

# NEWS RELEASE



**FORUM RESEARCH INC.**

## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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## **TORONTO**

**August 25th, 2016**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Close to 4-in-10 support the Ottawa Police Association in the controversy currently embroiling the Ottawa Police Service (37%)
- As many as 7-in-10 agree the controversy has had a negative effect on public trust in the police (70%)
- Mayor Jim Watson has the approval of two thirds of Ottawa voters (66%)
- Matt Skof, president of the Ottawa Police Association, has the approval of close to 6-in-10 voters (59%)
- Seven-in-ten are aware of the controversy in general (71%)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Public sees controversy's negative effect on trust in OPS**

#### **Both Watson and Bordeleau see approval plummet**

In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 859 Ottawa voters, close to 4-in-10 support the Ottawa Police Association in the controversy currently embroiling the Ottawa Police Service (37%), while just one third support the Mayor and the Chief of Police (33%). One fifth support neither side (21%), and one tenth don't have an opinion (9%). Support for the Police Association is common to the boomer segment (55 to 64 - 40%), males (40%) rather than females (34%) and those in mid income groups (\$40K to \$60K - 46%). Support for the mayor and police chief is characteristic of the oldest (40%), males (36%) rather than females (30%) and the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 39%).

#### **Wide majority sees negative effect on public trust in OPS**

As many as 7-in-10 agree the controversy has had a negative effect on public trust in the police (70%), and just one fifth think it has not (20%). One tenth don't have an opinion (9%).

#### **Approval ratings for Watson and Bordeleau suffer**

Mayor Jim Watson has the approval of two thirds of Ottawa voters (66%), primarily younger females. Police Chief Charles Bordeleau has the approval of just more than half (54%). While these are respectable approval ratings in isolation, they represent a sharp decline for both since last month (July 22, Watson - 74%, Bordeleau - 74%).

#### **Approval high for Skof, El-Chantiry**

Matt Skof, president of the Ottawa Police Association, has the approval of close to 6-in-10 voters (59%), slightly higher than for Chief Bordeleau. Eli El-Chantiry, Chair of the Ottawa Police Services Board, has the approval of just more than half (53%), matching Chief Bordeleau's rating.

#### **Awareness of controversy is high**

Seven-in-ten are aware of the controversy in general (71%), awareness that a recruit who did not initially pass investigation was hired is characteristic of about 6-in-10 (58%), and awareness that the recruit was of Somali background is at the same level (57%).

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## **Majority disagree with Bordeleau's commitment to stand by recruit**

Just one third agrees with Chief Bordeleau's stated intention of standing by the recruit in question (33%), whereas the majority disagree with the chief (55%). One tenth don't share an opinion (11%).

## **Substantial minority think Bordeleau should resign; not so Skof and El-Chantiry**

Close to 4-in-10 Ottawa voters, when asked, agree Chief Bordeleau should resign (39%), while just more than 4-in-10 disagree with this idea (44%). Close to one fifth don't have an opinion (17%). Those who see the Chief as unfit for his job include the boomers (55 to 64 - 44%), males (43%) rather than females (35%) and the least wealthy (less than \$20K - 54%),

Just more than a quarter agree Matt Skof should resign (28%), compared to close to half who don't agree (47%). Those who think he should go are characteristically the youngest (32%), males (33%) rather than females (23%) and the least wealthy (42%).

One third of Ottawa voters agree Eli El-Chantiry should resign (35%), while 4-in-10 do not agree (41%), and close to a quarter have no opinion (23%). It is primarily males (43%) in the lowest income bracket (46%) who think he should go.

