

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sharp erosion in public trust in police

Chief Saunders not held directly responsible

TORONTO January 29th - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 586 Toronto voters, close to 4-in-10 have less trust in Toronto's police officers now than they did a year ago (37%), while fewer than half this number have more trust now (14%). About one half have not changed their opinion in the past year (46%). Those with less trust now are commonly younger (35 to 44 - 51%), in mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 43%) and those who disapprove of the job Chief Saunders is doing (56%).

Trust has eroded sharply in just more than one week

Two thirds of Toronto voters now say they trust Toronto's police officers (63%), one quarter "a great deal" (26%) and more than a third "somewhat" (37%). In contrast, just more than a week ago, when the jury began deliberations in the James Forcillo trial, trust levels were sharply higher (January 20 - 78% in total, 33% "a great deal" and 45% "somewhat").

Wide majority aware of recent police infractions

About 7-in-10 voters are aware of two recent police infractions, one where four veteran officers were charged with perjury and obstruction of justice and one where an officer was charged with firing into a stopped car (71%), and a further one sixth are aware of at least one of these incidents (16%). Awareness is highest among the wealthiest (86%) and among Doug Ford voters from the last mayoral election (81%).

One half agree these are random, isolated incidents

One half of voters agree these two incidents are random and isolated occurrences (48%), while more than one third think they are not (35%). Close to one fifth don't have an opinion (17%). Those who don't see these as random, isolated incidents tend to be the youngest (42%), males (42%), the least wealthy (41%), Olivia Chow voters (44%), those who disapprove of the job John Tory is doing as mayor (45%), those who disapprove of the chief of police (57%) and those who are members of a visible minority (41%).

Saunders approval is stable from last week, last month

Close to one half of Toronto voters approve of the job Chief Saunders is doing (48%) and this is comparable to just more than a week ago (January 20 - 45%) and last month (December, 2015 - 48%).

TORONTO

January 29th, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Close to 4-in-10 have less trust in Toronto's police officers now than they did a year ago (37%).
- Two thirds of Toronto voters now say they trust Toronto's police officers (63%).
- About 7-in-10 voters are aware of two recent police infractions, one where four veteran officers were charged with perjury and obstruction of justice and one where an officer was charged with firing into a stopped car (71%).
- One half of voters agree these two incidents are random and isolated occurrences (48%).
- Close to one half of Toronto voters approve of the job Chief Saunders is doing (48%).

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Majority say opinion of Saunders has not changed

Close to 6-in-10 voters say their opinion of Chief Saunders is neither better nor worse now than when he was appointed in April (57%).

Majority disagree Saunders responsible for recent incidents

More than half of Toronto voters disagree that Chief Saunders can be held directly responsible for recent incidents of wrongdoing in the force (56%), while only about one sixth see him as responsible (14%).

On balance, less wrongdoing seen in TPS than other police forces

In total, one quarter of voters think there is less wrongdoing in the TPS than other police forces in Canada (24%), one twentieth saying “much less” (6%) and close to one fifth saying “somewhat less” (18%). Just one sixth find there is more wrongdoing (14%), and this is made up of one tenth who see “somewhat more” (11%) and very few who see “much more wrongdoing” (3%). As many as 4-in-10 say there is neither more nor less wrongdoing in the TPS than other Canadian forces (39%).

“It is apparent that the public has taken notice of the mishaps in the Toronto Police Service recently, and this has had an effect on their trust in the policing of Toronto. While their trust has been shaken, however, no one seems to blame it on Chief Saunders, and he still maintains his very solid approval ratings, which have barely changed since he was appointed,” 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.

