

# NEWS RELEASE



## MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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## TORONTO

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than 4-in-10 approve of the proposed Charter of Quebec Values (43%), and more than a quarter use the strongest terms (approve strongly - 28%).
- Two thirds of Canadians agree there are circumstances where an employer could restrict the wearing of religious symbols or clothing (64%), and one third agree strongly (34%).
- One half of Canadians say they wouldn't be affected if their employer restricted the wearing of religious clothing or symbols (51%).
- More than a third agreed they were uncomfortable being served in a private sector setting by someone in a turban, a hijab or a yarmulke (38%), and fully one quarter express this discomfort strongly (24%).
- More than half of Canadians agree the federal government should step in if Quebec tries to pass the proposed Charter into law (57%).

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 4-in-10 Canadians approve of Quebec charter of values

#### Similar number are uncomfortable with religious symbols

Toronto, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 –In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1319 Canadians 18 years of age and older, more than 4-in-10 approve of the proposed Charter of Quebec Values (43%), and more than a quarter use the strongest terms (approve strongly - 28%). Strong approval is especially characteristic of males (32%), Quebecers (35%) and, by extension, Francophones (34%).

#### Two thirds agree employers can restrict religious clothing and symbols

Two thirds of Canadians agree there are circumstances where an employer could restrict the wearing of religious symbols or clothing (64%), and one third agree strongly (34%).

#### Most Canadians wouldn't be affected by charter

One half of Canadians say they wouldn't be affected if their employer restricted the wearing of religious clothing or symbols (51%), but, of the rest, one in seven would refuse (14%), and one tenth would either bring legal action (10%) or comply unwillingly (11%). Very few would quit (5%).

#### More than a third are uncomfortable with religious clothing or symbols in public

More than a third agreed they were uncomfortable being served in a private sector setting by someone in a turban, a hijab or a yarmulke (38%), and fully one quarter express this discomfort strongly (24%). This is most common in the prairies and Quebec (29% each) and among the least wealthy (29%). An even larger proportion are uncomfortable with this service in a public sector setting (42%) and more than a quarter express their opinion strongly (agree strongly - 28%).

#### Majority think federal government should intervene if Charter implemented

More than half of Canadians agree the federal government should step in if Quebec tries to pass the proposed Charter into law (57%), with well more than a third agreeing strongly (37%). Agreement is strongest in Atlantic Canada (51%) and in the mid-aged group (35 to 44 - 45%). In the case of these findings, citizens born outside Canada are not markedly different, for the most part, from citizens born in Canada.

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“Opinion is strongly polarized on this issue, not surprisingly. The majority disapproves and wants the federal government to protect them from the proposed charter, but just the bare minority approves, and agrees they are uncomfortable with multiculturalism. Very few don't have a view on this controversial subject,” 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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**September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- “Opinion is strongly polarized on this issue, not surprisingly. The majority disapproves and wants the federal government to protect them from the proposed charter, but just the bare minority approves, and agrees they are uncomfortable with multiculturalism. Very few don't have a view on this controversial subject,” 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 1,319 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on September 14 and 15, 2013.

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 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](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

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**Approval of Charter**

*'Quebec has proposed a Charter of Values to promote secularism, which would prohibit public servants from wearing religious clothing and symbols. Do you approve or disapprove of this proposal?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1319	122	147	268	373	409	569	750
NET: Top2	43	41	46	44	43	42	47	39
NET: Btm2	50	47	51	50	51	51	47	52
Approve strongly	28	25	30	29	28	26	32	24
Approve	15	16	16	14	15	16	15	16
Disapprove	22	23	21	19	21	26	19	25
Disapprove strongly	27	23	30	31	29	25	28	26
Don't know	7	12	4	6	6	6	6	9

