

NEWS RELEASE



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Support for Israel trends up in Canada

One half disagree with Harper's stance on Gaza, Israel's attack

TORONTO AUGUST 20th, 2014 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1798 Canadian voters, over half of Canadians lean to neither the Israeli or Palestinian side of the Mideast conflict (54%). Just more than one quarter now say they lean to the Israeli side in the Mideast conflict (26%), up from one fifth in December 2012, at the time of the UN resolution granting Palestine observer status (22%), and also up from previously (July 2012 - 16%). During this time, support for the Palestinian side has stayed relatively stable (17% in July 2012, 15% in December 2012 and 17% now). Very few Canadians have no opinion (3%). A disposition to the Israeli side is characteristic of the oldest (34%), males (36%), in Ontario (30%), the prairies (31%) and Alberta (33%), especially among Conservative voters (51%), among Christians (30%), both Protestant denominations (36%) and especially Evangelicals (67%) but not especially Catholics (22%). Anglophones are more supportive of Israel (29%) than are Francophones (17%).

Two thirds say Canada should support neither side in Gaza

Two thirds of voters want Canada to stay neutral in the Gaza conflict, supporting neither side (66%), while one fifth think Israel deserves Canada's support (21%) and half this proportion thinks the Palestinian side deserves our backing (10%). Once again, very few have no opinion on this volatile subject (3%). The demographic make up of those who think Canada should support Israel is very similar to those noted above.

Majority disagrees with Harper's support for Israel

Just more than half disagree with Prime Minister Harper's unwavering support for Israel in the current Gaza conflict (51%), while 3-in-10 agree (30%) and as many as one fifth have no opinion (18%). Once again, the same pattern of support for Israel emerges; older males in Ontario and the western provinces who vote Conservative, with an emphasis on Evangelical Christians.

More say opinions of Israel, Palestine have worsened than improved

More than one third of Canadian voters say their opinion of Israel has worsened since the beginning of the Gaza conflict (34%) and this is more than twice as many as say their opinion has improved (14%). The plurality say their opinion hasn't changed (41%) and a tenth have no opinion (11%). In turn, 3-in-10 say their opinion of the Palestinians has worsened (31%) and half as many say it has improved (14%).

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Just more than one quarter now say they lean to the Israeli side in the Mideast conflict (26%), up from one fifth in December 2012.
- Two thirds of voters want Canada to stay neutral in the Gaza conflict, supporting neither side (66%), while one fifth think Israel deserves Canada's support (21%) and half this proportion thinks the Palestinian side deserves our backing (10%).
- Just more than half disagree with Prime Minister Harper's unwavering support for Israel in the current Gaza conflict (51%), while 3-in-10 agree (30%) and as many as one fifth have no opinion (18%).
- More than one third of Canadian voters say their opinion of Israel has worsened since the beginning of the Gaza conflict (34%) and this is more than twice as many as say their opinion has improved (14%).

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Once again, the plurality says no opinions changed (44%) and a tenth have no opinion (11%).

Few feel Israel's recent invasion, the longstanding Gaza blockade, or Hamas rockets are justified

When asked whether they felt a series of events were justified or not, one half disagree that Israel's recent attack on Gaza was justified (49%), while just 3-in-10 think it was (30%). There is a split in opinion on whether the longstanding Israeli blockade of Gaza is justified (36%) or not (33%). While three quarters disagree Hamas rocket fire was justified to protest the blockade (73%) while just one tenth agree it was justified in the circumstances (10%).

Plurality disagrees Hamas responsible for civilian casualties

The plurality disagree that all civilian and child casualties in Gaza can be laid at the feet of Hamas (41%), whereas 3-in-10 take the more extreme position and agree Hamas is responsible (30%).

Plurality agrees Israel's response out of proportion

By the same token, the plurality agree that Israel's response in Gaza was out of proportion to the damage caused by Hamas rockets (42%), while just a quarter disagree with this notion (25%).

