

NEWS RELEASE



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Quebeckers split on emergency strike legislation

Liberals may have lost momentum as a result

Toronto, May 18th, 2012 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among Quebeckers 18 year of age and older, there is an exact split between those who approve of the government's emergency legislation curtailing the school year and those who disapprove (45% each).

Those who approve are older (37% 18-34, 40% 35-44, 47% 45-54, 48% 55 to 64, and 58% 65+), non-Francophones (52%; compared to 44% of Francophones), current Liberal and CAQ supporters (81%, 53%) and residents of Quebec City (56%). Those who disapprove are younger (56% 18-34, 48% 35-44, 43% 45-54, 40% 55 to 64, and 31% 65+), PQ, QS and PVQ supporters (74%, 72%, and 65%) and residents of the South Shore (52%).

Fewer now support government's position on strike

In the 48 hours since we polled this issue last, support for the government's position on the tuition dispute has declined from less than half (45%) to four-in-ten (40%), while the proportion supporting the students has increased slightly (from 33% to 36%).

As expected, support for the students was significantly higher among younger Quebeckers (52% 18-34, 34% 35-44, 33% 45-54, 32% 55 to 64, and 23% 65+), while older Quebeckers were more likely to stand behind the government (25% 18-34, 41% 35-44, 46% 45-54, 41% 55 to 64, and 50% 65+). Male Quebeckers were also found to be more sympathetic of the government's position (44%; compared to 36% of females). The issue has also drawn cultural lines with Francophones being significantly more likely to support the students (37%; compared to 28% of non-Francophones). Those Quebeckers with a higher household income were significantly more likely to back the government on the increased tuition issues (23% <\$20K, 40% \$20K-\$40K, 38% \$40K-\$60K, 42% \$60K-\$80K, 45% \$80K-\$100K, and 47% \$100K+).

Most favour fines over jail time for those who disrupt classes

More than one third of Quebeckers said those who disrupt classes after the school semester recommences should be fined (37%), while about one fifth thought they should face jail time (21%). One quarter felt no penalties should be assessed (25%).

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- There is an exact split between those who approve of the government's emergency legislation curtailing the school year and those who disapprove (45% each).
- In the 48 hours since we polled this issue last, support for the government's position on the tuition dispute has declined from less than half (45%) to four-in-ten (40%), while the proportion supporting the students has increased slightly (from 33% to 36%).
- More than one third of Quebeckers said those who disrupt classes after the school semester recommences should be fined (37%), while about one fifth thought they should face jail time (21%). One quarter felt no penalties should be assessed (25%).

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Those who favour fines are older (35% 18-34, 33% 35-44, 36% 45-54, 34% 55 to 64, and 45% 65+), Liberal supporters (54%) and female (40%). Those who favour jail time are males (26%), Liberal and CAQ supporters (32% each) and residents of Quebec City (27%). Those who favour no penalties are aged 18 to 34 (36%), QS and PQ supporters (58%, 42%) and residents of the South Shore (32%)

Liberals and PQ remain tied

If a provincial election were held today, the PQ and the Liberals would split the vote with one third each (33% and 34%, respectively), with the CAQ drawing just less than a fifth (18%), the QS pulling 10% and the PVQ taking 4%.

Support for the Liberal party was significantly higher among older Quebeckers (16% 18-34, 33% 35-44, 35% 45-54, 38% 55 to 64, and 47% 65+), while younger voters are firmly behind the PQ (42% 18-34, 32% 35-44, 33% 45-54, 32% 55 to 64, and 29% 65+). Non-Francophones were significantly more likely to back the Liberal party (64%; compared to 30% of Francophones), and as expected – the PQ had significantly stronger support amongst Francophones in the province (36%; compared to 10% of non-Francophones). On a regional level the PQ saw even distribution of support with the exception of Quebec City (24%; compared to 35% Montreal, and 34% in North and South Shore).

PQ improves seat count to minority

Taking in to account margin for error, these voting intention results - if they hold on Election Day - would see the PQ take 60 seats in the 125 seat National Assembly, up from 55 two days ago. The Liberals would take 57 seats, down slightly from 60 on Wednesday. The CAQ would take 7 seats, down from 8, leaving just one seat for the QS down from 2 on Wednesday. These results will change as voting intentions change and are subject to the usual margins of error.

Marois improves favourables slightly

Party leader approval ratings have changed little (Jean Charest - 30%, unchanged; Francois Legault - 35%, unchanged), but the approval rating for opposition leader Pauline Marois has increased slightly from 33% to 35% in the past two days. Net approval for the three leaders (approve minus disapprove) are Charest -34, Marois -19, Legault -5. This represents a slight improvement for Marois (from -23).

