

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One half support Ontario's doctors in fee dispute

Nevertheless, high billings seen to be unacceptable

TORONTO April 28th, 2016 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1157 Ontario voters, one half support Ontario's doctors in their fee dispute with the provincial government (49%), while about one half this proportion support the provincial government (22%). More than a tenth support neither in the dispute (13%) and just more have no opinion (17%).

Supporting the doctors is especially characteristic of the oldest (56%), the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 53%), in southwestern Ontario (54%), among Progressive Conservatives (66%) but not among Liberals (32%). Supporting the province in this dispute is common to the mid aged (45 to 54 - 26%), males (26%), the very wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 29%), in downtown Toronto (28%), among Liberal voters (34%), and the best educated (post grad - 29%).

Voters see high billings as excessive

Despite support for the doctors in their dispute with the province, an identical proportion of voters think the fact that 500 doctors billed a million dollars or more is "too much" (49%) in the context of what a doctor should earn in Ontario. For one quarter, a million dollars is "about the right amount" (27%), while just one twentieth think it's "too little" (6%). The wealthiest are the most likely to see an annual salary of \$1 million as "about right" (\$80K to \$250K - 31%).

When voters are presented with the single eye doctor who billed more than \$6 million, as many as two thirds say this is too much (68%), while just one tenth think it is about right or too little (10% each). A similar proportion has no opinion (13%). Once again, the wealthiest are the most likely to see this amount as "about right".

"It is not surprising Ontarians side with their doctors; these professionals have an extremely bully pulpit from which to build support for their fee dispute. In the meantime, the provincial government is not at its most popular, and may not have the reservoir of goodwill necessary to build support against a groups as well funded as the OMA," 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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TORONTO

April 28th, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- One half support Ontario's doctors in their fee dispute with the provincial government (49%).
- Voters think the fact that 500 doctors billed a million dollars or more is "too much" (49%) in the context of what a doctor should earn in Ontario.
- When voters are presented with the single eye doctor who billed more than \$6 million, as many as two thirds say this is too much (68%).
- "It is not surprising Ontarians side with their doctors; these professionals have an extremely bully pulpit from which to build support for their fee dispute. In the meantime, the provincial government is not at its most popular, and may not have the reservoir of goodwill necessary to build support against a groups as well funded as the OMA," 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 1157 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on April 25th, 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

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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ON Doctors' Protest

'Ontario's doctors are protesting fee cuts by the provincial government; cuts the government says are necessary to fund home care, community care and mental health care. Which side do you favour in the dispute between the provincial government and Ontario's doctors?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1157	156	146	237	285	333	562	595
The provincial government	22	20	21	26	21	20	26	18
Ontario's doctors	49	44	47	49	53	56	48	50
Neither	13	10	13	13	15	13	11	14
Don't know	17	26	19	13	10	11	15	19

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1157	173	186	362	548	247	189
The provincial government	22	25	28	18	21	19	23
Ontario's doctors	49	50	38	52	47	54	46
Neither	13	8	12	15	14	12	13
Don't know	17	18	22	15	17	15	18

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1157	439	365	182	61	48
The provincial government	22	13	34	19	28	3
Ontario's doctors	49	66	32	51	46	56
Neither	13	11	13	12	11	14
Don't know	17	10	21	18	15	27

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ON Doctors' Billing

'The provincial government reported Ontario doctors' billings. Five hundred doctors billed OHIP more than a million dollars last year. Is this too much, too little or about the right amount for a doctor to earn in Ontario?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1157	156	146	237	285	333	562	595
Too much	49	41	49	52	54	53	49	49
Too little	6	7	6	5	5	6	6	6
About the right amount	27	28	29	25	26	26	29	25
Don't know	18	24	16	18	15	14	16	21

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1157	173	186	362	548	247	189
Too much	49	45	44	50	48	51	51
Too little	6	4	4	4	4	9	8
About the right amount	27	32	28	28	28	24	26
Don't know	18	19	24	18	20	16	15

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1157	439	365	182	61	48
Too much	49	44	56	49	58	35
Too little	6	6	4	7	4	12
About the right amount	27	35	26	22	21	27
Don't know	18	15	14	22	17	26

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ON Doctors' Billing: Specialist

'One eye doctor billed OHIP more than six million dollars last year. Is this too much, too little or about right for a specialist to earn in Ontario?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1157	156	146	237	285	333	562	595
Too much	68	59	67	67	73	78	71	65
Too little	10	10	13	12	8	6	9	11
About the right amount	10	13	10	6	9	9	10	9
Don't know	13	18	10	15	10	7	10	15

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	1157	173	186	362	548	247	189
Too much	68	67	62	67	65	73	69
Too little	10	9	13	8	10	10	10
About the right amount	10	13	6	13	10	7	10
Don't know	13	12	19	12	15	10	11

Provincial Vote Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1157	439	365	182	61	48
Too much	68	65	70	68	76	55
Too little	10	8	13	9	7	20
About the right amount	10	16	6	8	9	1
Don't know	13	11	11	15	8	24

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