

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forcillo had a fair trial: two thirds

Most think verdict will lead to better policing

TORONTO January 25th - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 549 Toronto voters, fully two thirds agree Constable James Forcillo has been able to get a fair trial (67%), while less than one fifth think he has not (17%). One sixth don't have an opinion (16%). Thinking Constable Forcillo did not get a fair trial is especially common to residents of Scarborough (25%) and those in middle income (\$40K to \$60K - 31%) and the highest income brackets (\$100K to \$250K - 21%). The percentage believing Forcillo has received a fair trial has increased sharply since before the verdict was announced (January 20 - 57% fair trial, 15% no fair trial). This change has come from the ranks of those who did not have an opinion (January 20 - 28%) but have one now (January 25 - 16% don't know).

Plurality agrees "suicide by cop" defense should not have been presented

Close to one half agrees with the judge in this case that the "suicide by cop" defense theory should not have been allowed in court (46%), whereas 4-in-10 thinks this defense theory should have been allowed (41%). This position is common to boomers (55 to 64 - 50%), the wealthiest (49%), in North York (46%) and among Doug Ford voters (60%).

Most think verdict will lead to better policing

Close to 4-in-10 Torontonians think the guilty verdict in the Forcillo trial will lead to better policing in Toronto (39%), while one quarter thinks it will lead to worse policing (24%). One third think it will make no difference (32%). Those who think better policing will result are especially likely to be younger (35 to 44 - 46%), the oldest (49%), mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 50%), in North York (47%) and among John Tory voters (47%).

Increasing majority approve of charging police with murder

Six-in-ten Toronto voters approve of charging police officers with murder for firing their weapon in the line of duty (60%), less than one quarter disapproves (24%) and one sixth don't have an opinion. The percentage approving of this has increased sharply from the last time we asked this question (August 2013 - 51% approve, 25% disapprove, 24% don't know). Those who disapprove of charging police officers with murder are commonly those in mid income brackets (\$40K to \$80K - 29%).

TORONTO

January 25th, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Fully two thirds agree James Forcillo has been able to get a fair trial (67%).
- Close to one half agrees with the judge in this case that the "suicide by cop" defence theory should not have been allowed in court (46%).
- Close to 4-in-10 Torontonians think the guilty verdict in the Forcillo trial will lead to better policing in Toronto (39%).
- Six-in-ten Toronto voters approve of charging police officers with murder for firing his or her weapon in the line of duty (60%).

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“What we see is a crystallization of public opinion on the appropriateness of holding police officers to the same standards as other citizens, and also on the fairness of Constable Forcillo’s trial. It appears the guilty verdict for attempted murder has just confirmed what most believed all along, that police officers can be charged with murder, that Constable Forcillo was fairly tried and that it will lead to a positive outcome in the end, apart from Sammy Yatim’s tragic death,” 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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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 549 randomly selected voters in Toronto, Ontario. The poll was conducted on January 25th, 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

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

Approval for charging officers who fire in line of duty - Trending

%	January 25 th , 2016	Nov 16 th , 2015	August 29 th , 2013
Sample	549	812	848
Approve	60	51	51
Disapprove	24	30	25
Don't know	16	19	24

Forcillo: Fair Trial - Trending

%	January 25 th , 2016	January 20 th , 2016
Sample	549	546
He has been able to get a fair trial in Toronto	67	57
He has not been able to get a fair trial in Toronto	17	15
Don't know	16	28

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“Suicide by Cop” Theory

‘Constable Forcillo’s lawyers were prevented from presenting to the jury their theory that Sammy Yatim was seeking to be killed by a police officer, a theory known as “suicide by cop”. Should Constable Forcillo’s lawyers have been allowed to present this theory to the jury or not?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

	%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample		549	110	83	111	117	128	284	265
They should have been allowed to present this theory		41	42	35	37	50	42	38	42
They should not have been allowed to present this theory		46	48	47	46	41	43	47	45
Don't know		14	11	18	17	9	15	15	13

Region

	%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample		549	226	100	123	100
They should have been allowed to present this theory		41	35	46	42	40
They should not have been allowed to present this theory		46	53	38	46	45
Don't know		14	12	16	12	15

Last Mayoral Vote

	%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample		549	89	251	74	39
They should have been allowed to present this theory		41	60	41	17	32
They should not have been allowed to present this theory		46	31	47	69	49
Don't know		14	9	12	14	19

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Fair Trial

'As far as you know, has Constable Forcillo been able to get a fair trial in Toronto or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	549	110	83	111	117	128	284	265
He has been able to get a fair trial in Toronto	67	65	65	67	66	73	68	66
He has not been able to get a fair trial in Toronto	17	20	16	17	20	11	20	15
Don't know	16	15	19	16	14	17	12	20

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	549	226	100	123	100
He has been able to get a fair trial in Toronto	67	72	65	75	53
He has not been able to get a fair trial in Toronto	17	15	13	18	25
Don't know	16	13	22	7	23

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	549	89	251	74	39
He has been able to get a fair trial in Toronto	67	63	71	77	82
He has not been able to get a fair trial in Toronto	17	19	14	10	5
Don't know	16	18	15	13	13

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Line of Duty

'Do you approve or disapprove of a police officer being charged with murder for firing his weapon in the line of duty?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	549	110	83	111	117	128	284	265
Approve	60	65	70	54	59	49	57	64
Disapprove	24	24	19	27	20	27	27	21
Don't know	16	11	11	19	21	24	17	15

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	549	226	100	123	100
Approve	60	60	63	58	60
Disapprove	24	25	21	27	21
Don't know	16	15	16	15	19

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	549	89	251	74	39
Approve	60	57	60	69	61
Disapprove	24	23	21	21	27
Don't know	16	20	19	10	12

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Policing in Toronto

'Will the Forcillo verdict lead to better policing, worse policing or will it make no difference to policing in Toronto?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	549	110	83	111	117	128	284	265
It will lead to better policing	39	32	46	33	39	49	37	40
It will lead to worse policing	24	30	23	26	22	16	24	25
It will make no difference to policing	32	34	26	37	36	31	36	29
Don't know	4	4	5	5	4	5	3	6

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	549	226	100	123	100
It will lead to better policing	39	39	47	35	32
It will lead to worse policing	24	25	18	25	29
It will make no difference to policing	32	32	27	37	35
Don't know	4	4	7	4	3

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	549	89	251	74	39
It will lead to better policing	39	34	47	39	25
It will lead to worse policing	24	33	16	29	25
It will make no difference to policing	32	32	32	28	43
Don't know	4	1	5	4	7

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