

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Majority disagree Harper is telling the truth on Duffy

Two thirds say PM knew about cheque

TORONTO August 20th, 2015 -In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1473 Canadian voters, among the two thirds who are following the Senator Mike Duffy trial in the media (68%), two thirds insist Prime Minister Harper knew about the personal cheque for \$90,000 paid by former Chief of Staff Nigel Wright to Senator Mike Duffy to cover his improperly incurred expenses (68%). This view is especially common to the youngest (81%), in Atlantic Canada (79%) and Quebec (78%) and among Liberals (89%) and New Democrats (85%). Women are more likely than men to believe the Prime Minister knew about the cheque (73% to 62%). Just one fifth say the Prime Minister did not know about the cheque (21%), a position he has maintained since the existence of the cheque was revealed in May 2014.

More than half of all voters don't think PM is telling the truth

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%), and this is especially the case among the youngest (62%), in Atlantic Canada (64%) and among Liberals (75%) and New Democrats (73%). Just one fifth believe Harper is speaking the truth (22%), and these are most likely to be the oldest (30%), males (28%), in Alberta (36%), among Conservatives (58%) but not Liberals or New Democrats (9% each). More than one fifth do not know whether the Prime Minister is being truthful or not (22%). Those following the trial are more likely to disagree the Prime Minister is telling the truth (64%) than those who are not following the trial (39%).

Duffy trial seen to be "very damaging" to Conservatives by close to half

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%). Among Conservative voters, close to half say the trial has done damage (46%), and more than a tenth say it has been "very damaging" (13%).

TORONTO

August 20th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Among the two thirds who are following the Senator Mike Duffy trial in the media (68%), two thirds insist Prime Minister Harper knew about the personal cheque.
- 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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Wright's testimony seen to be more credible than Duffy's; most don't believe either

One quarter of those following the trial find Nigel Wright's testimony more credible (25%), while about half this proportion believe Mike Duffy's testimony is credible (14%). Those who believe Wright are likely to be the oldest (30%), in the prairies (30%) and Alberta (34%) and among Conservatives (53%). Those on Team Duffy tend to be the youngest (20%), males (22%) and mid income groups (\$40K to \$60K - 25%). The majority believes the testimony of neither (51%), and one tenth don't have an opinion.

Two thirds follow trial

Two thirds of Canadian voters are following this trial (68%), and they are especially likely to be the oldest (81%), females (70%), in mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 79%), in Atlantic Canada (72%), Ontario (78%) and Alberta (72%). Conservatives (68%) and Liberals (71%) are equally likely to be enmeshed, but more so New Democrats (75%).

"Well, it appears that Duffy matters after all. Many pundits have characterized this trial as "inside Ottawa baseball", of interest only to the pros. It clearly has caught the popular imagination, however, and is making serious inroads into the brands of both the Prime Minister and the Conservative Party. It has always been assumed that the credibility of the leader is the lynch pin on which a party's electability hangs, and when that is gone, little but promises remain," 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:

- One quarter of those following the trial find Nigel Wright's testimony more credible (25%), while about half this proportion believe Mike Duffy's testimony is credible (14%).
- Two thirds of Canadian voters are following this trial (68%).
- "Well, it appears that Duffy matters after all. Many pundits have characterized this trial as "inside Ottawa baseball", of interest only to the pros. It clearly has caught the popular imagination, however, and is making serious inroads into the brands of both the Prime Minister and the Conservative Party. It has always been assumed that the credibility of the leader is the lynch pin on which a party's electability hangs, and when that is gone, little but promises remain," 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 1473 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted from August 17th to 19th, 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

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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Mike Duffy Trial: Following

'Have you been following the trial of Senator Mike Duffy in the media?'

[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
Yes	68	54	64	76	75	81	72	65
No	32	46	36	24	25	19	28	35

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1473	166	373	316	180	197	241	1148	325
Yes	68	72	53	78	61	72	67	73	51
No	32	28	47	22	39	28	33	27	49

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1473	406	357	448	92	62	43
Yes	68	68	71	75	57	45	66
No	32	32	29	25	43	55	34

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Mike Duffy Trial: Credible testimony

‘Whose testimony is more credible in this trial?’

