

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One third think Gardiner unsafe to use

One half want it torn down

TORONTO, April 11th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 865 Toronto voters, one third think the Gardiner Expressway is not safe to use (34%) and, while this is a significant number, it is well down from one half, noted the last time the elevated highway was observed to be crumbling (December, 2012 - 50% unsafe to use). Now, one half believe it is safe to use (50%), while one seventh don't have an opinion (15%).

One half want Gardiner torn down, completely or partially

One half of Toronto voters want the Gardiner torn down (52% in total), either completely and replaced with a tunnel (27%), completely and replaced with a surface road (13%) or torn down partially (12%). Just one quarter think the city should continue to repair it (25%), and one quarter want to do something else (7%) or don't know what should be done (15%).

Even spit on whether repairs to Gardiner are money well-spent

Four-in-ten Toronto voters say spending \$400 million repairing the Gardiner is an appropriate expenditure (41%), while just fewer think it is not (37%). One fifth have no opinion on the issue (21%).

Most think city can't afford to repair City Housing alone

As many as three quarters of Toronto voters don't think the city can afford to repair its backlog of TCHC buildings alone, without financial help from the province or the federal government (72%), while just one tenth believe the city can accomplish this (11%). Close to one fifth don't venture an opinion (17%).

TCHC, DRL and keeping TTC in good repair seen to be most urgent

When asked to choose the major city expenditure they saw as the highest priority, the plurality of voters, one fifth choose repairing TCHC buildings (21%) and this is closely followed by building the Downtown Relief Line (19%) and keeping the TTC in a good state of repair (18%). Items seen to be less of a priority include the Scarborough subway (14%), repairing the Gardiner Expressway (10%), developing the waterfront (6%) or doing something else (8%). Few don't have an opinion on this issue (5%).

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TORONTO

April 11th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- One third think the Gardiner Expressway is not safe to use (34%) and, while this is a significant number, it is well down from one half, noted the last time the elevated highway was observed to be crumbling (December, 2012 - 50% unsafe to use).
- One half of Toronto voters want the Gardiner torn down (52% in total).
- Four-in-ten Toronto voters say spending \$400 million repairing the Gardiner is an appropriate expenditure (41%).
- As many as three quarters of Toronto voters don't think the city can afford to repair its backlog of TCHC buildings alone.
- When asked to choose the major city expenditure they saw as the highest priority, the plurality of voters, one fifth choose repairing TCHC buildings (21%).

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"The Gardiner Expressway is the municipal issue which will never go away, just continue to be kicked down the road. It's always easier to initiate emergency repairs on an ad hoc basis rather than make a long term plan for one of the least attractive features of our city. Despite their dissatisfaction with the state of the Gardiner, however, Torontonians recognize the urgency of repairing the housing in which hundreds of thousands live," 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:

- "The Gardiner Expressway is the municipal issue which will never go away, just continue to be kicked down the road. It's always easier to initiate emergency repairs on an ad hoc basis rather than make a long term plan for one of the least attractive features of our city. Despite their dissatisfaction with the state of the Gardiner, however, Torontonians recognize the urgency of repairing the housing in which hundreds of thousands live," 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 865 randomly selected voters in Toronto, Ontario. The poll was conducted on April 7-8th, 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

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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Gardiner Expressway Safety

'Do you believe the Gardiner Expressway is safe for use or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	865	188	128	183	159	207	450	415
Believe it's safe for use	50	55	49	47	49	47	61	40
Do not believe it is safe for use	34	31	36	34	37	33	25	41
Don't know	16	15	15	19	15	20	14	19

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	865	327	183	192	163
Believe it's safe for use	50	53	47	47	52
Do not believe it is safe for use	34	32	37	36	31
Don't know	16	15	16	17	17

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K	250K+
Sample	865	105	124	117	102	74	175	37
Believe it's safe for use	50	37	44	38	52	51	64	82
Do not believe it is safe for use	34	48	37	48	28	35	24	13
Don't know	16	15	20	14	20	14	12	6

