

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Close to Half Find Construction Downtown an Inconvenience

#### Continuous construction difficult to get around, weekend closures seen

In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 757 Toronto voters, close to half say "continuous construction downtown makes it difficult to get around" (45%), whereas fewer than a quarter take the position that "continuous construction downtown is a sign the city is thriving" (23%). One quarter say construction downtown doesn't affect them (26%).

#### Three quarters disagree with long term traffic and sidewalk closures

Three quarters of Toronto voters disagree contractors and developers should be able to close off traffic lanes and sidewalks for long term projects (76%), while only about one sixth agree they should be allowed to do this (15%).

#### One half say closures should not exceed a weekend at most

One half of voters (51%) say traffic and sidewalk closures should be allowed to last for a day or less (16%) or a weekend (35%). A further 3-in-10 think a week or two is appropriate (29%).

"Torontonians are as fed up as Mayor Tory is with these constant lane closures and sidewalk diversions. One has to ask, will Toronto ever be finished?" 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.

#### **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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### TORONTO October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Close to half say "continuous construction downtown makes it difficult to get around" (45%)
- Three quarters of Toronto voters disagree contractors and developers should be able to close off traffic lanes and sidewalks for long term projects (76%)
- One half of voters (51%) say traffic and sidewalk closures should be allowed to last for a day or less (16%) or a weekend (35%)



#### Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 757 randomly selected Toronto voters. The poll was conducted on October 24<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 <a href="https://www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp">www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp</a>

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 <a href="https://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp">www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp</a>

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#### **Opinions of Downtown Construction**

Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?

[All Respondents]

#### Age / Gender

| %   | Total | 18-<br>34 | 35-<br>44 | 45-<br>54 | 55-<br>64 | 65+ | Male | Female |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|------|--------|
| Sample  | 757   | 127       | 105       | 152       | 180       | 193 | 381  | 351    |
| Continuous construction downtown makes getting around difficult | 45    | 51        | 43        | 41        | 39        | 45  | 43   | 46     |
| Continuous construction downtown is a sign the city is thriving | 23    | 26        | 25        | 23        | 22        | 15  | 28   | 18     |
| Construction downtown doesn't affect you                        | 26    | 17        | 27        | 26        | 33        | 35  | 22   | 29     |
| Don't know  | 6     | 6         | 5         | 10        | 6         | 5   | 6    | 7      |

#### Income

| %   | Total | <20K | 20-<br>40K | 40-<br>60K | 60-<br>80K | 80-<br>100K | 100-<br>250K |
|---|-------|------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample  | 757   | 89   | 97         | 105        | 95         | 74          | 156          |
| Continuous construction downtown makes getting around difficult | 45    | 46   | 33         | 45         | 51         | 43          | 48           |
| Continuous construction downtown is a sign the city is thriving | 23    | 14   | 23         | 21         | 19         | 32          | 24           |
| Construction downtown doesn't affect you                        | 26    | 32   | 30         | 33         | 23         | 22          | 20           |
| Don't know  | 6     | 8    | 13         | 1          | 7          | 2           | 8            |

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#### Region

| %  | Total | Former<br>City of<br>Toronto | East<br>York | North<br>York | Etobicoke | York | Scarborough |
|--|-------|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|------|-------------|
| Sample   | 757   | 232                          | 81           | 138           | 114       | 48   | 144         |
| Continuous<br>construction downtown<br>makes getting around<br>difficult | 45    | 53                           | 45           | 50            | 50        | 37   | 29          |
| Continuous<br>construction downtown<br>is a sign the city is<br>thriving | 23    | 26                           | 29           | 24            | 26        | 24   | 13          |
| Construction downtown doesn't affect you                                 | 26    | 16                           | 18           | 20            | 18        | 27   | 52          |
| Don't know   | 6     | 5                            | 8            | 7             | 6         | 12   | 6           |

#### **Mode of Transportation**

| %  | Total | Private<br>vehicle | Public<br>transit | Bicycle | Walking | Some<br>other<br>way | travel to<br>work or<br>school |
|--|-------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sample   | 757   | 275                | 203               | 36      | 45      | 26                   | 172                            |
| Continuous<br>construction<br>downtown makes<br>getting around difficult | 45    | 47                 | 47                | 38      | 45      | 51                   | 35                             |
| Continuous<br>construction<br>downtown is a sign the<br>city is thriving | 23    | 24                 | 22                | 38      | 30      | 13                   | 17                             |
| Construction<br>downtown doesn't<br>affect you                           | 26    | 23                 | 25                | 15      | 12      | 27                   | 44                             |
| Don't know   | 6     | 6                  | 6                 | 8       | 14      | 8                    | 3                              |

