

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

High approval for Chief Blair as he exits

Most think he should have charged Mayor Ford with drug offences

TORONTO January 25th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 843 Toronto voters, 6-in-10 approve of Toronto's outgoing police chief, Bill Blair (61%), and the majority (56%) say he was either 'one of the best' (18%) or a "good police chief" (38%). Just one seventh (14%) think he was "not very good" (11%) or "not at all good" (3%).

Overall approval is highest among the oldest (68%), females (64%) rather than males (56%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 67%), in Scarborough (66%), among John Tory voters (68%) but not, naturally, among Doug Ford voters (47%).

Split opinion on non-renewal of Chief's contract

While more than 4-in-10 disapprove of the decision not to renew Chief Blair's contract (43%), just more approve of this decision (46%) for a split decision. One tenth don't have an opinion (11%). Approval of the decision is higher among the youngest (50%), males (52%), mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 57%) and among Doug Ford voters (59%).

More than one third would vote Chief Blair in a federal election

More than one third of Toronto voters would vote for Chief Blair if he were a candidate in their riding in the next federal election (36%), while close to half (but fewer than a majority) will not (44%). As many as one fifth have no opinion on this issue (21%). Electoral support for the Chief is common to the oldest (47%), females (40%) rather than males (31%), the least wealthy (less than \$20K - 42%, \$20K to \$40K - 44%), in Scarborough (47%), and among renters (39%) slightly more than among property owners (33%). Chow voters are less likely to trust the Chief with their vote (29%) than are either Ford (35%) or Tory voters (39%).

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TORONTO

January 25th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 6-in-10 approve of Toronto's outgoing police chief, Bill Blair (61%).
- The majority (56%) say he was either 'one of the best' (18%) or a "good police chief" (38%).
- 4-in-10 disapprove of the decision not to renew Chief Blair's contract (43%), just more approve of this decision (46%) for a split decision.
- More than one third of Toronto voters would vote for Chief Blair if he were a candidate in their riding in the next federal election (36%), while close to half (but fewer than a majority) will not (44%).

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Majority agree Blair should have charged Mayor Ford with drug offences

The majority of voters (51%) think Chief Blair should have charged Mayor Ford with drug offences while he was in office, and just one third disagree (34%). Between one fifth and one tenth don't have an opinion (15%). Agreeing the Chief should have taken action is common to the youngest (55%), Boomers (55 to 64 - 56%), females (55%) but not males (46%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 63%), in the downtown (55%) and among Chow voters (67%). Even among Doug Ford voters, close to one fifth agree the Chief should have acted against their candidate's brother (17%).

"The Chief will leave with his head high. His approval is strong, as many disagree with not renewing his contract as agree and he's seen to be either a good chief or one of the best. The one thing he might have done to endear himself even more to the city, however, was apparently to bust the mayor when he had a chance," 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 majority of voters (51%) think Chief Blair should have charged Mayor Ford with drug offences while he was in office, a just one third disagree (34%).
- "The Chief will leave with his head high. His approval is strong, as many disagree with not renewing his contract as agree and he's seen to be either a good chief or one of the best. The one thing he might have done to endear himself even more to the city, however, was apparently to bust the mayor when he had a chance," 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 843 randomly selected voters in Toronto, Ontario. The poll was conducted on January 24th and 25th, 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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Approval of Chief Bill Blair

'Do you approve or disapprove of Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	843	201	151	147	160	184	480	363
Approve	61	56	63	62	57	68	56	64
Disapprove	39	44	37	38	43	32	44	36

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	843	348	141	182	172
Approve	61	61	58	58	66
Disapprove	39	39	42	42	34

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	843	90	126	101	120	91	173	24
Approve	61	59	57	56	59	67	61	52
Disapprove	39	41	43	44	41	33	39	48

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	843	145	343	158	47
Approve	61	47	68	59	59
Disapprove	39	53	32	41	41

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Chief Blair Comparative Rating

'How would you rate Bill Blair among Toronto Chiefs of Police?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	843	201	151	147	160	184	480	363
One of the best police chiefs	18	14	21	17	21	21	16	20
A good police chief	38	30	38	42	40	46	33	42
An average police chief	25	32	22	23	23	22	28	23
Not a very good police chief	11	12	12	12	10	5	12	10
Not at all a good police chief	3	7	1	2	2	2	5	1
Don't know	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	4

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	843	348	141	182	172
One of the best police chiefs	18	17	17	16	23
A good police chief	38	41	31	41	38
An average police chief	25	22	31	25	25
Not a very good police chief	11	12	11	10	9
Not at all a good police chief	3	3	4	5	1
Don't know	5	6	6	3	4

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	843	145	343	158	47
One of the best police chiefs	18	12	22	12	26
A good police chief	38	33	39	42	38
An average police chief	25	32	24	25	20
Not a very good police chief	11	15	8	11	9
Not at all a good police chief	3	5	2	2	4
Don't know	5	3	4	7	3

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Chief Blair Contract Non-Renewal

‘Chief Blair’s contract as Police Chief has not been renewed. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	843	201	151	147	160	184	480	363
Approve	46	50	38	49	47	45	52	41
Disapprove	43	36	48	43	43	47	39	46
Don't know	11	14	14	8	10	8	9	13

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	843	348	141	182	172
Approve	46	47	47	47	43
Disapprove	43	44	36	45	46
Don't know	11	9	16	8	12

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	843	90	126	101	120	91	173	24
Approve	46	40	42	49	57	43	47	54
Disapprove	43	43	47	45	34	45	41	41
Don't know	11	16	11	5	8	12	13	5

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	843	145	343	158	47
Approve	46	59	42	46	37
Disapprove	43	39	44	41	51
Don't know	11	2	14	14	12

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Chief Blair as Candidate in the Next Federal Election

'If he were a candidate in your riding in the next federal election, would you vote for Bill Blair or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	843	201	151	147	160	184	480	363
Yes	36	32	36	34	34	47	31	40
No	44	52	36	46	44	35	50	38
Don't know	21	16	28	20	22	18	19	22

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	843	348	141	182	172
Yes	36	30	33	37	47
No	44	44	46	43	41
Don't know	21	26	22	20	12

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	843	90	126	101	120	91	173	24
Yes	36	42	44	31	32	37	30	26
No	44	38	39	55	47	43	43	48
Don't know	21	20	17	14	21	20	27	26

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	843	145	343	158	47
Yes	36	35	39	29	38
No	44	58	36	44	42
Don't know	21	7	25	27	20

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Chief Blair Should Have Charged Mayor Ford

'Do you agree or disagree Chef Blair should have charged former Mayor Ford with drug offences while he was in office?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	843	201	151	147	160	184	480	363
Agree	51	55	50	42	56	51	46	55
Disagree	34	34	35	40	31	28	42	27
Don't know	15	11	15	18	14	20	12	18

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	843	348	141	182	172
Agree	51	56	45	49	52
Disagree	34	29	39	37	32
Don't know	15	15	16	13	16

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	843	90	126	101	120	91	173	24
Agree	51	45	44	45	51	63	55	55
Disagree	34	37	39	42	38	22	34	23
Don't know	15	19	18	12	11	15	11	22

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	843	145	343	158	47
Agree	51	17	61	67	51
Disagree	34	75	22	15	39
Don't know	15	8	17	18	9

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