

Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders Approval Rating Drops

Two Thirds (66%) of Torontonians Say Top Cop Doing a Good Job Compared to More (69%) One year Ago

Approval rating drop against backdrop of a rash of gun violence where Toronto residents point to gangs (76%) drugs and drug trafficking (61%) and illegal guns smuggled in from the United States (49%) as top contributing factors

October 22, 2018 – A new **Toronto Sun/National Post** poll conducted by **DART** Insight finds that two thirds (66%) of Torontonians believe that Police Chief Mark Saunders is doing a good job, down (-3) from 69% last year at this time.

This lower approval rating comes against a backdrop of a rash of gun violence in the city where Toronto residents point to gangs (76%) drugs and drug trafficking (61%) and illegal guns smuggled in from the United States (49%) as the top factors they believe are contributing to the situation. Notably, by comparison, there is relatively little belief that the gun violence is being contributed to by refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants or the theft of legally owned handguns.

These are some of the findings of a Toronto Sun/National Post DART Insight poll. The survey was conducted among a randomly selected group of 669 Toronto adults who are members of the National Maru/Blue Online panel between October 12-15, 2018. The results have been weighted to the latest census data for the city of Toronto. The precision of this DART Insight Online poll is measured using a Bayesian Credibility Interval. In this case, a weighted sample size of 669 is accurate to +/- 4.3% 19 times out of 20, had all Toronto adults been polled. What follows, is an analysis of the findings. The description of the methodology at the end of the analysis has links to download all of the materials used for this survey – including the questions asked and the detailed tables.

Police Chief Approval Rating Down (-3) Since Last Year...

Two thirds (66%--very much 15%/somewhat 51%) agree that Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders is doing a good job down (-3) from 69% at the same time last year. This is on par with the 65% approval

rating that former Police Chief Julian Fantino had at this stage in his tenure but is contrasted with Police Chief Bill Blair who had an approval rating of 88% at roughly the same time.

Gun Violence in Toronto: it's about Gangs, Drugs, and Illegal Guns from the US...

Different community, academic, and political groups point to a number of different community conditions as things they believe are responsible for causing the recent rash of gun violence in the city of Toronto. Torontonians chose four potential factors (randomized) that they most likely believe are most likely contributing the most to gun violence with gangs, drugs and illegal guns from the United States leading the way:

- Gangs - 76%
- Drugs and drug trafficking - 61%
- Illegal guns smuggled in from the United States - 49%
- Poverty - 43%
- A lack of adequate funding for recreational facilities and youth programs - 32%
- Lack of police presence in specific neighbourhoods - 23%
- Lack of adequate affordable housing - 16%
- Specific immigrants from places like the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and South Asia - 13%
- Refugees/asylum seekers - 12%
- Legal handguns people may keep in their homes for competitive shooting that are stolen - 12%
- Immigrants, generally and not a specific group - 10%

Notably, despite some raising concerns during the Toronto mayoralty race, Torontonians hardly attribute the recent rash of gun violence in the city to refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants or stolen legal hand guns.

Two Thirds Take Hard Line on Community Housing Violent Crime, Drug Dealing Convicts...

Two thirds of Torontonians (64% very much 30%/somewhat 34%) believe that regardless of impact, they and potentially their family members should be immediately evicted from tax payer funded community housing if convicted of violent crime or dealing unlawful drugs. One third (36%--somewhat 25%/very much 9%) disagree with this perspective.

Despite Rash of Gun Violence, Majority (72%) Feel Safe Walking After Dark in Own Neighbourhood...

Despite an escalation in gun violence in the city over the past year, almost three quarters (72%--very much 30%/somewhat 42%) of Torontonians feel safe walking alone in their own neighbourhood after dark compared with 28% (somewhat 19%/very much 9%) who disagree. By contrast, the feeling of safety is lower than the feeling expressed in 2003 (78%) but higher than 1992 (68%) and 2005 (64%).

*These are some of the findings of a Toronto Sun/National Post poll created and analyzed exclusively by **DART Insight** under the direction of veteran pollster John Wright, CEO of **DART Insight**, a division of **DART Insight and Communications Inc.** The data was collected in partnership with Canada's national survey sample research provider **Maru/Blue** that curates a vast Online Panel and provides data collection services. All questions herein were placed carefully on the questionnaire and then randomized to ensure that there was no inter-item contamination.*

Visit <http://www.dartincom.ca/polls/> for the written release and detailed tables.

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About **DART** Insight and **Maru/Blue**...

DART Insight is the market and public affairs opinion research services division of Canadian based consultancy **DART Insight and Communications Inc.** The other half of the company is **DART Communications** and provides communications strategy and execution, media training, event deployment and corporate services. The company serves clients in private, public, association and not-for-profit organizations, is independent, and is not tied to any political organization. Founded by veteran pollster and commentator **John Wright (CEO DART Insight)** and communications specialist **Victoria Ollers (CEO DART Communications)**, the company is comprised of highly experienced, recognized and awarded senior practitioners in many related disciplines who have gathered together under one banner to serve clients in North America and beyond.

Public releases of polling results, including detailed tables (weighted/unweighted), questions used and analysis, are provided freely at <http://www.dartincom.ca/polls/>

DART Insight and Communications is a member in good standing with the Marketing Intelligence and Research Association (MIRA) of Canada. Accuracy of any Online polling results are measured using a Bayesian Credibility Interval which is endorsed by MIRA and the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR).

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