"While grassroots support for Israel has been growing in Canada over the last few years, Canadians are very fair people, and prefer balance in our foreign affairs rather than extreme allegiances. There is a lot of concern in Canada that Israel has stepped over a line in the violence of its operation against Hamas in Gaza. A majority of Canadians do not agree with the Prime Minister's stance and they don't buy the line that Hamas is solely responsible for all civilian casualties," 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:

- When asked whether they felt a series of events were justified or not, one half disagree that Israel's recent attack on Gaza was justified (49%), while just 3-in-10 think it was (30%).
- "While grassroots support for Israel has been growing in Canada over the last few years, Canadians are very fair people, and prefer balance in our foreign affairs rather than extreme allegiances. There is a lot of concern in Canada that Israel, while entitled to defend itself, has stepped over a line in the violence of its operation against Hamas in Gaza. A majority of Canadians do not agree with the Prime Minister's unwavering support for Israel, and they don't buy the line that Hamas is solely responsible for all civilian casualties," 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 1798 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on August 18-19th, 2014.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate $\pm 2\%$, 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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Israel – Palestine Support: Trending

%	Sample	Lean to the Israeli side	Lean to the Palestinian side	Lean to neither side	Don't know
August 18 th , 2014	1798	26	17	54	3
May 22-23 rd , 2014	1694	17	16	64	3
Dec. 18 th , 2012	1355	22	15	60	3
July 25-26 th , 2012	1639	16	17	66	n/a

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Agreement Statements – Summary Table

%	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Level of Violence Inflicted by Israel is Out of Proportion	42	25	33
Israel's Economic Blockade of Gaza	36	33	31
Israel's Massive Attack on Gaza is Justified	30	49	21
Hamas is Responsible for all Civilian and Child Casualties in Gaza	30	41	28
Hamas Firing Rockets into Israel	10	73	17

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Conflict in the Middle East Side Preference

'In the conflict in the mid-east, would you say you lean to the Israeli side, lean to the Palestinian side or lean to neither side?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
Lean to the Israeli side	26	22	23	27	29	34	36	17
Lean to the Palestinian side	17	17	19	20	12	14	18	16
Lean to neither side	54	57	56	51	55	49	45	62
Don't know	3	4	2	2	3	3	1	5

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
Lean to the Israeli side	26	19	19	30	31	33	28	29	17
Lean to the Palestinian side	17	20	23	11	12	19	22	15	25
Lean to neither side	54	55	54	57	56	44	50	54	53
Don't know	3	6	4	2	1	5	0	2	4

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
Lean to the Israeli side	26	51	20	14	8	11	37
Lean to the Palestinian side	17	8	19	24	23	21	17
Lean to neither side	54	40	60	60	68	63	43
Don't know	3	1	2	3	0	4	3

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
Lean to the Israeli side	26	30	36	67	22	29	25	19
Lean to the Palestinian side	17	15	11	8	18	12	20	21
Lean to neither side	54	53	50	25	56	57	54	57
Don't know	3	3	3	0	4	2	0	3

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Canada to Support Israel, Palestine, or Remain Neutral

'Do you believe Canada should support the Israeli side, support the Palestinian side, or remain neutral in the current conflict in Gaza?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
Support the Israeli side	21	17	22	20	23	24	30	13
Support the Palestinian side	10	12	11	11	8	9	11	9
Remain neutral	66	68	65	65	65	64	58	73
Don't know	3	3	2	4	4	3	1	5

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
Support the Israeli side	21	12	16	24	21	26	22	22	15
Support the Palestinian side	10	7	17	7	8	11	10	9	14
Remain neutral	66	75	64	66	67	59	66	65	67
Don't know	3	6	3	3	4	3	3	3	3

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
Support the Israeli side	21	44	14	6	7	11	33
Support the Palestinian side	10	5	10	20	9	18	6
Remain neutral	66	48	73	71	84	67	59
Don't know	3	2	3	3	1	4	1

