FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More Than A Third Disapprove Of Sex Ed Curriculum

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One sixth have or would withdraw children from school

In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll among 1172 Ontario voters, one half approve of the province's new sex education curriculum (48%), while just more than a third disapprove (36%). One sixth do not have an opinion (15%). This is in comparison to July of last year, when one half approved (49%) and more than a third disapproved (37%). At that time one sixth had no opinion (14%).Disapproval of the curriculum is characteristic of the mid aged (45 to 54 - 41%), the less wealthy (\$20K to \$40K - 42%), among PC supporters especially (56%), among the least educated (secondary school or less - 46%), Protestant Christians (45%), Pentecostal or Evangelical Christians especially (80%), other Christians (44%) but not those of no religious belief (18%).

One sixth have or would withdraw children from school

In total, 1-in-33 parents have withdrawn a child from the public school system because the sex education curriculum (3%) and a further tenth or so would withhold children if they had any in elementary school (13%) for a total of one sixth who have or would take their children out of school because of the curriculum (16%).

Two thirds disagree Catholic School boards should avoid anti-bullying guidelines

Two thirds disagree Catholic school boards should be able to avoid following the province's anti-bullying guidelines, because they include discussions of sexual identity (62%), while just one quarter agree that Catholic schools should not have to follow the guidelines (26%) and one tenth have no opinion (14%). Agreeing that Catholic schools should not have to host discussions of sexual orientation is characteristic of the mid aged (45 to 54 - 31%), in southwestern Ontario (30%), among PC voters (41%), mothers of children under 18 (32%), the least educated (30%), Pentecostal or Evangelical Christians (66%), other Christians (33%) and members of non-Christian religions (35%). Catholics are no more likely to support it than others (29%).

One half think funds should be withheld from non-compliant school boards

One half of Ontario voters agree that public funding should be withheld from Catholic school boards which choose not to implement the new anti-bullying guidelines (48%), while 4-in-10 disagree (39%). One tenth have no opinion (13%).

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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TORONTO June 1st, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll among 1172 Ontario voters, one half approve of the province's new sex education curriculum (48%)
- 1-in-33 parents have withdrawn a child from the public school system because the sex education curriculum (3%)
- Two thirds disagree Catholic school boards should be able to avoid following the province's anti-bullying guidelines
- One half of Ontario voters agree that public funding should be withheld from Catholic school boards which choose not to implement the new antibullying guidelines (48%)

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Agreeing funds should be withheld from non-compliant boards is common to the oldest (54%), those in mid income (\$40K to \$60K - 54%) and very wealthy brackets (\$100K to \$250K - 52%), in the city of Toronto and northern Ontario (52% each), among Liberals (54%) and New Democrats (58%), Protestant Christians (52%), those with no religion (62%) and those who approve of the new sex education curriculum (62%).

Four-in-ten opposed to public funding of Catholic schools in Ontario

Four-in-ten voters disagree Catholic schools should continue to receive public funds (40%), and they are outnumbered by those who believe the funding should continue (47%). One tenth have no opinion (13%). This is in contrast to the last time we polled this question, three years ago, when the no side was somewhat more numerous (May, 2013 - 44%) and the don't knows rarer (8%). Being against public funding of Catholic schools is common to the youngest (45%), males (44%), mid income groups (\$40K to \$60K - 44%) and the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 44%), in Northern Ontario (47%), the best educated (post grad - 44%), Protestant Christians (47%), non-Christians (46%), those who have no religion (58%) and those who approve of the new sex education curriculum (49%).

