

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two thirds support legalization/decriminalization for marijuana

Support highest in BC, among Liberals and NDP

TORONTO AUGUST 20th, 2014 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1798 Canadian voters, two thirds (66%) express their support for either complete legalization and taxation of marijuana (35%) or decriminalization for small amounts (31%). Small and equal proportions of voters want laws left as they are (16%) or stiffened (14%). Few don't have an opinion on this subject (4%).

Support for outright legalization is highest among males (40%), the least wealthy (less than \$20K - 41%), among younger voters (35 to 44 - 38%) and Boomers (55 to 64 - 38%), in the prairies (40%) and BC (45%), among New Democrats (47%) but not Conservatives (24%), those with some college or who have graduated (40%), the non-religious (46%) but not among Evangelical Christians (10%).

Support for decriminalization, on the other hand, is common to females (34%), higher income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 38%), in Ontario and the prairies (35% each), the best educated (post grad - 41%) and mothers of children under 18 (39%).

The position that the law should be left as it is most common to the oldest (22%), in Alberta (21%), among Conservative voters (25%), among Protestant (22%) and Evangelical Christians (39%) as well as among non-Christians (24%).

Stiffer penalties is a position adopted especially by younger groups (35 to 44 - 20%), mid-income groups (\$40K to \$670K - 19%), in Alberta (32%), among Conservative voters (20%), Evangelical Christians (32%), non-mainstream Christians (20%), those with children (20%).

"Marijuana legalization is an issue which continues to excite Canadians and the Liberals have made it part of their platform, but there is actually more support among New Democrats for this step. In fact, it is only in Alberta, and among Conservative voters that opposition to legalization or decriminalization approaches majority levels. This is one of those Canadian policy issues that splits neatly along regional and ideological lines," 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.

TORONTO

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two thirds (66%) express their support for either complete legalization and taxation of marijuana (35%), or decriminalization for small amounts (31%).
- "Marijuana legalization is an issue which continues to excite Canadians and the Liberals have made it part of their platform, but there is actually more support among New Democrats for this step. In fact, it is only in Alberta, and among Conservative voters that opposition to legalization or decriminalization approaches majority levels. This is one of those Canadian policy issues that splits neatly along regional and ideological lines," 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 1798 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on August 18-19th, 2014.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate $\pm 2\%$, 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

Marijuana Decriminalization / Legislation Opinion Trending

%	Sample	Should be legalized and taxed	Should be decriminalized for small amounts	The law should be left as it is	Penalties should be increased	Don't Know
August 18-19 th , 2014	1798	35	31	16	14	4
August 24 th , 2013	1189	36	34	15	13	3
Nov. 19 th , 2012	1849	33	32	17	15	3
Dec. 13 th , 2011	1160	40	26	20	11	2

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Government's Actions Towards Marijuana

'How do you think the government should deal with marijuana: legalize and tax it, decriminalize small amounts, leave the law as it is, or increase penalties?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1798	121	172	336	491	678	878	920
It should be legalized and taxed	35	35	38	34	38	30	43	27
It should be decriminalized for small amounts	31	31	30	31	32	31	27	34
The law should be left as it is	16	15	9	18	17	22	15	16
Penalties should be increased	14	12	20	14	9	13	12	15
Don't know	4	6	4	3	4	3	2	6

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1798	132	440	626	144	190	266	1408	390
It should be legalized and taxed	35	33	39	30	40	28	45	34	37
It should be decriminalized for small amounts	31	31	32	35	35	16	29	30	33
The law should be left as it is	16	16	14	17	13	21	13	16	15
Penalties should be increased	14	15	13	11	6	32	12	14	13
Don't know	4	6	2	6	5	4	1	5	1

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1798	542	649	274	110	74	69
It should be legalized and taxed	35	24	38	47	42	36	32
It should be decriminalized for small amounts	31	29	34	32	27	39	17
The law should be left as it is	16	25	13	9	19	12	15
Penalties should be increased	14	20	10	11	7	11	33
Don't know	4	2	5	2	4	1	3

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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1798	435	482	591	290
It should be legalized and taxed	35	27	40	40	29
It should be decriminalized for small amounts	31	32	27	28	41
The law should be left as it is	16	18	17	15	13
Penalties should be increased	14	17	11	16	10
Don't know	4	5	4	1	8

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1798	1292	471	66	620	135	96	410
It should be legalized and taxed	35	31	31	10	34	26	30	46
It should be decriminalized for small amounts	31	30	31	14	30	35	36	32
The law should be left as it is	16	18	22	39	15	11	24	9
Penalties should be increased	14	17	13	32	18	20	8	7
Don't know	4	4	3	5	3	9	2	6

For more information:

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