

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Strong disapproval for union, school board payouts

Most do not believe Education Minister's explanation

TORONTO November 5th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1158 Ontario voters, two thirds disapprove of the \$2.5 million paid to teachers' unions for negotiating expenses (67%) and the \$4.2 million payment made to school boards (66%). Disapproval is especially strong in Eastern Ontario (69%), among PC supporters (91%), those with no children (69%), the oldest (78%) and those in mid-income groups (\$40K to \$60K - 76%).

It should be noted that one half of Liberal voters also disapprove of these payments (49%).

6-in-10 don't believe government explanation of payments

Six-in-ten voters say the government's claim that these types of payments are "the cost of negotiating contracts" and that they are incurred regularly in private and public sector bargaining (60%), while fewer than a quarter believe this statement to be true (23%). Belief that these payments are standard operating procedure is common to the youngest (39%), the least wealthy (often a proxy for youth - 30%), provincial Liberals (33%) and New Democrats (31%) and the best educated (post grad - 32%).

"It may or may not be true that these payments are common in collective bargaining, but the important thing is the Ontario voters don't believe it, and they don't like the payments one bit," 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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TORONTO

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two thirds disapprove of the \$2.5 million paid to teachers' unions for negotiating expenses (67%) and the \$4.2 million payment made to school boards (66%).
- Six-in-ten voters say the government's claim that these types of payments are "the cost of negotiating contracts" and that they are incurred regularly in private and public sector bargaining (60%), while fewer than a quarter believe this statement to be true (23%).
- "It may or may not be true that these payments are common in collective bargaining, but the important thing is the Ontario voters don't believe it, and they don't like the payments one bit," 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 1158 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted from November 2nd to November 4th, 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

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Teachers' Union Payout

'The provincial government paid two and a half million dollars to the teachers' unions it was bargaining with, to cover their negotiating expenses. Do you approve or disapprove of these payouts?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1158	198	179	202	270	309	641	517
Approve	23	38	24	14	13	15	19	27
Disapprove	67	53	64	74	77	78	73	61
Don't know	10	9	12	13	10	7	8	12

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1158	165	176	356	532	266	195
Approve	23	21	25	23	24	21	24
Disapprove	67	69	66	68	67	68	62
Don't know	10	10	9	9	9	11	14

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1158	447	336	235	81	24
Approve	23	5	35	33	34	10
Disapprove	67	91	49	57	54	81
Don't know	10	4	16	10	12	9

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School Boards Payout

'The provincial government also paid four and a half million dollars to the school boards that were bargaining with the teachers' unions, to cover the school boards' negotiating expenses. Do you approve or disapprove of these payouts?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1158	198	179	202	270	309	641	517
Approve	25	37	24	21	16	17	24	25
Disapprove	66	53	68	69	74	71	68	64
Don't know	10	10	8	9	10	11	8	11

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1158	165	176	356	532	266	195
Approve	25	26	28	24	25	21	27
Disapprove	66	63	64	68	67	67	60
Don't know	10	11	8	8	8	12	12

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1158	447	336	235	81	24
Approve	25	11	38	28	27	18
Disapprove	66	84	47	61	66	82
Don't know	10	5	15	11	8	0

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Payout Reasoning

'The provincial government has said these payouts are the cost of negotiating contracts, and are standard practice in the public and the private sectors. Do you believe this statement is true or not true?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1158	198	179	202	270	309	641	517
Believe it is true	23	39	21	18	14	12	21	25
Believe if it is not true	60	44	63	65	70	70	65	56
Don't know	17	17	16	17	15	18	14	19

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1158	165	176	356	532	266	195
Believe it is true	23	24	27	19	22	27	18
Believe if it is not true	60	56	55	66	62	57	64
Don't know	17	21	18	15	16	16	18

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	1158	447	336	235	81	24
Believe it is true	23	9	33	31	27	19
Believe if it is not true	60	83	38	54	59	72
Don't know	17	8	28	15	15	9

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