

# NEWS RELEASE



## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **B.C. Liberals facing uphill battle to re-gain support**

#### **New British Columbia-wide poll finds New Democrats well ahead of Liberals and Conservatives; Premier Clark's approval rating low at 29%**

Toronto, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – In a recent survey conducted by Forum Research among residents of British Columbia aged 18 years or older, it was found that if a provincial election were held today, most decided or leaning voters would back the New Democratic Party (34%), followed in a dead heat by the Liberal and Conservative parties (23% each), and the Green Party (15%). Five per cent of those polled indicated they would back another party. Support for the New Democratic party was significantly higher among voters aged 35-64 (23% 18-34, 42% 35-44, 37% 45-54, 43% 55-64, and 33% 65+), while support for the Liberal party was significantly higher among those aged 65 or older when compared to younger British Columbians (20% 18-34, 17% 35-44, 25% 45-54, 25% 55-64, and 28% 65+). It was also found that support for the Green Party was substantially higher among younger voters (30% 18-34, 13% 35-44, 8% 45-54, 7% 55-64, and 7% 65+).

#### **Most British Columbians favour negotiating national deal when Health Accord is renewed in 2014**

When it comes to the renewal of the national Health Accord in 2014, it was found that most British Columbians favour the provincial government negotiating a deal with the federal government along with other provinces to ensure a national deal is struck, as opposed to negotiating a deal alone that is best for the province (51% want the province to negotiate a national deal; 38% want a deal that is best for the province; 12% have yet to make up their mind). It was found that older British Columbians were significantly more likely to support the idea of negotiating a national deal (52% 18-34, 49% 35-44, 41% 45-54, 53% 55-64, and 57% 65+).

#### **British Columbians split on support of Northern Gateway pipeline**

The recent poll found that British Columbians were divided when it comes to supporting a Northern Gateway pipeline to carry Alberta crude oil to Kitimat, B.C., for shipment to Asia for refinement (41% support the pipeline; 46% do not; 13% of those polled did not have an opinion on the matter). Support for the pipeline was significantly higher among older British Columbians (34% 18-34, 36% 35-44, 42% 45-54, 48% 55-64, and 53% 65+), and males (54%; compared to 29% of females).

## **TORONTO**

**December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- It was found that if a provincial election were held today, most decided or leaning voters would back the New Democratic Party (34%), followed in a dead heat by the Liberal and Conservative parties (23% each), and the Green Party (15%).
- When it comes to the renewal of the national Health Accord in 2014, it was found that most British Columbians favour the provincial government negotiating a deal with the federal government along with other provinces to ensure a national deal is struck, as opposed to negotiating a deal alone that is best for the province (51% want the province to negotiate a national deal; 38% want a deal that is best for the province; 12% have yet to make up their mind).

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- When asked if British Columbians would approve of a law that would prohibit oil tanker traffic along coastal waters, it was found that four of 10 would support such a measure (40% approve, 44% disapprove, 16% did not have an opinion).
- The recent poll also found that more than one in three British Columbians (35%) think the province should keep its HST debt owed to Ottawa and proceed with cancelling the tax.
- Christy Clark is facing strong public discontent with fewer than one in three approving of her job performance as premier (29%; 45% disapprove, 27% do not have an opinion).

## **British Columbians divided on approval of a law prohibiting tanker traffic along the BC coast**

When asked if British Columbians would approve of a law that would prohibit oil tanker traffic along coastal waters, it was found that four of 10 would support such a measure (40% approve, 44% disapprove, 16% did not have an opinion). It was found that older British Columbians were significantly more likely to disapprove (44% 18-34, 41% 35-44, 40% 45-54, 53% 55-64, and 45% 65+), along with those living on Vancouver Island or the Lower Mainland when compared to those living in the Interior North (49%, 45%, compared to 34%).

