

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Just one quarter finds niqab 'offensive'

Majority opposes allowing niqab during citizenship ceremonies

TORONTO, March 12th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 454 Toronto voters, just more than a quarter of voters agree the niqab is offensive to Canadians (28%) or that it is offensive to themselves (25%). This increases to one half among federal Conservatives (offensive to Canadians - 50%, to themselves - 41%) and two thirds among those who dislike Muslims (63% and 58%, respectively).

Majority opposes niqab in citizenship ceremonies

Just more than half of Toronto voters oppose allowing women to wear the niqab during citizenship ceremonies (57%), while one quarter favour the idea (27%). Virtually all federal Conservative voters oppose the niqab (85%), as do those who dislike Muslims (86%) and those who voted for Doug Ford in the last mayoral election (77%).

One fifth dislike Muslims, twice that among Conservatives

Close to one fifth have negative feelings about Muslim people (18%), and this compares to one tenth who have negative feelings about black people and South Asian people (10% each), Jews and Asians (7% each), and white people (4%). Dislike of Muslims is twice as high among federal Conservative voters (36%) and those who voted for Doug Ford in the last mayoral election (33%).

TORONTO

March 12th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Just more than a quarter of voters agree the niqab is offensive to Canadians (28%) or that it is offensive to themselves (25%).
- Just more than half of Toronto voters oppose allowing women to wear the niqab during citizenship ceremonies (57%), while one quarter favour the idea (27%).
- Close to one fifth have negative feelings about Muslim people (18%).

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Close to half finds niqab oppresses women

Close to one half of Toronto voters agree the niqab oppresses women (46%), while one quarter find it does not (25%). Three-in-ten have no opinion (30%). Males (45%) and females (46%) are equally likely to agree, while two thirds of federal Conservatives (66%) and three quarters of those who dislike Muslims (74%) agree as well.

"Toronto, a community of nationalities, is a good lens to look at the niqab issue through; it is clear the Liberals and Conservatives have staked out very identifiable positions which are aligned with the sentiments of their respective bases. Throughout this poll, we find the Conservatives pitted against the niqab, while the Liberals express more tolerance. These partisan differences outweigh almost every other demographic factor including gender, age and ethnic background," 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.

TORONTO

March 12th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Close to one half of Toronto voters agree the niqab oppresses women (46%), while one quarter find it does not (25%).
- "Toronto, a community of nationalities, is a good lens to look at the niqab issue through; it is clear the Liberals and Conservatives have staked out very identifiable positions which are aligned with the sentiments of their respective bases. Throughout this poll, we find the Conservatives pitted against the niqab, while the Liberals express more tolerance. These partisan differences outweigh almost every other demographic factor including gender, age and ethnic background," 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 454 randomly selected voters in Toronto, Ontario. The poll was conducted on March 11th, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 5%, 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 by age, region, and other variables 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. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

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

Feelings about ethnicity – summary table

%	Positive feelings	Negative feelings	Neither positive nor negative feelings	Don't know
Muslim	45	18	33	4
Jewish	59	7	31	3
Asian	59	7	31	2
Black	58	10	30	3
White	63	4	31	2
South Asian	59	10	29	2

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Niqab is offensive to Canadians

'Do you agree or disagree the niqab is offensive to Canadians?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	454	103	64	98	99	90	222	232
Agree	28	20	20	38	37	39	31	26
Disagree	48	59	49	40	44	38	44	52
Don't know	24	21	31	23	19	24	25	23

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Catholic	Evangelical Christian	other Christian	other religion	no religion
Sample	454	95	101	18	36	76	128
Agree	28	37	34	30	20	25	24
Disagree	48	45	44	24	47	46	57
Don't know	24	18	22	46	33	30	19

Ethnic Background

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Muslim or Middle Eastern	African or Caribbean	Other
Sample	454	211	44	65	29	31	11	32	31
Agree	28	28	36	33	24	27	11	28	28
Disagree	48	53	52	39	36	38	62	40	52
Don't know	24	19	12	29	41	35	27	32	21

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	454	118	147	69	11	2	12
Agree	28	50	26	22	41	0	45
Disagree	48	33	49	62	25	47	48
Don't know	24	17	25	16	34	53	7

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Niqab is offensive to respondent

'Is the niqab offensive to you or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	454	103	64	98	99	90	222	232
Offensive to you	25	16	27	27	29	31	26	23
Not offensive to you	56	65	53	56	54	44	54	58
Don't know	19	18	20	17	17	25	20	19

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Catholic	Evangelical Christian	other Christian	other religion	no religion
Sample	454	95	101	18	36	76	128
Offensive to you	25	25	26	15	16	25	27
Not offensive to you	56	51	62	33	54	54	60
Don't know	19	24	12	53	31	21	13

Ethnic Background

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Muslim or Middle Eastern	African or Caribbean	Other
Sample	454	211	44	65	29	31	11	32	31
Offensive to you	25	29	31	32	4	20	11	11	25
Not offensive to you	56	58	54	47	55	56	61	64	52
Don't know	19	13	15	21	40	25	28	25	24

