

NEWS RELEASE



FORUM RESEARCH INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Split in opinion on Quebec's "charter of values"

Majority support in Quebec

TORONTO, AUGUST 24, 2013 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1189 Canadians 18 years of age and older, just fewer approve of Quebec's proposed Charter of Values forbidding religious headwear and symbols from being worn by public employees in public offices (42%) than disapprove of this proposed legislation (47%), and approval is highest (and in the majority) in Quebec (58%). While 4-in-10 support this legislation in Ontario (40%), nowhere else in Canada does it receive as much support as this. Conservative supporters are more likely to favour this proposal (49%) than either Liberals (32%) or New Democrats (39%). Interestingly, support does not vary by ethnic background with similar proportions of those who claim to be Canadian (42%), from the British Isles (43%), from elsewhere in Europe (40%) and from elsewhere (42%).

Little support for applying Charter of Values to public at large

When it comes to forbidding citizens from wearing minority religious head wear and symbols when applying for government services, support is much lower (32%), although it approaches half in Quebec (48%). The majority disapprove of this application of the proposed law (57%), and disapproval is especially high among the youngest (67%), the wealthiest (65%), in Atlantic Canada (71%) and BC (73%) and among Liberals (67%) and New Democrats (65%).

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TORONTO

August 24th, 2013

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Just fewer approve of Quebec's proposed Charter of Values forbidding religious headwear and symbols from being worn by public employees in public offices (42%) than disapprove of this proposed legislation (47%), and approval is highest (and in the majority) in Quebec (58%).
- Conservative supporters are more likely to favour this proposal (49%) than either Liberals (32%) or New Democrats (39%).
- When it comes to forbidding citizens from wearing minority religious head wear and symbols when applying for government services, support is much lower (32%), although it approaches half in Quebec (48%).

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"If you define a nation by social cohesiveness, then Quebec is a true nation. They resemble the Swiss in their eagerness to protect their, forgive the term, historic social monoculture. Canadians at large, used to years of immigration, don't understand this, but Quebec is always in mortal fear for its soul," 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 or at (416) 960-9603.

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- "If you define a nation by social cohesiveness, then Quebec is a true nation. They resemble the Swiss in their eagerness to protect their, forgive the term, historic social monoculture. Canadians at large, used to years of immigration, don't understand this, but Quebec is always in mortal fear for its soul," 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 1,189 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on August 23rd, 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

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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Quebec Legislation – Government Employees

‘The Quebec provincial government is considering legislation outlawing religious clothing and symbols such as hijabs, turbans and skullcaps from being worn by public employees in schools, hospitals and other government buildings in Quebec. Do you approve or disapprove of this?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1189	104	138	222	325	400	562	627
Approve	42	38	47	41	44	44	49	36
Disapprove	47	53	47	45	46	42	42	52
Don't know	11	9	6	14	10	14	9	12

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC
Sample	1189	132	237	388	116	132	184
Approve	42	30	58	40	35	39	35
Disapprove	47	56	33	51	51	47	55
Don't know	11	14	10	9	14	14	10

Household Income

%	Total	<S20K	S20-40K	S40-60K	S60-80K	S80-100K	S100-250K	S250K+
Sample	1189	111	208	194	155	111	187	30
Approve	42	47	44	39	40	46	36	56
Disapprove	47	39	42	47	55	45	54	43
Don't know	11	14	14	14	5	9	9	1

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Current Federal Party Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1189	338	396	249	71	48	43
Approve	42	49	32	39	39	77	50
Disapprove	47	42	57	51	53	16	39
Don't know	11	10	11	10	8	7	11

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Highest Level of Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1189	223	359	409	198
Approve	42	49	42	41	40
Disapprove	47	37	48	49	52
Don't know	11	15	10	10	9

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Other	None
Sample	1189	873	333	47	400	93	79	237
Approve	42	45	41	61	49	33	31	40
Disapprove	47	43	50	27	39	52	66	50
Don't know	11	12	9	13	13	15	3	11

Ethnicity

%	Total	Canadian	British, Scots, Irish or Welsh	Other European	Other
Sample	1189	197	616	150	226
Approve	42	44	43	40	42
Disapprove	47	42	48	49	49
Don't know	11	15	10	11	9

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Quebec Legislation – Members of the Public

'In addition, the Quebec provincial government is considering legislation outlawing religious clothing and symbols such as hijabs, turbans and skullcaps from being worn by the public seeking government services such as hospital treatment in government buildings in Quebec. Do you approve or disapprove of this?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1189	104	138	222	325	400	562	627
Approve	34	30	36	31	37	37	37	31
Disapprove	57	67	57	58	53	46	55	59
Don't know	9	3	7	11	10	17	8	10

Region

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC
Sample	1189	132	237	388	116	132	184
Approve	34	22	48	33	31	35	18
Disapprove	57	71	41	59	58	56	73
Don't know	9	6	12	8	11	9	9

Household Income

%	Total	<S20K	S20-40K	S40-60K	S60-80K	S80-100K	S100-250K	S250K+
Sample	1189	111	208	194	155	111	187	30
Approve	34	32	33	34	32	37	29	34
Disapprove	57	60	56	54	62	55	65	64
Don't know	9	9	11	11	6	8	6	3

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Sample	1189	338	396	249	71	48	43
Approve	34	43	25	28	21	72	37
Disapprove	57	47	67	65	72	16	57
Don't know	9	10	8	8	7	12	6

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Highest Level of Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1189	223	359	409	198
Approve	34	45	35	32	26
Disapprove	57	43	56	60	65
Don't know	9	12	9	8	9

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Other	None
Sample	1189	873	333	47	400	93	79	237
Approve	34	41	36	51	45	33	20	20
Disapprove	57	49	56	35	44	59	77	72
Don't know	9	10	9	14	11	8	3	8

Ethnicity

%	Total	Canadian	British, Scots, Irish or Welsh	Other European	Other
Sample	1189	197	616	150	226
Approve	34	34	34	33	35
Disapprove	57	55	57	58	59
Don't know	9	11	10	9	7

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