

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Lorne Bozinoff, President
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com
416.960.9603

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Voters favour key social issues but not long gun registry

Legal prostitution, assisted suicide, marijuana all win

TORONTO September 24th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1557 Canadian voters, pluralities or majorities favour the progressive position on all of a selection of hot button social issues, with the exception of bringing back the long gun registry.

Assisted suicide most popular

As many as two thirds of voters think assisted suicide should be legal (67%), and this attitude is common to younger groups (35 to 44 - 73%), the wealthier (\$80K to \$100K - 76%), in Quebec (75%) but not so much in the prairies (56%) and among the best educated (71%). New Democrats favour legal assisted suicide (74%) more than Liberals (66%) or especially Conservatives (58%).

Two thirds want retirement age returned to 65

Two in three voters want the age for the Old Age Supplement to be returned to 65 from 67 (65%) and this is common to the least wealthy (less than \$40K - 71%) and the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 71%). One half of Conservatives agree (48%), as do two thirds of Liberals (69%) and three quarters of New Democrats (74%).

Majority wants legalized marijuana

More than one half of voters want to see marijuana legalized (54%), and this is common to the youngest (64%), the least wealthy (less than \$20K - 60%) and the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 60%), in BC (63%), among Liberals (63%) and New Democrats (61%) and even among one third of Conservatives (33%).

Plurality favour legal prostitution

One half of voters think prostitution should be legal (49%) and this is common to the youngest (55%), to males (59%) but not so much females (40%), those in mid-income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 56%), everywhere except the prairies (39%) and Alberta (45%) and among the best educated (post grad - 56%). More than half of Liberals (58%) and New Democrats (54%) favour it, as do more than a third of Conservatives (37%).

TORONTO

September 24th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Majorities favour the progressive position on all of a selection of hot button social issues with the exception of bringing back the long gun registry.
- As many as two thirds of voters think assisted suicide should be legal (67%).
- Two in three voters want the age for the Old Age Supplement to be returned to 65 from 67 (65%).
- More than one half of voters want to see marijuana legalized (54%).
- One half of voters think prostitution should be legal (49%).

180 Bloor Street W., #1400
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6
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Plurality doesn't want return of long gun registry

In the only social issue that failed to gain approval, about 4-in-10 voters want the long gun registry back in operation (39%) and just more do not (44%). Wanting to see the registry back is common to mid age groups and the oldest (45% each), females (42%), lower income groups (\$20K to \$40K - 44%), in Quebec (51%) but not in Alberta (26%), among mothers of children under 18 (42%) and the best educated (52% post grad). While one half of Liberals (49%) and New Democrats (50%) favour the idea, few Conservatives do (17%).

Plurality would vote for candidate who supported these issues

When asked if they would vote for a candidate who supported each of these issues (legal prostitution, marijuana and assisted suicide, return the retirement age to 65 and return the long gun registry), that plurality say yes (45%), and among the youngest (53%), Quebeckers (50%), in BC (51%), among Liberals (55%) and New Democrats (58%) and the best educated (52%) this becomes a majority. Even one sixth of Conservatives would support this candidate (16%).

"Adopting these five positions would seem to make a candidate almost unelectably progressive in Canada but, as we can see, this is not the case; there is perhaps a higher level of tolerance for social innovation in this country than we are aware of," 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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HIGHLIGHTS:

- In the only social issue that failed to gain approval, about 4-in-10 voters want the long gun registry back in operation (39%) and just more do not (44%).
- When asked if they would vote for a candidate who supported each of these issues (legal prostitution, marijuana and assisted suicide, return the retirement age to 65 and return the long gun registry), that plurality say yes (45%).
- "Adopting these five positions would seem to make a candidate almost unelectably progressive in Canada but, as we can see, this is not the case; there is perhaps a higher level of tolerance for social innovation in this country than we are aware of," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1557 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted from September 21st to 23rd, 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

Key Social Issues Support - Ranking

Issue	Support
Assisted Suicide	67
Old Age Supplement	65
Marijuana	54
Prostitution	49
Long Gun Registry	39

