

# NEWS RELEASE



**FORUM RESEARCH INC.**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **One Half Approve of Rail Deck Park**

#### **More than a third agree public financing may be used**

TORONTO November 16<sup>th</sup> – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 778 Toronto voters, one half approve of the idea of the 21 acre Rail Deck Park downtown, despite being told it may cost \$1 billion to build (51%), while just fewer than 4-in-10 disapprove of the idea (38%). One tenth have no opinion (10%). Approval of the park is characteristic of the youngest (57%), males (55%) more than females (48%), the very wealthiest (59%), in the downtown (64%), among the best educated (post grad - 57%), bicycle commuters (76%), those who approve of John Tory (61%) and those who voted for him (59%). Disapproval is characteristic of the oldest (48%), mid income groups (\$40K to \$60K - 47%), in York (49%) and Scarborough (55%), among the least educated (secondary school or less - 49%) and those who voted for Doug Ford (74%).

#### **More than a third approve of public financing for park**

Just more than a third of Toronto voters agree public funds may be spent on this park (37%), while just less than half disagree (46%). Close to one fifth don't have an opinion (17%). Agreement with public funding is common to younger voters (35 to 44 - 43%), males (44%) rather than females (31%), the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 51%), in the downtown (51%), but not in Scarborough (18%), among the best educated (post grad - 47%), bike commuters (74%) and Olivia Chow voters (56%), but not Doug Ford voters (18%).

#### **Two thirds agree more downtown parkland needed**

Two thirds of Toronto voters agree Toronto needs more parkland downtown (65%), fewer than a quarter disagree (22%) and just more than a tenth don't share their opinion (13%). Agreement more parkland is needed is especially strong, obviously, in the downtown (80%), but also in East York (78% - caution: small base size).

“This is a huge vote of confidence in this proposed park, in that voters were given the estimated cost when they were asked their approval. It is almost impossible to poll any expensive public works positively, but, in this case, there is such a recognized need for green space in the core that approval is high,” 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](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com) or at (416) 960-9603.

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**TORONTO**  
**November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- One half approve of the idea of the 21 acre Rail Deck Park downtown, despite being told it may cost \$1 billion to build (51%)
- Just more than a third of Toronto voters agree public funds may be spent on this park (37%), while just less than half disagree (46%)
- “This is a huge vote of confidence in this proposed park, in that voters were given the estimated cost when they were asked their approval. It is almost impossible to poll any expensive public works positively, but, in this case, there is such a recognized need for green space in the core that approval is high,” 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 778 randomly selected Toronto voters. The poll was conducted on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

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**November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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**Rail Deck Park Approval**

*Do you approve or disapprove of Mayor Tory’s plan to build a twenty one acre park above the railroad tracks downtown, to be called the Rail Deck Park? This park may cost about one billion dollars*

[All Respondents]

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	778	170	126	135	171	176	417	344
Approve	51	57	56	49	45	43	55	48
Disapprove	38	33	33	40	47	48	37	40
Don't know	10	10	11	11	9	9	8	12

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	778	78	111	78	104	78	173
Approve	51	55	41	44	58	51	59
Disapprove	38	34	50	47	32	35	35
Don't know	10	11	10	10	10	14	6

**Region**

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	778	264	59	155	123	43	134
Approve	51	64	54	55	54	43	32
Disapprove	38	26	25	35	39	49	55
Don't know	10	10	21	10	7	7	12

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	778	93	166	323	196
Approve	51	40	45	54	57
Disapprove	38	49	42	37	32
Don't know	10	11	13	9	10

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### **Mode of Transportation**

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Private vehicle</b>	<b>Public transit</b>	<b>Bicycle</b>	<b>Walking</b>	<b>Some other way</b>	<b>Don't travel to work or school</b>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Approve</b>	51	52	50	76	55	35	47
<b>Disapprove</b>	38	40	38	10	36	61	40
<b>Don't know</b>	10	8	12	14	9	4	13

**TORONTO**  
**November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

### **John Tory Approval**

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>238</b>
<b>Approve</b>	51	61	30
<b>Disapprove</b>	38	28	61
<b>Don't know</b>	10	11	9

### **Mayoral Vote Preference**

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>John Tory</b>	<b>Doug Ford</b>	<b>Joe Cressy</b>	<b>Someone else</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Approve</b>	51	66	26	69	47	33
<b>Disapprove</b>	38	23	68	24	39	49
<b>Don't know</b>	10	11	6	7	13	18

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**Public Funds for Rail Deck Downtown Park**

*Do you agree or disagree public funds should be spent building this downtown park?*

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	778	170	126	135	171	176	417	344
Agree	37	40	43	38	29	31	44	31
Disagree	46	42	41	47	53	51	44	48
Don't know	17	18	16	15	18	17	12	21

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	778	78	111	78	104	78	173
Agree	37	34	22	31	39	49	51
Disagree	46	51	59	47	50	33	32
Don't know	17	15	19	22	11	18	18

**Region**

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	778	264	59	155	123	43	134
Agree	37	52	43	38	42	32	18
Disagree	46	32	38	45	35	58	69
Don't know	17	16	20	17	23	10	13

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	778	93	166	323	196
Agree	37	31	29	38	47
Disagree	46	50	54	47	34
Don't know	17	19	17	16	18

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### Mode of Transportation

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	778	311	223	41	46	24	133
Agree	37	36	38	74	42	18	34
Disagree	46	50	43	12	41	56	50
Don't know	17	15	19	14	17	26	16

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### John Tory Approval

%	Total	Approve	Disapprove
Sample	778	540	238
Agree	37	44	23
Disagree	46	37	65
Don't know	17	19	12

### Mayoral Vote Preference

%	Total	John Tory	Doug Ford	Joe Cressy	Someone else	Undecided
Sample	778	373	183	57	123	42
Agree	37	45	20	57	37	30
Disagree	46	34	69	29	52	43
Don't know	17	21	10	13	11	27

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**More Parkland in Downtown Toronto**

*Do you agree or disagree Toronto needs more parkland downtown?*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	778	170	126	135	171	176	417	344
Agree	65	69	68	61	63	62	63	67
Disagree	22	22	20	24	19	25	24	20
Don't know	13	9	12	14	18	13	12	13

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	778	78	111	78	104	78	173
Agree	65	62	54	55	69	73	73
Disagree	22	23	34	24	23	17	18
Don't know	13	15	13	21	8	10	9

**Region**

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	778	264	59	155	123	43	134
Agree	65	80	78	65	61	67	50
Disagree	22	14	18	23	26	26	27
Don't know	13	7	4	13	13	7	23

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	778	93	166	323	196
Agree	65	55	62	66	71
Disagree	22	30	23	22	17
Don't know	13	15	15	11	12

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### Mode of Transportation

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	778	311	223	41	46	24	133
Agree	65	66	61	90	77	47	68
Disagree	22	23	26	0	14	24	18
Don't know	13	11	13	10	9	29	14

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### John Tory Approval

%	Total	Approve	Disapprove
Sample	778	540	238
Agree	65	71	53
Disagree	22	15	36
Don't know	13	13	11

### Mayoral Vote Preference

%	Total	John Tory	Doug Ford	Joe Cressy	Someone else	Undecided
Sample	778	373	183	57	123	42
Agree	65	76	43	90	67	45
Disagree	22	12	43	8	20	28
Don't know	13	11	14	2	13	26

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