## **1 of 3 British Columbians say the province should keep the \$1.6 billion HST debt owed to Ottawa and proceed with cancelling the tax**

The recent poll also found that more than one in three British Columbians (35%) think the province should keep its HST debt owed to Ottawa and proceed with cancelling the tax. Fewer than one in three think the province should keep the money and reinstate the HST (29%), fewer than one in four think the province should repay the debt and proceed with cancelling the HST (23%) and just over one in 10 have yet to form an opinion on the matter (13%). British Columbians residing in the Vancouver Lower Mainland, or Vancouver Island, were significantly more likely than those living in the Interior North to think the province should repay the debt and continue with cancelling the HST (25%, 25%, compared to 11%).

## **Fewer than 1 in 3 approve of the job Christy Clark is doing as premier**

Christy Clark is facing strong public discontent with fewer than one in three approving of her job performance as premier (29%; 45% disapprove, 27% do not have an opinion). It was found that males were significantly more likely to disapprove of the job being done by Clark (51%; compared to 38% of females).

## **Just less than 4 of 10 polled approve of the job Adrian Dix is doing as Leader of the Opposition**

Adrian Dix is faring better than the Premier when it comes to public approval ratings, with just fewer than four of 10 approving of the job he is doing as Leader of the Opposition (37%; 28% disapprove, 35% do not have an opinion). It was found that males were significantly more likely to disapprove of the job being done by Dix (37%; compared to 20% of females).

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**December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Fewer than 1 of 4 British Columbians approve of the job John Cummins is doing as leader of the British Columbia Conservative Party (23%; 32% disapprove, 45% do not have an opinion).
- “Christy Clark’s B.C. Liberals are facing a difficult uphill battle to win back the support of British Columbians,” said Forum Research president Dr. Lorne Bozinoff. “Making matters more complicated is the relative unpopularity of Premier Clark and the stronger approval ratings NDP leader Adrian Dix is currently enjoying.”

## **Less than 1 of 4 polled approve of the job John Cummins is doing as leader of the Conservative Party**

Fewer than 1 of 4 British Columbians approve of the job John Cummins is doing as leader of the British Columbia Conservative Party (23%; 32% disapprove, 45% do not have an opinion). It was found that older British Columbians were significantly more likely to approve of Cummins (21% 18-34, 17% 35-44, 22% 45-54, 27% 55-64, and 30% 65+).

“Christy Clark’s B.C. Liberals are facing a difficult uphill battle to win back the support of British Columbians,” said Forum Research president Dr. Lorne Bozinoff. “Making matters more complicated is the relative unpopularity of Premier Clark and the stronger approval ratings NDP leader Adrian Dix is currently enjoying.”

## **Methodology**

The poll was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1,045 randomly selected residents of British Columbia aged 18 or older. The poll was conducted on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Questions were asked of voters in the order reported as a standalone survey, not part of an omnibus.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3.0%, 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.

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**December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

### **Provincial Election Voting Preference**

*'If a provincial election were held today, which party would you be 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	986	100	105	172	267	342	476	510
Liberal	23	20	17	25	25	28	21	25
New Democrat	34	23	42	37	43	33	33	35
Conservative	23	23	23	22	22	28	25	21
Green	15	30	13	8	7	7	13	16
Other Parties	5	4	4	9	4	4	8	2

### **Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior North
sample	986	623	260	103
Liberal	23	24	21	20
New Democrat	34	33	39	32
Conservative	23	24	17	27
Green	15	15	18	11
Other Parties	5	4	5	10

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### **Health Accord Renewal Opinion**

*'When the national health accords are renewed in 2014, should the provincial government negotiate with the federal government along with the other provinces to ensure a national deal, or should the provincial government negotiate with the federal government alone to get the best deal for British Columbia?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1045	107	84	115	184	285	354	84
Negotiate a national deal	51	52	46	49	41	53	57	46
Negotiate the best deal for British Columbia	38	37	39	34	46	35	36	39
Don't know	12	11	15	17	13	12	6	15

### **Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior North
sample	1045	662	273	110
Negotiate a national deal	51	49	54	54
Negotiate the best deal for British Columbia	38	39	35	34
Don't know	12	12	11	11

