

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prostitution Should Be Legal; Supreme Court Decision Correct; Bill C-36 Wrong - Majority

One twentieth claim to have engaged prostitute

TORONTO JUNE 15th, 2014 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1433 Canadians 18 years of age and older, more than half said prostitution should be legal (54%), compared to just one third who say it should not be (34%). One tenth have no opinion (12%). Approval of legalized prostitution is common to Gen Y (35 to 44 - 60%), Boomers (55 to 64 - 58%), males (66%), the wealthiest (68%), in Alberta (64%) and BC (62%), among Liberals (63%) and New Democrats (60%), the best educated (post grad - 59%), among non-Christians (60%) and the non-religious (59%), among those with children (59%) but not among mothers (44%).

Two thirds agree living off the avails should be illegal

Living off the earnings of another who is engaged in prostitution is not seen to be acceptable, and two thirds think it should be illegal (67%). One fifth think it should be allowed (21%) and one tenth haven't formed an opinion (12%).

One half approve Supreme Court striking down prostitution laws

One half of Canadian voters approve of the Supreme Court's action in striking down all of Canada's prostitution laws (51%), while just more than a quarter disapprove (28%). As many as one fifth can't make up their minds (21%). Approval is highest among the youngest (60%), males (62%), mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 58%) and the wealthiest (58%) in Atlantic Canada (55%) but not in Alberta (45%), among Liberals (59%) and New Democrats (57%), but not Conservatives (38%), among the best educated (post grad - 59%) and the non-religious (59%).

One half disapprove of Bill C-36

When the key provisions of Bill C-36 are explained to them (paying and advertising for prostitution become illegal), one half disapprove (51%), while just one third approve (34%). One seventh don't have an opinion (15%). Disapproval for Bill C-36 mirrors approval of the Supreme Court's action in striking the previous law down.

Most say prostitution shouldn't be in Criminal Code

Close to one half say the Criminal Code should not deal with prostitution (46%), while 3-in-10 think the code should apply (30%). As many as one quarter have no opinion on this measure (24%).

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Lorne Bozinoff, President
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com
416.960.9603

TORONTO

June 15th, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than half said prostitution should be legal (54%), compared to just one third who say it should not be (34%).
- Living off the earnings of another who is engaged in prostitution is not seen to be acceptable, and two thirds think it should be illegal (67%). One fifth think it should be allowed (21%).
- One half of Canadian voters approve of the Supreme Court's action in striking down all of Canada's prostitution laws (51%), while just more than a quarter disapprove (28%).
- When the key provisions of Bill C-36 are explained to them (paying and advertising for prostitution become illegal), one half disapprove (51%), while just one third approve (34%).
- Close to one half say the Criminal Code should not deal with prostitution (46%), while 3-in-10 think the code should apply (30%).

180 Bloor Street W., #1400
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6
T 416.960.9600
F 416.960.9602
forumresearch.com

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1-in-20 admit to engaging prostitute

One twentieth of Canadian adults claim to have engaged the services of a prostitute (5%) and these are all males (10%) and primarily in the lower income group (\$20K to \$40K - 10%) and in BC (9%). Incidence also appears to be higher among past Green Party voters (13%) and non-Christians (9%). In fact, in addition to the 1-in-20 who claim to have used a prostitute, a further one tenth prefer not to answer (10%), and a portion of these must be assumed to have engaged in this behaviour. Therefore, based on a Canadian adult population of about 25 million, as many as 1.5 million or more (primarily males) may have paid for sex.

"It is, as we all know, the oldest profession, so it should be no surprise that it's thriving in Canada. What is perhaps more surprising is that those who have engaged in behaviour which, until now, has been illegal, are willing to admit it," 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:

- One twentieth of Canadian adults claim to have engaged the services of a prostitute (5%) and these are all males (10%) and primarily in the lower income group (\$20K to \$40K - 10%) and in BC (9%).
- "It is, as we all know, the oldest profession, so it should be no surprise that it's thriving in Canada. What is perhaps more surprising is that those who have engaged in behaviour which, until now, has been illegal, are willing to admit it," 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 1433 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on June 13-14th, 2014.

