

NEWS RELEASE



FORUM RESEARCH INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Majority Oppose Ontario Hydro Cut

Cheaper hydro at the cost of more debt seen as unfavourable

Toronto, April 3rd – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 884 Ontario voters, more than half (56%) disapprove of reducing Hydro rates at the cost of increasing debt. (32%) are in favour, and (12%) don't know.

Respondents most likely to disapprove of Ontario's hydro reduction plan include those aged 45-54 (62%), males (62%), earning \$60,000-\$80,000 (60%), \$80,000-\$100,000 (58%), the most wealthy (60%), living in Toronto (61%), and supporting the PCs (72%).

Those most likely to say they approve of the plan include respondents aged 34 and younger (35%) or 35-44 (35%), earning \$20,000-\$40,000 (41%), living in Southwestern Ontario (35%) or Eastern Ontario (37%), and supporting the Liberals (54%).

"It's obvious that people like the idea of reduced hydro bills, as the cost of hydro is the main issue for many in the province, but the majority don't approve of the fact that their cheaper monthly hydro bill is going to cost them more in the long run," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research.

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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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 884 randomly selected Ontario Voters. The poll was conducted on March, 28-30 2017.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3.3%, 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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Ontario Fair Hydro Plan

The Government of Ontario recently extended some debt from 20 years to 30 years, to reduce the cost of hydro. The decision will reduce monthly hydro bills, but increase the cost of debt overall. Do you approve or disapprove of this plan?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	884	139	120	150	220	255	465	402
Approve	32	35	35	27	32	31	31	33
Disapprove	56	52	54	62	58	57	62	51
Don't know	12	13	12	11	10	11	7	16

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	884	62	127	138	105	98	163
Approve	32	37	41	32	31	35	30
Disapprove	56	49	46	57	60	58	60
Don't know	12	14	12	11	9	7	10

Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	Toronto 416 905	South-western Ontario	North-eastern Ontario	North-western Ontario
Sample	884	159	181	228	196	109
Approve	32	37	29	30	35	31
Disapprove	56	52	61	56	56	55
Don't know	12	11	10	13	9	13

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	884	124	227	372	161
Approve	32	29	36	32	32
Disapprove	56	54	56	57	54
Don't know	12	17	8	11	14



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Voter Ballot Intention

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties
Sample	884	374	173	179	75	27
Approve	32	20	54	40	32	28
Disapprove	56	72	32	50	55	54
Don't know	12	8	14	11	13	18

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