"Public funding of Catholic schools is something of an open constitutional sore in Ontario. We keep picking at the scab, so it never heals. It is clear that those Catholic school boards who are resisting the province's anti-bullying guidelines do not have the public on their side, and that could be damaging to their own interests in the long run" said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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TORONTO June 1st, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- One-in-four voters disagrees Catholic schools should continue to receive public funds (40%)
- "Public funding of Catholic schools is something of an open constitutional sore in Ontario. We keep picking at the scab, so it never heals. It is clear that those Catholic school boards who are resisting the province's anti-bullying guidelines do not have the public on their side, and that could be damaging to thier own interests"

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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 1172 randomly selected Canadian adults. The poll was conducted on May 31st, 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 <u>www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp</u>

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 <u>www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp</u>

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Sex Education Curriculum Approval - Trending:

%	May 31 st , 2016	July 8 th , 2015	May 1 st , 2015	February 28 th , 2015
Sample	1172	678	912	996
Approve	49	49	42	49
Disappro ve	36	37	40	34
Don't Know	15	14	17	17

Catholic Schools Should Receive Public Funding Agreement Trending:

%	May 31 st , 2016	May 29 th , 2013	Feb 20 th , 2013	Oct. 30- 31 st , 2012	May 14 th , 2012	Jan 18 th , 2012
Sample	1172	918	1053	1102	1072	1041
Agree	47	44	39	44	40	45
Disagree	40	48	54	50	53	49
Don't Know	13	8	7	6	6	6

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June 1st, 2016

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Sex Education Curriculum

'Do you approve or disapprove of the provincial government's new sex education curriculum?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1172	158	166	212	291	345	560	588
Approve	49	59	49	44	42	42	45	52
Disapprove	36	28	39	41	39	39	39	34
Don't know	15	13	12	15	19	20	16	14

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1172	117	160	170	121	125	239
Approve	49	49	45	48	41	56	60
Disapprove	36	35	42	35	41	36	28
Don't know	15	16	13	16	17	8	12

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1172	167	158	372	530	280	195
Approve	49	48	54	49	51	45	47
Disapprove	36	38	35	35	35	39	36
Don't know	15	15	12	16	14	16	17

Current Provincial Party Choice

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1172	453	330	183	83	54
Approve	49	30	66	59	60	33
Disapprove	36	56	21	27	26	41
Don't know	15	14	13	13	14	26

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Children

%	Total	Yes	No	MOMS
Sample	1172	303	869	132
Approve	49	48	49	55
Disapprove	36	41	34	38
Don't know	15	11	17	7

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Evangelical or Pentecostal Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Other religion	No religion
Sample	1172	334	38	285	131	100	284
Approve	49	39	7	46	42	48	66
Disapprove	36	45	80	39	44	37	18
Don't know	15	16	13	15	14	14	15

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Elementary School-Aged Children

'Do you have elementary school-aged children?'

[BASE: Disapprove of new sex ed curriculum]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	442	45	66	86	110	135	229	204
Yes	31	34	64	35	10	3	35	28
No	69	66	36	65	90	97	65	72

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	442	47	72	60	50	45	68
Yes	31	13	17	34	32	37	44
No	69	87	83	66	68	63	56

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	442	65	53	140	193	116	68
Yes	31	14	36	39	38	33	24
No	69	86	64	61	62	67	76

Current Provincial Party Choice

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	442	260	66	55	22	21
Yes	31	33	32	28	24	28
No	69	67	68	72	76	72

Children

%	Total	Yes	No	MOMS
Sample	442	124	318	47
Yes	31	79	3	72
No	69	21	97	28

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Evangelical or Pentecostal Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Other religion	No religion
Sample	442	149	28	118	52	39	56
Yes	31	23	35	26	39	45	37
No	69	77	65	74	61	55	63

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Withdrawn Children from Public School

'Have you withdrawn them from the public school system because of the new sex education curriculum?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1172	158	166	212	291	345	560	588
Yes	3	3	7	1	2	1	3	3
No	8	7	18	13	2	1	11	6
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	72	61	59	61	61	61	66
Disapprove and do not have elementary school-aged children	25	19	14	27	35	38	26	24

