

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One half approve of 3 years of deficit spending

\$90 billion deficit seen to be unacceptable, though

TORONTO February 18th, 2016 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1406 Canadian voters, close to one half approve of the Liberal government's original plan to go into deficit for three years before balancing the budget in the final year of their mandate (48%), while just more than one third do not approve of this plan (36%). One sixth have no opinion (16%). Approval of deficit spending is characteristic of the youngest (57%), males (50%) rather than females (46%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 56%), in the Atlantic provinces (62%), among Liberals (of course - 73%) and among New Democrats (54%). Disapproval is common to the young mid aged (35 to 44 - 45%), males (39%), mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 46%), in Alberta (53%) and among Conservatives (77%).

6-in-10 says a \$90 billion deficit is unacceptable

Voters were presented with reports that the Liberal government deficits may total as much as \$90 billion by the end of their mandate. As many as 6-in-10 say this is unacceptable (59%), while just more than a quarter find it acceptable (28%). A seventh don't have an opinion (13%). Those who find this acceptable are especially likely to be the youngest (38%), males (30%) rather than females (25%), the least wealthy (38% - often a proxy for youth), in the Atlantic Provinces (34%) and in BC (37%), among Liberals (42%) and New Democrats (44%). Those who find a deficit this large unacceptable are especially likely to be mid aged (45 to 54 - 71%), the wealthiest (64%), in Alberta (71%) and Conservative voters (92%).

"This is an issue which splits neatly along party and regional lines. Deficit spending in general is favoured in the east, BC, among the young and among Liberals and New Democrats. While \$90 billion in deficits is not seen to be acceptable by most, the same ideological and regional divisions exist," 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.

TORONTO

February 18th, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Close to one half approve of the Liberal government's original plan to go into deficit for three years before balancing the budget in the final year of their mandate (48%).
- Voters were presented with reports that the Liberal governments may total as much as \$90 billion by the end of their mandate. As many as 6-in-10 say this is unacceptable (59%), while just more than a quarter find it acceptable (28%).
- "This is an issue which splits neatly along party and regional lines. Deficit spending in general is favoured in the east, BC, among the young and among Liberals and New Democrats. While \$90 billion in deficits is not seen to be acceptable by most, the same ideological and regional divisions exist," 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 1406 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted between February 16th and 17th, 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

TORONTO

February 18th, 2016

Deficit Spending - Trending

%	February 18th, 2016	September 2nd, 2015
Sample	1406	1384
Approve	48	44
Disapprove	36	38
Don't know	16	17

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February 18th, 2016

Deficit Spending

'The Liberal government plans 3 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	1406	240	199	266	336	365	761	645
Approve	48	57	38	44	51	44	50	46
Disapprove	36	27	45	42	33	35	39	33
Don't know	16	15	17	13	17	20	11	22

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1406	90	351	495	99	193	178	1076	330
Approve	48	62	46	47	49	39	51	48	46
Disapprove	36	21	38	36	35	53	26	36	36
Don't know	16	16	16	16	16	8	22	16	17

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1406	435	599	156	90	46	33
Approve	48	13	73	54	47	37	20
Disapprove	36	77	13	20	29	45	57
Don't know	16	11	14	26	24	17	23

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\$90 Billion in Deficits

'A recent study said the government might incur \$90 billion in deficits over its four year mandate. Is this acceptable or not acceptable?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1406	240	199	266	336	365	761	645
Acceptable	28	38	24	19	31	21	30	25
Not acceptable	59	48	65	71	56	59	60	58
Don't know	13	14	11	10	13	20	10	17

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1406	90	351	495	99	193	178	1076	330
Acceptable	28	34	22	27	31	23	37	29	22
Not acceptable	59	43	65	59	61	71	46	57	65
Don't know	13	24	13	14	8	7	17	14	13

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1406	435	599	156	90	46	33
Acceptable	28	3	42	44	27	16	26
Not acceptable	59	92	39	41	60	78	56
Don't know	13	4	19	15	13	6	17

For more information:

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