[Have been following Duffy trial]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1052	151	142	182	272	305	620	432
Nigel Wright’s testimony	25	17	23	24	30	33	28	23
Mike Duffy’s testimony	14	20	14	16	9	12	16	13
Neither one’s testimony	51	54	52	51	54	42	46	55
Don’t know	10	8	11	9	8	12	10	9

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1052	130	220	251	128	151	172	866	186
Nigel Wright’s testimony	25	25	20	26	30	34	21	26	20
Mike Duffy’s testimony	14	17	11	17	7	12	15	15	11
Neither one’s testimony	51	50	55	50	56	40	53	50	56
Don’t know	10	8	14	7	8	13	11	9	14

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1052	292	271	340	54	36	27
Nigel Wright’s testimony	25	53	15	17	15	11	21
Mike Duffy’s testimony	14	6	21	18	5	10	18
Neither one’s testimony	51	31	55	56	68	73	44
Don’t know	10	11	9	9	12	6	17

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Mike Duffy Trial: Harper's knowledge of the cheque

'As far as you know, did Prime Minister Harper know about the \$90,000 personal cheque Nigel Wright gave Mike Duffy to pay his expenses?'

[Have been following Duffy trial]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1052	151	142	182	272	305	620	432
Prime Minister Harper knew about the cheque	68	81	70	69	69	52	67	70
Prime Minister Harper did not know about the cheque	21	13	21	21	17	31	23	18
You don't know	11	6	9	11	14	17	10	12

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1052	130	220	251	128	151	172	866	186
Prime Minister Harper knew about the cheque	68	79	78	67	61	52	66	66	77
Prime Minister Harper did not know about the cheque	21	13	15	21	24	34	20	21	16
You don't know	11	8	7	12	16	13	13	12	7

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1052	292	271	340	54	36	27
Prime Minister Harper knew about the cheque	68	18	89	85	69	91	75
Prime Minister Harper did not know about the cheque	21	62	4	5	22	5	18
You don't know	11	19	7	9	9	4	7

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Mike Duffy Trial: Stephen Harper telling the truth

'Do you agree or disagree Stephen Harper is telling the truth about his role in the Mike Duffy affair?'

[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	22	14	19	24	25	30	24	19
Disagree	56	62	53	59	57	47	56	56
Don't know	22	24	28	18	18	23	20	25

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1473	166	373	316	180	197	241	1148	325
Agree	22	15	15	25	20	36	18	23	16
Disagree	56	64	57	57	49	43	59	57	54
Don't know	22	22	29	17	31	21	23	20	31

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1473	406	357	448	92	62	43
Agree	22	58	9	9	15	4	12
Disagree	56	15	75	73	60	63	62
Don't know	22	27	16	18	25	33	26

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Mike Duffy Trial: Damaging to the Conservative Party

'Is this trial damaging or not damaging to the Conservative Party's prospects in the coming election?'

[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
NET: TOP2	73	72	71	76	73	74	69	76
NET: BTM2	20	17	21	21	21	19	23	17
Very damaging	44	47	43	44	41	39	39	48
Somewhat damaging	29	24	27	32	32	35	31	28
Not very damaging	15	12	16	18	18	14	17	13
Not damaging at all	4	5	6	3	3	5	6	3
Don't know	7	11	8	3	6	7	7	7

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1473	166	373	316	180	197	241	1148	325
NET: TOP2	73	80	71	73	66	71	77	74	69
NET: BTM2	20	12	20	21	22	23	16	19	21
Very damaging	44	56	40	45	34	40	47	45	36
Somewhat damaging	29	24	31	28	33	31	30	28	33
Not very damaging	15	9	17	16	18	18	11	15	18
Not damaging at all	4	3	3	6	4	4	5	5	3
Don't know	7	7	9	6	12	6	8	7	10

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1473	406	357	448	92	62	43
NET: TOP2	73	45	87	85	74	73	83
NET: BTM2	20	50	8	9	13	21	12
Very damaging	44	13	57	57	50	41	58
Somewhat damaging	29	33	30	28	25	31	25
Not very damaging	15	37	6	8	10	19	6
Not damaging at all	4	13	1	1	3	2	6
Don't know	7	5	5	6	12	7	6

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