"This controversy has had a significant impact on the way Ottawans view those who serve and protect them. While the mayor and the police chief maintain approval levels in the majority, they are down sharply since just last month, and it is apparent that citizens are not entirely on their side. In fact it is Matt Skof who comes out looking the best, by comparison" 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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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Just one third agree with Chief Bordeleau's stated intention of standing by the recruit in question (33%)
- Close to 4-in-10 Ottawa voters, when asked, agree Chief Bordeleau should resign (39%)
- "This controversy has had a significant impact on the way Ottawans view those who serve and protect them. While the mayor and the police chief maintain approval levels in the majority, they are down sharply since just last month, and it is apparent that citizens are not entirely on their side. In fact it is Matt Skof who comes out looking the best, by comparison" 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 859 randomly selected Ottawa adults. The poll was conducted on August 24 and 25, 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](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)

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## ***Mayoral Trending***

### ***Mayor Watson***

%	May 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	July 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2016	August 24 <sup>th</sup> 2016
Sample	890	862	859
Approve	73	74	66

### ***Police Chief Bordeleau***

%	May 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	July 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2016	August 24 <sup>th</sup> 2016
Sample	890	862	859
Approve	73	74	54

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## **TORONTO**

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### ***Jim Watson Approval***

*Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jim Watson is doing as mayor?*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Approve	66	71	67	63	62	60	63	68
Disapprove	34	29	33	37	38	40	37	32

#### **Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Approve	66	66	63	66	69	66	63
Disapprove	34	34	37	34	31	34	37

#### **Past Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	859	282	288	82	38	51
Approve	66	54	73	66	44	66
Disapprove	34	46	27	34	56	34

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## **Charles Bordeleau Approval**

*Do you approve or disapprove of the job Charles Bordeleau is doing as Chief of Police?*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Approve	54	54	57	49	52	57	50	58
Disapprove	46	46	43	51	48	43	50	42

### **Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Approve	54	58	53	53	47	55	50
Disapprove	46	42	47	47	53	45	50

### **Previous Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	859	282	288	82	38	51
Approve	54	50	56	39	41	33
Disapprove	46	50	44	61	59	67

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## **Matt Skof Approval**

*Do you approve or disapprove of the job Matt Skof is doing as president of the Ottawa Police Association?*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Approve	59	60	66	53	57	56	57	61
Disapprove	41	40	34	47	43	44	43	39

### **Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Approve	59	58	61	65	55	62	55
Disapprove	41	42	39	35	45	38	45

### **Previous Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	859	282	288	82	38	51
Approve	59	62	55	46	56	43
Disapprove	41	38	45	54	44	57

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## TORONTO

August 25th, 2016

### *Eli El-Chantiry Approval*

*Do you approve or disapprove of the job Eli El-Chantiry is doing as chair of the Ottawa Police Services Board?*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Approve	53	52	56	53	51	53	48	58
Disapprove	47	48	44	47	49	47	52	42

#### **Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Approve	53	53	65	51	51	58	44
Disapprove	47	47	35	49	49	42	56

#### **Previous Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	859	282	288	82	38	51
Approve	53	44	59	46	42	41
Disapprove	47	56	41	54	58	59

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## **TORONTO**

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### **Police Service Controversy**

*Are you aware of the controversy surrounding Chief Bordeleau and the Ottawa Police Service?*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Yes	71	54	72	78	83	83	75	67
No	29	46	28	22	17	17	25	33

#### **Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Yes	71	50	60	70	79	72	82
No	29	50	40	30	21	28	18

#### **Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	859	103	193	359	204
Yes	71	62	64	75	75
No	29	38	36	25	25

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## **TORONTO**

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### ***Awareness of Nature of Police Controversy***

*A police recruit has been hired who did not initially pass investigation for his suitability for the force. Were you aware of this?*

*[All Respondents]*

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

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Yes	58	42	59	62	68	72	61	55
No	42	58	41	38	32	28	39	45

#### ***Income***

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Yes	58	35	46	62	61	61	66
No	42	65	54	38	39	39	34

#### ***Education***

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	859	103	193	359	204
Yes	58	54	47	62	62
No	42	46	53	38	38

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## TORONTO

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### *Ethnic Background of Police Recruit Awareness*

*This recruit is from a Somali background. Were you aware of this?*

[All Respondents]

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Yes	57	42	57	61	68	71	60	55
No	43	58	43	39	32	29	40	45

