

# NEWS RELEASE



**FORUM RESEARCH INC.**

## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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**TORONTO**  
**July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Equal proportions, more than a third, support the teachers (36%) or the government (38%).
- Close to one half of voters say the teacher job action is about working conditions and the welfare of students (45%).
- "It's hard to build animosity against teachers in Ontario, when there's a teacher in every other household or family, so it is not surprising to see an even split in opinion on this measure. What is interesting is that the teachers have successfully positioned their job action as not being about money, despite government claims to the contrary," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Ontario voters are split on support for teachers**

#### **Most believe job action is not about wages**

TORONTO July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 678 Ontario voters, equal proportions, more than a third, support the teachers (36%) or the government (38%) in the ongoing labour strife by the OSSTF. One fifth support neither side (20%), and few don't have an opinion (6%).

Support for the teachers is characteristic of child-rearing age groups (35 to 44 - 43%), the least wealthy (47%), mid-income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 52%), in northern Ontario (44%), among New Democrats (59%) and the non-religious (43%).

Support for the government is common to older voters (45 to 54 - 42%), males (42%), the wealthiest (48%), in Toronto 416 area code (42%), in northern Ontario (41%) among PC voters (50%) and Liberals (47%).

#### **Plurality think job action not about wages**

Close to one half of voters say the teacher job action is about working conditions and the welfare of students (45%), while just more than a third say it is about wages (36%). One tenth say it is about neither (8%) or don't know (11%).

"It's hard to build animosity against teachers in Ontario, when there's a teacher in every other household or family, so it is not surprising to see an even split in opinion on this measure. What is interesting is that the teachers have successfully positioned their job action as not being about money, despite government claims to the contrary," 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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## **Methodology**

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 678 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on June 25 to July 5, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 4%, 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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**Teachers and the Provincial Government Dispute: Side**

*‘Ontario’s secondary school teachers will be in a position to strike in September. Whose side are you on in the current labour dispute between the teachers and the provincial government?’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	678	93	84	127	157	217	346	332
The teachers	36	40	43	32	29	30	34	37
The government	38	35	38	42	39	39	42	35
Neither	20	19	9	24	25	26	19	22
Don't know	6	6	10	2	7	5	6	6

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	678	117	163	175	338	128	95
The teachers	36	34	36	30	33	39	44
The government	38	36	42	38	39	36	41
Neither	20	24	13	26	21	22	9
Don't know	6	6	9	6	7	3	6

**Provincial Party Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	678	222	183	170	40	31
The teachers	36	22	31	59	34	27
The government	38	50	47	26	25	31
Neither	20	26	16	11	36	32
Don't know	6	2	6	4	5	9

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***The Labour Dispute About: Pay or Working Conditions and the Welfare of Students***

*‘As far as you know, is this labour dispute about pay, or about working conditions and the welfare of students?’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	678	93	84	127	157	217	346	332
It's about pay	36	39	26	43	38	32	40	31
It's about working conditions and student welfare	45	45	54	39	42	47	42	49
It's about neither	8	8	7	10	8	9	7	9
Don't know	11	7	14	8	12	13	11	10

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	678	117	163	175	338	128	95
It's about pay	36	34	37	40	39	34	27
It's about working conditions and student welfare	45	49	44	43	43	45	52
It's about neither	8	7	6	6	6	12	14
Don't know	11	11	13	11	12	10	7

**Provincial Party Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	678	222	183	170	40	31
It's about pay	36	48	32	25	53	38
It's about working conditions and student welfare	45	33	50	63	28	35
It's about neither	8	9	12	3	9	15
Don't know	11	9	7	9	11	12

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