**Region/Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	Francophone	Non-Francophone
Sample	1319	130	294	458	137	135	165	297	1022
NET: Top2	43	36	52	39	41	42	42	52	40
NET: Btm2	50	60	43	53	52	42	51	40	53
Approve strongly	28	22	35	25	31	29	23	34	25
Approve	15	14	18	15	10	13	19	18	15
Disapprove	22	26	19	25	23	15	22	20	23
Disapprove strongly	27	34	23	28	29	27	28	20	30
Don't know	7	4	5	7	7	16	7	8	7

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**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	1319	150	244	195	159	127	180	25
NET: Top2	43	44	46	45	41	49	38	65
NET: Btm2	50	44	47	51	53	47	57	35
Approve strongly	28	30	29	31	25	31	21	59
Approve	15	15	17	14	17	18	17	6
Disapprove	22	29	26	22	22	17	19	11
Disapprove strongly	27	15	20	30	31	30	38	24
Don't know	7	12	7	4	5	4	5	0

**Birthplace**

%	Total	Born in Canada and Canadian citizen	Born outside Canada and Canadian citizen	Citizen	Born outside Canada and not Canadian citizen
Sample	1319	1087	206	1293	26
NET: Top2	43	43	42	43	39
NET: Btm2	50	49	52	50	49
Approve strongly	28	27	30	27	30
Approve	15	16	12	16	9
Disapprove	22	22	28	23	9
Disapprove strongly	27	28	24	27	40
Don't know	7	7	6	7	12

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**Religious Symbols on Employees**

*‘Do you agree or disagree that there are circumstances where an employer could restrict the wearing of religious symbols by employees?’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1319	122	147	268	373	409	569	750
NET: Top2	64	63	62	67	69	63	66	63
NET: Btm2	31	32	36	30	27	30	31	32
Agree strongly	34	34	37	34	38	29	37	32
Agree	30	29	26	32	31	34	30	31
Disagree	18	18	18	18	17	22	16	21
Disagree strongly	13	14	18	12	11	9	15	11
Don't know	4	6	2	3	4	7	3	5

**Region/Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	Francophone	Non-Francophone
Sample	1319	130	294	458	137	135	165	297	1022
NET: Top2	64	62	62	63	67	74	66	65	64
NET: Btm2	31	34	35	33	28	19	29	30	32
Agree strongly	34	29	33	33	40	41	36	36	34
Agree	30	33	29	30	27	33	31	30	30
Disagree	18	23	22	18	20	9	17	19	18
Disagree strongly	13	10	13	16	8	10	12	11	14
Don't know	4	4	3	4	5	8	5	5	4

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**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	1319	150	244	195	159	127	180	25
NET: Top2	64	62	63	70	63	69	70	74
NET: Btm2	31	34	33	28	34	28	30	26
Agree strongly	34	36	33	37	29	42	39	46
Agree	30	27	30	33	33	28	31	27
Disagree	18	22	22	12	18	18	15	18
Disagree strongly	13	12	10	16	16	10	15	8
Don't know	4	4	5	2	4	3	0	0

**Birthplace**

%	Total	Born in Canada and Canadian citizen	Born outside Canada and Canadian citizen	Citizen	Born outside Canada and not Canadian citizen
Sample	1319	1087	206	1293	26
NET: Top2	64	66	57	64	62
NET: Btm2	31	30	37	31	37
Agree strongly	34	35	28	34	38
Agree	30	31	29	30	25
Disagree	18	18	18	18	19
Disagree strongly	13	12	19	13	17
Don't know	4	4	6	4	1

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**Religious Clothing at Work**

*'If your employer were permitted to restrict religious clothing or symbols in the workplace, how would you respond?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1319	122	147	268	373	409	569	750
No effect	51	52	55	54	49	44	57	46
Quit your job	5	6	7	2	5	5	5	5
Comply against your will	11	11	6	10	11	16	10	11
Refuse at the risk of being fired	14	13	14	13	15	18	12	17
Take legal action	10	10	12	12	9	8	11	9
Do something else	4	5	2	3	7	2	2	5
Don't know	5	4	4	5	5	7	3	6

