

# NEWS RELEASE



## MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Lorne Bozinoff, President  
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com  
416.960.9603

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Majority oppose niqab at citizenship ceremony, in public service

#### Close to one fifth have changed vote because of niqab

TORONTO October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1438 Canadian voters, the majority oppose allowing the niqab to be worn during citizenship ceremonies (58%), and even more, close to two thirds, oppose allowing federal public servants to wear the niqab at work (62%). Those in opposition tend to be older, mid income, from Quebec (78%) and Alberta (63%) and overwhelmingly Conservative (84%), rather than Liberal (39%) or NDP (44%). Opposition to the niqab has subsided since we last polled this nationally (March 2015 - 67%)

#### Opposition to niqab persists despite options

It is explained that all new citizens must unveil for their passport photograph, but the majority still insist they oppose the niqab at citizenship ceremonies (59%). It is also explained that a new Canadian who wore the niqab recently won the right to take her citizenship oath privately in front of a judge. This is seen to be an unacceptable compromise by more than half (52%). Four-in-ten find this an acceptable compromise to unveiling (40%).

#### Close to one fifth have changed vote because of niqab

Close to one fifth of voters in total say the Conservatives position on the niqab has caused them to change their vote (17%), and this especially common among Albertans (24%).

#### Liberals, Bloc benefit from niqab vote switchers

The plurality of those who switched votes because of the niqab issue moved to the Liberals (33%), either from the Conservatives (23%) or the NDP (10%). Fewer switched to the NDP (19%), mostly from the Conservatives (12%). In total, one fifth of those who switched went to the Conservatives (21%), and these are relatively equally likely to be Liberals (12%) or New Democrats (9%). Relatively few voters switched to the Bloc because of this issue in total (4%), although this accounts for one fifth of those switching in Quebec (21%).

## TORONTO

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- The majority oppose allowing the niqab to be worn during citizenship ceremonies (58%), and even more, close to two thirds, oppose allowing federal public servants to wear the niqab at work (62%).
- It is explained that all new citizens must unveil for their passport photograph, but the majority still insist they oppose the niqab at citizenship ceremonies (59%).
- Close to one fifth of voters in total say the Conservatives position on the niqab caused them to change their vote (17%).
- The plurality of those who switched votes because of the niqab issue moved to the Liberals (33%), either from the Conservatives (23%) or the NDP 10%).

180 Bloor Street W., #1400  
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6  
T 416.960.9600  
F 416.960.9602  
forumresearch.com

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## TORONTO

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Equal proportions of voters believe (38%) or do not believe (36%) that the Prime Minister's Office intervened in the Syrian refugee admission process to ensure Christian refugees were given priority over Muslim refugees, while just more than a quarter don't know what to think (26%).
- Three-in-ten Canadians think it is a good idea to prioritize Christian refugees over Muslims (31%), while about one half do not (54%).
- "It appears Canadians want new citizens to show their faces when they join the family, regardless of various alternative options proffered. It is curious that this is perhaps the only issue we poll where Quebeckers and Albertans agree, as do Bloquistes and Conservatives," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

### Equal number believe, don't believe PMO prioritized Christian refugees

Equal proportions of voters believe (38%) or do not believe (36%) that the Prime Minister's Office intervened in the Syrian refugee admission process to ensure Christian refugees were given priority over Muslim refugees, while just more than a quarter don't know what to think (26%). Believing this charge is true is characteristic of the youngest (under 45 - 41%), lower (\$20K to \$40K - 43%) and higher income groups (\$100 to \$250K - 43%), in Quebec (44%) and among Liberals (46%) and New Democrats (51%).

### 3-in-10 approve of giving priority to Christians

Three-in-ten Canadians think it is a good idea to prioritize Christian refugees over Muslims (31%), while about one half do not (54%) and about one sixth don't have an opinion (16%). Thinking this is a good thing is common to Quebeckers (40%) and Conservatives (51%), but not especially so to any other group.