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### **Northern Gateway Pipeline Support**

*'Do you think the provincial government should support the Northern Gateway pipeline to carry Alberta crude oil to Kitimat to be shipped by tanker to Asia to be refined, or not?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1045	107	115	184	285	354	500	545
Support pipeline	41	34	36	42	48	53	54	29
Do not support pipeline	46	48	51	42	47	39	40	51
Don't know	13	19	12	16	5	8	5	21

#### **Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior North
sample	986	662	273	110
Support pipeline	41	42	39	41
Do not support pipeline	46	44	48	51
Don't know	13	14	13	9

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### **Coastal Oil Tanker Traffic Ban Approval**

*'Would you approve or disapprove of a law prohibiting oil tanker traffic along the British Columbia coast?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1045	107	115	184	285	354	500	545
Approve	40	38	39	45	38	39	43	37
Disapprove	44	44	41	40	53	45	47	41
Don't know	16	17	19	15	9	16	10	22

#### **Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior North
sample	1045	662	273	110
Approve	40	38	39	50
Disapprove	44	45	49	34
Don't know	16	17	12	16

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**HST Debt & Cancellation Opinion**

*'What do you think the provincial government should do with the \$1.6 billion HST debt owed to Ottawa?'*

*[All Respondents]*

**Age / Gender**

% sample	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
repay the debt, continue with the cancellation of the HST	23	26	24	17	24	20	20	25
keep the money, continue with the cancellation of the HST	35	33	34	34	37	38	37	33
keep the money, reinstate the HST	29	28	24	38	27	28	33	26
Don't know	13	13	17	11	11	13	10	16

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### *Region*

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vancouver Lower Mainland</b>	<b>Vancouver Island</b>	<b>Interior North</b>
<b>sample</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>110</b>
repay the debt, continue with the cancellation of the HST	23	25	25	11
keep the money, continue with the cancellation of the HST	35	35	33	36
keep the money, reinstate the HST	29	28	31	30
Don't know	13	11	10	24

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## ***Christy Clark Approval Rating as Premier of British Columbia***

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Christy Clark is doing as premier?'*

*[All Respondents]*

### **Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1045	107	115	184	285	354	500	545
Approve	29	24	25	34	30	34	31	27
Disapprove	45	41	57	38	48	43	51	38
Don't know	27	35	19	28	22	23	18	35

### **Region**

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior North
sample	1045	662	273	110
Approve	29	30	25	26
Disapprove	45	44	47	46
Don't know	27	26	28	28

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### ***Adrian Dix Approval Rating as Leader of the Opposition***

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job Adrian Dix is doing as Leader of the Opposition?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### ***Age / Gender***

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
sample	1045	107	115	184	285	354	500	545
Approve	37	32	39	37	43	40	37	37
Disapprove	28	25	25	26	33	33	37	20
Don't know	35	43	35	37	24	27	26	43

#### ***Region***

%	Total	Vancouver Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Interior North
sample	1045	662	273	110
Approve	37	39	35	30
Disapprove	28	28	23	32
Don't know	35	32	42	37

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### ***John Cummins Approval Rating as Leader of the Conservative Party***

*'Do you approve or disapprove of the job John Cummins is doing as Leader of the Conservative Party?'*

*[All Respondents]*

#### ***Age / Gender***

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>18-34</b>	<b>35-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55-64</b>	<b>65+</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>sample</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>545</b>
<b>Approve</b>	23	21	17	22	27	30	28	18
<b>Disapprove</b>	32	35	36	29	36	25	39	26
<b>Don't know</b>	45	44	47	49	38	45	33	56

#### ***Region***

<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Vancouver Lower Mainland</b>	<b>Vancouver Island</b>	<b>Interior North</b>
<b>sample</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Approve</b>	23	25	19	19
<b>Disapprove</b>	32	31	35	35
<b>Don't know</b>	45	44	46	46

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