**Region/Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	Francophone	Non-Francophone
Sample	1319	130	294	458	137	135	165	297	1022
No effect	51	48	54	50	47	57	47	59	49
Quit your job	5	7	6	4	8	6	4	5	5
Comply against your will	11	10	12	10	11	11	10	13	10
Refuse at the risk of being fired	14	17	10	17	16	11	15	9	16
Take legal action	10	12	10	11	10	5	11	5	12
Do something else	4	4	4	3	2	3	7	5	4
Don't know	5	2	3	5	6	6	6	5	4

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**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	1319	150	244	195	159	127	180	25
No effect	51	49	43	51	47	66	58	59
Quit your job	5	10	6	7	4	0	4	14
Comply against your will	11	8	15	14	7	7	11	5
Refuse at the risk of being fired	14	16	15	12	18	12	11	10
Take legal action	10	10	10	11	12	8	11	8
Do something else	4	3	6	4	5	4	3	0
Don't know	5	4	4	2	7	2	2	4

**TORONTO**

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Birthplace**

%	Total	Born in Canada and Canadian citizen	Born outside Canada and Canadian citizen	Citizen	Born outside Canada and not Canadian citizen
Sample	1319	1087	206	1293	26
No effect	51	55	39	52	24
Quit your job	5	5	8	5	4
Comply against your will	11	11	10	11	6
Refuse at the risk of being fired	14	12	24	14	23
Take legal action	10	9	11	9	29
Do something else	4	4	4	4	0
Don't know	5	4	5	4	13

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**Religious Clothing in a Private Sector**

*‘Do you agree or disagree you feel uncomfortable when served or attended to by a private sector employee wearing a turban, a hijab or a yarmulke or other religious clothing or symbols in a retail setting like a store or restaurant?’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1319	122	147	268	373	409	569	750
NET: Top2	38	30	42	41	37	41	40	36
NET: Btm2	54	60	49	54	55	49	53	55
Agree strongly	24	19	25	28	24	24	24	23
Agree	14	11	17	13	14	17	16	12
Disagree	26	31	17	26	26	30	27	26
Disagree strongly	28	29	32	28	29	19	26	29
Don't know	8	10	9	5	8	9	7	9

**Region/Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	Francophone	Non-Francophone
Sample	1319	130	294	458	137	135	165	297	1022
NET: Top2	38	37	49	35	39	31	31	48	34
NET: Btm2	54	59	44	55	55	59	61	43	57
Agree strongly	24	22	29	23	29	22	15	29	22
Agree	14	15	20	12	10	8	16	19	13
Disagree	26	29	23	26	27	31	28	23	27
Disagree strongly	28	30	22	28	28	29	33	20	30
Don't know	8	4	7	10	5	10	8	8	8

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**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1319</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>NET: Top2</b>	38	43	39	42	34	37	32	51
<b>NET: Btm2</b>	54	49	52	45	58	60	64	46
<b>Agree strongly</b>	24	29	22	26	21	21	20	42
<b>Agree</b>	14	14	17	17	13	16	12	9
<b>Disagree</b>	26	33	27	22	28	31	25	17
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	28	16	25	23	30	28	39	29
<b>Don't know</b>	8	8	9	13	8	3	4	3

**TORONTO**

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Birthplace**

%	Total	Born in Canada and Canadian citizen	Born outside Canada and Canadian citizen	Citizen	Born outside Canada and not Canadian citizen
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1319</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1293</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>NET: Top2</b>	38	37	41	38	35
<b>NET: Btm2</b>	54	55	48	54	61
<b>Agree strongly</b>	24	24	19	23	26
<b>Agree</b>	14	13	22	14	9
<b>Disagree</b>	26	27	24	26	23
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	28	28	25	27	38
<b>Don't know</b>	8	8	10	9	4

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**Religious Clothing in Public Sector**

