

# NEWS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **One Half of Ontario Voters Aware of Fundraising Controversy**

#### **Most think Liberals worst offenders, one third say reform “very urgent”**

In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1183 Ontario voters, one half are aware of the controversy surrounding political fundraising in the province (49%), and these tend to be the mid aged (45 to 54 - 55%), males (57% rather than females (42%), the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 59%), in the 905 area code surrounding Toronto (54%), among PC voters (59%) and among the best educated (post grad - 65%).

#### **Most think Liberals bend the rules more than others**

When asked who bends the fundraising rules the most, in total, more than one quarter of voters say the Liberals do (28%), and very few specify either the PCs (8%) or the NDP (2%) or, in fact, all the parties (8%). Among PC voters, close to half in total say the Liberals are the guilty party (47%), while Liberal voters are equally likely to blame their own party (9%) or the PCs (13%). NDP voters think both Liberals (23%) and PCs (15%) are guilty of bending the rules.

#### **One third says fundraising reform “very” urgent**

In total, 6-in-10 voters think political fundraising reform in Ontario is urgent (60%) and as many as one third say it is “very urgent” (33%). Belief in extreme urgency of reform is common to males (42%), the very wealthiest (37%), in Southwestern Ontario (36%), among PC voters (44%) and even among one quarter of Liberals (23%) and New Democrats (27%).

“While the political slush fund capers haven’t penetrated that far into the popular consciousness, they’ve made an impression on the older, wealthy and well-educated voters, which would indicate they have the capacity to become a more serious issue for this government” 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**

July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- One half are aware of the controversy surrounding political fundraising in the province (49%)
- When asked who bends the fundraising rules the most, in total, more than one quarter of voters say the Liberals do (28%)
- In total, 6-in-10 voters think political fundraising reform in Ontario is urgent (60%) and as many as one third say it is “very urgent” (33%)
- “While the political slush fund capers haven’t penetrated that far into the popular consciousness, they’ve made an impression on the older, wealthy and well-educated voters, which would indicate they have the capacity to become a more serious issue for this government” 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 1183 randomly selected Canadian adults. The poll was conducted on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

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)

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**Controversy over Provincial Fundraising Rules Awareness**

Are you aware of a controversy over provincial political fundraising rules?

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1183	161	136	216	316	354	576	578
Yes	49	42	48	55	54	53	57	42
No	51	58	52	45	46	47	43	58

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1183	114	184	173	144	126	208
Yes	49	46	42	47	46	48	59
No	51	54	58	53	54	52	41

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1183	158	177	360	537	260	228
Yes	49	48	52	54	53	47	41
No	51	52	48	46	47	53	59

**Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1183	477	354	161	67	51
Yes	49	59	41	46	54	56
No	51	41	59	54	46	44

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1183	252	294	435	202
Yes	49	37	45	51	65
No	51	63	55	49	35

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**July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

***Bending Fundraising Rules***

*Which provincial party do you think bends the political fundraising rules the most?*

[Aware]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	611	68	69	117	175	182	330	265
Liberals	56	54	66	54	57	48	64	45
Progressive Conservatives	17	28	9	16	11	18	12	23
NDP	4	3	8	2	4	6	3	6
All of them	16	15	13	20	18	18	18	16
Don't know	6	1	5	8	10	10	4	9

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	611	50	80	84	75	71	128
Liberals	56	62	46	61	58	53	55
Progressive Conservatives	17	14	28	18	13	18	13
NDP	4	12	5	5	5	2	2
All of them	16	8	15	11	14	19	22
Don't know	6	4	7	5	10	9	7

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	611	84	99	195	294	127	106
Liberals	56	50	54	60	58	53	61
Progressive Conservatives	17	26	16	15	15	16	15
NDP	4	4	2	4	3	7	3
All of them	16	14	25	12	17	18	12
Don't know	6	5	3	9	7	6	8

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### ***Provincial Vote Preference***

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Progressive Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>New Democratic</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Another Party</b>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Liberals</b>	56	80	21	49	59	45
<b>Progressive Conservatives</b>	17	5	32	31	20	8
<b>NDP</b>	4	4	5	5	1	0
<b>All of them</b>	16	9	28	9	14	39
<b>Don't know</b>	6	2	13	6	7	8