TORONTO

January 29th, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Close to 6-in-10 voters say their opinion of Chief Saunders is neither better nor worse now than when he was appointed in April (57%).
- More than half of Toronto voters disagree that Chief Saunders can be held directly responsible for recent incidents of wrongdoing in the force (56%).
- One quarter of voters think there is less wrongdoing in the TPS than other police forces in Canada (24%).
- “It is apparent that the public has taken notice of the mishaps in the Toronto Police Service recently, and this has had an effect on their trust in the policing of Toronto. While their trust has been shaken, however, no one seems to blame it on Chief Saunders, and he still maintains his very solid approval ratings, which have barely changed since he was appointed,” 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 586 randomly selected voters in Toronto, Ontario. The poll was conducted on January 29th, 2016.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 4%, 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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January 29th, 2016

Mark Saunders Approval – Trending

%	Sample	Approve
January 29 th , 2016	586	48
January 25 th , 2016	549	45
December 29 th , 2015	802	48
November 16 th , 2015	812	52
August 2 nd , 2015	892	45
July 16 th , 2015	825	46
June 8 th , 2015	822	48
May 5 th , 2015	822	44

Trust in TO Police Officers - Trending

%	January 29 th , 2016	January 20 th , 2016
Sample	586	546
Great deal of trust	26	33
Some trust	37	45
Not very much trust	24	14
No trust at all	9	5
Don't know	4	4

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January 29th, 2016

Mark Saunders Approval

'Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job Mark Saunders is doing as Chief of Police?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	586	135	86	115	108	142	307	279
Approve	48	41	45	51	62	48	42	53
Disapprove	33	39	35	32	20	28	40	26
Don't know	20	19	20	17	18	24	17	21

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	586	216	96	154	120
Approve	48	46	40	52	54
Disapprove	33	36	36	29	29
Don't know	20	18	24	19	17

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	586	88	262	70	46
Approve	48	38	55	37	36
Disapprove	33	50	25	30	47
Don't know	20	12	21	33	17

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TORONTO
January 29th, 2016

Opinion on Chief Saunders

‘Do you have a better opinion of Chief Saunders, a worse opinion of Chief Saunders, or neither a better nor worse opinion of Chief Saunders now than when he was appointed last April?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	586	135	86	115	108	142	307	279
Better opinion now	18	19	15	21	19	16	18	18
Worse opinion now	20	23	21	18	14	19	27	13
Neither better nor worse opinion now	57	53	57	58	64	60	51	63
Don't know	5	5	7	3	3	4	4	5

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	586	216	96	154	120
Better opinion now	18	21	15	18	19
Worse opinion now	20	23	17	23	15
Neither better nor worse opinion now	57	53	64	52	62
Don't know	5	3	5	7	4

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	586	88	262	70	46
Better opinion now	18	19	19	16	9
Worse opinion now	20	18	21	15	30
Neither better nor worse opinion now	57	63	58	62	59
Don't know	5	0	2	7	1

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Trust in TO Police Officers

'How much trust do you have in Toronto's police officers?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	586	135	86	115	108	142	307	279
Great deal of trust	26	22	23	28	30	31	21	30
Some trust	37	33	31	38	46	47	37	38
Not very much trust	24	28	30	26	17	13	25	23
No trust at all	9	13	12	7	5	1	11	7
Don't know	4	4	5	1	3	8	5	3

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	586	216	96	154	120
Great deal of trust	26	23	22	29	30
Some trust	37	39	35	39	37
Not very much trust	24	25	32	20	18
No trust at all	9	11	6	7	10
Don't know	4	1	5	6	5

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	586	88	262	70	46
Great deal of trust	26	32	27	20	26
Some trust	37	29	47	39	27
Not very much trust	24	28	17	32	27
No trust at all	9	7	6	7	15
Don't know	4	3	3	2	5

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More or Less Trust

‘Do you have more trust; less trust or neither more nor less trust in in Toronto’s police officers than you did one year ago?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	586	135	86	115	108	142	307	279
More trust	14	18	7	17	12	12	8	18
Less trust	37	32	51	39	27	34	45	30
Neither more nor less trust	46	47	41	41	56	48	43	48
Don't know	3	3	1	3	4	6	3	3

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	586	216	96	154	120
More trust	14	13	16	16	9
Less trust	37	38	40	32	39
Neither more nor less trust	46	47	39	50	48
Don't know	3	2	6	2	3