*‘Do you agree or disagree you feel uncomfortable when served or attended to by a government employee wearing a turban, a hijab or a yarmulke or other religious clothing or symbols in a government institution like a school or hospital?’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1319	122	147	268	373	409	569	750
NET: Top2	42	38	44	44	42	45	42	42
NET: Btm2	53	56	53	52	53	48	53	52
Agree strongly	28	28	28	32	27	25	30	27
Agree	14	9	16	12	15	20	12	15
Disagree	25	27	20	27	25	28	26	25
Disagree strongly	27	29	33	26	28	20	28	27
Don't know	5	7	3	4	6	7	5	6

**Region/Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	Francophone	Non-Francophone
Sample	1319	130	294	458	137	135	165	297	1022
NET: Top2	42	40	52	39	42	38	36	51	39
NET: Btm2	53	56	45	54	54	57	57	44	56
Agree strongly	28	24	33	27	32	29	25	32	27
Agree	14	16	19	13	10	9	11	18	12
Disagree	25	26	19	28	28	27	26	22	27
Disagree strongly	27	30	25	26	26	30	31	22	29
Don't know	5	5	3	6	4	5	7	5	5

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**Household Income**

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	1319	150	244	195	159	127	180	25
NET: Top2	42	45	42	47	38	46	37	64
NET: Btm2	53	50	53	46	59	53	58	36
Agree strongly	28	32	24	31	29	35	27	32
Agree	14	13	19	17	10	11	10	32
Disagree	25	33	29	18	32	31	19	17
Disagree strongly	27	16	24	28	27	22	39	19
Don't know	5	6	5	7	2	2	4	0

**Birthplace**

%	Total	Born in Canada and Canadian citizen	Born outside Canada and Canadian citizen	Citizen	Born outside Canada and not Canadian citizen
Sample	1319	1087	206	1293	26
NET: Top2	42	42	39	42	44
NET: Btm2	53	52	54	53	55
Agree strongly	28	29	22	28	30
Agree	14	13	18	14	13
Disagree	25	25	28	26	19
Disagree strongly	27	27	26	27	36
Don't know	5	5	6	5	2

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**Federal Government Intervening Quebec**

*‘Do you agree or disagree that the federal government should intervene if the Quebec government enacts the Charter of Quebec Values?’*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1319	122	147	268	373	409	569	750
NET: Top2	57	56	63	55	58	56	55	59
NET: Btm2	32	30	30	34	35	33	37	27
Agree strongly	37	32	45	34	38	40	38	36
Agree	20	23	18	21	20	15	17	23
Disagree	18	11	15	21	21	25	18	17
Disagree strongly	14	19	15	13	13	8	19	11
Don't know	10	14	6	11	7	11	7	13

**Region/Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	Francophone	Non-Francophone
Sample	1319	130	294	458	137	135	165	297	1022
NET: Top2	57	70	55	60	63	50	51	51	59
NET: Btm2	32	24	37	29	31	33	35	40	29
Agree strongly	37	51	37	38	44	36	27	30	40
Agree	20	19	18	22	19	14	25	21	20
Disagree	18	18	14	20	15	15	21	16	18
Disagree strongly	14	6	23	10	16	18	14	24	11
Don't know	10	6	7	11	6	17	14	9	11

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%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K	\$250K+
Sample	1319	150	244	195	159	127	180	25
NET: Top2	57	50	55	68	61	55	56	56
NET: Btm2	32	36	31	28	33	35	39	37
Agree strongly	37	26	36	42	43	37	39	32
Agree	20	24	19	26	19	18	17	24
Disagree	18	21	19	17	19	15	20	12
Disagree strongly	14	14	12	11	13	21	18	25
Don't know	10	15	15	4	6	10	6	8

**Birthplace**

%	Total	Born in Canada and Canadian citizen	Born outside Canada and Canadian citizen	Citizen	Born outside Canada and not Canadian citizen
Sample	1319	1087	206	1293	26
NET: Top2	57	56	58	56	88
NET: Btm2	32	33	32	33	2
Agree strongly	37	37	37	37	56
Agree	20	19	21	20	32
Disagree	18	18	20	18	2
Disagree strongly	14	16	12	15	0
Don't know	10	11	10	10	10

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