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	865	149	351	126	59
Believe it's safe for use	50	46	57	44	57
Do not believe it is safe for use	34	39	29	36	30
Don't know	16	15	14	21	13

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Last Provincial Vote

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	865	178	351	111	40	36
Believe it's safe for use	50	59	45	47	60	65
Do not believe it is safe for use	34	32	35	35	31	25
Don't know	16	9	19	18	9	11

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Gardiner Expressway Fate

‘What do you think should done with the Gardiner Expressway?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	865	188	128	183	159	207	450	415
Continue to repair it	25	26	23	23	30	26	29	23
Tear parts of it down	12	10	14	11	14	15	9	15
Tear it all down and replace with a surface roadway	13	9	12	13	15	19	13	13
Tear it all down and replace with a tunneled roadway	27	29	31	29	23	19	30	25
Do something else	7	8	11	4	4	7	9	6
Don't know	15	18	9	20	14	14	11	19

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	865	327	183	192	163
Continue to repair it	25	25	24	25	27
Tear parts of it down	12	16	12	9	11
Tear it all down and replace with a surface roadway	13	13	17	10	10
Tear it all down and replace with a tunneled roadway	27	26	24	34	24
Do something else	7	7	8	5	10
Don't know	15	12	16	17	18

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K	250K+
Sample	865	105	124	117	102	74	175	37
Continue to repair it	25	23	29	24	27	32	25	22
Tear parts of it down	12	11	7	13	19	13	13	8
Tear it all down and replace with a surface roadway	13	13	18	16	12	11	11	7
Tear it all down and replace with a tunneled roadway	27	19	22	26	22	28	34	44
Do something else	7	14	2	9	5	2	9	14
Don't know	15	21	23	11	16	14	7	4

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%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	865	149	351	126	59
Continue to repair it	25	26	20	20	16
Tear parts of it down	12	15	13	10	9
Tear it all down and replace with a surface roadway	13	14	12	18	14
Tear it all down and replace with a tunneled roadway	27	24	33	28	25
Do something else	7	4	9	5	13
Don't know	15	17	12	19	23

Last Provincial Vote

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	865	178	351	111	40	36
Continue to repair it	25	24	23	24	18	36
Tear parts of it down	12	13	14	17	11	3
Tear it all down and replace with a surface roadway	13	14	16	11	11	11
Tear it all down and replace with a tunneled roadway	27	32	27	22	33	31
Do something else	7	7	5	8	9	13
Don't know	15	10	15	18	19	5

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400 Million Dollars to Repair the Gardiner Expressway

‘The city is spending over 400 million dollars to repair the Gardiner Expressway this year. Is this an appropriate way to spend this money or should it be spent on something else?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	865	188	128	183	159	207	450	415
This is an appropriate way to spend it	41	35	43	41	50	45	48	35
It should be spent somewhere else	37	44	39	39	26	27	34	40
Don't know	21	20	18	20	24	28	18	25

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	865	327	183	192	163
This is an appropriate way to spend it	41	44	36	42	43
It should be spent somewhere else	37	37	41	34	37
Don't know	21	19	24	23	20

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K	250K+
Sample	865	105	124	117	102	74	175	37
This is an appropriate way to spend it	41	28	34	41	49	41	53	57
It should be spent somewhere else	37	51	42	33	36	44	30	13
Don't know	21	21	24	26	14	15	17	30

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Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	865	149	351	126	59
This is an appropriate way to spend it	41	44	47	36	30
It should be spent somewhere else	37	41	31	39	52
Don't know	21	16	22	25	18

Last Provincial Vote

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	865	178	351	111	40	36
This is an appropriate way to spend it	41	48	45	41	25	42
It should be spent somewhere else	37	31	37	41	34	30
Don't know	21	21	19	18	41	28

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City to Afford Community Housing Expenditure without Assistance

