

# NEWS RELEASE



## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

Lorne Bozinoff, President  
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com  
416.960.9603

## **TORONTO**

**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The majority (54%) approve of Prime Minister Harper's decision to send about 100 Canadian troops to Iraq to act as advisors in the conflict with ISIS. Four-in-ten disapprove (40%) and few don't have an opinion (7%).
- Despite the finding above, two thirds of Canadian voters approve of Jean Chretien's decision not to send troops to Iraq in 2003 (69%).
- Eight-in-ten voters expect the Iraq deployment to result in casualties (82%).
- Just a third of voters think Canada has any national or strategic interests in Iraq (33%).

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Majority approve of Iraq deployment**

#### **8-in-10 expect casualties**

TORONTO September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1267 Canadian voters, the majority (54%) approve of Prime Minister Harper's decision to send about 100 Canadian troops to Iraq to act as advisors in the conflict with ISIS. Four-in-ten disapprove (40%) and few don't have an opinion (7%). Approval of the troop deployment is common to Gen X (45 to 54 - 61%), the wealthiest (\$80K to \$100K - 63%, \$100K to \$250K - 61%), in Alberta (61%), among Conservative voters (77%), Protestants (60%) and Evangelical Christians (64%) and those who disapprove of Jean Chretien's decision not to send troops to Iraq in 2003 (82%).

#### **Two thirds approve of Chretien's decision in 2003**

Despite the finding above, two thirds of Canadian voters approve of Jean Chretien's decision not to send troops to Iraq in 2003 (69%), and approval is characteristic of the youngest (80%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 77%), in the Atlantic (76%) and Quebec (78%), among Liberal voters (81%), the best educated (post grad - 77%), Catholics (75%), non-Christians (78%), mothers of children (75%), Francophones (78%) and those who disapprove of Prime Minister Harper's decision to send troops now (88%).

#### **Vast majority expect casualties**

Eight-in-ten voters expect the Iraq deployment to result in casualties (82%) and this is especially the case with the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 91%), in the Atlantic (88%) and BC (87%) and among those who disapprove of Harper's decision (90%).

#### **Just one third see strategic interest in Iraq**

Just a third of voters think Canada has any national or strategic interests in Iraq (33%), and this perception is common to the youngest (39%), males (39%), the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 42%), in BC (42%), the best educated (post grad - 42%), among those with children (43%), among those who disapprove of Chretien's original decision in 2003 (45%) and those who approve of Harper's now (41%). Among the minority who believe Canada has an interest in Iraq, one half say that interest is worth sustaining casualties for (51%), while 4-in-10 do not think so (42%).

180 Bloor Street W., #1400  
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6  
T 416.960.9600  
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## **Majority agree ISIS a threat to Canada**

More than half of Canadian voters agree ISIS is a direct threat to Canada (56%), while 3-in-10 disagree (30%). One seventh have no opinion (15%). Believing ISIS is a threat is common to Gen X (64%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 67%), in Ontario (60%), among Conservatives (77%) but not Liberals (48%) or New Democrats (41%), those with some college (62%), Protestants (67%), Evangelicals (65%) and other Christians (69%) but not the non-religious (45%), among those who disapprove of Chretien's original decision (85%) and those who applaud Harper's (75%).

## **Two thirds agree troop deployment must be debated in Parliament**

Two thirds of Canadian voters agree that Prime Minister's troop deployment to Iraq must be debated in Parliament (66%), and this is especially the case among Boomers (70%) and Seniors (71%), the less wealthy (\$20K to \$40K - 73%), in the Atlantic (73%), Quebec (70%) and BC (71%). New Democrats (81%) and Liberals (75%) see the need for debate, but Conservatives do not (47%). The best educated agree debate is necessary (post grad - 71%), as do those with no religion and non-Christians (71% each), Francophones (70%), those who approve of Chretien's 2003 decision (76%) and disapprove of Harper's 2014 decision (82%).

"It may sound counterintuitive; a solid two thirds agree we were right to stay out of Iraq in 2003, and the vast majority expect casualties if we go in now, yet the majority approve of this troop deployment. This bears testament to the impact ISIS has had on the Canadian psyche. Even though most think we have no strategic interests in Iraq, many want us to intervene," 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.

## **TORONTO**

**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- More than half of Canadian voters agree ISIS is a direct threat to Canada (56%), while 3-in-10 disagree (30%).
- Two thirds of Canadian voters agree that Prime Minister's troop deployment to Iraq must be debated in Parliament (66%).
- "It may sound counterintuitive; a solid two thirds agree we were right to stay out of Iraq in 2003, and the vast majority expect casualties if we go in now, yet the majority approve of this troop deployment. This bears testament to the impact ISIS has had on the Canadian psyche. Even though most think we have no strategic interests in Iraq, many want us to intervene," 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 1267 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

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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**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

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**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

### **Harper Sending Canadian Troops to Iraq**

*'Prime Minister Harper just announced that Canada will send about 100 troops to Iraq to act as military advisors in the battle against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?'*

[All Respondents]

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1267	114	142	233	310	468	604	663
Approve	54	47	51	61	53	58	61	47
Disapprove	40	46	41	34	41	34	37	42
Don't know	7	7	7	5	6	9	3	11

#### **Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1267	88	303	471	96	140	169	990	277
Approve	54	44	48	59	59	61	45	56	47
Disapprove	40	49	46	34	35	34	46	37	49
Don't know	7	7	6	8	7	5	9	8	5

#### **Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1267	224	395	444	204
Approve	54	44	54	57	54
Disapprove	40	44	38	38	40
Don't know	7	12	7	5	5

#### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	1267	411	450	209	64	41	38
Approve	54	77	49	37	48	39	32
Disapprove	40	19	45	55	47	59	46
Don't know	7	4	6	8	6	3	22

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**TORONTO**

**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

***Chretien Not Sending Troops to Iraq***

*'Prime Minister Jean Chretien announced in 2003 that Canada would not take part in the invasion of Iraq and would not send troops. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1267	114	142	233	310	468	604	663
Approve	69	80	68	58	73	65	68	71
Disapprove	21	13	23	29	20	23	27	15
Don't know	10	7	9	13	7	12	5	14

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1267	88	303	471	96	140	169	990	277
Approve	69	76	78	65	70	66	66	67	78
Disapprove	21	20	16	23	16	29	22	23	15
Don't know	10	4	7	13	14	5	12	11	6

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1267	224	395	444	204
Approve	69	61	63	75	77
Disapprove	21	24	27	19	12
Don't know	10	15	10	6	11

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	1267	411	450	209	64	41	38
Approve	69	52	81	76	81	83	68
Disapprove	21	38	14	15	9	10	6
Don't know	10	10	4	10	10	7	26

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## **TORONTO**

**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

### **Expecting Casualties**

*'If Canada sends troops to Iraq, do you expect there to be casualties?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1267	114	142	233	310	468	604	663
Yes	82	82	84	82	81	83	83	81
No	10	11	8	11	11	7	10	9
Don't know	8	7	9	7	9	11	7	9

### **Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1267	88	303	471	96	140	169	990	277
Yes	82	88	77	81	85	85	87	83	78
No	10	7	11	11	6	10	7	9	11
Don't know	8	5	12	8	9	5	6	7	12

### **Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1267	224	395	444	204
Yes	82	80	81	85	80
No	10	11	9	9	10
Don't know	8	9	10	6	10

### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	1267	411	450	209	64	41	38
Yes	82	82	82	86	80	68	87
No	10	11	11	8	8	9	6
Don't know	8	7	7	6	13	23	7

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## TORONTO

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### Canadian Strategic Interests in Iraq

'As far as you know, does Canada have any strategic or national interests in Iraq?'

[All Respondents]

#### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1267	114	142	233	310	468	604	663
Yes	33	39	38	32	32	23	39	29
No	43	43	40	40	49	44	46	40
Don't know	23	19	22	28	19	33	15	31

#### Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1267	88	303	471	96	140	169	990	277
Yes	33	30	33	35	20	30	42	34	33
No	43	47	44	38	52	53	41	42	46
Don't know	23	23	23	27	28	17	17	24	21

#### Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1267	224	395	444	204
Yes	33	23	30	36	42
No	43	40	47	43	39
Don't know	23	37	22	20	19

#### Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	1267	411	450	209	64	41	38
Yes	33	38	29	35	34	38	32
No	43	42	45	46	44	39	38
Don't know	23	20	26	19	22	23	30

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**Canadian Interests worth Casualties**

*'As far as you know, are these strategic or national interests worth sustaining Canadian casualties?'*

*[Believe Canada has strategic interest in Iraq]*

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	377	44	52	73	102	106	201	176
Yes	51	46	48	64	52	50	62	38
No	42	51	43	32	37	36	32	54
Don't know	7	2	10	4	11	14	6	8

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	377	25	85	147	24	33	63	302	75
Yes	51	39	43	62	41	47	45	55	40
No	42	54	53	28	55	48	46	38	56
Don't know	7	7	3	10	4	5	8	8	4

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	377	44	114	136	83
Yes	51	71	52	46	49
No	42	25	43	47	39
Don't know	7	4	5	6	12

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	377	148	117	55	22	13	11
Yes	51	76	38	31	66	7	41
No	42	16	54	62	31	93	51
Don't know	7	8	7	6	3	0	8

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**ISIS Threat to Canada**

*'Do you agree or disagree ISIS is a direct threat to Canada?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1267	114	142	233	310	468	604	663
Agree	56	44	49	64	62	67	59	52
Disagree	30	47	30	21	27	14	33	27
Don't know	15	9	21	15	11	19	8	21

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1267	88	303	471	96	140	169	990	277
Agree	56	48	51	60	56	57	55	58	48
Disagree	30	40	35	24	26	34	28	27	37
Don't know	15	13	14	16	17	9	18	15	15

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1267	224	395	444	204
Agree	56	53	62	56	47
Disagree	30	23	28	31	37
Don't know	15	24	10	13	16

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	1267	411	450	209	64	41	38
Agree	56	77	48	41	52	47	48
Disagree	30	11	36	48	30	36	39
Don't know	15	12	16	11	17	17	13

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## **Debate Sending Troops in Parliament**

*'Do you agree or disagree Canada's deployment of troops to Iraq must be debated in Parliament?'*

[All Respondents]

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1267	114	142	233	310	468	604	663
Agree	66	69	60	60	70	71	64	67
Disagree	25	22	28	31	23	20	31	19
Don't know	10	9	13	8	8	9	5	14

### **Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1267	88	303	471	96	140	169	990	277
Agree	66	73	70	63	59	60	71	65	70
Disagree	25	16	20	28	31	34	20	26	19
Don't know	10	11	11	9	10	6	9	9	11

### **Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1267	224	395	444	204
Agree	66	61	66	65	71
Disagree	25	23	22	30	22
Don't know	10	16	12	5	7

### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	1267	411	450	209	64	41	38
Agree	66	47	75	81	76	84	57
Disagree	25	45	17	13	19	7	17
Don't know	10	8	8	6	6	9	26

For more information:

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D.

President

Forum Research Inc.

Tel: (416) 960-9603

Fax: (416) 960-9602

E-mail: [lbozinoff@forumresearch.com](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com)

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