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### ***Education***

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Secondary school or less</b>	<b>Some college or university</b>	<b>Completed college or university</b>	<b>Post graduate studies</b>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Liberals</b>	56	65	53	57	51
<b>Progressive Conservatives</b>	17	11	19	15	23
<b>NDP</b>	4	5	6	5	1
<b>All of them</b>	16	9	15	18	20
<b>Don't know</b>	6	11	6	6	6

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***Bending Fundraising Rules***

*Which provincial party do you think bends the political fundraising rules the most?*

*[All Respondents]*

***Age / Gender***

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1183	161	136	216	316	354	576	578
Liberals	28	23	32	30	31	25	36	19
Progressive Conservatives	8	12	4	9	6	9	7	10
NDP	2	1	4	1	2	3	2	3
All of them	8	6	6	11	10	9	10	7
Don't know	3	0	2	5	6	5	3	4

***Income***

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1183	114	184	173	144	126	208
Liberals	28	29	19	29	27	25	33
Progressive Conservatives	8	7	12	8	6	9	8
NDP	2	6	2	3	2	1	1
All of them	8	4	6	5	7	9	13
Don't know	3	2	3	2	4	4	4

***Region***

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1183	158	177	360	537	260	228
Liberals	28	24	28	33	31	25	25
Progressive Conservatives	8	13	8	8	8	8	6
NDP	2	2	1	2	2	3	1
All of them	8	7	13	7	9	9	5
Don't know	3	3	2	5	4	3	3

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**Provincial Vote Preference**

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1183	477	354	161	67	51
Liberals	28	47	9	23	32	25
Progressive Conservatives	8	3	13	15	11	5
NDP	2	2	2	3	0	0
All of them	8	5	12	4	7	22
Don't know	3	1	5	3	4	4

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**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1183	252	294	435	202
Liberals	28	24	24	29	33
Progressive Conservatives	8	4	9	7	15
NDP	2	2	3	2	1
All of them	8	3	7	9	13
Don't know	3	4	3	3	4

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**Political Fundraising Reform Urgency**

*How urgent is the need for political fundraising reform in Ontario?*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1183	161	136	216	316	354	576	578
NET: Top2	60	60	57	63	61	61	67	54
NET: Btm2	20	19	22	22	19	19	19	22
Very urgent	33	31	35	34	32	35	42	25
Somewhat urgent	27	30	21	29	29	26	25	29
Not very urgent	16	17	17	16	13	16	16	16
Not at all urgent	4	3	5	6	6	3	3	5
Don't know	19	20	21	16	20	20	14	25

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1183	114	184	173	144	126	208
NET: Top2	60	57	65	60	51	61	66
NET: Btm2	20	17	16	18	28	23	19
Very urgent	33	34	34	36	28	32	37
Somewhat urgent	27	23	31	24	23	28	29
Not very urgent	16	16	13	13	25	15	14
Not at all urgent	4	1	3	5	3	7	5
Don't know	19	25	18	21	21	17	15

**Region**

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1183	158	177	360	537	260	228
NET: Top2	60	65	54	62	59	61	59
NET: Btm2	20	19	25	20	22	19	19
Very urgent	33	29	30	35	33	36	33
Somewhat urgent	27	36	23	27	26	24	26
Not very urgent	16	14	20	17	18	16	11
Not at all urgent	4	6	5	3	4	3	7
Don't know	19	16	22	18	19	21	22

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### Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1183	477	354	161	67	51
NET: Top2	60	64	55	64	64	58
NET: Btm2	20	18	24	18	23	27
Very urgent	33	44	23	27	39	34
Somewhat urgent	27	20	32	37	26	25
Not very urgent	16	16	17	16	16	21
Not at all urgent	4	2	7	2	7	6
Don't know	19	18	21	18	13	15

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### Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1183	252	294	435	202
NET: Top2	60	57	64	59	63
NET: Btm2	20	16	15	24	23
Very urgent	33	32	36	33	34
Somewhat urgent	27	25	29	26	29
Not very urgent	16	13	10	19	18
Not at all urgent	4	3	5	5	5
Don't know	19	28	21	17	14

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