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#### John Tory Approval

Disapprove Total Approve % 757 541 216 Sample Continuous construction downtown makes getting around 45 45 45 difficult Continuous construction downtown is a sign the city is thriving 23 23 23 26 27 Construction downtown doesn't affect you 24 Don't know 9

#### Past Mayoral Vote Preference

| %   | Total | Doug<br>Ford | John<br>Tory | Olivia<br>Chow | Someone<br>else |
|---|-------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Sample  | 757   | 118          | 342          | 117            | 45              |
| Continuous construction downtown makes getting around difficult | 45    | 43           | 46           | 46             | 44              |
| Continuous construction downtown is a sign the city is thriving | 23    | 24           | 25           | 25             | 16              |
| Construction downtown doesn't affect you                        | 26    | 28           | 24           | 26             | 33              |
| Don't know  | 6     | 6            | 5            | 4              | 7               |

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#### Developers/Contractors Closing off traffic lanes and sidewalks

Do you agree or disagree developers and contractors should be allowed to close off traffic lanes and sidewalks for long-term construction projects

[All Respondents]

#### Age / Gender

| %          | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | Male | Female |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|--------|
| Sample     | 757   | 127   | 105   | 152   | 180   | 193 | 381  | 351    |
| Agree      | 15    | 16    | 15    | 16    | 16    | 12  | 20   | 11     |
| Disagree   | 76    | 74    | 76    | 77    | 79    | 76  | 74   | 79     |
| Don't know | 8     | 9     | 8     | 6     | 5     | 11  | 6    | 10     |

#### Income

| %          | Total | <20K | 20-40K | 40-60K | 60-80K | 80-100K | 100-250K |
|------------|-------|------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| Sample     | 757   | 89   | 97     | 105    | 95     | 74      | 156      |
| Agree      | 15    | 13   | 19     | 11     | 15     | 17      | 16       |
| Disagree   | 76    | 80   | 70     | 82     | 76     | 76      | 77       |
| Don't know | 8     | 7    | 11     | 8      | 9      | 7       | 8        |

#### Region

| %             | Total | Former City of<br>Toronto | East<br>York | North<br>York | Etobicoke | York | Scarborough |
|---------------|-------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|------|-------------|
| Sample        | 757   | 232                       | 81           | 138           | 114       | 48   | 144         |
| Agree         | 15    | 13                        | 24           | 12            | 20        | 25   | 13          |
| Disagree      | 76    | 77                        | 69           | 81            | 75        | 67   | 76          |
| Don't<br>know | 8     | 10                        | 7            | 7             | 6         | 8    | 11          |

#### **Mode of Transportation**

| %             | Total | Private<br>vehicle | Public<br>transit | Bicycle | Walking | Some other way | Don't travel to work or school |
|---------------|-------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Sample        | 757   | 275                | 203               | 36      | 45      | 26             | 172                            |
| Agree         | 15    | 17                 | 12                | 20      | 18      | 23             | 15                             |
| Disagree      | 76    | 76                 | 81                | 62      | 72      | 61             | 76                             |
| Don't<br>know | 8     | 7                  | 6                 | 17      | 10      | 16             | 9                              |

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#### **John Tory Approval**

| %          | Total | Approve | Disapprove |
|------------|-------|---------|------------|
| Sample     | 757   | 541     | 216        |
| Agree      | 15    | 17      | 11         |
| Disagree   | 76    | 74      | 82         |
| Don't know | 8     | 9       | 7          |

#### Past Mayoral Vote Preference

| %          | Total | Doug Ford | John Tory | Olivia Chow | Someone else |
|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample     | 757   | 118       | 342       | 117         | 45           |
| Agree      | 15    | 13        | 15        | 13          | 24           |
| Disagree   | 76    | 80        | 79        | 76          | 63           |
| Don't know | 8     | 7         | 6         | 11          | 12           |

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#### Time Allotted to Developers to Close Traffic Lanes/Sidewalks

For how long should a developer or contractor be allowed to close a traffic lane or a sidewalk in total?

