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FORUM RESEARCH INC.

Majority of Canadians Have Positive Opinions of Socialism, But Americans Hold a Different Opinion

Toronto, August 16th, 2019 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1733 Canadian voters, when asked about their opinions on capitalism, and socialism, the majority (TOP2: 58%) say they have a positive opinion of socialism, with nearly a fifth (18%) saying they have a very positive opinion.

In comparison to the United States, [a Pew Research study found that](#) about 4-in-10 (TOP2: 42%) have positive opinions of socialism, with less than a tenth (9%) saying they have very positive opinions.

About 4-in-10 Canadians (BTM2: 42%) say they have a negative opinion of socialism, with a fifth (20%) saying they have a very negative opinion. The majority of Americans (BTM2: 55%) have negative opinions of socialism, with nearly a third (32%) saying they have very negative opinions.

Respondents most likely to say they hold positive opinions include those aged 18 to 34 (63%) and 35 to 44 (65%), females (62%) earning \$40,000 to \$60,000 (64%) and \$60,000 to \$80,000 (63%), the most educated (65%), those living in the Atlantic provinces (67%), and those supporting the NDP (85%). Liberal supporters also hold positive opinions (74%), as do the majority of American Democrat supporters (65%).

Respondents most likely to say they hold negative opinions include those aged 45 and older (48% aged 45 to 54, 47% aged 55 to 64, and 50% aged 65 and over), males (47%), the lowest earners (48%) and those earning \$80,000 to \$100,000 (45%), the least educated (52%), those living in Alberta (56%), and those supporting the Conservatives (72%). Likewise, American Republican supporters also hold negative opinions on socialism (84%).

Both Canadians and Americans Hold Positive Opinions on Capitalism

The majority of Canadians (TOP2: 58%) also have a positive opinion of capitalism, with just over a fifth (21%) saying they have a very positive opinion.

[The same Pew research study](#) suggests the majority (TOP2: 65%) of US residents also have positive opinions of capitalism, with nearly a quarter (24%) saying they have very positive opinions.

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“Unlike our neighbours to the south, Canadians hold overall positive opinions of both socialism and capitalism, but see socialism far more favourably than do our American friends,” said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. “Both Canadians and Americans alike see capitalism favourably. While Canadians support for socialism and capitalism are divided along party lines, it is not nearly as drastic as shown in the United States.”



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About 4-in-10 Canadians (BTM2: 42%) say they have a negative opinion of capitalism, with about a sixth (16%) saying they have a very negative opinion. A third of Americans (BTM2: 33%) have negative opinions of capitalism, with a tenth (10%) saying they have very negative opinions.

Respondents most likely to say they hold positive opinions include those aged 45 and older (65% aged 45 to 54, 64% aged 55 to 64, and 65% aged 65 and over), males (68%), those earning \$80,000 to \$100,000 (63%) and the most wealthy (68%), those who have completed college or university (59%) and the most educated (62%), those living in Alberta (76%), and those supporting the Conservatives (77%). Those supporting the Republicans (78%) also hold a positive opinion on capitalism.

Respondents most likely to say they hold negative opinions include those aged 18 to 34 (51%) and 35 to 44 (48%), females (52%), the lowest earners (55%) and those earning \$20,000 to \$40,000 (57%), the least educated (50%), those living in the Atlantic (50%), Québec (51%), or the Prairies (50%), and those supporting the NDP (64%). Those supporting the Liberals hold fewer negative opinions of capitalism (45%), as do those supporting the Democrats (44%).

“Unlike our neighbours to the south, Canadians hold overall positive opinions of both socialism and capitalism, but see socialism far more favourably than do our American friends,” said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. “Both Canadians and Americans alike see capitalism favourably. While Canadian support for socialism and capitalism are divided along party lines, it is not nearly as drastic as shown in the United States.”

[*Data reviewed with comparable study conducted by Pew Research on June 29th. Click here to read that study.](#)



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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 1733 randomly selected Canadians across the country. The poll was conducted from July 26th-28th, 2019.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20, measured as the average deviation across all response categories. 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 forumpoll.com.



