should be legalized and taxed (35%) or decriminalized for small amounts (33%) for a total of more than two thirds (68%) who are in favour of relaxing regulations. This compares closely to the two thirds who answered in a similar manner when we last asked this question in August 2014 (66%, legalization - 35%, decriminalization - 31%). Very few think the laws should be left as they are (9%) or that penalties should be increased (12%). Males are more likely to favour legalization (47%) than females (28%), and females are more likely to support decriminalization (males - 31%, females -36%). One fifth of Conservatives favour legalization (21%), while one third approve of decriminalization (35%). They are the most likely to think laws should stay as they are (26%).

"We've been tracking attitudes to marijuana legalization since the last election, and the sentiments haven't shifted significantly. The majority want their boo legalized, and if they can't have that, then they want decriminalization. I'm sure the Prime Minister is consulting experts on this , but I'm not sure he's listening to the same ones the voters are. Most see no harm in marijuana, other than the fact it is illegal,"said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at [lbozinoff@forumresearch.com](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com) or at (416) 960-9603.

## TORONTO

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- The majority, more than half, favour the legalization of marijuana (53%).
- When voters are asked specifically how the government should deal with Marijuana, close to 7-in-10 say either it should be legalized and taxed (35%) or decriminalized for small amounts (33%).
- More than one half of all voters (not just those following the trial) think the Prime Minister is not telling the truth about his role in the affair (56%).
- Three quarters of voters (73%) say the Duffy trial has been damaging to Conservative hopes in the federal election, and close to half say it has been "very damaging" (44%).

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### Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1473 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted from August 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at [www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp)

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at [www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

### Marijuana Legalization – Trending

%	August 17-19 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	March 13-14 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
Sample	1473	1370
Agree	53	55
Disagree	34	34
Don't know	12	11

### Marijuana: appropriate government action - Trending

%	August 17th-19th, 2015	August 18th-19th, 2014	August 24th, 2013	Nov. 19th, 2012	Dec. 13th, 2011
Sample	1473	1798	1189	1849	1160
Should be legalized and taxed	35	35	36	33	40
Should be decriminalized for small amounts	33	31	34	32	26
The law should be left as it is	15	16	15	17	20
Penalties should be increased	12	14	13	15	11
Don't know	4	4	3	3	2

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**August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

## ***Marijuana Legalization***

*'Do you agree or disagree marijuana should be legal in Canada?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### ***Age / Gender***

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1473	267	222	246	360	378	829	644
Agree	53	61	54	51	53	44	59	48
Disagree	34	24	37	37	36	44	31	38
Don't know	12	15	9	12	11	12	11	14

### ***Region***

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1473	166	373	316	180	197	241	1148	325
Agree	53	63	46	51	59	52	67	56	44
Disagree	34	25	43	35	29	40	22	32	43
Don't know	12	12	11	14	12	8	11	12	13

### ***Federal Vote Preference***

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1473	406	357	448	92	62	43
Agree	53	32	63	60	66	55	69
Disagree	34	59	24	28	25	32	27
Don't know	12	9	14	13	10	13	4

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***Marijuana: appropriate government action***

*'How do you think the government should deal with marijuana, legalize and tax it, decriminalize small amounts, leave the law as it is or increase penalties?'*

*[All Respondents]*

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1473	267	222	246	360	378	829	644
Should be legalized and taxed	35	46	30	30	35	29	42	28
Should be decriminalized for small amounts	33	28	31	38	41	34	31	36
The law should be left as it is	15	9	18	18	12	21	14	16
Penalties should be increased	12	12	18	10	10	11	11	14
Don't know	4	6	3	4	2	5	2	6

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1473	166	373	316	180	197	241	1148	325
Should be legalized and taxed	35	47	28	33	42	37	41	38	26
Should be decriminalized for small amounts	33	27	35	36	27	29	32	33	35
The law should be left as it is	15	12	17	16	15	13	11	14	19
Penalties should be increased	12	9	15	11	11	16	11	12	16
Don't know	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	5

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### Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1473	406	357	448	92	62	43
Should be legalized and taxed	35	21	41	40	46	26	50
Should be decriminalized for small amounts	33	35	33	34	26	42	28
The law should be left as it is	15	26	12	10	14	12	6
Penalties should be increased	12	16	10	12	6	16	14
Don't know	4	3	4	4	8	4	1

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August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

For more information:

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