

# NEWS RELEASE



## MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Two thirds now see Canada in recession

#### Infrastructure investment preferred to austerity

TORONTO September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1384 Canadian voters, fully two thirds say Canada is now in a recession (67%), and this is a significant increase from the 6-in-10 who said this in July (July 21 - 58%). This attitude is especially common to the youngest (72%), in Ontario (72%) and the prairies (71%), among Liberals and New Democrats (75% and 76%, respectively) but only to one half of Conservative voters (48%).

#### Few want austerity, cutting deficits

Close to one half of voters agree the best course of action for a government in a poor economy is to invest in infrastructure to create jobs and stimulate growth (45%), and very few take the opposite view, that it is preferable to impose restraint and pay down deficits (18%). Relatively equal proportions say to do something else or don't know (16% and 13%, respectively). Conservatives have a narrow margin in favour of austerity (37% to 26%), while Liberals and New Democrats firmly choose investment (63% and 52%, respectively).

#### Plurality approve of Liberal deficit spending plan

Close to one half of voters approve of Liberal leader Justin Trudeau's plan to run deficits for 3 years after the election before balancing the budget in 2019 (44%), while more than a third (38%) do not approve of this plan. Close to one fifth don't know what to think (17%). Three quarters of Liberals approve of the plan (78%) not surprisingly, but close to one half of New Democrats do as well (45%). Just one sixth of Conservative voters agree with this idea (15%).

#### Two thirds agree deficits are not always a "bad thing"

Two thirds of Canadian voters say it is not always a bad thing to run a deficit (63%), while just fewer than a quarter think it is (22%). One sixth don't have an opinion (15%). As many as one half of Conservative voters don't think deficits are always bad (52%), while close to three quarters of Liberals (71%) and New Democrats (72%) are of the same opinion.

## TORONTO

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two thirds say Canada is now in a recession (67%).
- Close to one half of voters agree the best course of action for a government in a poor economy is to invest in infrastructure to create jobs and stimulate growth (45%).
- Close to one half of voters approve of Liberal leader Justin Trudeau's plan to run deficits for 3 years after the election before balancing the budget in 2019 (44%).
- Two thirds of Canadian voters say it is not always a bad thing to run a deficit (63%).

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"It appears Canadians have suffered through enough restraint in bad times to realize that a little spending goes a long way towards improving the economic climate, and getting voters, in turn, to spend more. It's a simple cycle, really; governments spend, people work, people spend, taxes are paid. It usually works," 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:**

- "It appears Canadians have suffered through enough restraint in bad times to realize that a little spending goes a long way towards improving the economic climate, and getting voters, in turn, to spend more. It's a simple cycle, really; governments spend, people work, people spend, taxes are paid. It usually works," 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 1384 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted from August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</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)

### **Canada in Recession – Trending**

%	August 31 <sup>st</sup> -Sep. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	July 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
Sample	1384	1208
Yes	67	58
No	26	29
Don't know	7	13

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## **Canada in Recession**

*'As far as you know, is Canada in a recession or not?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Yes	67	72	69	65	69	58	66	69
No	26	22	23	31	25	30	27	25
Don't know	7	6	8	3	6	12	7	7

### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Yes	67	62	64	72	71	66	61	68	63
No	26	27	29	22	23	27	30	25	30
Don't know	7	11	7	6	5	7	9	7	7

### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Yes	67	48	75	76	68	78	46
No	26	43	20	17	26	14	45
Don't know	7	9	5	6	6	8	9

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**Recession – Course of Action**

*‘Which is the best course of action for a government to take in a poor economy?’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Impose austerity and cut spending to eliminate deficits	18	18	21	16	12	21	17	18
Invest in infrastructure to stimulate consumer spending	45	39	38	51	48	50	52	39
Do neither	8	10	9	6	6	7	7	9
Do something else	16	19	19	16	17	10	16	17
Don't know	13	14	13	11	17	12	9	17

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Impose austerity and cut spending to eliminate deficits	18	17	20	15	19	24	16	18	19
Invest in infrastructure to stimulate consumer spending	45	48	41	48	35	40	47	46	42
Do neither	8	3	17	4	9	4	5	4	19
Do something else	16	20	13	15	20	22	18	18	11
Don't know	13	12	8	17	17	10	13	15	8

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Impose austerity and cut spending to eliminate deficits	18	37	11	9	23	7	37
Invest in infrastructure to stimulate consumer spending	45	26	63	52	25	38	26
Do neither	8	8	3	8	16	25	12
Do something else	16	15	11	17	28	9	19
Don't know	13	13	12	14	9	21	7

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### ***Recession – Deficit Spending***

*‘The Liberal Party plans three years of deficit spending to stimulate growth before balancing the budget in 2019. Do you approve or disapprove of this?’*

[All Respondents]

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Approve	44	49	39	46	42	41	49	40
Disapprove	38	34	42	35	42	43	39	38
Don't know	17	18	18	19	16	15	12	23

#### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Approve	44	48	36	51	40	36	44	47	35
Disapprove	38	31	42	33	44	51	40	38	41
Don't know	17	21	22	16	17	12	16	16	24

#### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Approve	44	15	78	45	41	23	14
Disapprove	38	76	10	32	39	40	76
Don't know	17	9	12	22	20	37	10

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### ***Recession – Running a Deficit***

*'Is it always a bad thing to run a deficit, or not?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1384	257	194	226	302	405	742	642
Yes	22	20	27	22	23	21	23	21
No	63	66	56	66	63	61	66	60
Don't know	15	14	17	12	14	18	11	19

#### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1384	158	318	325	143	187	253	1099	285
Yes	22	17	30	19	24	24	21	20	30
No	63	64	52	67	65	64	66	66	52
Don't know	15	19	18	14	12	12	13	14	18

#### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1384	318	363	429	84	43	83
Yes	22	35	15	16	32	30	35
No	63	52	71	72	51	49	48
Don't know	15	13	14	12	17	21	17

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