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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Legality of Prostitution

'Do you think prostitution should be legal or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender / Children / Mothers

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Yes	No	Moms
Sample	1433	107	127	241	385	573	648	785	253	1180	125
Think prostitution should be legal	54	54	60	51	58	50	66	44	59	52	44
Think prostitution should not be legal	34	40	31	37	25	31	25	43	35	34	45
Don't know	12	6	9	11	16	19	9	14	6	14	11

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1433	56	393	543	121	141	179	1076	357
Think prostitution should be legal	54	38	53	54	51	64	62	55	52
Think prostitution should not be legal	34	46	36	37	31	29	20	33	37
Don't know	12	16	11	9	18	6	18	12	12

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1433	157	289	205	155	129	225
Think prostitution should be legal	54	50	56	45	52	59	68
Think prostitution should not be legal	34	41	30	44	34	25	26
Don't know	12	8	14	11	14	16	6

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1433	405	495	245	84	91	63
Think prostitution should be legal	54	41	63	60	56	54	48
Think prostitution should not be legal	34	48	27	28	34	28	38
Don't know	12	11	10	12	10	18	14

Highest Level of Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1433	321	439	454	219
Think prostitution should be legal	54	48	54	57	59
Think prostitution should not be legal	34	38	37	31	30
Don't know	12	14	10	12	11

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1433	1071	370	54	552	95	70	292
Think prostitution should be legal	54	52	51	26	55	49	62	59
Think prostitution should not be legal	34	36	34	62	34	38	22	32
Don't know	12	12	15	12	11	13	16	9

Engaged Prostitute

%	Total	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
Sample	1433	60	1185	188
Think prostitution should be legal	54	92	51	63
Think prostitution should not be legal	34	8	37	22
Don't know	12	0	12	14

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Legality of Living off the Earnings of a Prostitute

‘Do you think living off the earnings of someone else who is a prostitute should be legal or not?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender / Children / Mothers

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Yes	No	Moms
Sample	1433	107	127	241	385	573	648	785	253	1180	125
Should be legal	21	27	25	18	20	11	27	15	23	20	16
Should not be legal	67	59	65	70	68	77	63	71	65	68	70
Don't know	12	14	10	12	12	12	11	14	11	13	14

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1433	56	393	543	121	141	179	1076	357
Should be legal	21	9	40	14	13	20	16	15	42
Should not be legal	67	82	44	76	75	70	67	75	41
Don't know	12	9	15	10	13	11	16	11	17

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1433	157	289	205	155	129	225
Should be legal	21	26	24	15	20	13	28
Should not be legal	67	66	63	73	63	69	65
Don't know	12	8	13	12	17	18	7

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1433	405	495	245	84	91	63
Should be legal	21	12	20	21	24	43	31
Should not be legal	67	80	69	65	60	36	56
Don't know	12	8	12	14	15	21	13

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Highest Level of Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1433	321	439	454	219
Should be legal	21	22	20	22	19
Should not be legal	67	65	72	65	66
Don't know	12	13	8	14	16

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1433	1071	370	54	552	95	70	292
Should be legal	21	22	16	11	28	11	20	19
Should not be legal	67	68	75	80	60	77	70	65
Don't know	12	11	10	9	12	12	10	16

Engaged Prostitute

%	Total	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
Sample	1433	60	1185	188
Should be legal	21	45	20	17
Should not be legal	67	50	68	67
Don't know	12	5	12	17

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The Supreme Court Decision on Prostitution Approval

'The Supreme Court struck down all of Canada's laws on prostitution, because they could endanger those who work in the sex trade. Do you approve or disapprove of this Supreme Court decision?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender / Children / Mothers

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Yes	No	Moms
Sample	1433	107	127	241	385	573	648	785	253	1180	125
Approve	51	60	48	50	50	42	62	41	54	50	45
Disapprove	28	23	34	28	27	28	25	30	31	26	31
Don't know	21	17	18	22	24	30	13	29	16	24	25

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1433	56	393	543	121	141	179	1076	357
Approve	51	55	54	50	54	45	50	50	53
Disapprove	28	26	26	28	31	38	22	28	27
Don't know	21	19	20	22	16	17	29	22	20

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1433	157	289	205	155	129	225
Approve	51	39	50	57	58	42	58
Disapprove	28	40	30	23	21	34	25
Don't know	21	21	20	20	22	24	16

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1433	405	495	245	84	91	63
Approve	51	38	59	57	53	48	48
Disapprove	28	36	22	25	27	34	33
Don't know	21	25	19	19	19	18	19

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Highest Level of Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1433	321	439	454	219
Approve	51	39	52	54	59
Disapprove	28	33	30	24	25
Don't know	21	28	19	22	16

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1433	1071	370	54	552	95	70	292
Approve	51	48	50	23	50	42	50	59
Disapprove	28	28	29	43	28	23	37	24
Don't know	21	23	21	33	22	35	13	18

Engaged Prostitute

%	Total	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
Sample	1433	60	1185	188
Approve	51	62	51	50
Disapprove	28	31	28	27
Don't know	21	7	22	23

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 lbozinoff@forumresearch.com
 416.960.9603

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Bill C36 Approval

'The federal government has tabled Bill C36, which would make paying for sex illegal for customers, and would make it illegal for prostitutes to advertise their services. Do you approve or disapprove of this bill?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender / Children / Mothers

