

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Majority say budget bad for Ontario

Free tuition, sin taxes liked, not so Cap and Trade

TORONTO March 1st - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1148 Ontario voters in the days immediately following the tabling of the Ontario budget, the majority said it was not a good budget for Ontario (56%), while fewer than one fifth thought it was good for the province (19%), Almost a quarter didn't know enough about it to provide an answer (23%). Thinking this was not a good budget is characteristic of the oldest (65%), males (62%) more than females (55%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 69%), among PC voters (87%), but not Liberals (21%), and among the least educated (66%).

Free tuition approved by majority

The majority of voters approve of free post-secondary tuition for students from lower income households (57%), while just more than a third disapprove of this provision (36%). Very few are undecided (7%). Approval of free tuition is especially characteristic of the youngest (61%), females (61%) rather than males (52%), the least wealthy (84%), in eastern Ontario (62%), among Liberals (81%) and New Democrats (70%) but not especially among PC voters (34%), but among mothers and the least educated (62% each).

Strong approval for sin taxes

Close to two thirds of voters approve of tax increases on tobacco and alcohol (64%), while 3-in-10 disapproves (30%) and few don't venture an opinion (6%). Disapproval of these "sin taxes" is common to boomers (55 to 64 - 35%), males (35%), those in mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 40%), among PCs (43%) but not Liberals (15%), and among the least educated (39%).

Strong disapproval for Cap and Trade

Close to 6-in-10 voters disapprove of a Cap and Trade regime in Ontario when it is explained to them in simple terms (59%), while just more than a quarter approve (27%) and about half this proportion don't know (14%). Among the groups with a stronger approval of Cap and Trade are the very wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 37%), residents of Toronto 416 area code (39%), the best educated (post grad - 38%) and Liberals (42%).

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TORONTO

March 1st, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The majority said it was not a good budget for Ontario (56%), while fewer than one fifth thought it was good for the province (19%).
- The majority of voters approve of free post-secondary tuition for students from lower income households (57%), while just more than a third disapprove of this provision (36%).
- Close to two thirds of voters approve of tax increases on tobacco and alcohol (64%).
- Close to 6-in-10 voters disapprove of a Cap and Trade regime in Ontario when it is explained to them in simple terms (59%).

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Stronger disapproval of Cap and Trade when costs presented

When voters are presented with the pocketbook impact of a Cap and Trade regime on gasoline and natural gas costs, disapproval increases to more than two thirds (68%), while approval declines to less than a quarter (22%).

Slim approval for funding greenhouse gas reduction

When voters are presented with the fact that money raised from a Cap and Trade regime will be used to fund greenhouse gas reduction programs, the slim plurality approve (46%) over those who disapprove (42%). Just more than a tenth can't venture their opinion (12%).

Revenue model preferred to revenue neutral Cap and Trade

By a very slim margin, a revenue raising model for a Cap and Trade regime is preferred (27%) to a revenue neutral model (22%), although the plurality of voters prefer neither (31%). Fully one fifth don't have enough information to make a judgment (20%). The revenue raising model is especially preferred by the youngest (under 45 - 32%), the least wealthy (39%), in Toronto (36%), among Liberals (42%) and New Democrats (34%) but not among PCs (15%), and among the best educated (post grad - 36%).

"It is curious that, while they like many of the signature budget items, such as the free tuition pledge and the popular sin taxes, the one budget provision that was least discussed, the Cap and Trade regime, is so unpopular it appears to have pulled down approval of the document as a whole," 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 voters are presented with the pocketbook impact of a Cap and Trade regime on gasoline and natural gas costs, disapproval increases to more than two thirds (68%).
- When voters are presented with the fact that money raised from a Cap and Trade regime will be used to fund greenhouse gas reduction programs, the slim plurality approve (46%).
- By a very slim margin, a revenue raising model for a Cap and Trade regime is preferred (27%).
- "It is curious that, while they like many of the signature budget items, such as the free tuition pledge and the popular sin taxes, the one budget provision that was least discussed, the Cap and Trade regime, is so unpopular it appears to have pulled down approval of the document as a whole," 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 1148 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted between February 26th, 2016 and February 29th, 2016.