[All Respondents]

#### Age / Gender

| %               | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | Male | Female |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|--------|
| Sample          | 757   | 127   | 105   | 152   | 180   | 193 | 381  | 351    |
| Day or less     | 16    | 8     | 21    | 19    | 17    | 19  | 15   | 15     |
| Weekend         | 35    | 36    | 33    | 36    | 36    | 32  | 35   | 36     |
| Week or two     | 29    | 32    | 29    | 28    | 24    | 29  | 28   | 31     |
| Month to a year | 6     | 10    | 4     | 2     | 8     | 5   | 8    | 5      |
| Year or more    | 1     | 0     | 2     | 2     | 2     | 2   | 2    | 0      |
| Never           | 6     | 9     | 7     | 5     | 5     | 3   | 7    | 5      |
| Don't know      | 7     | 4     | 5     | 8     | 10    | 10  | 6    | 7      |

#### Income

| %               | Total | <20K | 20-40K | 40-60K | 60-80K | 80-100K | 100-250K |
|-----------------|-------|------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| Sample          | 757   | 89   | 97     | 105    | 95     | 74      | 156      |
| Day or less     | 16    | 16   | 21     | 18     | 11     | 9       | 15       |
| Weekend         | 35    | 35   | 36     | 42     | 38     | 30      | 30       |
| Week or two     | 29    | 21   | 21     | 21     | 29     | 46      | 38       |
| Month to a year | 6     | 10   | 7      | 9      | 6      | 3       | 6        |
| Year or more    | 1     | 0    | 1      | 2      | 2      | 1       | 2        |
| Never           | 6     | 12   | 1      | 5      | 10     | 8       | 5        |
| Don't know      | 7     | 7    | 13     | 4      | 4      | 3       | 4        |

#### Region

| %               | Total | Former City of<br>Toronto | East<br>York | North<br>York | Etobicoke | York | Scarborough |
|-----------------|-------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|------|-------------|
| Sample          | 757   | 232                       | 81           | 138           | 114       | 48   | 144         |
| Day or less     | 16    | 16                        | 8            | 22            | 13        | 15   | 14          |
| Weekend         | 35    | 28                        | 32           | 42            | 33        | 38   | 36          |
| Week or two     | 29    | 40                        | 31           | 18            | 31        | 29   | 30          |
| Month to a year | 6     | 5                         | 8            | 6             | 7         | 11   | 4           |
| Year or more    | 1     | 2                         | 3            | 1             | 2         | 0    | 0           |
| Never           | 6     | 5                         | 7            | 6             | 8         | 1    | 6           |
| Don't know      | 7     | 5                         | 11           | 5             | 6         | 6    | 10          |

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| Sample          | 757   | 275                | 203               | 36      | 45      | 26             | 172                            |
| Day or less     | 16    | 20                 | 14                | 4       | 7       | 22             | 14                             |
| Weekend         | 35    | 39                 | 37                | 22      | 22      | 34             | 30                             |
| Week or<br>two  | 29    | 26                 | 29                | 47      | 35      | 24             | 31                             |
| Month to a year | 6     | 3                  | 7                 | 10      | 8       | 7              | 9                              |
| Year or more    | 1     | 2                  | 0                 | 0       | 1       | 0              | 2                              |
| Never           | 6     | 5                  | 9                 | 4       | 11      | 0              | 2                              |
| Don't know      | 7     | 4                  | 4                 | 13      | 16      | 13             | 12                             |

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#### **John Tory Approval**

| %               | Total | Approve | Disapprove |
|-----------------|-------|---------|------------|
| Sample          | 757   | 541     | 216        |
| Day or less     | 16    | 14      | 20         |
| Weekend         | 35    | 32      | 40         |
| Week or two     | 29    | 33      | 20         |
| Month to a year | 6     | 6       | 6          |
| Year or more    | 1     | 1       | 2          |
| Never           | 6     | 5       | 8          |
| Don't know      | 7     | 8       | 4          |

#### Past Mayoral Vote Preference

| %               | Total | Doug Ford | John Tory | Olivia Chow | Someone else |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample          | 757   | 118       | 342       | 117         | 45           |
| Day or less     | 16    | 20        | 14        | 15          | 16           |
| Weekend         | 35    | 40        | 32        | 32          | 36           |
| Week or two     | 29    | 19        | 36        | 34          | 26           |
| Month to a year | 6     | 4         | 7         | 3           | 2            |
| Year or more    | 1     | 1         | 2         | 2           | 0            |
| Never           | 6     | 9         | 6         | 8           | 8            |
| Don't know      | 7     | 7         | 4         | 7           | 13           |

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