

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two thirds approve of marijuana dispensaries in Vancouver

Fewer approve of council order to close dispensaries

TORONTO April 24th, 2016 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1033 voters in the city of Vancouver, two thirds say marijuana dispensaries should be allowed to operate in the city (64%), while just more than a quarter think they shouldn't be allowed (28%). One tenth don't have an opinion (9%). Approving of dispensaries is common to the youngest (82%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 73%) and among those who have used marijuana in the past (82%). Opposition to these retail outlets is common to the oldest (36%), homeowners (32%), those who voted for Kirk Lapointe in the last mayoral election (48%), those who disapprove of the job Gregor Robertson is doing as mayor (37%) and those who have never used marijuana (43%). By comparison, in Toronto, just fewer than 6-in-10 voters approve of dispensaries operating (March, 2015 - 57%).

Majority have a dispensary in their neighbourhood

Close to 6-in-10 voters have a marijuana dispensary in their neighbourhood (58%), especially the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 66%). One quarter say there is no dispensary in their neighbourhood (25%), while as many as one sixth are unsure (16%). Those least likely to know if their neighbourhood is home to a dispensary are the oldest (23%), the least wealthy (22%) and those who have never used marijuana (22%). By comparison, in Toronto, where dispensaries have just begun to operate, one tenth say there is one in their neighbourhood (11%).

One half may have used marijuana in the past

Four-in-ten voters have used marijuana or cannabis in the past (40%), while one tenth would prefer not to answer (11%), rather than say they haven't (48%). So, it may be that one half of Vancouver voters are current or past tokers (51%). Claimed past use of marijuana is most common to the youngest (49%), males (46%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 54%), Gregor Robertson voters (44%) and those who approve of his performance as mayor (45%). In Toronto, just fewer claim past usage (36%) and a similar proportion prefer not to answer (9%), for a total of close to half who may have used in the past (45%).

TORONTO

April 24th, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two thirds say marijuana dispensaries should be allowed to operate in the city (64%), while just more than a quarter think they shouldn't be allowed (28%).
- Close to 6-in-10 voters have a marijuana dispensary in their neighbourhood (58%).
- Four-in-ten voters have used marijuana or cannabis in the past (40%).

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One tenth may have medical marijuana prescription

Close to one tenth of Vancouver voters claim to have a medical marijuana card or prescription (8%), and a further one twentieth prefer not to say (4%) rather than deny it (88%). Thus, more than a tenth of Vancouver voters may hold medical marijuana prescriptions (12%). These are most likely to be the youngest (21%), the least wealthy (often a proxy for youth - 21%), those who rent rather than own (17%), those with some college or university (17%) and those who have used marijuana in the past (21%). In Toronto, by comparison, one in fifty claim a prescription (2%) and a further one in fifty prefer not to answer (2%) for a total of about one twenty-fifth with a medical marijuana card (4%), or one third the proportion evident in Vancouver.

Fewer than half approve of plan to close dispensaries

Just fewer than one half of Vancouver voters approve of council's plan to license a handful of dispensaries and force others to close (47%), while more than a third disapprove of this plan (35%). Close to one fifth have no opinion (17%). Agreeing with council's plan is especially common to the younger set (35 to 44 - 54%), the wealthiest (53%), mothers of children under 18 years old (56%) and the best educated (post grad - 55%).

"It appears social acceptance of these dispensaries is leading political and official acceptance, and most Vancouverites don't appear to have a big problem with them, even in their own neighbourhoods. It is interesting to note that approval in Vancouver, where dispensaries have been around for a number of years, is about the same level as in Toronto, where these outlets have only appeared this year," 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 or at (416) 960-9603.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Close to one tenth of Vancouver voters claim to have a medical marijuana card or prescription (8%).
- Just fewer than one half of Vancouver voters approve of council's plan to licence a handful of dispensaries and force others to close (47%).
- "It appears social acceptance of these dispensaries is leading political and official acceptance, and most Vancouverites don't appear to have a big problem with them, even in their own neighbourhoods. It is interesting to note that approval in Vancouver, where dispensaries have been around for a number of years, is about the same level as in Toronto, where these outlets have only appeared this year," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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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 1033 randomly selected voters in Vancouver. The poll was conducted between April 23rd and April 24th, 2016.