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Yes	No	Moms
Sample	1433	107	127	241	385	573	648	785	253	1180	125
Approve	34	41	35	30	30	31	25	43	41	31	54
Disapprove	51	48	59	52	50	48	62	41	50	51	37
Don't know	15	11	6	18	20	22	12	17	9	17	9

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1433	56	393	543	121	141	179	1076	357
Approve	34	35	38	32	40	31	33	33	40
Disapprove	51	47	51	51	48	57	50	51	50
Don't know	15	19	11	17	12	12	17	16	10

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1433	157	289	205	155	129	225
Approve	34	40	26	38	34	37	29
Disapprove	51	46	55	47	55	50	65
Don't know	15	14	20	15	11	14	6

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1433	405	495	245	84	91	63
Approve	34	47	28	30	31	39	42
Disapprove	51	40	58	55	51	56	46
Don't know	15	13	14	15	18	6	12

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Highest Level of Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1433	321	439	454	219
Approve	34	30	35	33	39
Disapprove	51	48	52	52	51
Don't know	15	22	12	15	10

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1433	1071	370	54	552	95	70	292
Approve	34	37	40	56	32	41	28	30
Disapprove	51	47	42	31	53	43	63	57
Don't know	15	16	18	13	15	17	9	12

Engaged Prostitute

%	Total	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
Sample	1433	60	1185	188
Approve	34	22	37	19
Disapprove	51	77	48	65
Don't know	15	0	15	17

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Prostitution under the Criminal Code

'Do you think prostitution should be covered by the Criminal Code or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender / Children / Mothers

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Yes	No	Moms
Sample	1433	107	127	241	385	573	648	785	253	1180	125
Should be covered by Criminal Code	30	28	30	36	27	28	26	34	34	28	38
Should not be covered by Criminal Code	46	47	45	44	52	45	60	33	45	47	29
Don't know	24	25	25	21	21	27	14	33	21	25	33

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1433	56	393	543	121	141	179	1076	357
Should be covered by Criminal Code	30	46	37	26	26	29	20	27	39
Should not be covered by Criminal Code	46	31	39	52	48	52	47	49	38
Don't know	24	23	24	22	26	20	32	24	23

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1433	157	289	205	155	129	225
Should be covered by Criminal Code	30	32	33	37	21	27	27
Should not be covered by Criminal Code	46	32	47	38	55	53	57
Don't know	24	36	20	25	23	20	17

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1433	405	495	245	84	91	63
Should be covered by Criminal Code	30	38	30	28	17	33	25
Should not be covered by Criminal Code	46	38	49	48	58	44	50
Don't know	24	24	21	24	24	23	26

Highest Level of Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1433	321	439	454	219
Should be covered by Criminal Code	30	37	28	28	28
Should not be covered by Criminal Code	46	36	46	51	49
Don't know	24	28	25	21	23

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1433	1071	370	54	552	95	70	292
Should be covered by Criminal Code	30	33	34	35	32	32	26	23
Should not be covered by Criminal Code	46	42	40	31	45	38	56	54
Don't know	24	25	26	34	23	30	18	22

Engaged Prostitute

%	Total	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
Sample	1433	60	1185	188
Should be covered by Criminal Code	30	23	31	25
Should not be covered by Criminal Code	46	70	45	44
Don't know	24	6	24	31

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Engagement with Prostitute Services

'We are going to ask a very personal question. If you prefer not to answer, just press 9. Have you ever engaged the services of a prostitute? Just press 9 if you'd prefer not to answer.'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender / Children / Mothers

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	Yes	No	Moms
Sample	1433	107	127	241	385	573	648	785	253	1180	125
Yes	5	6	6	5	4	3	10	0	6	4	1
No	85	89	82	83	83	83	78	91	85	85	93
Prefer not to answer	10	5	12	11	12	14	12	8	9	11	6

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1433	56	393	543	121	141	179	1076	357
Yes	5	1	6	5	1	5	9	5	5
No	85	87	86	85	84	85	82	84	86
Prefer not to answer	10	12	9	11	15	11	9	11	9

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1433	157	289	205	155	129	225
Yes	5	6	10	2	3	5	4
No	85	81	79	87	90	88	85
Prefer not to answer	10	13	11	11	7	7	11

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1433	405	495	245	84	91	63
Yes	5	5	3	7	8	8	5
No	85	85	88	80	80	81	89
Prefer not to answer	10	11	9	13	12	11	6

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Highest Level of Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1433	321	439	454	219
Yes	5	5	7	4	5
No	85	84	81	87	86
Prefer not to answer	10	12	12	9	9

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Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1433	1071	370	54	552	95	70	292
Yes	5	5	6	2	4	3	9	5
No	85	84	80	89	85	90	82	87
Prefer not to answer	10	11	14	10	11	7	10	8

For more information:

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D.

President

Forum Research Inc.

Tel: (416) 960-9603

Fax: (416) 960-9602

E-mail: lbozinoff@forumresearch.com

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