

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Majority support coalition if no party has a majority**

### **Ethics, transparency in government most important election issue**

TORONTO April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll among 1365 Canadian voters, the majority, close to 6-in-10 say it is appropriate for two or more parties to form a coalition to govern if no party gets a majority of seats in Parliament (58%) and a similar proportion also favour an informal arrangement between two or more parties to govern (54%). In each case, one third or fewer say these options are inappropriate (30% and 34%, respectively). One tenth don't have an opinion (12% each).

Liberal voters (73%) and New Democrats (69%) are much more likely to favour a formal coalition than are Conservative voters (36%), and the same pattern applies with respect to a less formal governing arrangement (35%, 65% and 68% approve, respectively).

### **Coalition/informal arrangement favoured by most if no party gets majority**

The plurality of voters say they support some form of cooperative government (41% in total), whether a formal coalition (30%) or an informal governing arrangement (11%) if no party gains a majority of seats in the next election. A further one sixth say they would support a government made up of whomever has the confidence of the House (15%). Just one quarter say they would support the party with the most seats, if those seats didn't make up a majority (27%). Just more than a tenth don't have an opinion (13%). Conservative voters are more likely to say the party with the most seats should govern (45%), while Liberals (38%/13%) and New Democrats (40%/10%) are more likely to support a formal coalition/informal arrangement. A Conservative majority is preferred by those who don't accept the legitimacy of a coalition (45%). Those who do favour a coalition are most likely to support a Liberal majority (26%).

### **Conservative or Liberal majority equally favoured as electoral outcome**

Relatively equal proportions of voters (about a quarter each) see the optimal electoral outcome as a Conservative (24%) or Liberal majority (22%) government, followed by fewer who would like an NDP majority (16%). However, the largest single group in total (31%) would like to see a minority government, whether Liberal (11%), Conservative (8%), NDP (7%) or a coalition (5%). Significant minorities in each party would like to see a minority Conservative (16%), Liberal (18%) or NDP government (17%).

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#### **TORONTO**

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The majority, close to 6-in-10 say it is appropriate for two or more parties to form a coalition to govern (58%) and a similar proportion also favour an informal arrangement between two or more parties to govern (54%).
- The plurality of voters say they support some form of cooperative government (41% in total).
- Relatively equal proportions of voters (about a quarter each) see the optimal electoral outcome as a Conservative (24%) or Liberal majority (22%) government.

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## Ethics in government most important election issue

When presented with five major issues facing the Canadian government now, two thirds of voters say ethics and transparency in government has “a great deal of influence” on their vote (65%), and this is especially the case among New Democrats (76%) and Liberals (71%) as opposed to Conservatives (54%).

Next most influential is balancing the budget (43% “a great deal of influence”), especially among Conservatives (67%) but not so much among Liberals (33%) and New Democrats (34%).

Next most influential are the Keystone XL and Northern Gateway pipelines and the environment (42%), especially among Greens (63%), New Democrats (45%) but not so much Liberals (39%) or Conservatives (37%). Pipelines are an especially influential issue in Alberta (53%) and BC (49%).

Second to last among these issues is the mission against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, as well as the mission to the Ukraine, seen as having a “great deal” of influence on one’s vote by 3-in-10 (30%), especially among Conservatives (45%), but not so much among Liberals (26%) or New Democrats (19%). These military adventures are seen to be ballot box issues more in Ontario than elsewhere (37%) and less so in Quebec than elsewhere (21%).

The least influential issue we probed was legal marijuana, cited by one fifth as “a great deal of influence” (19%). This rises to more than a quarter among the youngest (27%), the least wealthy (28%) and in Ontario (26%). Liberals are twice as likely to say marijuana legalization will influence their vote “a great deal” (24%) than are Conservatives (12%), while New Democrats fall between the two other parties (16%).