Top2/Btm2 (or 3 or 4 where applicable) refers to the combined results of the most answered positive and negative responses:

| % | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | Male | Female |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|--------|
| Sample | 631 | 112 | 91 | 133 | 119 | 176 | 303 | 315 |
| NET: TOP3 | 66 | 57 | 60 | 68 | 78 | 86 | 67 | 64 |
| NET: BTM3 | 34 | 43 | 39 | 32 | 21 | 14 | 32 | 36 |
| Very satisfied | 9 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 11 | 8 |
| Satisfied | 28 | 17 | 29 | 35 | 32 | 45 | 25 | 31 |
| Somewhat satisfied | 28 | 31 | 26 | 28 | 32 | 20 | 31 | 25 |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | 12 | 11 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 13 | 12 |
| Dissatisfied | 11 | 15 | 15 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 13 |
| Very dissatisfied | 11 | 18 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| Don't know | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

Top 3 here collects very satisfied, satisfied, and somewhat satisfied into one category, and Btm 3 collects very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, and somewhat dissatisfied. TABLE IS AN EXAMPLE ONLY.

Due to rounding some numbers may not add up to 100

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Socialism Opinion

Do you have a positive or negative opinion of socialism?

Age/gender

| % | Total | 18 to 34 | 35 to 44 | 45 to 54 | 55 to 64 | 65 and over | Male | Female | Non-binary |
|-------------------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|------|--------|------------|
| Sample | 1733 | 231 | 199 | 281 | 389 | 633 | 893 | 802 | 38 |
| NET: TOP2 | 58 | 63 | 65 | 52 | 53 | 50 | 53 | 62 | 61 |
| NET: BTM2 | 42 | 37 | 35 | 48 | 47 | 50 | 47 | 38 | 39 |
| Very positive | 18 | 22 | 20 | 15 | 16 | 13 | 16 | 19 | 34 |
| Somewhat positive | 40 | 41 | 45 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 43 | 26 |
| Somewhat negative | 22 | 19 | 17 | 27 | 26 | 26 | 22 | 24 | 5 |
| Very negative | 20 | 18 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 24 | 25 | 15 | 34 |

Income

| % | Total | Less than \$20k | \$20k to \$40k | \$40k to \$60k | \$60k to \$80k | \$80k to \$100k | \$100k to \$250k |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sample | 1733 | 162 | 270 | 266 | 216 | 199 | 344 |
| NET: TOP2 | 58 | 52 | 57 | 64 | 63 | 55 | 58 |
| NET: BTM2 | 42 | 48 | 43 | 36 | 37 | 45 | 42 |
| Very positive | 18 | 24 | 12 | 20 | 26 | 19 | 13 |
| Somewhat positive | 40 | 28 | 45 | 43 | 37 | 36 | 45 |
| Somewhat negative | 22 | 26 | 26 | 16 | 17 | 28 | 23 |
| Very negative | 20 | 21 | 17 | 20 | 20 | 17 | 19 |

Education

| % | Total | Secondary school or less | Some college or university | Completed college or university | Post graduate degree |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sample | 1733 | 298 | 484 | 599 | 352 |
| NET: TOP2 | 58 | 48 | 54 | 60 | 65 |
| NET: BTM2 | 42 | 52 | 46 | 40 | 35 |
| Very positive | 18 | 16 | 15 | 17 | 23 |
| Somewhat positive | 40 | 32 | 39 | 43 | 42 |
| Somewhat negative | 22 | 24 | 26 | 22 | 18 |
| Very negative | 20 | 28 | 20 | 18 | 17 |



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Region

| % | Total | ATL | QC | ON | MB/SK | AB | BC |
|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| Sample | 1733 | 178 | 369 | 593 | 148 | 189 | 256 |
| NET: TOP2 | 58 | 67 | 59 | 60 | 59 | 44 | 52 |
| NET: BTM2 | 42 | 33 | 41 | 40 | 41 | 56 | 48 |
| Very positive | 18 | 20 | 13 | 20 | 20 | 16 | 18 |
| Somewhat positive | 40 | 47 | 47 | 40 | 39 | 28 | 34 |
| Somewhat negative | 22 | 23 | 26 | 21 | 20 | 20 | 24 |
| Very negative | 20 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 36 | 24 |

Voter intention

| % | Total | CON | LIB | NDP | Green | BQ | PPC | Other |
|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|-----|-------|
| Sample | 1733 | 579 | 536 | 156 | 188 | 73 | 78 | 45 |
| NET: TOP2 | 58 | 28 | 74 | 85 | 68 | 59 | 41 | 58 |
| NET: BTM2 | 42 | 72 | 26 | 15 | 32 | 41 | 59 | 42 |
| Very positive | 18 | 4 | 22 | 46 | 22 | 14 | 8 | 17 |
| Somewhat positive | 40 | 24 | 52 | 39 | 47 | 45 | 33 | 41 |
| Somewhat negative | 22 | 33 | 18 | 9 | 25 | 20 | 18 | 20 |
| Very negative | 20 | 39 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 20 | 42 | 22 |



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Capitalism Opinion

Do you have a positive or negative opinion of Capitalism?

