NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Majority oppose public funding for Catholic schools

Strongest among youngest, wealthy, in Toronto, among NDP supporters

TORONTO July 8th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll[™] among 678 Ontario voters, more than half disagree that Catholic schools should continue to receive public funding (51%). Just more than a third support continued public funding (38%) and one tenth don't have an opinion (11%).

Opposition to public funding is strongest among the youngest (62%), mid-income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 63%), in Toronto 416 area code (57%) but not in Northern Ontario (35%), among the least educated (57%), among non-mainline Christians (60%), those of other religions (66%) and non-believers (69%) but not among Catholics (17%).

Support for funding is especially characteristic of boomers (55 to 64 - 44%), the least wealthy (43%), the wealthier (\$80K to \$100K - 48%), PC supporters (46%), those with children (42%) and, not surprisingly, Catholics (76%).

"We have tracked this issue for several years, and opposition to funding is always at about one half, while support is nearer one third. If it were ever put to a public referendum, Catholic school funding would lose, fair and square," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at <u>lbozinoff@forumresearch.com</u> or at (416) 960-9603.

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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TORONTO July 8th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than half disagree that Catholic schools should continue to receive public funding (51%).
- "We have tracked this issue for several years, and opposition to funding is always at about one half, while support is nearer one third. If it were ever put to a public referendum, Catholic school funding would lose, fair and square," 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 678 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on June 25 to July 5, 2015.

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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 <u>www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp</u>

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 <u>www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp</u>

Catholic Schools to Continue Receiving Public Funding - Trending

%	July 8 th , 2015	May 29 th , 2013	February 20 th , October 31 st 2013 2012		May 14 th , 2012	Jan 18 th , 2012		
Sample	678	918	1053	1102	1072	1041		
Agree	38	44	39	44	40	45		
Disagree	51	48	54	50	53	49		
Don't know	11	8	7	6	6	6		

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Catholic Schools to Continue Receiving Public Funding

'Do you agree or disagree that Catholic schools should continue to receive public funding in Ontario?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	678	93	84	127	157	217	346	332
Agree	38	30	44	40	44	35	38	37
Disagree	51	62	43	50	45	51	54	49
Don't know	11	9	13	10	11	14	8	14

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	678	117	163	175	338	128	95
Agree	38	39	36	32	34	38	51
Disagree	51	49	57	53	54	54	35
Don't know	11	12	7	15	12	8	13

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	678	222	183	170	40	31
Agree	38	46	36	37	16	38
Disagree	51	42	54	56	69	52
Don't know	11	11	10	8	15	9

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