

NEWS RELEASE



FORUM RESEARCH INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Half of Ontarians Believe Government to Blame for Rising Hydro Rates

Hydro One's privatization and executive salaries well back

Toronto, February 21st – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1,120 Ontario voters, (47%) believe that government mismanagement is the cause of rising hydro rates, well ahead of the privatization of Hydro One (17%), and executive salaries (11%).

The opinion that government mismanagement is causing the cost of hydro to rise in Ontario is most common to those between 35-44 (50%), 45-54 (48%), and 55-64 (52%), with almost half of males (48%), and (46%) of females holding this opinion.

The most wealthy (60%) overwhelmingly believe that the government is responsible, but the least wealthy are most likely to give the province the benefit of the doubt (32%).

Progressive Conservative supporters (61%) and NDP supporters (45%) strongly believe the government has mishandled the hydro file, while Liberal supporters are less likely to believe this (26%).

Other options less popular

Hydro One privatization (17%), executive salaries (11%), and don't know (10%), are the other choices with the largest proportion of support, but they follow well behind government mismanagement as the main reason hydro rates are rising. Wind turbine/green energy investments (9%) and closing coal plants (2%), while much discussed in the media, have not had much of an impact on the opinions of Ontarians in relation to the origins of rising hydro rates.

“The opinion that government mismanagement is responsible for rising hydro rates could present a problem for the Liberals in 2018, as the increasing costs are becoming more and more of an issue for voters across the province. It's an issue that the Liberals need to address, if they want to win,” said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research.

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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TORONTO

February 21st, 2017

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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 1,120 randomly selected Ontario Voters. The poll was conducted on Feb 15-16 2017.

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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Hydro Rate Increases

In your opinion, what is the main reason that hydro rates are rising?

[All Respondents]

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1120	117	141	200	305	357	551	554
Executive Salaries	11	10	12	8	11	14	9	13
Government mismanagement	47	46	50	48	52	39	48	46
Hydro One privatization	17	23	20	14	12	13	17	18
Closing of Coal plants	2	2	1	3	4	3	4	1
Wind turbine and green energy investments	9	4	7	14	10	11	11	6
Something else	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
Don't know	10	12	8	8	6	15	8	13

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1120	122	178	149	141	141	178
Executive Salaries	11	7	15	16	7	12	8
Government mismanagement	47	32	45	42	52	45	60
Hydro One privatization	17	29	18	15	18	21	14
Closing of Coal plants	2	0	2	3	5	3	2
Wind turbine and green energy investments	9	7	5	8	8	11	10
Something else	3	6	1	3	3	3	2
Don't know	10	18	13	13	7	5	3



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Region

%	Total	REGION - Eastern Ontario	REGION - Toronto 416	REGION - Toronto 905	REGION - South-western Ontario	REGION - North-eastern Ontario	REGION - North-western Ontario
Sample	1120	165	182	340	258	146	29
Executive Salaries	11	15	14	9	8	13	5
Government mismanagement	47	38	43	52	49	48	40
Hydro One privatization	17	16	25	14	14	21	23
Closing of Coal plants	2	1	3	2	2	4	7
Wind turbine and green energy investments	9	15	3	10	10	5	7
Something else	3	4	3	2	6	2	13
Don't know	10	11	9	11	11	7	3

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	PROV VOTE - Progressive Conservative	PROV VOTE - Liberal	PROV VOTE - New Democratic	PROV VOTE - Green	PROV VOTE - Other Parties
Sample	1120	471	263	195	70	27
Executive Salaries	11	7	17	11	16	4
Government mismanagement	47	61	26	45	40	58
Hydro One privatization	17	8	30	27	15	6
Closing of Coal plants	2	2	3	2	3	0
Wind turbine and green energy investments	9	13	5	7	8	5
Something else	3	1	7	2	8	9
Don't know	10	7	12	6	11	18



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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1120	239	305	398	178
Executive Salaries	11	12	13	9	12
Government mismanagement	47	46	43	52	40
Hydro One privatization	17	14	20	18	15
Closing of Coal plants	2	4	1	2	4
Wind turbine and green energy investments	9	8	9	7	13
Something else	3	2	3	4	6
Don't know	10	14	12	8	11

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