Age/gender

| % | Total | 18 to 34 | 35 to 44 | 45 to 54 | 55 to 64 | 65 and over | Male | Female | Non-binary |
|-------------------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|------|--------|------------|
| Sample | 1733 | 231 | 199 | 281 | 389 | 633 | 893 | 802 | 38 |
| NET: TOP2 | 58 | 49 | 52 | 65 | 64 | 65 | 68 | 48 | 61 |
| NET: BTM2 | 42 | 51 | 48 | 35 | 36 | 35 | 32 | 52 | 39 |
| Very positive | 21 | 21 | 16 | 24 | 23 | 23 | 30 | 14 | 24 |
| Somewhat positive | 36 | 28 | 36 | 41 | 40 | 42 | 39 | 34 | 37 |
| Somewhat negative | 26 | 28 | 27 | 23 | 25 | 26 | 21 | 31 | 16 |
| Very negative | 16 | 24 | 20 | 11 | 12 | 9 | 11 | 21 | 24 |

Income

| % | Total | Less than \$20k | \$20k to \$40k | \$40k to \$60k | \$60k to \$80k | \$80k to \$100k | \$100k to \$250k |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sample | 1733 | 162 | 270 | 266 | 216 | 199 | 344 |
| NET: TOP2 | 58 | 45 | 43 | 58 | 55 | 63 | 68 |
| NET: BTM2 | 42 | 55 | 57 | 42 | 45 | 37 | 32 |
| Very positive | 21 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 21 | 23 | 25 |
| Somewhat positive | 36 | 29 | 26 | 41 | 34 | 40 | 42 |
| Somewhat negative | 26 | 23 | 36 | 26 | 30 | 26 | 24 |
| Very negative | 16 | 32 | 21 | 16 | 16 | 11 | 9 |



Education

| % | Total | Secondary school or less | Some college or university | Completed college or university | Post graduate degree |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sample | 1733 | 298 | 484 | 599 | 352 |
| NET: TOP2 | 58 | 50 | 57 | 59 | 62 |
| NET: BTM2 | 42 | 50 | 43 | 41 | 38 |
| Very positive | 21 | 23 | 18 | 22 | 22 |
| Somewhat positive | 36 | 28 | 39 | 37 | 39 |
| Somewhat negative | 26 | 23 | 27 | 26 | 27 |
| Very negative | 16 | 27 | 16 | 14 | 12 |

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Region

| % | Total | ATL | QC | ON | MB/SK | AB | BC |
|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| Sample | 1733 | 178 | 369 | 593 | 148 | 189 | 256 |
| NET: TOP2 | 58 | 50 | 49 | 58 | 50 | 76 | 67 |
| NET: BTM2 | 42 | 50 | 51 | 42 | 50 | 24 | 33 |
| Very positive | 21 | 14 | 10 | 24 | 16 | 37 | 31 |
| Somewhat positive | 36 | 36 | 40 | 34 | 34 | 38 | 36 |
| Somewhat negative | 26 | 32 | 33 | 26 | 22 | 13 | 21 |
| Very negative | 16 | 18 | 18 | 16 | 27 | 12 | 12 |

Voter intention

| % | Total | CON | LIB | NDP | Green | BQ | PPC | Other |
|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|-----|-------|
| Sample | 1733 | 579 | 536 | 156 | 188 | 73 | 78 | 45 |
| NET: TOP2 | 58 | 77 | 55 | 36 | 40 | 49 | 70 | 44 |
| NET: BTM2 | 42 | 23 | 45 | 64 | 60 | 51 | 30 | 56 |
| Very positive | 21 | 41 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 44 | 10 |
| Somewhat positive | 36 | 36 | 42 | 29 | 33 | 40 | 26 | 33 |
| Somewhat negative | 26 | 14 | 32 | 31 | 37 | 34 | 24 | 22 |
| Very negative | 16 | 8 | 13 | 33 | 23 | 17 | 6 | 34 |

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