

NEWS RELEASE



FORUM RESEARCH INC.

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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TORONTO

August 17th, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 4-in-10 approve of the idea of a provincial basic income, to replace social support payments (40%)
- Those most in favour of the plan include the youngest (48%), males (43%) rather than females (37%), among the least wealthy (54%), in northern Ontario (46%), among Liberals (57%) and, to a lesser extent, New Democrats (46%) and among the best educated (post grad - 50%)
- Voters are split between an amount equal to "about \$20,000" (29%) and "\$30,000 or more" (28%)
- One half of voters think a basic income, if initiated, should be income-tested and destined only for the needy (48%)
- "This is an idea with a solid base of support which has yet to reach majority approval. It is well-liked by those with the most recourse to this kind of social support, the young and least wealthy. It is interesting to note that those who accept the idea, accept that the basic income must be enough to provide dignity in living. They don't see this as a universal benefit, though" said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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Plurality Approval for Basic Income

Most see basic income for needy only, not universal

In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1097 Ontario voters, 4-in-10 approve of the idea of a provincial basic income, to replace social support payments (40%), while just more than one third disapprove (35%). One quarter have no opinion on the issue (25%). When we polled this last in Ontario, in March, results were similar (approve - 41%, disapprove - 33%, don't know - 26%).

Those most in favour of the plan include the youngest (48%), males (43%) rather than females (37%), among the least wealthy (54%), in northern Ontario (46%), among Liberals (57%) and, to a lesser extent, New Democrats (46%) and among the best educated (post grad - 50%).

Appropriate amount seen to be \$20,000 to more than \$30,000

When asked how much an annual basic income should be, if it were initiated, voters are split between an amount equal to "about \$20,000" (29%) and "\$30,000 or more" (28%). Fewer than a tenth suggest this payment should be "\$10,000 or less" (8%). One quarter will not support the basic income idea, and will not supply a dollar amount (24%).

One half see basic income for the needy only, not universal

One half of voters think a basic income, if initiated, should be income-tested and destined only for the needy (48%), while one third this proportion think the payment should be universal, made to all regardless of income (18%). One fifth don't agree with a basic income (19%) and less than a tenth don't know (6%).

"This is an idea with a solid base of support which has yet to reach majority approval. It is well-liked by those with the most recourse to this kind of social support, the young and least wealthy. It is interesting to note that those who accept the idea, accept that the basic income must be enough to provide dignity in living. They don't see this as a universal benefit, though" 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 1097 randomly selected Ontario voters. The poll was conducted on August 15th, 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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Basic Income Trending

%	August 15th, 2016	March 26th, 2016
Sample	1097	1125
Approve	40	41
Disapprove	35	33
Don't know	25	26

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Basic Income

The government of Ontario has proposed a basic income for those in the lowest income brackets. This would be a guaranteed annual income that would replace social assistance, welfare and other provincial support payments. Do you approve or disapprove of this proposal?

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1097	136	130	197	268	366	551	528
Approve	40	48	33	38	37	40	43	37
Disapprove	35	32	33	37	43	33	39	31
Don't know	25	20	34	24	20	27	18	32

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1097	87	181	173	119	119	191
Approve	40	54	37	39	40	47	43
Disapprove	35	21	35	41	40	35	33
Don't know	25	26	28	20	21	18	24

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1097	179	182	298	480	262	176
Approve	40	41	42	40	41	34	46
Disapprove	35	33	32	38	36	36	33
Don't know	25	25	25	23	24	30	21

Current Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1097	444	292	181	69	44
Approve	40	24	57	46	62	25
Disapprove	35	53	21	27	22	39
Don't know	25	23	23	27	16	36

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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1097	209	276	409	203
Approve	40	38	42	35	50
Disapprove	35	30	35	38	33
Don't know	25	32	22	27	18

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Basic Income Amount

If the government of Ontario introduced a basic income, how much should it be?

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1097	136	130	197	268	366	551	528
About \$30,000 a year or more	28	25	28	26	27	33	27	28
About \$20,000 a year	29	40	23	27	26	22	27	31
About \$10,000 a year or less	8	9	5	12	10	6	12	6
Don't agree any basic income should be paid	24	18	28	26	27	22	24	23
Don't know	12	8	14	10	10	17	10	12

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1097	87	181	173	119	119	191
About \$30,000 a year or more	28	40	28	30	25	23	25
About \$20,000 a year	29	37	27	23	30	35	35
About \$10,000 a year or less	8	2	10	8	9	10	7
Don't agree any basic income should be paid	24	10	24	28	25	22	25
Don't know	12	11	10	11	11	10	8

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1097	179	182	298	480	262	176
About \$30,000 a year or more	28	28	30	31	31	24	22
About \$20,000 a year	29	28	34	24	28	30	31
About \$10,000 a year or less	8	10	8	8	8	9	8
Don't agree any basic income should be paid	24	23	15	24	21	25	32
Don't know	12	11	13	12	13	12	7

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Current Provincial Vote Preference

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%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1097	444	292	181	69	44
About \$30,000 a year or more	28	13	38	38	42	31
About \$20,000 a year	29	27	38	28	22	16
About \$10,000 a year or less	8	12	6	6	9	8
Don't agree any basic income should be paid	24	36	12	20	15	21
Don't know	12	13	7	8	11	24

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1097	209	276	409	203
About \$30,000 a year or more	28	34	32	23	26
About \$20,000 a year	29	27	29	26	36
About \$10,000 a year or less	8	7	8	9	10
Don't agree any basic income should be paid	24	17	20	31	18
Don't know	12	14	12	11	9

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Who Should Receive Basic Income Payments?

If the government of Ontario introduced a basic income, to whom should it be paid?

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1097	136	130	197	268	366	551	528
It should be universal, paid to all regardless of income	18	22	25	11	17	8	18	17
It should be income-tested, paid only to those in need	48	49	42	54	41	52	45	51
Something else	9	11	6	10	10	7	9	9
Don't agree any basic income should be paid	19	14	20	20	24	21	22	16
Don't know	6	3	7	5	8	11	5	7

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1097	87	181	173	119	119	191
It should be universal, paid to all regardless of income	18	26	28	14	11	18	13
It should be income-tested, paid only to those in need	48	56	41	45	58	41	59
Something else	9	5	7	12	4	13	6
Don't agree any basic income should be paid	19	8	14	25	22	21	17
Don't know	6	4	9	5	5	6	5

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1097	179	182	298	480	262	176
It should be universal, paid to all regardless of income	18	19	17	19	18	18	14
It should be income-tested, paid only to those in need	48	42	59	44	50	48	50
Something else	9	11	7	9	8	7	12
Don't agree any basic income should be paid	19	21	12	22	18	20	20
Don't know	6	8	5	6	6	8	5

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%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1097	444	292	181	69	44
It should be universal, paid to all regardless of income	18	10	20	21	20	34
It should be income-tested, paid only to those in need	48	41	59	53	58	23
Something else	9	12	7	7	8	11
Don't agree any basic income should be paid	19	32	7	16	10	15
Don't know	6	6	7	3	4	17

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1097	209	276	409	203
It should be universal, paid to all regardless of income	18	26	16	14	18
It should be income-tested, paid only to those in need	48	44	48	48	52
Something else	9	6	10	10	8
Don't agree any basic income should be paid	19	15	18	23	15
Don't know	6	8	8	5	6

For more information:

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