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	586	88	262	70	46
More trust	14	15	14	14	16
Less trust	37	40	41	33	19
Neither more nor less trust	46	42	44	50	61
Don't know	3	3	2	2	4

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Recent Police Incidents

‘Recently, four veteran police officers were criminally charged with perjury and obstruction of justice in a failed heroin arrest. Another officer has been charged under the Police Services Act with discharging his firearm needlessly in pursuit of a stolen vehicle in the Distillery District. Were you aware of these incidents?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	586	135	86	115	108	142	307	279
Yes, both of them	71	70	70	66	75	75	73	69
Yes, at least one of them	16	13	17	18	17	16	13	18
No, neither of them	14	17	13	16	8	9	15	13

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	586	216	96	154	120
Yes, both of them	71	75	66	69	73
Yes, at least one of them	16	17	12	16	18
No, neither of them	14	9	21	16	9

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	586	88	262	70	46
Yes, both of them	71	81	73	67	63
Yes, at least one of them	16	9	19	17	14
No, neither of them	14	10	8	16	23

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Chief Saunders Responsibility

'Do you agree or disagree Police Chief Mark Saunders is directly responsible for recent controversies within the Toronto Police Service?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	586	135	86	115	108	142	307	279
Agree	14	14	14	18	12	11	17	12
Disagree	56	59	61	54	62	43	59	54
Don't know	29	27	25	28	26	45	24	34

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	586	216	96	154	120
Agree	14	14	17	14	11
Disagree	56	58	54	57	57
Don't know	29	29	29	28	32

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	586	88	262	70	46
Agree	14	15	10	13	17
Disagree	56	60	62	60	44
Don't know	29	25	28	27	40

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Random Isolated Incidents

‘Do you agree or disagree these are random, isolated incidents and not part of a pattern of criminal behaviour on the part of police officers?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	586	135	86	115	108	142	307	279
Agree they are random isolated incidents	48	44	48	53	49	49	43	53
Disagree they are random isolated incidents	35	42	41	23	33	31	42	29
Don't know	17	14	12	24	18	20	16	18

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	586	216	96	154	120
Agree they are random isolated incidents	48	46	49	51	48
Disagree they are random isolated incidents	35	40	30	33	37
Don't know	17	14	21	16	15

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	586	88	262	70	46
Agree they are random isolated incidents	48	56	49	39	45
Disagree they are random isolated incidents	35	31	34	44	45
Don't know	17	12	17	17	10

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Toronto Police Service Ranking

'How does the Toronto Police Service rank with other police forces in Canada for wrongdoing?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	586	135	86	115	108	142	307	279
There is much less wrongdoing than in other police forces	6	5	6	4	13	7	7	6
There is somewhat less wrongdoing than other police forces	18	22	10	20	17	18	17	19
There is no difference from other police forces	39	42	44	35	36	34	39	39
There is somewhat more wrongdoing than other police forces	11	10	11	14	10	6	11	10
There is much more wrongdoing than other police forces	3	6	4	1	3	1	6	1
Don't know	23	14	25	27	22	33	21	25

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	586	216	96	154	120
There is much less wrongdoing than in other police forces	6	8	6	7	3
There is somewhat less wrongdoing than other police forces	18	21	20	18	12
There is no difference from other police forces	39	36	44	36	41
There is somewhat more wrongdoing than other police forces	11	13	7	12	10
There is much more wrongdoing than other police forces	3	1	5	3	5
Don't know	23	22	18	25	29

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Last Mayoral Vote

	%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample		586	88	262	70	46
There is much less wrongdoing than in other police forces		6	6	7	6	3
There is somewhat less wrongdoing than other police forces		18	15	17	16	20
There is no difference from other police forces		39	50	35	39	39
There is somewhat more wrongdoing than other police forces		11	10	11	12	7
There is much more wrongdoing than other police forces		3	2	3	1	5
Don't know		23	17	28	26	27

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