"It appears that the idea of a coalition government isn't the bogeyman to voters that the government would like us to believe. Canadians are familiar enough with Westminster government that the wide majority will support some form of cooperative government in a minority situation. One thing is clear, the coalition they are discussing is between the Liberals and the NDP, to supplant a Conservative minority. For one thing, when the number one issue in a wartime election is ethics in government, that's not a good sign for the government in question," 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](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com) or at (416) 960-9603.

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## TORONTO

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two thirds of voters say ethics and transparency in government has “a great deal of influence” on their vote (65%).
- "It appears that the idea of a coalition government isn't the bogeyman to voters that the government would like us to believe. Canadians are familiar enough with Westminster government that the wide majority will support some form of cooperative government in a minority situation. One thing is clear, the coalition they are discussing is between the Liberals and the NDP, to supplant a Conservative minority. For one thing, when the number one issue in a wartime election is ethics in government, that's not a good sign for the government in question," 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 1365 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on April 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

## **TORONTO**

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

### ***Influence of Election Issues on Vote Preference - Summary Table***

<b>%</b>	<b>Ethics</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>War</b>	<b>Marijuana</b>
<b>NET: TOP2</b>	86	79	73	64	41
<b>NET: BTM2</b>	9	17	22	31	56
<b>A great deal</b>	65	43	42	30	19
<b>Some</b>	20	36	31	34	22
<b>Not much</b>	7	12	14	19	27
<b>None at all</b>	2	5	8	11	29
<b>Don't know</b>	5	4	5	5	3

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## **TORONTO**

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

### ***Appropriateness of a Coalition***

*'If no party gets a majority of seats in parliament in the next federal election, is it appropriate for two or more parties to form a coalition to govern or not?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1365	179	176	239	330	441	740	625
Yes	58	55	58	58	57	62	57	58
No	30	31	30	33	33	25	36	26
Don't know	12	14	12	9	10	13	7	16

### **Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1365	102	298	510	87	166	202	1084	281
Yes	58	52	58	56	64	57	63	57	59
No	30	33	27	34	30	33	23	32	25
Don't know	12	16	15	10	6	10	13	11	16

### **Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1365	443	417	275	96	36	42
Yes	58	36	73	69	62	51	52
No	30	55	19	18	25	30	23
Don't know	12	9	8	13	13	19	25

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**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

***Appropriateness of an Informal Agreement to Govern***

*'If no party gets a majority of seats in parliament in the next federal election, is it appropriate for two or more parties to come to an informal arrangement to govern or not?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1365	179	176	239	330	441	740	625
Yes	54	51	58	54	56	54	54	54
No	34	36	33	35	32	32	38	30
Don't know	12	14	10	10	11	14	8	16

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1365	102	298	510	87	166	202	1084	281
Yes	54	48	54	54	60	53	56	54	55
No	34	37	32	35	30	38	29	35	30
Don't know	12	15	14	10	10	9	15	11	15

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1365	443	417	275	96	36	42
Yes	54	35	65	68	62	41	45
No	34	53	28	19	28	51	31
Don't know	12	11	8	13	10	7	23

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**Governments Support If No Party Gets a Majority**

*'If no party gets a majority of seats in parliament in the next federal election, which of the following governments would you support?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1365	179	176	239	330	441	740	625
The party with the most seats	27	27	23	25	28	30	29	24
A formal coalition between two or more parties	30	32	28	34	28	27	29	31
An informal arrangement between two or more parties	11	11	8	11	12	11	11	11
Whoever has the confidence of the House	15	14	18	16	16	14	18	12
Some other arrangement	5	6	6	3	4	4	6	4
Don't know	13	10	16	11	12	15	8	17

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1365	102	298	510	87	166	202	1084	281
The party with the most seats	27	31	23	29	23	27	23	28	23
A formal coalition between two or more parties	30	22	32	28	32	36	34	29	33
An informal arrangement between two or more parties	11	9	12	10	14	7	11	10	13
Whoever has the confidence of the House	15	18	12	18	18	13	14	17	10
Some other arrangement	5	4	4	5	2	8	5	5	4
Don't know	13	16	17	10	11	9	14	11	17