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Prostitution

'Should prostitution be legal or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1557	270	230	291	385	381	817	740
Yes	49	55	44	51	50	46	59	40
No	38	33	45	39	35	36	32	43
Don't know	13	12	11	10	15	18	9	17

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1557	164	530	329	144	170	220	1070	487
Yes	49	53	50	50	39	45	53	49	49
No	38	34	37	36	49	44	36	37	38
Don't know	13	12	14	14	12	12	12	13	12

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1557	450	408	407	90	80	47
Yes	49	37	58	54	50	59	48
No	38	52	28	35	37	28	44
Don't know	13	11	15	11	13	13	8

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Marijuana

'Should marijuana be legal or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1557	270	230	291	385	381	817	740
Yes	54	64	50	52	53	45	56	52
No	35	25	39	37	38	39	36	33
Don't know	11	11	10	11	8	16	8	15

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1557	164	530	329	144	170	220	1070	487
Yes	54	58	43	58	54	53	63	58	42
No	35	31	47	29	38	34	28	30	49
Don't know	11	11	10	13	8	13	9	12	9

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1557	450	408	407	90	80	47
Yes	54	33	63	61	77	57	54
No	35	58	23	30	16	33	25
Don't know	11	9	14	9	7	10	20

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Assisted Suicide

'Should assisted suicide be legal or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1557	270	230	291	385	381	817	740
Yes	67	72	73	64	66	54	67	67
No	23	17	18	27	23	31	25	21
Don't know	11	11	9	8	12	14	8	13

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1557	164	530	329	144	170	220	1070	487
Yes	67	66	75	63	56	63	71	64	76
No	23	24	18	24	32	25	20	24	17
Don't know	11	10	7	13	12	12	9	12	7

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1557	450	408	407	90	80	47
Yes	67	58	66	74	73	79	58
No	23	30	22	18	15	13	34
Don't know	11	12	11	8	13	8	8

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Old Age Supplement Retirement Age

'Should the retirement age for the Old Age Supplement be returned to 65 from 67 or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1557	270	230	291	385	381	817	740
Yes	65	63	64	63	67	67	61	68
No	28	29	28	29	27	28	33	23
Don't know	7	8	7	8	6	6	6	8

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1557	164	530	329	144	170	220	1070	487
Yes	65	70	70	61	67	59	67	63	69
No	28	22	24	31	29	35	26	30	23
Don't know	7	8	6	8	4	6	8	7	8

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1557	450	408	407	90	80	47
Yes	65	48	69	74	66	78	70
No	28	45	25	19	27	16	25
Don't know	7	8	6	7	7	6	5

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Long Gun Registry

'Should the long gun registry be brought back or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1557	270	230	291	385	381	817	740
Yes	39	35	37	43	39	43	35	42
No	44	38	47	45	48	44	54	34
Don't know	17	27	15	12	14	14	11	23

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1557	164	530	329	144	170	220	1070	487
Yes	39	34	51	38	26	26	38	35	52
No	44	49	36	41	56	57	47	47	34
Don't know	17	17	13	21	18	17	15	18	15

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1557	450	408	407	90	80	47
Yes	39	17	49	50	31	61	35
No	44	68	34	33	42	24	49
Don't know	17	15	17	17	27	16	16

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Party Support: Social Issues

'Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a party that promised to legalize marijuana, prostitution and assisted suicide, return the retirement age to 65 years and bring back the long gun registry?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1557	270	230	291	385	381	817	740
Yes	45	53	43	45	41	35	42	47
No	30	23	30	27	36	38	35	25
Don't know	26	25	27	28	23	27	23	28

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1557	164	530	329	144	170	220	1070	487
Yes	45	45	50	43	36	33	51	44	47
No	30	29	29	24	36	47	31	30	30
Don't know	26	25	21	32	28	20	18	27	23

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1557	450	408	407	90	80	47
Yes	45	16	55	58	55	59	52
No	30	66	14	19	17	16	17
Don't know	26	18	31	24	27	24	31

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For more information:

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President

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