

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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TORONTO

August 31st, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- There is an exact tie between the Progressive Conservative candidate, Raymond Cho, with just more than a third of the vote (36%), and the Liberal candidate, Piragal Thiru, with the same vote share (36%).
- The PC candidate is the preferred choice of almost half those who disapprove of the new Ontario sex education curriculum (44%)
- Of note, more than one quarter of those who voted Liberal in 2014 will vote PC this time (26%)
- “What we see here is a classic Mexican stand-off; the Liberal and Progressive Conservative candidates have each carved out an equal sized patch of the popular vote and the hill they’re fighting for is the vote that swings on the sex education curriculum”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Libs, PCs All Tied Up in Scarborough-Rouge River

NDP in close 2nd place

In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 363 voters in the provincial riding of Scarborough-Rouge River two days before the scheduled by-election in this riding, there is an exact tie between the Progressive Conservative candidate, Raymond Cho, with just more than a third of the vote (36%), and the Liberal candidate, Piragal Thiru, with the same vote share (36%). The NDP candidate, Neethan Shan, comes in a close second with just less than a quarter of the vote (23%). Few will vote the Green candidate, Priyan Da Silva (1%).

The PC candidate is the preferred choice of almost half those who disapprove of the new Ontario sex education curriculum (44%), while the opposite applies to the Liberal candidate, who has close to half the support of those who support the curriculum (43%).

Of note, more than one quarter of those who voted Liberal in 2014 will vote PC this time (26%) and close to a fifth will vote NDP (17%), leaving just one half of these former Liberal partisans voting the same party this time (54%).

Split opinion on sex education curriculum

Relatively equal proportions of the voters on Scarborough-Rouge River approve of (39%), disapprove of (36%) or don't have an opinion on the new Ontario sex education curriculum (26%). Just one quarter of PC voters approve (27%), close to half of Liberals approve (46%) and more than half of New Democrats approve of this curriculum (55%).

“What we see here is a classic Mexican stand-off; the Liberal and Progressive Conservative candidates have each carved out an equal sized patch of the popular vote and the hill they’re fighting for is the vote that swings on the sex education curriculum” 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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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 363 randomly selected voters in the riding of Scarborough Rouge-River. The poll was conducted on August 30th, 2016.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 5%, 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. Electoral outcome depends on each party's ability to turn out the vote. 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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Scarborough By-election

Which candidate are you most likely to vote for, or have you voted for already, in the September 1st provincial by-election in Scarborough-Rouge River + Even if you have not made up your mind, which candidate are you leaning towards at this time?

[Decided/Leaning Only]

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	323	30	37	63	80	113	155	164
Raymond Cho, Conservative	36	36	23	40	35	42	40	32
Piragal Thiru, Liberal	36	37	38	32	35	37	32	39
Neethan Shan, NDP	23	23	32	24	23	16	25	22
Priyan De Silva, Green	1	0	3	1	2	1	1	1
Another party	4	3	5	2	6	4	2	6

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	323	49	66	58	39	26	23
Raymond Cho, Conservative	36	37	36	25	38	16	54
Piragal Thiru, Liberal	36	43	28	36	25	63	38
Neethan Shan, NDP	23	13	32	36	34	14	6
Priyan De Silva, Green	1	2	1	1	2	0	0
Another party	4	4	4	1	0	7	3

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Past Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties
Sample	323	74	155	48	7	8
Raymond Cho, Conservative	36	79	26	11	33	12
Piragal Thiru, Liberal	36	7	54	11	44	48
Neethan Shan, NDP	23	10	17	74	0	15
Priyan De Silva, Green	1	1	1	1	7	7
Another party	4	3	2	3	16	18

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New Sex Education Curriculum

%	Total	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know	ALREADY VOTED - Yes	ALREADY VOTED - No
Sample	323	128	125	70	92	231
Raymond Cho, Conservative	36	23	44	46	34	36
Piragal Thiru, Liberal	36	43	30	32	35	36
Neethan Shan, NDP	23	30	21	14	26	22
Priyan De Silva, Green	1	3	0	1	2	1
Another party	4	2	5	6	3	4

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Sex Education Curriculum

Do you approve or disapprove of Ontario's new sex education curriculum?

[All Respondents]

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	363	37	42	66	85	133	167	192
Approve	39	41	41	36	34	38	37	40
Disapprove	36	24	38	45	42	36	38	34
Don't know	26	35	22	18	25	25	25	27

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	363	56	70	65	40	28	24
Approve	39	43	30	45	43	39	38
Disapprove	36	35	31	42	26	36	58
Don't know	26	21	39	12	32	25	4

Provincial By-election Vote Preference

%	Total	Raymond Cho, Conservative	Piragal Thiru, Liberal	Neethan Shan, NDP	Priyan De Silva, Green	Another party
Sample	363	114	112	69	10	18
Approve	39	27	46	55	80	18
Disapprove	36	45	32	33	4	44
Don't know	26	28	21	12	15	37

For more information:

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