Income

%	Total	<20K	20- 40K	40- 60K	60- 80K	80- 100К	100- 250K
Sample	1172	117	160	170	121	125	239
Yes	3	2	2	2	5	4	3
No	8	3	5	10	8	10	10
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	65	58	65	59	64	72
Disapprove and do not have elementary school-aged children	25	30	35	23	28	23	16

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1172	167	158	372	530	280	195
Yes	3	1	2	5	4	3	1
No	8	4	10	8	9	10	8
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	62	65	65	65	61	64
Disapprove and do not have elementary school-aged children	25	33	22	21	22	26	27

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Current Provincial Party Choice

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party				
Sample	1172	453	330	183	83	54				
Yes	3	6	1	1	1	6				
No	8	13	5	7	5	6				
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	44	79	73	74	59				
Disapprove and do not have elementary school-aged children	25	37	14	20	20	30				

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Children

%	Total	Yes	No	MOMS
Sample	1172	303	869	132
Yes	3	8	0	10
No	8	23	1	18
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	59	66	62
Disapprove and do not have elementary school-aged children	25	9	33	10

Religion

Total	Protestant Christian	Evangelical or Pentecostal Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Other religion	No religion	Total
Sample	1172	334	38	285	131	100	284
Yes	3	3	7	2	2	7	3
No	8	7	21	8	15	10	4
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	55	20	61	56	63	82
Disapprove and do not have elementary school-aged children	25	35	52	29	27	20	12

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Would You Withdraw Your Children from Public School

'If you had children in elementary school, would you withdraw them from the public school system because of the new sex education curriculum or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1172	158	166	212	291	345	560	588
Would withdraw your child	13	9	9	15	20	15	15	11
Would not withdraw your child	9	9	5	9	11	14	9	10
Don't know	3	1	0	3	4	9	2	3
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	72	61	59	61	61	61	66
Disapprove and have elementary school-aged children	11	10	25	14	4	1	14	9

Income

%	Total	<20K	20- 40K	40- 60K	60- 80K	80- 100К	100- 250К
Sample	1172	117	160	170	121	125	239
Would withdraw your child	13	15	19	13	15	13	8
Would not withdraw your child	9	12	11	7	10	7	7
Don't know	3	4	4	4	3	2	1
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	65	58	65	59	64	72
Disapprove and have elementary school-aged children	11	4	7	12	13	14	12

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Region

%		E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1172	167	158	372	530	280	195
Would withdraw your child	13	18	12	8	10	15	16
Would not withdraw your child	9	12	8	10	9	9	8
Don't know	3	3	2	3	3	2	4
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	62	65	65	65	61	64
Disapprove and have elementary school- aged children	11	5	12	14	13	13	9

Current Provincial Party Choice

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1172	453	330	183	83	54
Would withdraw your child	13	20	9	9	7	16
Would not withdraw your child	9	12	4	10	11	12
Don't know	3	5	2	1	1	2
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	44	79	73	74	59
Disapprove and have elementary school- aged children	11	19	7	8	6	12

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Children

%	Total	Yes	No	MOMS
Sample	1172	303	869	132
Would withdraw your child	13	5	17	6
Would not withdraw your child	9	3	13	4
Don't know	3	1	4	1
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	59	66	62
Disapprove and have elementary school-aged children	11	32	1	27

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Evangelical or Pentecostal Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Other religion	No religion
Sample	1172	334	38	285	131	100	284
Would withdraw your child	13	15	38	18	13	13	3
Would not withdraw your child	9	14	12	9	9	6	7
Don't know	3	6	2	1	5	2	2
Approve of new sex ed curriculum	64	55	20	61	56	63	82
Disapprove and have elementary school-aged children	11	10	28	10	17	17	7

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Implementation of Sex-Ed Curriculum

