

Vast Majority (77%) want Independent Third Party to Resolve Ontario Government/Teachers Union Dispute

For Public Release December 8, 2019

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A DART & Maru/Blue

Voice Canada Poll

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December 8, 2019 – A **DART** & **Maru/Blue** Voice Canada Poll finds that after having watched from the sidelines and now experienced a one day walk off the job protest from its secondary school teachers, the Ontario public has one clear message to both parties involved: whatever the dispute is about, have it resolved by appointing an “independent third-party” to determine a solution like the CUPE negotiations earlier this year (77%).

So, what's this dispute all about?

Two thirds (62%) of Ontarians believe *this particular dispute* is about the government's imposed expanded class sizes and mandatory student online credits – not because of a disagreement over an increase in teacher compensation (38%). Despite that, half (52%) believe the only reason teachers *are going on strike* is to protect their jobs and advance their wages, using students as pawns to get their way. In short, playing the strike card makes the union more vulnerable to perception that this is more about themselves than the students they've put out of school for their protest.

Who is to blame, which side has support...

Most (38%) blame the Ontario government for the current situation versus the teacher's unions (27%), while one in five blame both (21%) and a small portion (14%) blame neither of the parties.

And this appears underpinned by the public sentiment of which side deserves support “for whatever they are trying to do”: the teacher's unions (37%) garner the most support compared to the government (23%) – while one third (35%) support neither of the parties, and a fraction (6%) express support for both.

A smallish strike, but nothing more...

Having had a taste of a one day strike (and with another on the near horizon), half (51%) of Ontarians indicate they're prepared to lend their support to the teachers to protest the Ford government via a strike *for a week* – but this is equally opposed (49%).

Beyond that, there is a clear line in the snow: if either the elementary or secondary school teachers go out on a *full-blown strike*, two thirds (62%) believe the government should move quickly to rule them back to work (62%).

Weary of teacher union strike actions, but not enough to ban such...

To say the least, a majority of the public is weary from a well trod road: two thirds (64%) agree with the sentiment that they're "sick and tired of every few years the teacher's unions going on strike and disrupting so many lives."

But, however queasy they may get about these strike disruptions, a majority (59%) don't believe the Ontario government should permanently ban the right of teachers to strike, compared to a minority (41%) who believe otherwise.

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Methodology

*These are some of the topline findings of a **DART & Maru/Blue Voice Canada** conducted for Sun Publishing/Postmedia created and analyzed under the direction of veteran pollster John Wright, who is a Partner of **DART C-Suite Communicators**. Data was collected by Canada's national survey sample research provider **Maru/Blue** using their **Voice Canada** Omni Online curated panel.*

*The survey was conducted among 593 randomly selected Ontario adults who are members of **Maru/Blue's** Online panel on December 4, 2019. The results have been weighted by education, age, gender, and region to match the population, according to Census data. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The precision of this **DART & Maru/Blue Voice Canada Poll** is measured using a Bayesian Credibility Interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 4.6 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Ontario adults been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population and individual provinces.*

Visit <http://www.dartincom.ca/polls/> for the written release and detailed tables.
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About **DART** & Maru/Blue

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DART C-Suite Communicators is independent and not tied to any political organization.

It is a partnership founded by **veteran pollster John Wright** and **communications specialist Victoria Ollers**.

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