

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Proportional representation strongly preferred to first-past-the-post

NDP seen to be most democratic party by wide margin

Toronto, October 29th, 2012 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among Canadians 18 years of age and older, the majority approved of a Proportional Representation (PR) electoral system (56%), where minorities said they approved of Canada's current first-past-the-post (FPTP) system (43%) or the Alternate Vote (AV) system (37%).

Our current first-past-the-post system was most popular among federal Conservative supporters and Albertans. The AV system had the most approval among younger Canadians, those with annual household incomes less than \$20K, Quebeckers and British Columbians, as well as those who support a party other than the Conservatives. A similar trend emerged when asking about the PR system.

More than one third of Canadians say the NDP is the party with the most respect for democracy (35%), compared to about half as many who say this of the Conservatives (19%) or the Liberals (18%).

Canada seen to have more democratic system than US

Two thirds of Canadians say their country's government is more democratic (64%) compared to one quarter who think the US has the more democratic system (23%). The very wealthiest are especially likely to find the US system superior (32% - \$100K+).

Strong majorities against legislation 'bundling', time allocation

Two thirds of Canadians say the government should not be permitted to 'bundle' many different types of legislation into one omnibus bill (64%) and as many as three quarters say time allocation, where a limit is put on legislative debate, is inappropriate (73%).

Federal Conservative supporters were more likely to agree that the government should be permitted to bundle different types of legislation into one Omnibus Budget Bill.

Conservative supporters, Canadians over 65 years old, males, Albertans, and to a lesser extent Ontarians, were more likely to agree that government should be able to call time allocation on a bill.

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Lorne Bozinoff, President lbozinoff@forumresearch.com 416.960.9603

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- The majority approved of a Proportional Representation (PR) electoral system (56%), where minorities said they approved of Canada's current first-past-the-post (FPTP) system (43%) or the Alternate Vote (AV) system (37%).
- More than one third of Canadians say the NDP is the party with the most respect for democracy (35%).
- Two thirds of Canadians say their country's government is more democratic (64%) compared to one quarter who think the US has the more democratic system (23%).
- Two thirds of Canadians say the government should not be permitted to 'bundle' many different types of legislation into one omnibus bill (64%) and as many as three quarters say time allocation, where a limit is put on legislative debate, is inappropriate (73%).

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"Stephen Harper's Conservatives may be in charge, but it's the NDP's values that have the trust of Canadians," 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 1,735 randomly selected residents of Canada aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted on October 27th, 2012.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 2 %, 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 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.

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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More Democratic System of Government: Canada / US

'Which nation do you believe has a more democratic system of government, Canada or the US?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1735	175	188	328	494	550	775	960
Canada	64	65	56	64	66	71	64	64
The US	23	25	30	23	21	14	26	20
Don't know	13	10	14	13	13	15	10	15

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС
Sample	1735	172	402	648	127	186	200
Canada	64	63	62	63	77	60	70
The US	23	28	26	23	14	25	17
Don't know	13	9	11	14	9	15	13

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-40K	\$40-60K	\$60-80K	\$80-100K	\$100K+
Sample	1735	178	322	264	235	182	294
Canada	64	68	65	64	68	69	58
The US	23	22	20	22	22	22	32
Don't know	13	10	15	14	10	9	11

Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1735	528	438	485	96	81	52
Canada	64	66	67	67	59	53	65
The US	23	24	22	21	30	31	16
Don't know	13	9	11	12	11	16	18

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Different Legislation Under One Omnibus Agreement

'Do you agree or disagree the government should be permitted to bundle many different types of legislation under one Omnibus Budget Bill?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1735	175	188	328	494	550	775	960
Agree	14	15	15	11	13	17	16	13
Disagree	64	58	68	68	66	60	72	56
Don't know	22	27	16	21	21	24	13	31

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	АВ	ВС
Sample	1735	172	402	648	127	186	200
Agree	14	12	14	13	22	21	11
Disagree	64	73	50	69	62	65	67
Don't know	22	15	35	18	16	14	22

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-40K	\$40-60K	\$60-80K	\$80-100K	\$100K+
Sample	1735	178	322	264	235	182	294
Agree	14	15	14	14	17	10	15
Disagree	64	54	60	68	66	74	71
Don't know	22	30	27	19	16	16	14

Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1735	528	438	485	96	81	52
Agree	14	33	9	5	9	12	2
Disagree	64	47	68	75	74	50	75
Don't know	22	20	23	19	17	38	23

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Bill Time Allocation Call Agreement

'Do you agree or disagree the government should be permitted to call time allocation on a bill, that is, cut off debate in Parliament before all the parties are heard?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1735	175	188	328	494	550	775	960
Agree	14	14	12	15	13	18	18	11
Disagree	73	70	78	75	78	68	72	75
Don't know	12	16	10	9	9	14	10	14

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС
Sample	1735	172	402	648	127	186	200
Agree	14	13	9	18	16	20	11
Disagree	73	73	77	72	67	66	80
Don't know	12	14	15	10	17	14	9

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-40K	\$40-60K	\$60-80K	\$80-100K	\$100K+
Sample	1735	178	322	264	235	182	294
Agree	14	17	13	12	16	19	15
Disagree	73	63	72	77	74	77	80
Don't know	12	20	15	11	10	4	5

Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1735	528	438	485	96	81	52
Agree	14	30	11	4	10	10	13
Disagree	73	57	74	87	81	77	75
Don't know	12	13	15	8	9	13	12

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Party In Parliament With Most Respect for Democracy Agreement

'Which party in parliament do you think has the most respect for democracy?'
[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1735	175	188	328	494	550	775	960
Conservatives	19	16	19	14	22	27	19	19
NDP	35	38	31	37	33	31	34	35
Liberals	18	15	19	18	20	19	19	17
Green Party	8	9	10	8	8	6	9	7
Bloc Quebecois	5	5	4	6	4	4	5	4
Don't know	15	17	16	16	13	14	14	17

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС
Sample	1735	172	402	648	127	186	200
Conservatives	19	14	10	20	28	40	15
NDP	35	31	39	36	36	15	39
Liberals	18	22	22	19	12	13	14
Green Party	8	10	3	8	7	10	17
Bloc Quebecois	5	2	14	1	4	3	1
Don't know	15	22	12	16	13	20	14

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-40K	\$40-60K	\$60-80K	\$80-100K	\$100K+
Sample	1735	178	322	264	235	182	294
Conservatives	19	15	20	21	19	19	17
NDP	35	42	29	31	43	37	34
Liberals	18	22	21	19	15	17	19
Green Party	8	4	10	9	6	8	11
Bloc Quebecois	5	8	3	6	5	3	4
Don't know	15	10	17	15	12	15	15

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Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1735	528	438	485	96	81	52
Conservatives	19	59	4	2	9	0	12
NDP	35	11	24	75	18	23	17
Liberals	18	8	51	7	7	5	4
Green Party	8	4	5	6	50	2	25
Bloc Quebecois	5	2	2	2	2	53	6
Don't know	15	16	14	8	14	16	36

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Alternate Electoral System Approval

'Do you approve or disapprove of each of the following alternate electoral systems?'

Canada's current first-past-the-post system, where the party that wins the largest number of votes wins the riding, and the party that wins the largest number of ridings forms the government, whether or not a majority vote is achieved

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1735	175	188	328	494	550	775	960
Approve	43	42	43	41	43	48	47	40
Disapprove	41	45	40	44	38	32	42	39
Don't know	16	13	17	15	18	20	11	21

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС
Sample	1735	172	402	648	127	186	200
Approve	43	41	39	44	45	55	39
Disapprove	41	41	43	42	32	28	45
Don't know	16	18	18	14	23	16	16

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-40K	\$40-60K	\$60-80K	\$80-100K	\$100K+
Sample	1735	178	322	264	235	182	294
Approve	43	42	42	42	51	43	43
Disapprove	41	36	33	42	35	49	45
Don't know	16	23	25	16	14	8	12

Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1735	528	438	485	96	81	52
Approve	43	64	48	28	35	33	29
Disapprove	41	22	38	57	51	46	55
Don't know	16	14	14	16	14	21	17

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The Alternate Vote or AV system, where voters pick a first, second and third choice, and second choices are added to first choices, and so on, until a majority vote is achieved

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1735	175	188	328	494	550	775	960
Approve	37	44	37	34	34	31	42	32
Disapprove	40	40	40	38	39	41	41	39
Don't know	24	16	23	28	27	28	17	30

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС
Sample	1735	172	402	648	127	186	200
Approve	37	32	45	34	27	29	44
Disapprove	40	41	31	43	46	50	33
Don't know	24	27	24	23	26	21	23

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-40K	\$40-60K	\$60-80K	\$80-100K	\$100K+
Sample	1735	178	322	264	235	182	294
Approve	37	47	34	29	36	39	41
Disapprove	40	32	35	46	37	45	42
Don't know	24	21	31	24	27	16	17

Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1735	528	438	485	96	81	52
Approve	37	23	41	43	44	43	54
Disapprove	40	55	37	34	37	26	21
Don't know	24	21	22	23	19	31	25

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The Proportional Representation or PR system, where parties are awarded seats according to their percentage of the popular vote

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1735	175	188	328	494	550	775	960
Approve	56	59	50	56	57	57	56	56
Disapprove	24	23	27	23	22	21	30	18
Don't know	20	17	23	20	21	21	15	26

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС
Sample	1735	172	402	648	127	186	200
Approve	56	51	64	56	56	41	58
Disapprove	24	25	15	25	22	39	23
Don't know	20	24	21	19	22	20	19

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-40K	\$40-60K	\$60-80K	\$80-100K	\$100K+
Sample	1735	178	322	264	235	182	294
Approve	56	61	47	56	62	63	59
Disapprove	24	18	25	25	22	24	26
Don't know	20	21	28	19	16	12	14

Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1735	528	438	485	96	81	52
Approve	56	44	58	64	71	64	55
Disapprove	24	34	20	19	22	15	21
Don't know	20	22	22	16	7	21	24

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For more information: Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. President

Forum Research Inc. Tel: (416) 960-9603 Fax: (416) 960-9602

E-mail: lbozinoff@forumresearch.com

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