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
Support the Israeli side	21	23	27	59	19	19	23	14
Support the Palestinian side	10	8	5	6	11	8	16	13
Remain neutral	66	65	63	35	67	72	60	70
Don't know	3	4	5	0	4	1	1	3

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Prime Minister Harper's Support of Israel Approval

'Prime Minister Harper has demonstrated unwavering support for Israel in the current conflict in Gaza. Do you agree or disagree with the Prime Minister on this issue?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
Agree	30	25	29	31	35	35	38	23
Disagree	51	54	53	50	52	47	48	55
Don't know	18	20	17	19	13	18	14	22

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
Agree	30	17	22	35	31	41	31	33	22
Disagree	51	57	63	45	51	40	55	48	63
Don't know	18	26	15	20	19	19	14	19	15

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
Agree	30	60	25	10	5	15	43
Disagree	51	21	60	75	77	70	41
Don't know	18	19	15	15	18	15	16

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
Agree	30	35	42	57	30	31	26	21
Disagree	51	44	36	26	50	44	63	66
Don't know	18	21	22	17	20	25	12	13

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Opinion of Israel Since the Beginning of the Gaza Conflict

'Has your opinion of Israel improved, worsened or stayed the same since the beginning of the Gaza conflict?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
Opinion has improved	14	17	13	14	14	13	15	14
Opinion has worsened	34	33	35	37	33	32	34	34
Opinion hasn't changed	41	37	40	38	46	45	44	37
Don't know	11	14	11	11	7	10	7	15

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
Opinion has improved	14	12	15	13	23	18	13	14	15
Opinion has worsened	34	30	43	31	27	27	37	31	44
Opinion hasn't changed	41	45	32	43	44	45	43	43	32
Don't know	11	13	11	13	5	11	7	12	9

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
Opinion has improved	14	19	12	12	10	21	20
Opinion has worsened	34	20	36	45	50	47	21
Opinion hasn't changed	41	52	41	30	36	25	45
Don't know	11	9	10	13	3	7	14

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
Opinion has improved	14	16	15	20	17	16	16	10
Opinion has worsened	34	30	25	12	35	30	39	41
Opinion hasn't changed	41	42	49	43	36	46	39	38
Don't know	11	12	12	26	11	9	6	11

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Opinion of Palestinians Since the Beginning of the Gaza Conflict

'Has your opinion of the Palestinians improved, worsened or stayed the same since the beginning of the Gaza conflict?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
Opinion has improved	14	14	15	15	14	10	15	12
Opinion has worsened	31	30	24	32	32	37	34	27
Opinion hasn't changed	44	39	55	42	46	41	45	44
Don't know	11	17	7	11	8	11	6	16

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
Opinion has improved	14	15	17	9	11	18	17	13	17
Opinion has worsened	31	33	25	33	28	35	31	32	26
Opinion hasn't changed	44	39	47	43	56	38	46	44	47
Don't know	11	13	11	15	4	10	6	12	10

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
Opinion has improved	14	8	16	16	15	22	20
Opinion has worsened	31	44	28	20	29	21	25
Opinion hasn't changed	44	41	42	52	51	46	47
Don't know	11	7	13	13	5	11	8

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
Opinion has improved	14	13	10	2	16	15	11	15
Opinion has worsened	31	33	33	51	31	29	40	24
Opinion hasn't changed	44	43	46	32	41	50	33	50
Don't know	11	11	10	15	12	7	16	11

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Israel's Economic Blockade of Gaza

'I'm going to read you a series of statements about the conflict in Gaza. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each: Israel's economic blockade of Gaza is justified in order to protect its security.'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
Agree	36	32	36	38	38	38	43	29
Disagree	33	31	38	33	34	30	34	32
Don't know	31	37	27	29	28	32	23	39