#### **Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Yes	57	32	39	59	60	59	70
No	43	68	61	41	40	41	30

#### **Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	859	103	193	359	204
Yes	57	52	46	63	59
No	43	48	54	37	41

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**Standing by the New Recruit**

*Chief Bordeleau has said he will stand by the new recruit. Do you agree or disagree with Chief Bordeleau?*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Agree	33	32	33	34	33	36	32	35
Disagree	55	55	53	57	54	59	57	54
Don't know	11	13	14	9	12	5	11	12

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Agree	33	27	35	25	28	39	35
Disagree	55	60	55	64	57	52	53
Don't know	11	13	10	11	14	9	12

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	859	103	193	359	204
Agree	33	35	26	33	41
Disagree	55	60	61	57	43
Don't know	11	5	13	10	16

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**Which Side do Ottawa Residents Support?**

Which side do you support in the controversy between the mayor and the police chief on one side, and the Ottawa Police Association on the other?

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Mayor and the police chief	33	29	35	33	33	40	36	30
Ottawa Police Association	37	33	38	38	40	39	40	34
Neither	21	26	15	23	20	17	16	26
Don't know	9	12	13	7	6	5	8	10

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Mayor and the police chief	33	26	32	27	33	34	39
Ottawa Police Association	37	38	28	46	37	41	37
Neither	21	20	34	20	21	24	15
Don't know	9	16	6	7	9	1	8

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	859	103	193	359	204
Mayor and the police chief	33	28	33	32	39
Ottawa Police Association	37	47	34	39	30
Neither	21	14	27	19	24
Don't know	9	11	7	11	7

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**Controversy Impact on Public Trust**

*Do you agree or disagree this controversy has had a negative effect on public trust in the Ottawa Police Service?*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Agree	70	70	70	70	73	69	71	70
Disagree	20	20	20	21	19	21	21	19
Don't know	9	10	9	8	7	10	7	11

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Agree	70	70	75	72	73	69	72
Disagree	20	24	14	22	17	25	21
Don't know	9	7	11	6	11	7	8

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	859	103	193	359	204
Agree	70	71	74	72	64
Disagree	20	24	15	20	24
Don't know	9	5	11	8	12

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**Should Charles Bordeleau Resign?**

*Do you agree or disagree Charles Bordeleau should resign as police chief?*

[All Respondents]

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Agree	39	37	41	37	44	36	43	35
Disagree	44	44	39	45	43	54	46	43
Don't know	17	19	20	19	13	11	11	22

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Agree	39	54	42	37	43	36	37
Disagree	44	24	42	45	40	53	48
Don't know	17	22	16	17	17	12	16

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	859	103	193	359	204
Agree	39	37	41	43	30
Disagree	44	41	42	44	48
Don't know	17	22	17	13	22

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**Should Matt Skof Resign?**

*Do you agree or disagree Matt Skof should resign as President of the Ottawa Police Association?*

*[All Respondents]*

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Agree	28	32	24	25	29	28	33	23
Disagree	47	48	44	45	49	47	51	43
Don't know	25	20	32	29	22	25	16	34

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Agree	28	42	32	22	31	24	26
Disagree	47	37	42	55	46	60	47
Don't know	25	21	26	23	23	16	28

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	859	103	193	359	204
Agree	28	34	33	23	28
Disagree	47	53	43	50	40
Don't know	25	13	24	26	31

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### **Should Eli El-Chantiry Resign?**

*Do you agree or disagree Eli El-Chantiry should resign as chair of the Ottawa Police Services Board?*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	859	166	120	166	208	199	454	390
Agree	35	34	38	35	35	37	43	30
Disagree	41	41	36	39	43	48	41	41
Don't know	23	25	26	25	22	15	16	30

#### **Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	859	71	105	127	103	100	213
Agree	35	46	33	37	41	30	37
Disagree	41	27	40	39	41	54	41
Don't know	23	27	28	24	18	15	22

#### **Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	859	103	193	359	204
Agree	35	39	36	35	33
Disagree	41	35	41	42	42
Don't know	23	27	23	22	24

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