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	454	118	147	69	11	2	12
Offensive to you	25	41	24	24	26	53	32
Not offensive to you	56	39	60	66	52	47	49
Don't know	19	21	16	10	22	0	19

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Niqab during citizenship ceremonies

‘Do you favour or oppose allowing women to wear the niqab, which covers the face, during citizenship ceremonies?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	454	103	64	98	99	90	222	232
Favour	27	39	28	20	17	19	21	32
Oppose	57	46	48	62	71	74	60	55
Don't know	16	15	23	17	13	7	19	13

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Catholic	Evangelical Christian	other Christian	other religion	no religion
Sample	454	95	101	18	36	76	128
Favour	27	19	30	8	28	29	31
Oppose	57	64	60	77	66	55	47
Don't know	16	17	10	15	6	16	22

Ethnic Background

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Muslim or Middle Eastern	African or Caribbean	Other
Sample	454	211	44	65	29	31	11	32	31
Favour	27	26	29	12	37	39	38	24	32
Oppose	57	58	63	73	44	43	48	61	47
Don't know	16	16	8	15	19	17	14	15	21

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	454	118	147	69	11	2	12
Favour	27	8	30	36	29	0	18
Oppose	57	85	58	41	41	100	72
Don't know	16	7	12	23	30	0	10

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Feelings about Muslim people

'Do you have positive or negative feelings about Muslim people?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	454	103	64	98	99	90	222	232
Positive feelings	45	43	51	36	49	47	39	50
Negative feelings	18	16	17	27	21	13	24	13
Neither positive nor negative feelings	33	38	29	33	29	32	34	32
Don't know	4	4	3	4	2	7	4	4

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Catholic	Evangelical Christian	other Christian	other religion	no religion
Sample	454	95	101	18	36	76	128
Positive feelings	45	53	49	14	33	49	41
Negative feelings	18	17	14	32	19	17	22
Neither positive nor negative feelings	33	26	35	40	38	30	35
Don't know	4	4	3	14	10	4	2

Ethnic Background

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Muslim or Middle Eastern	African or Caribbean	Other
Sample	454	211	44	65	29	31	11	32	31
Positive feelings	45	50	46	28	33	53	50	49	37
Negative feelings	18	17	11	23	25	17	10	18	23
Neither positive nor negative feelings	33	30	38	45	32	30	20	27	36
Don't know	4	2	5	4	10	0	20	6	4

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	454	118	147	69	11	2	12
Positive feelings	45	26	58	51	28	100	31
Negative feelings	18	36	12	15	26	0	34
Neither positive nor negative feelings	33	35	26	30	37	0	28
Don't know	4	3	4	4	8	0	7

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Feelings about Jewish people

'Do you have positive or negative feelings about Jewish people?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	454	103	64	98	99	90	222	232
Positive feelings	59	51	55	61	70	67	56	61
Negative feelings	7	13	8	4	1	5	7	8
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	31	34	33	29	26	33	29
Don't know	3	4	3	2	0	3	3	2

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Catholic	Evangelical Christian	other Christian	other religion	no religion
Sample	454	95	101	18	36	76	128
Positive feelings	59	70	61	34	46	57	58
Negative feelings	7	7	4	6	8	10	8
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	21	34	49	37	27	33
Don't know	3	3	1	10	8	6	0

Ethnic Background

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Muslim or Middle Eastern	African or Caribbean	Other
Sample	454	211	44	65	29	31	11	32	31
Positive feelings	59	66	58	52	61	59	11	48	60
Negative feelings	7	5	10	5	5	14	11	12	9
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	28	32	39	25	23	60	37	27
Don't know	3	1	0	4	9	3	18	3	4

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	454	118	147	69	11	2	12
Positive feelings	59	62	63	61	57	53	49
Negative feelings	7	8	7	6	10	0	0
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	28	29	33	33	47	51
Don't know	3	3	2	0	0	0	0

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Feelings about Asian people

'Do you have positive or negative feelings about Asian people?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	454	103	64	98	99	90	222	232
Positive feelings	59	56	60	58	62	63	55	63
Negative feelings	7	15	3	6	4	4	8	7
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	28	34	34	30	32	35	27
Don't know	2	2	3	2	3	1	2	3

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Catholic	Evangelical Christian	other Christian	other religion	no religion
Sample	454	95	101	18	36	76	128
Positive feelings	59	63	61	41	60	57	59
Negative feelings	7	11	4	6	4	9	7
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	25	33	52	28	29	34
Don't know	2	1	1	0	8	5	0

Ethnic Background

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Muslim or Middle Eastern	African or Caribbean	Other
Sample	454	211	44	65	29	31	11	32	31
Positive feelings	59	62	51	51	71	53	49	62	60
Negative feelings	7	6	11	8	7	16	0	3	7
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	31	38	38	18	27	41	32	29
Don't know	2	1	0	2	4	4	11	3	4

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	454	118	147	69	11	2	12
Positive feelings	59	50	69	58	47	53	57
Negative feelings	7	12	4	3	15	0	0
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	36	26	37	38	47	43
Don't know	2	2	1	2	0	0	0