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

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

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Marijuana Dispensary in Neighbourhood

%	Vancouver	Toronto
	1033	908
Yes	58	11
No	25	38
Don't know	16	51

Marijuana Dispensary Operating in City

%	Vancouver	Toronto
	1033	908
Yes	64	57
No	28	30
Don't know	9	13

Marijuana Usage

%	Vancouver	Toronto
	1033	908
Yes	40	36
No	48	55
Prefer not to answer	11	9

Medical Marijuana Card

%	Vancouver	Toronto
	1033	908
Yes	8	2
No	40	41
Prefer not to answer	4	2

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Marijuana Dispensary

'Is there a marijuana dispensary in your neighbourhood?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1033	218	151	183	200	281	552	481
Yes	58	60	67	62	59	50	55	62
No	25	28	25	25	21	27	29	21
Don't know	16	11	9	14	20	23	16	16

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1033	129	145	150	109	101	173
Yes	58	53	53	62	65	58	66
No	25	25	28	23	23	27	24
Don't know	16	22	19	15	12	15	10

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Gregor Robertson for Vision Vancouver	Kirk Lapointe for the NPA	Adriane Carr for the Greens	Someone else
Sample	1033	355	159	70	126
Yes	58	67	64	60	61
No	25	20	22	26	22
Don't know	16	13	14	14	17

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April 24th, 2016

Marijuana Dispensary Operation

‘Should marijuana dispensaries be allowed to operate in Vancouver?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1033	218	151	183	200	281	552	481
Yes	64	82	59	64	62	53	66	61
No	28	11	35	27	31	36	27	28
Don't know	9	8	6	9	8	11	7	10

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1033	129	145	150	109	101	173
Yes	64	58	65	61	69	73	69
No	28	29	23	29	28	25	25
Don't know	9	13	12	9	4	2	6

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Gregor Robertson for Vision Vancouver	Kirk Lapointe for the NPA	Adriane Carr for the Greens	Someone else
Sample	1033	355	159	70	126
Yes	64	69	46	69	67
No	28	21	48	31	26
Don't know	9	10	6	0	7

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Marijuana Usage

'Have you ever used marijuana or cannabis?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

	%							
	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1033	218	151	183	200	281	552	481
Yes	40	49	47	41	36	33	46	34
No	48	39	46	49	45	60	44	54
Prefer not to answer	11	13	7	10	19	7	10	12

Income

	%						
	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1033	129	145	150	109	101	173
Yes	40	40	39	33	48	54	50
No	48	52	51	54	46	36	41
Prefer not to answer	11	8	10	13	6	10	9

Last Mayoral Vote

	%				
	Total	Gregor Robertson for Vision Vancouver	Kirk Lapointe for the NPA	Adriane Carr for the Greens	Someone else
Sample	1033	355	159	70	126
Yes	40	44	33	40	37
No	48	44	59	46	50
Prefer not to answer	11	12	8	14	13

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Medical Marijuana Card

'Do you have a medical marijuana card or prescription?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

	%							
	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1033	218	151	183	200	281	552	481
Yes	8	15	7	7	8	4	9	7
No	40	41	44	40	43	34	44	35
Prefer not to answer	4	6	4	4	4	2	3	4
Haven't used marijuana	48	39	46	49	45	60	44	54

Income

	%						
	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1033	129	145	150	109	101	173
Yes	8	17	13	5	5	5	7
No	40	27	34	35	48	57	50
Prefer not to answer	4	4	2	5	2	2	2
Haven't used marijuana	48	52	51	54	46	36	41

Last Mayoral Vote

	%				
	Total	Gregor Robertson for Vision Vancouver	Kirk Lapointe for the NPA	Adriane Carr for the Greens	Someone else
Sample	1033	355	159	70	126
Yes	8	9	3	6	10
No	40	43	38	44	37
Prefer not to answer	4	4	0	4	3
Haven't used marijuana	48	44	59	46	50

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Licensing Marijuana Dispensaries

'City council has decided to license about a dozen marijuana dispensaries to operate in Vancouver, and more than a hundred others will be required to close by April 29. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1033	218	151	183	200	281	552	481
Approve	47	38	54	48	45	53	44	52
Disapprove	35	43	34	36	36	30	41	29
Don't know	17	19	13	16	19	17	15	19

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1033	129	145	150	109	101	173
Approve	47	45	34	48	45	48	53
Disapprove	35	36	43	35	39	43	32
Don't know	17	19	23	17	16	10	14

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Gregor Robertson for Vision Vancouver	Kirk Lapointe for the NPA	Adriane Carr for the Greens	Someone else
Sample	1033	355	159	70	126
Approve	47	52	53	41	41
Disapprove	35	30	34	41	40
Don't know	17	19	13	17	18

For more information:

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