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***Federal Vote Preference***

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>NDP</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Bloc</b>	<b>Other Parties</b>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1365</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>The party with the most seats</b>	27	45	22	14	27	20	11
<b>A formal coalition between two or more parties</b>	30	16	38	40	31	33	22
<b>An informal arrangement between two or more parties</b>	11	8	13	10	13	18	7
<b>Whomever has the confidence of the House</b>	15	15	16	17	13	8	18
<b>Some other arrangement</b>	5	3	4	6	9	4	17
<b>Don't know</b>	13	13	8	13	8	16	25

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***Vote Influence: Marijuana Legalization***

*‘How much influence will each one of the following issues have on your vote in the next federal election? – Legalizing Marijuana’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1365	179	176	239	330	441	740	625
NET: TOP2	41	48	33	42	45	34	44	39
NET: BTM2	56	50	63	56	51	62	54	58
A great deal	19	27	16	19	19	12	22	16
Some	22	22	17	23	26	22	21	22
Not much	27	21	28	28	27	34	27	27
None at all	29	29	35	28	25	28	27	31
Don't know	3	2	4	2	4	4	2	4

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1365	102	298	510	87	166	202	1084	281
NET: TOP2	41	42	36	45	34	41	41	43	35
NET: BTM2	56	54	62	53	56	57	56	54	62
A great deal	19	22	14	26	15	16	13	21	13
Some	22	20	22	19	20	25	28	22	22
Not much	27	27	27	26	23	28	31	27	28
None at all	29	26	35	27	33	29	25	28	35
Don't know	3	4	2	2	10	2	3	3	2

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1365	443	417	275	96	36	42
NET: TOP2	41	25	50	43	55	64	41
NET: BTM2	56	71	48	54	44	32	53
A great deal	19	12	24	16	31	37	19
Some	22	13	26	27	24	28	22
Not much	27	28	30	29	23	12	17
None at all	29	43	19	25	21	20	36
Don't know	3	3	1	3	1	4	6

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**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

***Vote Influence: War against ISIS and the mission to Ukraine***

*‘How much influence will each one of the following issues have on your vote in the next federal election? – The war against ISIS in Iraq and Syria and the mission to Ukraine’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1365	179	176	239	330	441	740	625
NET: TOP2	64	60	68	65	65	64	67	62
NET: BTM2	31	35	29	31	28	28	31	30
A great deal	30	28	30	33	30	31	36	25
Some	34	32	38	32	35	33	31	37
Not much	19	22	20	19	18	17	19	20
None at all	11	13	9	13	10	10	12	11
Don't know	5	5	3	4	6	9	2	8

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1365	102	298	510	87	166	202	1084	281
NET: TOP2	64	60	54	70	72	64	66	68	52
NET: BTM2	31	36	39	26	25	31	28	28	41
A great deal	30	24	21	37	34	30	31	33	20
Some	34	36	32	33	37	34	36	34	32
Not much	19	27	23	17	14	19	18	18	23
None at all	11	9	17	9	11	12	9	9	18
Don't know	5	4	7	4	3	5	6	5	7

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1365	443	417	275	96	36	42
NET: TOP2	64	80	62	59	49	36	68
NET: BTM2	31	17	34	38	43	49	23
A great deal	30	45	26	19	27	22	41
Some	34	35	36	40	21	14	26
Not much	19	11	25	22	25	26	9
None at all	11	6	9	16	18	23	15
Don't know	5	3	5	3	9	15	9

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***Vote Influence: Balancing the Budget***

*‘How much influence will each one of the following issues have on your vote in the next federal election? - Balancing the budget’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1365	179	176	239	330	441	740	625
NET: TOP2	79	77	83	81	79	74	80	77
NET: BTM2	17	18	14	17	15	20	17	17
A great deal	43	43	40	45	43	42	48	38
Some	36	34	43	35	36	32	33	39
Not much	12	13	11	11	11	15	13	12
None at all	5	5	2	6	5	5	4	5
Don't know	4	5	4	2	5	6	3	6