'2.6 billion dollars will have to be spent over ten years to repair Toronto Community Housing buildings. Can the city afford this expenditure alone without assistance from the province or the federal government or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	865	188	128	183	159	207	450	415
The city can afford this alone	11	15	12	12	6	7	14	9
The city cannot afford this alone	72	65	68	73	82	81	71	73
Don't know	17	20	20	14	12	12	15	18

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	865	327	183	192	163
The city can afford this alone	11	9	11	14	13
The city cannot afford this alone	72	74	76	67	72
Don't know	17	18	14	19	15

Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K	250K+
Sample	865	105	124	117	102	74	175	37
The city can afford this alone	11	16	11	12	13	10	11	12
The city cannot afford this alone	72	57	75	70	72	73	76	70
Don't know	17	27	15	18	15	16	13	19

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Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	865	149	351	126	59
The city can afford this alone	11	15	8	8	12
The city cannot afford this alone	72	63	81	74	71
Don't know	17	21	12	18	18

Last Provincial Vote

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other parties
Sample	865	178	351	111	40	36
The city can afford this alone	11	8	9	12	18	4
The city cannot afford this alone	72	74	74	75	74	80
Don't know	17	18	17	14	8	16

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Funding Needs Priority

‘The city has a number of urgent funding needs. Which do you think should have the highest priority?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	865	188	128	183	159	207	450	415
Repairing the Gardiner Expressway	10	7	12	11	17	8	9	11
Repairing Toronto Community Housing buildings	21	21	13	24	18	28	18	23
Maintaining the TTC in a good state of repair	18	15	20	18	20	22	17	19
Building the Downtown Relief Line	19	22	21	17	18	11	23	15
Building the Scarborough subway	14	16	13	12	15	13	14	14
Developing the waterfront	6	5	7	9	2	4	7	5
Something else	8	12	7	9	4	6	9	7
Don't know	5	2	7	2	7	8	4	6

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	865	327	183	192	163
Repairing the Gardiner Expressway	10	8	10	13	10
Repairing Toronto Community Housing buildings	21	18	22	22	21
Maintaining the TTC in a good state of repair	18	20	21	21	10
Building the Downtown Relief Line	19	29	20	11	10
Building the Scarborough subway	14	6	9	13	31
Developing the waterfront	6	6	6	4	6
Something else	8	8	9	9	7
Don't know	5	3	4	7	5

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Household Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K	250K+
Sample	865	105	124	117	102	74	175	37
Repairing the Gardiner Expressway	10	7	10	14	11	7	9	16
Repairing Toronto Community Housing buildings	21	29	38	16	25	18	12	4
Maintaining the TTC in a good state of repair	18	14	17	17	18	28	17	13
Building the Downtown Relief Line	19	11	8	14	21	13	30	27
Building the Scarborough subway	14	16	9	18	13	21	16	4
Developing the waterfront	6	5	4	1	6	7	5	19
Something else	8	12	7	12	6	6	4	17
Don't know	5	6	7	8	1	1	6	0

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Sample	865	149	351	126	59
Repairing the Gardiner Expressway	10	15	10	3	7
Repairing Toronto Community Housing buildings	21	24	11	33	13
Maintaining the TTC in a good state of repair	18	13	21	19	19
Building the Downtown Relief Line	19	7	31	20	11
Building the Scarborough subway	14	28	10	8	13
Developing the waterfront	6	1	7	5	12
Something else	8	9	6	7	15
Don't know	5	4	4	5	9

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Sample	865	178	351	111	40	36
Repairing the Gardiner Expressway	10	15	7	9	12	15
Repairing Toronto Community Housing buildings	21	8	22	38	17	17
Maintaining the TTC in a good state of repair	18	12	24	17	10	8
Building the Downtown Relief Line	19	25	22	11	31	4
Building the Scarborough subway	14	18	10	9	11	26
Developing the waterfront	6	6	6	5	4	8
Something else	8	12	4	5	7	15
Don't know	5	3	5	4	8	8

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