"It would appear that announcing the emergency legislation hasn't had quite the desired effect for Premier Charest's Liberal Party, and it may be that the opposition will benefit as this decision draws people from the undecided column" said Forum Research president, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- If a provincial election were held today, the PQ and the Liberals would split the vote with one third each (33% and 34%, respectively), with the CAQ drawing just less than a fifth (18%), the QS pulling 10% and the PVQ taking 4%.
- These voting intention results - if they hold on Election Day - would see the PQ take 60 seats in the 125 seat National Assembly, up from 55 two days ago. The Liberals would take 57 seats, down slightly from 60 on Wednesday. The CAQ would take 7 seats, down from 8, leaving just one seat for the QS.
- "It would appear that announcing the emergency legislation hasn't had quite the desired effect for Premier Charest's Liberal Party, and it may be that the opposition will benefit as this decision draws people from the undecided column" 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 1319 randomly selected residents of Quebec aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted on May 17th, 2012.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 2.7%, 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.

Provincial Election Voting Preference Trending

%	Liberal	PQ	CAQ	QS	ADQ	Green	Other
May 17 th , 2012 (n=1269)	34	33	18	10	-	4	0
May 15 th , 2012 (n=2164)	35	33	19	10	-	3	0
April 24 th , 2012 (n=918)	35	35	16	8	-	6	0
April 10 th , 2012 (n=1493)	34	39	18	6	-	4	0
March 21 st , 2012 (n=1518)	29	41	19	8	-	4	0
February 23 rd , 2012 (n=1519)	30	39	19	6	-	5	0
2008 Election	42	35	-	4	16	2	0

Provincial Party Leader Approval Trending (% Approve)

%	Charest	Legault	Marois
May 17 th , 2012 (n=1269)	30	35	35
May 15 th , 2012 (n=2245)	30	35	33
April 24 th , 2012 (n=960)	29	33	38
April 10 th , 2012 (n=1565)	29	31	38
March 21 st , 2012 (n=1603)	26	32	42
February 23 rd , 2012 (n=1589)	28	31	38

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Seat Distribution

%	Liberal	PQ	CAQ	QS	ADQ	ON	ION
May 17 th , 2012	57	60	7	1	-	-	-
May 15 th , 2012	60	55	8	2	-	-	-
April 24 th , 2012	50	66	7	2	-	-	-
April 10 th , 2012	50	69	5	1	-	-	-
March 21 st , 2012	30	85	9	1	-	-	-
February 23 rd , 2012	37	77	10	1	-	-	-
Current Distribution	64	44	9	1	-	1	1
2008 Election	66	51	-	1	7	-	-

Direction of Support in the Current Tuition Fee Dispute

%	The Students	The Government	Neither	Don't know
May 17 th , 2012 (n=1319)	36	40	23	1
May 15 th , 2012 (n=2245)	33	45	20	1
April 24 th , 2012 (n=960)	36	39	22	2
April 10 th , 2012 (n=1565)	37	42	19	2
March 21 st , 2012 (n=1603)	38	38	22	2

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Provincial Election Voting Preference

'If a Quebec provincial election were held today, which party are you most likely to vote for?' + 'Even though you may not have made up your mind, which party are you leaning towards at this time?'

[Decided / Leaning]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1269	211	204	265	297	292	533	736
Liberal	34	16	33	35	38	47	35	34
PQ	33	42	32	33	32	29	31	35
CAQ	18	20	18	20	18	16	20	17
QS	10	16	11	9	9	6	10	10
Green	4	6	5	3	2	2	3	4
Other	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1269	555	173	253	288	1123	146
Liberal	34	35	37	37	29	30	64
PQ	33	35	24	34	34	36	10
CAQ	18	15	26	17	22	20	7
QS	10	11	10	9	10	10	9
Green	4	4	3	3	4	3	9
Other	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1269	177	260	231	165	114	179
Liberal	34	29	36	29	33	32	36
PQ	33	33	34	43	31	27	31
CAQ	18	12	16	17	24	23	22
QS	10	20	10	8	9	15	7
Green	4	7	4	3	3	2	3
Other	0	1	0	1	0	0	0

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Jean Charest Approval Rating as Premier

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jean Charest is doing as premier?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1319	220	216	276	308	299	547	772
Approve	30	17	27	31	35	45	32	28
Disapprove	64	78	67	62	60	47	64	64
Don't know	6	5	7	7	6	8	4	8

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1319	578	178	268	295	1163	156
Approve	30	29	38	32	24	27	48
Disapprove	64	65	56	61	70	67	41
Don't know	6	6	6	7	6	6	10

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1319	185	267	236	172	119	184
Approve	30	25	32	24	31	31	32
Disapprove	64	65	63	69	67	65	63
Don't know	6	9	6	7	2	4	4

Current Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Lib	PQ	CAQ	QS	PVQ	Other
sample	1319	402	378	221	126	59	83
Approve	30	81	2	21	5	18	16
Disapprove	64	11	97	74	94	68	68
Don't know	6	7	1	5	1	14	16

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Pauline Marois Approval Rating as Leader of the Opposition

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Pauline Marois is doing as Leader of the Opposition?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1319	220	216	276	308	299	547	772
Approve	35	42	34	33	35	28	33	37
Disapprove	54	46	51	57	56	62	58	50
Don't know	11	12	14	10	9	10	9	14

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1319	578	178	268	295	1163	156
Approve	35	35	28	34	39	38	16
Disapprove	54	53	63	56	47	51	72
Don't know	11	12	9	11	13	11	12

