

# NEWS RELEASE



## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

Lorne Bozinoff, President  
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com  
416.960.9603

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Bill Blair knocks off Dan Harris in Scarborough Southwest if he runs as a Liberal**

#### **Harris tied for second with generic Conservative candidate**

TORONTO February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 557 voters in the federal riding of Scarborough Southwest, almost 4-in-10 will vote for Bill Blair, Toronto's soon-to-be-former police chief, if he runs as a Liberal in a federal election held today (39%), while about 3-in-10 would vote for the incumbent, NDP MP Dan Harris (29%) or for a Conservative candidate (past candidate Gavan Parachothy's name was used - 27%).

#### **Despite this, Harris has higher approvals**

Four-in-ten voters approve of incumbent Dan Harris (39%), and his net favourable score (approve minus disapprove) is a healthy +18. Despite his lead in voter preference, however, Bill Blair has the approval of 3-in-10 (29%) and a net of +6. Blair's approval is high among the young and those in lower income groups. Harris's approval is common to slightly older groups and those slightly wealthier.

"Bill Blair is playing his cards very close to his chest, but we know from previous polling he's popular in Scarborough and among Liberals, and Scarborough Southwest was a Liberal riding until the last election. Even then, the margin of victory was less than 2000 votes. He'll be a star candidate for any party which woos him, but at this point his best fit is as a Liberal," 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**

**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Almost 4-in-10 will vote for Bill Blair, Toronto's soon-to-be-former police chief, if he runs as a Liberal in a federal election held today (39%).
- Four-in-ten voters approve of incumbent Dan Harris (39%), and his net favourable score (approve minus disapprove) is a healthy +18.
- "Bill Blair is playing his cards very close to his chest, but we know from previous polling he's popular in Scarborough and among Liberals, and Scarborough Southwest was a Liberal riding until the last election. Even then, the margin of victory was less than 2000 votes. He'll be a star candidate for any party which woos him, but at this point his best fit is as a Liberal," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

180 Bloor Street W., #1400  
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6  
T 416.960.9600  
F 416.960.9602  
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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 557 randomly selected voters in the federal riding of Scarborough Southwest. The poll was conducted on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 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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**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Vote Preference**

*'If a federal election were held today, which party's candidate would you be most likely to vote for in your riding of Scarborough Southwest?'+ 'Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party's candidate would you be leaning towards at this time?'*

[Decided/Leaning]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	510	28	44	81	151	206	228	282
Gavan Parachotho, Conservative	27	27	21	26	30	31	32	24
Bill Blair, Liberal	39	38	43	41	35	36	35	42
Dan Harris, NDP	29	28	30	28	31	30	28	31
Stefan Dixon, Green	4	7	5	4	3	2	5	3
Another party	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

**Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	510	60	98	71	54	33	66
Gavan Parachotho, Conservative	27	19	38	31	17	36	23
Bill Blair, Liberal	39	45	38	30	44	29	39
Dan Harris, NDP	29	33	22	36	26	29	35
Stefan Dixon, Green	4	2	1	2	13	5	3
Another party	1	0	1	0	0	0	1

**Past Federal Vote**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	510	163	154	114	17	8	22
Gavan Parachotho, Conservative	27	80	6	4	0	18	11
Bill Blair, Liberal	39	11	77	23	43	12	34
Dan Harris, NDP	29	8	16	69	8	46	50
Stefan Dixon, Green	4	1	1	3	45	23	0
Another party	1	0	0	0	4	0	6

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## ***Dan Harris Approval***

*'Do you approve or disapprove of Dan Harris?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	557	32	47	87	161	230	255	302
Approve	39	44	44	32	34	36	37	41
Disapprove	21	16	24	23	21	23	24	18
Don't know	40	40	32	45	45	41	40	40

### **Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	557	72	108	77	55	36	69
Approve	39	30	37	38	48	27	55
Disapprove	21	8	23	23	14	33	26
Don't know	40	62	40	38	38	40	19

### **Past Federal Vote**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	557	175	167	121	18	8	30
Approve	39	16	33	74	47	40	26
Disapprove	21	35	29	5	10	35	19
Don't know	40	50	38	21	42	25	55

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## **TORONTO**

**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

### **Bill Blair Approval**

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

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	557	32	47	87	161	230	255	302
Approve	29	35	24	27	28	30	30	29
Disapprove	24	25	34	18	20	19	27	21
Don't know	47	39	42	55	53	51	43	51

#### **Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	557	72	108	77	55	36	69
Approve	29	17	41	20	28	23	42
Disapprove	24	27	18	27	10	36	30
Don't know	47	56	41	53	62	41	28

#### **Past Federal Vote**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	557	175	167	121	18	8	30
Approve	29	34	44	22	4	2	25
Disapprove	24	26	12	28	59	70	20
Don't know	47	40	43	50	37	28	55

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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