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
Agree	36	29	25	40	45	44	37	39	26
Disagree	33	27	40	30	26	26	42	32	35
Don't know	31	44	35	30	30	30	21	29	39

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
Agree	36	59	31	19	30	18	39
Disagree	33	13	43	44	40	38	34
Don't know	31	28	26	37	31	44	27

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
Agree	36	40	45	54	34	46	42	24
Disagree	33	26	23	14	28	26	39	48
Don't know	31	34	31	32	38	28	19	28

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Hamas Firing Rockets into Israel

'I'm going to read you a series of statements about the conflict in Gaza. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each: Hamas is justified in firing rockets into Israel to protest the economic blockade of Gaza.'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
Agree	10	16	8	7	6	9	10	10
Disagree	73	69	75	73	78	72	78	68
Don't know	17	15	17	20	17	20	13	21

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
Agree	10	10	10	11	14	8	8	10	12
Disagree	73	71	66	75	70	76	78	75	63
Don't know	17	19	24	14	16	16	14	15	26

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
Agree	10	7	12	11	16	4	5
Disagree	73	84	71	68	65	68	78
Don't know	17	9	17	21	19	27	18

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
Agree	10	7	8	4	7	7	21	13
Disagree	73	73	78	86	68	78	70	72
Don't know	17	19	14	10	25	14	9	15

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Israel's Massive Attack on Gaza is Justified

'I'm going to read you a series of statements about the conflict in Gaza. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each: Israel was justified in conducting a massive attack on Gaza to avenge the Hamas rockets.'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
Agree	30	25	26	31	34	37	41	19
Disagree	49	50	53	51	47	41	42	55
Don't know	21	24	21	19	18	22	17	26

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
Agree	30	20	21	35	30	37	30	32	21
Disagree	49	46	58	43	48	42	55	47	58
Don't know	21	34	20	21	22	22	15	21	22

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
Agree	30	51	24	16	25	9	38
Disagree	49	30	55	64	57	67	42
Don't know	21	19	21	20	17	24	20

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
Agree	30	32	38	48	28	28	57	17
Disagree	49	44	37	28	48	53	33	64
Don't know	21	24	25	24	24	19	10	19

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Hamas is Responsible for all Civilian and Child Casualties in Gaza

'I'm going to read you a series of statements about the conflict in Gaza. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each: All civilian and child casualties in the Gaza conflict are the responsibility of Hamas.'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
Agree	30	25	24	32	38	38	38	23
Disagree	41	46	48	40	39	30	41	42
Don't know	28	28	28	28	24	32	20	36

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
Agree	30	20	26	32	31	39	33	31	27
Disagree	41	50	41	41	44	37	42	42	41
Don't know	28	31	33	28	25	24	25	27	32

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
Agree	30	50	25	20	13	19	37
Disagree	41	23	49	49	64	41	36
Don't know	28	27	26	31	23	40	26

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
Agree	30	33	38	53	29	29	42	20
Disagree	41	35	32	17	37	41	46	55
Don't know	28	32	30	31	33	30	12	25

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TORONTO
August 20th, 2014

Level of Violence Inflicted by Israel Is Out of Proportion

'I'm going to read you a series of statements about the conflict in Gaza. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each: The level of violence inflicted by Israel on Gaza is out of proportion to the damage caused by Hamas rockets.'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
Agree	42	45	40	40	43	42	43	41
Disagree	25	20	23	28	28	25	31	18
Don't know	33	35	37	31	29	33	25	41

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
Agree	42	43	45	40	41	41	46	41	45
Disagree	25	17	22	25	34	29	25	25	22
Don't know	33	40	33	36	25	30	30	33	34

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
Agree	42	28	47	55	55	40	28
Disagree	25	40	20	17	9	21	38
Don't know	33	33	34	28	35	39	34

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
Agree	42	37	35	38	40	29	57	50
Disagree	25	27	30	36	25	24	17	21
Don't know	33	36	35	26	35	47	26	29

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NEWS RELEASE



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