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1319	185	267	236	172	119	184
Approve	35	42	34	40	34	33	33
Disapprove	54	43	53	49	54	62	62
Don't know	11	15	13	11	12	5	5

Current Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Lib	PQ	CAQ	QS	PVQ	Other
sample	1319	402	378	221	126	59	83
Approve	35	7	74	23	47	24	12
Disapprove	54	85	16	67	45	54	67
Don't know	11	8	10	9	8	22	21

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Francois Legault Approval Rating as Leader of the Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ)

'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Francois Legault is doing as Leader of the Coalition Avenir Quebec or CAQ?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1319	220	216	276	308	299	547	772
Approve	35	35	30	38	31	40	39	31
Disapprove	40	39	42	40	43	38	42	38
Don't know	25	26	28	21	26	22	19	31

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1319	578	178	268	295	1163	156
Approve	35	30	43	35	39	36	24
Disapprove	40	42	40	42	35	40	44
Don't know	25	28	17	23	26	24	31

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1319	185	267	236	172	119	184
Approve	35	34	36	32	38	43	35
Disapprove	40	36	39	43	39	39	52
Don't know	25	30	25	25	24	18	14

Current Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Lib	PQ	CAQ	QS	PVQ	Other
sample	1319	402	378	221	126	59	83
Approve	35	29	28	80	19	26	23
Disapprove	40	45	49	7	62	40	35
Don't know	25	25	23	13	19	34	42

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Direction of Support in the Current Tuition Fee Dispute

'In the current tuition fee dispute, who do you support, the students or the provincial government or neither?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1319	220	216	276	308	299	547	772
Students	36	52	34	33	32	23	36	36
Government	40	25	41	46	41	50	44	36
Neither	23	22	22	20	25	26	20	26
Don't Know	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1319	578	178	268	295	1163	156
Students	36	36	26	37	42	37	28
Government	40	37	50	43	35	38	49
Neither	23	25	22	19	23	23	20
Don't Know	1	2	2	1	1	1	4

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1319	185	267	236	172	119	184
Students	36	40	37	36	38	43	35
Government	40	23	40	38	42	45	47
Neither	23	34	22	25	20	11	17
Don't Know	1	2	1	1	0	1	1

Current Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Lib	PQ	CAQ	QS	PVQ	Other
sample	1319	402	378	221	126	59	83
Students	36	6	61	27	71	49	19
Government	40	79	13	47	10	21	33
Neither	23	13	24	25	17	28	47
Don't Know	1	2	1	1	2	2	1

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Emergency Legislation Approval

‘Do you approve or disapprove of the provincial government's Emergency Legislation suspending the current school semester until August and starting a new semester in October?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1319	220	216	276	308	299	547	772
Approve	45	37	40	47	48	58	48	43
Disapprove	45	56	48	43	40	31	44	45
Don't know	10	6	12	10	12	11	8	12

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1319	578	178	268	295	1163	156
Approve	45	44	56	50	37	44	52
Disapprove	45	45	37	42	52	46	36
Don't know	10	11	7	9	11	10	11

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1319	185	267	236	172	119	184
Approve	45	38	50	43	46	42	48
Disapprove	45	43	41	47	48	52	46
Don't know	10	19	9	10	7	6	6

Current Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Lib	PQ	CAQ	QS	PVQ	Other
sample	1319	402	378	221	126	59	83
Approve	45	81	19	53	19	28	47
Disapprove	45	10	74	37	72	65	36
Don't know	10	9	7	11	9	8	17

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Disruption Penalty Opinion

'What is the most appropriate penalty for those who attempt to disrupt classes once the semester begins again in August jail time, fines, no penalties or something else?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1319	220	216	276	308	299	547	772
Jail time	21	15	24	24	21	21	26	16
Fines	37	35	33	36	34	45	33	40
No penalties	25	36	23	22	23	19	28	23
Something else	15	14	17	14	20	13	13	18
Don't know	2	1	3	3	2	1	1	3

Region / Language

%	Total	Mon	QC	N Shore	S Shore	Francophone	Non-Francophone
sample	1319	578	178	268	295	1163	156
Jail time	21	21	27	20	17	20	26
Fines	37	38	38	37	33	36	40
No penalties	25	24	20	24	32	26	20
Something else	15	15	12	17	17	16	13
Don't know	2	2	3	1	2	2	1

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20K-\$40K	\$40K-\$60K	\$60K-\$80K	\$80K-\$100K	\$100K+
sample	1319	185	267	236	172	119	184
Jail time	21	14	23	18	21	16	26
Fines	37	29	38	39	34	32	39
No penalties	25	30	25	25	27	34	23
Something else	15	23	13	17	13	18	11
Don't know	2	3	1	1	4	0	0

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Current Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Lib	PQ	CAQ	QS	PVQ	Other
sample	1319	402	378	221	126	59	83
Jail time	21	32	8	32	7	22	21
Fines	37	54	28	39	18	23	36
No penalties	25	5	42	14	58	28	15
Something else	15	8	20	13	17	22	28
Don't know	2	1	2	2	1	4	1

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