

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Voters Favour Wind Farms, Offshore and on Land**

### **High support for public investment in alternative energy**

TORONTO November 23<sup>rd</sup> – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1184 Ontario voters, one half favour rural wind farms (54%) and a similar proportion favour offshore wind farms (52%). In each case, 3-in-10 or fewer disapprove (30% and 26%, respectively). Between one sixth and one fifth don't have an opinion (15% and 22%, respectively).

### **Two thirds support public investment in alternative energy**

Two thirds of voters support investing public funds in developing alternative energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal (65%), and this is especially common to the youngest (77%), the least wealthy (70%), in the city of Toronto (71%), among Liberals (87%) and New Democrats (77%) and the best educated (post grad - 70%). Fewer than one quarter oppose this kind of public investment (22%) and about one tenth don't have an opinion (13%). Opposition is characteristic of the middle aged (45 to 64 - 28%), males (28%) rather than females (15%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 27%), in Eastern Ontario (28%), among PC supporters (40%) especially and among the least educated (secondary school or less - 26%).

### **Most believe alternative energy sources will be sufficient in future**

The plurality of voters (44%) believe alternative energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal will be sufficient to replace oil, gas and coal in the future, while just 3-in-10 don't believe this to be the case (30%) and one quarter don't know if it is or not (25%). Belief in the future of alternative fuels sources is strongest among the youngest, the least wealthy, in Northern Ontario and among Liberals.

“The majority favour wind farms, onshore or off, which is not what their opponents would have us believe. The public also believes in public investment in new fuel sources, which is also not the current received wisdom. It appears the provincial Liberal government's Green Energy program has promise, although not in its current form,” 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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### **TORONTO**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- One half favour rural wind farms (54%) and a similar proportion favour offshore wind farms (52%)
- Two thirds of voters support investing public funds in developing alternative energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal (65%)
- “The majority favour wind farms, onshore or off, which is not what their opponents would have us believe. The public also believes in public investment in new fuel sources, which is also not the current received wisdom. It appears the provincial Liberal government's Green Energy program has promise, although not in its current form,” 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 1184 randomly selected Ontario voters. The poll was conducted on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 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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### **Wind Farms in Rural Areas**

*Do you approve or disapprove of wind farms, or groups of wind turbines in rural areas?*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1184	180	136	215	301	352	598	569
Approve	54	67	57	53	44	40	56	53
Disapprove	30	18	29	30	42	43	35	26
Don't know	15	15	14	17	14	17	10	21

#### **Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1184	115	182	163	159	113	210
Approve	54	60	53	52	53	52	58
Disapprove	30	19	33	29	33	39	29
Don't know	15	22	13	19	14	9	13

#### **Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1184	173	181	390	571	255	185
Approve	54	55	54	54	54	50	62
Disapprove	30	29	22	31	28	37	29
Don't know	15	16	23	15	18	13	9

#### **Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other
Sample	1184	491	267	209	81	56
Approve	54	38	71	67	60	44
Disapprove	30	48	12	22	28	33
Don't know	15	13	17	11	12	24

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## **Wind Farms in the Great Lakes**

*Do you approve or disapprove of offshore wind farms, or groups of wind turbines located offshore in the Great Lakes?*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1184	180	136	215	301	352	598	569
Approve	52	61	52	51	44	45	59	47
Disapprove	26	18	25	26	33	34	27	24
Don't know	22	21	23	23	23	22	14	29

### **Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1184	115	182	163	159	113	210
Approve	52	54	50	54	48	54	56
Disapprove	26	21	26	24	29	29	26
Don't know	22	25	24	22	23	17	18

### **Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1184	173	181	390	571	255	185
Approve	52	55	59	54	56	42	54
Disapprove	26	24	16	26	23	33	27
Don't know	22	21	25	20	22	25	19

### **Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other
Sample	1184	491	267	209	81	56
Approve	52	42	62	60	60	45
Disapprove	26	42	13	17	16	36
Don't know	22	16	25	23	24	19

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## **Public Funds Investment in Alternative Energy Sources**

*Do you support or oppose investing public funds in alternative energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal?*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1184	180	136	215	301	352	598	569
Support	65	77	67	60	58	56	64	68
Oppose	22	15	18	28	28	24	28	15
Don't know	13	8	15	12	14	20	8	18

### **Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1184	115	182	163	159	113	210
Support	65	70	66	63	56	63	68
Oppose	22	11	19	23	25	27	24
Don't know	13	18	15	13	18	10	8

### **Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1184	173	181	390	571	255	185
Support	65	63	71	65	67	63	66
Oppose	22	28	15	22	20	21	22
Don't know	13	8	14	13	13	16	12

### **Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other
Sample	1184	491	267	209	81	56
Support	65	46	87	77	76	46
Oppose	22	40	6	14	9	31
Don't know	13	14	7	9	15	23

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## Alternative Energy Sources Sufficient to Replace Fossil Fuels

Will alternative energy sources like wind, solar and geothermal be sufficient to replace fossil fuels like gas, oil and coal in the future or not?

[All Respondents]

### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1184	180	136	215	301	352	598	569
Yes	44	65	47	34	35	26	44	45
No	30	18	28	38	39	38	36	24
Don't know	25	17	25	28	27	36	19	31

### Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1184	115	182	163	159	113	210
Yes	44	54	56	42	39	44	37
No	30	14	22	32	31	33	42
Don't know	25	32	21	27	29	23	21

### Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1184	173	181	390	571	255	185
Yes	44	44	46	42	44	43	49
No	30	34	28	29	29	33	28
Don't know	25	22	27	28	28	24	23

### Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other
Sample	1184	491	267	209	81	56
Yes	44	28	61	54	62	37
No	30	50	13	24	14	34
Don't know	25	22	26	22	24	29

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