

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadians ambivalent on impact of Syrian refugees

Equal proportions think they will/will not have positive impact

TORONTO December 8th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1369 Canadian adults, almost exactly equal proportions believe the Syrian refugees due to arrive in Canada will have a positive impact on the country (34%), will NOT have a positive impact (34%) or have no opinion on the question (32%).

Believing the refugees will have a positive impact is common to the youngest (41%), the wealthiest (40%), in Atlantic Canada (44%), but not in the west (27%). They will be welcome in BC (45%), among Liberals 49%), New Democrats (43%) but not among Conservatives (11%). The best educated are especially positive (post grad - 52%).

“It appears that constant controversy over, not the refugees themselves, but the mechanics of getting them here, has eroded some of the traditional welcome Canadians extend to newcomers,” 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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TORONTO

December 8th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Almost exactly equal proportions believe the Syrian refugees due to arrive in Canada will have a positive impact on the country (34%), will NOT have a positive impact (34%) or have no opinion on the question (32%).
- “It appears that constant controversy over, not the refugees themselves, but the mechanics of getting them here, has eroded some of the traditional welcome Canadians extend to newcomers,” 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 1369 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted between December 6th and 8th, 2015.

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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Positive Impact on Life in Canada

'Will the Syrian refugees have a positive impact on life in Canada or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1369	311	186	242	309	321	733	636
They will have a positive impact	34	41	29	29	32	38	33	35
They will not have a positive impact	34	29	40	40	35	25	37	31
Don't know	32	30	31	31	34	37	30	34

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1369	116	319	494	100	148	192	1064	305
They will have a positive impact	34	44	35	31	27	27	45	34	35
They will not have a positive impact	34	31	32	33	44	38	28	34	33
Don't know	32	24	32	36	29	34	26	32	32

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1369	418	561	188	93	54	24
They will have a positive impact	34	11	49	43	37	24	24
They will not have a positive impact	34	55	22	26	26	37	43
Don't know	32	34	29	32	37	39	33

For more information:

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