"It appears Canadians want new citizens to show their faces when they join the family, regardless of various alternative options proffered. It is curious that this is perhaps the only issue we poll where Quebeckers and Albertans agree, as do Bloquistes and Conservatives," 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.

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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 1438 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted between October 13<sup>th</sup> and October 14<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. Electoral success is dependant on the parties' skill at getting out the vote. 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)

## *Niqab during Citizenship Ceremonies – Trending*

%	October 13-14 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	March 13-14 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
Sample	1438	1370
Favor	31	22
Oppose	58	67
Don't know	12	10

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## **TORONTO**

**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

### ***Niqab during Citizenship Ceremonies: Unaided Support***

*'Do you favour or oppose allowing women to wear the niqab, which covers the face, during citizenship ceremonies?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1438	259	195	261	346	377	756	682
Favor	31	36	34	24	28	28	29	32
Oppose	58	54	55	61	62	61	58	57
Don't know	12	10	12	15	10	11	13	10

#### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1438	161	288	336	165	223	265	1164	274
Favor	31	42	14	36	41	30	35	36	12
Oppose	58	43	78	51	43	63	52	51	80
Don't know	12	15	9	13	16	7	13	13	8

#### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1438	430	493	317	64	63	27
Favor	31	10	46	40	34	3	24
Oppose	58	84	39	44	64	94	64
Don't know	12	6	15	16	2	3	13

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**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

### ***Niqab during Citizenship Ceremonies: Aided Support***

*'In fact, all new Canadians, including women wearing the niqab, must unveil for their passport photographs to establish their identity. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose allowing women to wear the niqab during citizenship ceremonies?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1438	259	195	261	346	377	756	682
Favor	34	39	37	28	35	30	32	37
Oppose	59	55	56	65	60	64	62	57
Don't know	6	6	7	7	4	6	7	6

#### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1438	161	288	336	165	223	265	1164	274
Favor	34	46	17	40	44	32	40	40	14
Oppose	59	48	77	56	47	59	52	54	79
Don't know	6	6	6	4	9	9	8	6	7

#### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1438	430	493	317	64	63	27
Favor	34	11	50	47	37	4	39
Oppose	59	85	43	46	55	91	57
Don't know	6	4	7	7	8	4	4

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### ***Niqab during Citizenship Ceremonies: Private Oath***

*'One new Canadian who wears the niqab recently won the legal right to swear her citizenship oath privately before a judge. Is this an acceptable or unacceptable compromise to unveiling for the citizenship ceremony?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1438	259	195	261	346	377	756	682
Acceptable	40	45	40	36	42	32	35	43
Unacceptable	52	44	48	57	53	59	55	48
Don't know	9	11	13	7	5	8	9	9

#### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1438	161	288	336	165	223	265	1164	274
Acceptable	40	48	20	47	48	40	46	46	19
Unacceptable	52	44	73	43	38	52	46	45	73
Don't know	9	8	7	10	14	7	8	9	8

#### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1438	430	493	317	64	63	27
Acceptable	40	19	57	51	31	9	21
Unacceptable	52	74	33	40	64	86	64
Don't know	9	7	10	9	4	6	15

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**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

### ***Niqab: Public Servants***

*'Do you favour or oppose allowing federal public servants to wear the niqab, which covers the face, at work?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1438	259	195	261	346	377	756	682
Favor	29	36	29	25	25	23	26	31
Oppose	62	58	59	67	63	68	65	60
Don't know	9	6	12	8	12	9	9	9

#### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1438	161	288	336	165	223	265	1164	274
Favor	29	46	11	33	37	27	36	34	10
Oppose	62	45	84	57	52	64	53	56	84
Don't know	9	9	5	11	11	10	11	10	6

#### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1438	430	493	317	64	63	27
Favor	29	9	44	36	27	6	26
Oppose	62	84	44	54	71	92	58
Don't know	9	6	12	10	2	2	16

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**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

### ***Vote Change: Conservative Party's Position on the Niqab***

*'Do you favour or oppose allowing women to wear the niqab, which covers the face, during citizenship ceremonies?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1438	259	195	261	346	377	756	682
Yes	17	18	18	16	14	16	16	17
No	83	82	82	84	86	84	84	83

#### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1438	161	288	336	165	223	265	1164	274
Yes	17	16	14	18	20	14	19	17	15
No	83	84	86	82	80	86	81	83	85

#### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1438	430	493	317	64	63	27
Yes	17	13	19	13	34	23	8
No	83	87	81	87	66	77	92

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**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

***Vote Change: Conservative Party's Position on the Niqab***

*'How has your vote changed?'*

*[Changed vote because of Conservatives' position on niqab]*

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	231	43	38	40	48	62	130	101
Conservative to Liberal	23	24	20	26	30	16	29	17
Conservative to NDP	12	10	17	12	10	12	12	12
Liberal to Conservative	12	10	20	11	5	13	12	12
Liberal to NDP	7	12	5	5	7	2	4	9
NDP to Conservative	9	8	3	11	16	8	8	9
NDP to Liberal	10	6	9	9	17	17	10	11
Are now voting for the Bloc Quebecois	4	2	7	6	3	4	2	6
Something else	23	28	20	19	12	29	22	24

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	231	27	38	56	30	32	48	193	38
Conservative to Liberal	23	35	5	25	24	34	28	28	3
Conservative to NDP	12	0	9	9	17	23	24	12	14
Liberal to Conservative	12	8	9	15	7	16	10	13	9
Liberal to NDP	7	8	7	9	9	0	4	8	4
NDP to Conservative	9	2	17	7	7	4	8	5	22
NDP to Liberal	10	23	8	10	14	0	11	11	9
Are now voting for the Bloc Quebecois	4	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	21
Something else	23	24	25	25	22	23	14	24	19

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### Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	231	54	94	42	17	14	3
Conservative to Liberal	23	4	54	1	2	0	82
Conservative to NDP	12	1	1	62	0	0	0
Liberal to Conservative	12	38	3	0	19	0	0
Liberal to NDP	7	0	2	28	0	9	0
NDP to Conservative	9	24	1	1	7	21	0
NDP to Liberal	10	3	22	4	2	0	0
Are now voting for the Bloc Quebecois	4	0	0	0	0	56	0
Something else	23	30	16	5	70	14	18

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**TORONTO**

**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Christian Refugees Priority Awareness**

*'It has been suggested that the Prime Minister's Office reviewed Syrian refugee files to give priority to Christians over Muslims. Do you believe this is true or not?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1438	259	195	261	346	377	756	682
Believe it is true	38	41	41	32	37	37	37	38
Do not believe it is true	36	36	30	40	37	37	38	34
Don't know	26	23	29	28	27	26	25	28

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1438	161	288	336	165	223	265	1164	274
Believe it is true	38	32	44	39	35	24	38	36	44
Do not believe it is true	36	29	33	34	40	51	35	37	32
Don't know	26	40	23	27	25	25	27	27	24

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1438	430	493	317	64	63	27
Believe it is true	38	15	46	51	40	46	28
Do not believe it is true	36	60	26	25	36	33	32
Don't know	26	25	28	24	24	20	41

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### ***Christian Refugees Priority Approval***

*'Do you approve or disapprove of giving priority to Christian refugees over Muslim refugees?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1438	259	195	261	346	377	756	682
Approve	31	30	29	33	28	32	33	29
Disapprove	54	58	51	51	55	51	53	55
Don't know	16	12	20	16	17	17	15	17

#### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1438	161	288	336	165	223	265	1164	274
Approve	31	21	40	27	24	32	30	28	40
Disapprove	54	61	46	56	64	48	56	56	46
Don't know	16	18	13	17	12	20	14	16	14

#### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1438	430	493	317	64	63	27
Approve	31	51	18	22	39	42	38
Disapprove	54	32	67	66	54	40	39
Don't know	16	18	15	13	8	18	24

For more information:

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D.

President

Forum Research Inc.

Tel: (416) 960-9603

Fax: (416) 960-9602

E-mail: [lbozinoff@forumresearch.com](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com)

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