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Feelings about Black people

'Do you have positive or negative feelings about Black people?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	454	103	64	98	99	90	222	232
Positive feelings	58	54	58	59	59	62	48	67
Negative feelings	10	11	12	10	9	5	14	6
Neither positive nor negative feelings	30	30	28	29	31	30	34	25
Don't know	3	4	2	2	1	4	4	2

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Catholic	Evangelical Christian	other Christian	other religion	no religion
Sample	454	95	101	18	36	76	128
Positive feelings	58	67	54	39	68	46	61
Negative feelings	10	5	11	16	2	19	8
Neither positive nor negative feelings	30	24	33	45	24	31	30
Don't know	3	4	2	0	6	3	1

Ethnic Background

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Muslim or Middle Eastern	African or Caribbean	Other
Sample	454	211	44	65	29	31	11	32	31
Positive feelings	58	67	61	43	45	41	31	79	51
Negative feelings	10	6	13	12	19	16	20	0	14
Neither positive nor negative feelings	30	26	24	42	30	36	41	21	31
Don't know	3	1	2	3	5	7	8	0	4

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	454	118	147	69	11	2	12
Positive feelings	58	53	65	63	37	100	57
Negative feelings	10	16	7	3	18	0	0
Neither positive nor negative feelings	30	29	26	32	36	0	43
Don't know	3	2	2	2	10	0	0

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Feelings about White people

'Do you have positive or negative feelings about White people?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	454	103	64	98	99	90	222	232
Positive feelings	63	59	64	58	67	72	58	68
Negative feelings	4	10	3	2	0	1	5	3
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	28	31	38	32	25	34	28
Don't know	2	3	2	2	1	1	3	1

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Catholic	Evangelical Christian	other Christian	other religion	no religion
Sample	454	95	101	18	36	76	128
Positive feelings	63	65	62	55	61	70	61
Negative feelings	4	4	6	4	7	0	5
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	27	32	41	27	30	32
Don't know	2	4	1	0	6	0	2

Ethnic Background

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Muslim or Middle Eastern	African or Caribbean	Other
Sample	454	211	44	65	29	31	11	32	31
Positive feelings	63	71	59	61	53	52	62	60	55
Negative feelings	4	3	4	3	0	11	0	0	15
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	26	32	35	39	37	30	40	26
Don't know	2	0	4	1	9	0	8	0	4

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%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	454	118	147	69	11	2	12
Positive feelings	63	63	70	60	71	53	57
Negative feelings	4	4	2	3	0	0	0
Neither positive nor negative feelings	31	32	26	35	29	47	43
Don't know	2	1	2	2	0	0	0

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Feelings about South Asian people

'Do you have positive or negative feelings about South Asian people?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	454	103	64	98	99	90	222	232
Positive feelings	59	59	64	54	57	59	53	65
Negative feelings	10	12	6	14	9	6	11	9
Neither positive nor negative feelings	29	25	28	30	32	32	35	23
Don't know	2	3	2	2	1	3	2	3

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Catholic	Evangelical Christian	other Christian	other religion	no religion
Sample	454	95	101	18	36	76	128
Positive feelings	59	61	54	35	58	65	61
Negative feelings	10	11	13	20	7	10	7
Neither positive nor negative feelings	29	26	32	45	25	23	30
Don't know	2	3	1	0	10	1	2

Ethnic Background

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Muslim or Middle Eastern	African or Caribbean	Other
Sample	454	211	44	65	29	31	11	32	31
Positive feelings	59	62	59	43	55	56	70	67	63
Negative feelings	10	10	8	11	18	13	0	5	11
Neither positive nor negative feelings	29	26	33	45	22	29	30	24	22
Don't know	2	2	0	1	5	2	0	5	4

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Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	454	118	147	69	11	2	12
Positive feelings	59	54	67	66	37	53	37
Negative feelings	10	15	6	6	25	0	0
Neither positive nor negative feelings	29	29	24	27	38	47	63
Don't know	2	3	2	0	0	0	0

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Niqab oppresses women

'Do you agree or disagree the niqab oppresses women?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	454	103	64	98	99	90	222	232
Agree	46	42	38	46	55	55	45	46
Disagree	25	32	26	22	18	18	24	26
Don't know	30	26	36	32	27	27	32	28

Religion

%	Total	Protestant Christian	Catholic	Evangelical Christian	other Christian	other religion	no religion
Sample	454	95	101	18	36	76	128
Agree	46	50	49	33	48	29	52
Disagree	25	20	24	27	14	38	23
Don't know	30	31	27	39	38	34	24

Ethnic Background

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Muslim or Middle Eastern	African or Caribbean	Other
Sample	454	211	44	65	29	31	11	32	31
Agree	46	53	49	48	34	29	25	44	35
Disagree	25	26	23	14	14	37	26	25	34
Don't know	30	20	28	38	53	35	49	31	31

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Bloc Quebecois	Other Parties
Sample	454	118	147	69	11	2	12
Agree	46	66	38	49	41	0	72
Disagree	25	12	32	28	41	0	28
Don't know	30	22	30	24	18	100	0

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