

# NEWS RELEASE



## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Support for Bill C51 waning**

#### **Most see bill having negative effect on their lives**

TORONTO March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1239 Canadian voters, just one half agree Canada needs new, stiffer anti-terror legislation (51%), and this is down from close to 6-in-10 earlier this month (March 14 - 56%) and well down from 7-in-10 recorded in November, before Bill C51 had been introduced (70%). Just more than 4-in-10 agree Canada does need new anti-terror legislation (42%) and fewer than a tenth have no opinion on the subject (7%).

#### **Awareness of Bill C51 widespread**

Seven-in-ten voters are aware of Bill C51 (71%) and this is stable since the beginning of the month (69%). Awareness is common to the oldest, males, the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 86%, \$100K to \$250K - 82%), the Atlantic provinces (85%), Alberta (82%) and BC (84%), but not Quebec (49%). Awareness is higher among Liberal voters (79%), the best educated (post grad - 91%) and Anglophones (77%).

#### **Close to 6-in-10 disapprove of Bill C51**

Just one third of those voters aware of it approve of Bill C51 now (33%), down from closer to 4-in-10 in early March (March 14 - 38%). Disapproval is characteristic of close to 6-in-10 (56%), well up from early March (March 14 - 50%). Disapproval is common to the youngest (75%), the least wealthy (66% - a proxy for youth) in Atlantic Canada (71%), among Liberals (77%) and New Democrats (75%) and the best educated (post grad - 71%). Even in Alberta, the most conservative province, a majority is opposed to the bill (54%).

## **TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Just one half agree Canada needs new, stiffer anti-terror legislation (51%).
- Seven-in-ten voters are aware of Bill C51 (71%).
- Just one third of those voters aware of it approve of Bill C51 now (33%), down from closer to 4-in-10 in early March (March 14 - 38%).

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## **Most think Bill C51 will have negative effect on their lives**

The plurality of voters aware of the bill believe it will have a negative effect on their lives (42%) while one quarter think the effects of the bill will be positive (26%). Just one quarter do not see the bill having any effect at all (26%), while few don't have an opinion (6%). Once again, it is the young, least wealthy, well-educated Liberals who see the bill having a negative effect on their lives.

"It appears that the more Canadians learn about Bill C51, the less they like it. The need for the bill is seen to be diminishing, and voters recognize some provisions may impact on their lives in ways they don't like. With an election approaching, the government would be well-advised to determine whether this bill is the hill they want to stake themselves out on," 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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**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The plurality of voters aware of the bill believe it will have a negative effect on their lives (42%) while one quarter think the effects of the bill will be positive (26%).
- "It appears that the more Canadians learn about Bill C51, the less they like it. The need for the bill is seen to be diminishing, and voters recognize some provisions may impact on their lives in ways they don't like. With an election approaching, the government would be well-advised to determine whether this bill is the hill they want to stake themselves out on," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

### **Methodology**

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1239 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on March 30-31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

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)

### ***Canada needs stiffer anti-terrorism legislation – Trending***

%	March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	March 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	November 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Agree	51	56	70
Disagree	42	36	27
Don't know	7	8	3

### ***Bill C51 – Approval and Awareness Trending***

%	March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	March 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
Approve	33	38
Aware	71	69

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## **TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

### ***New, Stiffer Laws to Deal with Terrorism***

*'Do you agree or disagree Canada needs new, stiffer laws to deal with terrorism?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1239	199	177	241	324	298	681	558
Agree	51	33	51	62	61	59	51	51
Disagree	42	60	42	33	33	31	44	41
Don't know	7	7	8	6	5	10	6	8

#### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1239	95	327	411	87	154	165	944	295
Agree	51	44	61	53	49	49	33	48	61
Disagree	42	53	31	41	42	42	60	45	31
Don't know	7	4	8	6	9	9	7	7	7

#### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1239	371	365	261	83	58	50
Agree	51	79	40	34	48	62	40
Disagree	42	15	53	60	45	34	53
Don't know	7	6	8	6	7	4	7

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## **TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

### **Bill C51 Awareness**

*'Are you aware of the government's anti-terrorism Bill C51 or not?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1239	199	177	241	324	298	681	558
Aware of Bill C51	71	67	70	70	72	76	75	66
Not aware of Bill C51	29	33	30	30	28	24	25	34

### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1239	95	327	411	87	154	165	944	295
Aware of Bill C51	71	85	49	74	75	82	84	77	48
Not aware of Bill C51	29	15	51	26	25	18	16	23	52

### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1239	371	365	261	83	58	50
Aware of Bill C51	71	74	79	74	58	42	62
Not aware of Bill C51	29	26	21	26	42	58	38

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## **TORONTO**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

### **Bill C51 Approval**

*'Do you approve or disapprove of Bill C51?'*

*[Aware of Bill C51]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	896	133	123	170	240	230	528	368
Approve	33	18	28	40	44	41	36	29
Disapprove	56	75	63	45	46	45	56	58
Don't know	11	7	9	15	10	14	8	13

### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	896	79	175	309	66	130	137	740	156
Approve	33	26	34	37	31	34	23	32	34
Disapprove	56	71	53	51	59	54	67	57	53
Don't know	11	4	13	12	11	12	9	11	12

### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	896	282	286	193	53	26	33
Approve	33	72	17	16	16	16	18
Disapprove	56	13	77	75	74	59	61
Don't know	11	15	6	9	10	24	21

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**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Bill C51: Effect on Personal Life**

*‘Do you agree or disagree Bill C51 will have an effect on your personal life?’*

*[Aware of Bill C51]*

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	896	133	123	170	240	230	528	368
Bill C51 will have a positive effect on your life	26	18	24	27	32	31	27	23
Bill C51 will have a negative effect on your life	42	53	41	39	38	35	42	43
Bill C51 will have neither a positive nor negative effect	26	23	29	28	24	27	25	27
Don't know	6	6	5	6	6	7	6	6

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	896	79	175	309	66	130	137	740	156
Bill C51 will have a positive effect on your life	26	20	24	28	32	27	21	26	23
Bill C51 will have a negative effect on your life	42	55	33	40	36	39	56	44	33
Bill C51 will have neither a positive nor negative effect	26	24	35	24	29	24	22	24	37
Don't know	6	1	8	8	3	9	1	6	7

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	896	282	286	193	53	26	33
Bill C51 will have a positive effect on your life	26	50	18	13	22	15	7
Bill C51 will have a negative effect on your life	42	12	52	58	59	38	60
Bill C51 will have neither a positive nor negative effect	26	30	25	24	15	31	22
Don't know	6	8	5	5	5	16	11

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