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

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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Ontario Budget

‘The Ontario budget was just tabled. As far as you know, is this a good budget or not a good budget for Ontario?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Good budget for Ontario	19	21	17	18	22	15	18	20
Not a good budget for Ontario	58	47	60	64	63	65	62	55
Don't know	23	32	23	18	15	19	20	26

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Good budget for Ontario	19	18	25	18	21	15	19
Not a good budget for Ontario	58	61	49	61	56	60	60
Don't know	23	22	26	21	23	25	21

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Good budget for Ontario	19	4	45	13	25	14
Not a good budget for Ontario	58	87	21	56	40	69
Don't know	23	9	35	31	35	17

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ON Budget: Free Tuition

'Included in this budget is free college or university tuition for students whose families earn less than \$50,000 a year. Do you approve or disapprove of this provision?

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Approve	57	61	51	55	54	60	52	61
Disapprove	36	31	42	41	37	31	40	33
Don't know	7	8	6	4	9	8	8	6

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Approve	57	62	60	56	57	54	53
Disapprove	36	35	33	36	35	38	39
Don't know	7	3	7	8	8	8	8

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Approve	57	34	81	70	66	56
Disapprove	36	59	15	23	23	37
Don't know	7	7	5	8	11	7

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ON Budget: Taxes on Wine & Cigarettes

'Included in this budget are increased taxes of about 10 cents on a bottle of wine and about 30 cents on a package of cigarettes. Do you approve or disapprove of this provision?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Approve	64	61	65	68	63	65	60	67
Disapprove	30	28	33	29	35	30	35	26
Don't know	6	11	2	3	3	6	5	6

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Approve	64	65	66	60	62	63	71
Disapprove	30	32	30	33	32	29	26
Don't know	6	3	5	6	6	8	3

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Approve	64	53	82	61	71	58
Disapprove	30	43	15	29	17	31
Don't know	6	3	4	10	12	11

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ON Budget: Cap and Trade

'Included in this budget is a Cap and Trade system designed to limit greenhouse gases, where companies that exceed the allowable emission limits are allowed to buy extra credits from companies that do not exceed the emission limits. Do you approve or disapprove of Cap and Trade?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Approve	27	28	30	25	29	22	24	30
Disapprove	59	51	63	62	60	62	66	52
Don't know	14	21	7	12	11	17	9	19

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Approve	27	33	39	22	28	26	18
Disapprove	59	54	53	61	58	57	70
Don't know	14	12	9	17	14	17	12

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Approve	27	15	42	28	38	22
Disapprove	59	77	38	55	49	62
Don't know	14	8	19	17	13	16

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Cap and Trade: Approval

'Under Cap and Trade, the cost of a litre of gasoline will increase just more than four cents, and household natural gas bills will be about \$5 higher per month. Household electric bills will not change. Do you approve or disapprove of Cap and Trade?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Approve	22	22	23	17	27	20	21	22
Disapprove	68	61	69	75	66	72	74	63
Don't know	10	17	7	7	6	8	5	15

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Approve	22	26	28	19	22	18	21
Disapprove	68	65	62	71	68	69	72
Don't know	10	9	10	10	10	13	7

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Approve	22	8	42	19	34	21
Disapprove	68	88	43	66	57	71
Don't know	10	4	14	16	9	8

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Cap and Trade: Greenhouse Gas Reduction

'Approximately \$2 billion raised through Cap and Trade will be used to support greenhouse gas reduction in Ontario. Do you approve or disapprove of this idea?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Approve	46	52	47	41	46	38	40	50
Disapprove	42	34	45	45	44	46	51	34
Don't know	12	13	8	14	9	16	9	16

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Approve	46	51	54	41	45	46	39
Disapprove	42	39	38	45	43	38	50
Don't know	12	10	8	14	12	16	10

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Approve	46	24	72	54	51	40
Disapprove	42	68	16	28	30	43
Don't know	12	8	12	18	18	17

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Cap and Trade: Preference

‘There are two ways Cap and Trade can work. Which do you prefer?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1148	155	150	221	300	322	627	521
Generating revenue to support greenhouse gas reduction	27	32	32	23	26	18	27	27
Remaining revenue neutral, involving emission trades only	22	23	20	19	25	21	23	20
Neither	31	28	27	35	31	39	34	29
Don't know	20	18	21	22	18	22	16	24

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1148	170	201	342	543	283	152
Generating revenue to support greenhouse gas reduction	27	32	36	21	27	25	26
Remaining revenue neutral, involving emission trades only	22	30	14	21	18	21	27
Neither	31	21	31	36	34	32	33
Don't know	20	17	20	22	21	22	14

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1148	519	285	198	82	33
Generating revenue to support greenhouse gas reduction	27	15	42	34	33	14
Remaining revenue neutral, involving emission trades only	22	28	15	24	15	13
Neither	31	42	22	20	28	43
Don't know	20	16	21	22	24	30

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