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1365	102	298	510	87	166	202	1084	281
NET: TOP2	79	77	76	82	79	81	72	80	76
NET: BTM2	17	20	18	14	18	16	23	17	19
A great deal	43	41	41	43	52	47	37	43	40
Some	36	36	35	39	27	34	35	36	35
Not much	12	16	10	11	15	10	18	13	11
None at all	5	4	8	3	2	6	5	4	8
Don't know	4	3	6	4	3	3	5	4	6

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1365	443	417	275	96	36	42
NET: TOP2	79	92	76	74	66	70	71
NET: BTM2	17	6	21	22	28	24	13
A great deal	43	67	33	34	28	39	44
Some	36	26	44	40	39	31	27
Not much	12	4	17	15	19	12	3
None at all	5	1	4	6	9	11	10
Don't know	4	2	3	4	6	7	16

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***Vote Influence: The Keystone XL pipeline, the Northern Gateway pipeline and the environment***

*'How much influence will each one of the following issues have on your vote in the next federal election? - The Keystone XL pipeline, the Northern Gateway pipeline and the environment'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1365	179	176	239	330	441	740	625
NET: TOP2	73	75	70	72	74	72	73	73
NET: BTM2	22	19	26	24	21	21	25	19
A great deal	42	48	40	37	41	41	42	42
Some	31	26	30	35	34	31	31	30
Not much	14	11	18	16	13	13	16	13
None at all	8	8	8	8	7	8	9	6
Don't know	5	7	4	4	5	7	2	8

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1365	102	298	510	87	166	202	1084	281
NET: TOP2	73	75	57	75	74	86	81	77	58
NET: BTM2	22	23	33	20	20	11	16	19	32
A great deal	42	36	36	42	37	53	49	44	35
Some	31	39	22	33	38	33	32	33	23
Not much	14	12	17	16	13	9	12	14	16
None at all	8	10	16	5	7	2	5	5	16
Don't know	5	3	10	4	5	3	3	4	10

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1365	443	417	275	96	36	42
NET: TOP2	73	69	76	77	78	43	63
NET: BTM2	22	29	20	17	17	42	22
A great deal	42	37	39	45	63	29	42
Some	31	32	37	32	15	14	21
Not much	14	20	14	10	5	24	14
None at all	8	9	6	7	12	18	9
Don't know	5	2	4	7	5	15	15

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***Vote Influence: Ethics and transparency in government***

*'How much influence will each one of the following issues have on your vote in the next federal election? - Ethics and transparency in government'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1365	179	176	239	330	441	740	625
NET: TOP2	86	83	87	87	88	85	85	86
NET: BTM2	9	11	9	10	7	7	12	7
A great deal	65	59	69	65	68	70	63	67
Some	20	24	17	23	20	15	22	19
Not much	7	9	9	7	4	5	9	5
None at all	2	3	1	3	3	2	2	2
Don't know	5	6	4	3	5	8	3	7

**Region**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1365	102	298	510	87	166	202	1084	281
NET: TOP2	86	91	84	86	82	86	88	86	83
NET: BTM2	9	5	11	9	13	9	8	9	11
A great deal	65	71	63	67	60	66	65	66	62
Some	20	20	21	19	21	19	23	20	22
Not much	7	5	8	7	10	8	5	7	8
None at all	2	0	3	2	3	0	3	2	3
Don't know	5	4	5	5	5	6	5	5	6

**Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1365	443	417	275	96	36	42
NET: TOP2	86	84	89	90	87	63	77
NET: BTM2	9	12	7	7	6	17	16
A great deal	65	54	71	76	71	46	72
Some	20	30	18	15	16	17	5
Not much	7	9	6	6	2	6	6
None at all	2	3	1	0	4	10	10
Don't know	5	4	4	3	7	20	7

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# NEWS RELEASE



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