'Some Catholic school boards in the province are not implementing the new provincial anti-bullying guidelines because they do not want discussions of sexual orientation and gender identity in the classroom. Do you agree or disagree with this position?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1172	158	166	212	291	345	560	588
Agree	26	27	30	31	25	17	31	22
Disagree	62	64	62	57	62	64	59	65
Don't know	12	9	8	13	13	19	10	14

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1172	117	160	170	121	125	239
Agree	26	29	26	22	28	27	25
Disagree	62	61	58	65	58	62	68
Don't know	12	10	16	13	15	10	7

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1172	167	158	372	530	280	195
Agree	26	24	27	26	27	30	21
Disagree	62	63	63	62	63	57	66
Don't know	12	14	9	12	11	13	12

Current Provincial Party Choice

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1172	453	330	183	83	54
Agree	26	41	17	18	10	33
Disagree	62	45	73	73	78	49
Don't know	12	14	10	9	12	18

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Children

%	Total	Yes	No	MOMS
Sample	1172	303	869	132
Agree	26	34	22	32
Disagree	62	54	65	56
Don't know	12	11	12	12

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Evangelical or Pentecostal Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Other religion	No religion
Sample	1172	334	38	285	131	100	284
Agree	26	25	66	29	33	35	14
Disagree	62	61	26	61	57	46	76
Don't know	12	14	8	10	10	20	11

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Withholding Public Funding

'Do you agree or disagree public funding should be withheld from those Catholic school boards that do not implement the new anti-bullying guidelines?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1172	158	166	212	291	345	560	588
Agree	48	50	46	47	43	54	49	48
Disagree	39	37	47	40	41	27	40	38
Don't know	13	13	8	13	15	19	12	15

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1172	117	160	170	121	125	239
Agree	48	43	45	54	44	48	52
Disagree	39	34	36	37	41	46	37
Don't know	13	23	18	9	14	6	11

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1172	167	158	372	530	280	195
Agree	48	49	52	48	50	43	52
Disagree	39	37	34	37	36	44	39
Don't know	13	14	14	15	14	13	9

Current Provincial Party Choice

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1172	453	330	183	83	54
Agree	48	34	54	58	66	55
Disagree	39	53	33	32	19	31
Don't know	13	13	13	10	15	15

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Children

%	Total	Yes	No	MOMS	
Sample	1172	303	869	132	
Agree	48	43	51	42	
Disagree	39	48	34	49	
Don't know	13	9	16	9	

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Evangelical or Pentecostal Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Other religion	No religion
Sample	1172	334	38	285	131	100	284
Agree	48	52	28	35	44	42	63
Disagree	39	35	64	53	40	40	25
Don't know	13	13	8	12	16	18	12

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Continuing to Fund Catholic Schools in Ontario

'Do you agree or disagree that Catholic schools should continue to receive public funding in Ontario?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1172	158	166	212	291	345	560	588
Agree	47	40	53	49	57	42	45	49
Disagree	40	45	38	38	32	41	44	35
Don't know	13	15	9	13	11	17	11	15

Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1172	117	160	170	121	125	239
Agree	47	45	45	45	50	52	48
Disagree	40	34	33	44	43	41	44
Don't know	13	21	21	11	7	7	8

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1172	167	158	372	530	280	195
Agree	47	55	48	46	47	46	42
Disagree	40	30	42	40	41	39	47
Don't know	13	15	10	14	12	15	12

Current Provincial Party Choice

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1172	453	330	183	83	54
Agree	47	55	44	48	30	36
Disagree	40	36	38	41	53	50
Don't know	13	9	18	11	17	15

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Children

%	Total	Yes	No	MOMS	
Sample	1172	303	869	132	
Agree	47	53	44	61	
Disagree	40	37	41	26	
Don't know	13	11	14	13	

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Evangelical or Pentecostal Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Other religion	No religion
Sample	1172	334	38	285	131	100	284
Agree	47	42	54	74	54	35	28
Disagree	40	47	38	15	30	46	58
Don't know	13	11	8	11	16	19	14

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