CANADA PULSE INSIGHTS

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Premier Doug Ford's Job Assessment Split in City of Toronto as Proposals Stir Sharp Divisions, Higher Support in GTA

Despite a spate of interventions and proposals that have sparked widespread debate and pushback among municipal leaders and advocacy groups, almost half of Toronto residents (47 percent) say Premier Doug Ford is doing a good job, while 53 percent disagree. In the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) outside the city, sentiment is even more positive, with 57 percent approving and 43 percent disapproving.

However, when residents were asked whether the Premier deserves reelection, only 37 percent of Toronto residents said yes, compared with 49 percent in the GTA. Conversely, a majority in Toronto (63 percent) and about half in the GTA (51 percent) say it's time for change. With the next regularly scheduled provincial election not until June 7, 2029, there are still many innings to play—and even a new Ontario Liberal leader to be chosen—before that reelection sentiment can be fully tested.

Toronto-Specific Policy Proposals Stir Sharp Debate

Regardless of the long game being played for reelection, Doug Ford's shorter term agenda for the city of Toronto has stirred sharp debate and opinions on several contentious provincial ideas.

Speed Cameras:

The provincial government's stated intent to ban automated speed enforcement cameras has ignited strong pushbacks from city leaders and safety advocates.

While almost half (46 percent) of Torontonians support Ford's argument that automated speed enforcement cameras are simply revenue generators for city coffers and other means should be found for slowing drivers down, the remaining majority (54 percent) disagree.

And while almost half find some alignment with the Premier's cash grab sentiment, two thirds (64%) of residents reject banning the cameras outright across the city — including in school zones— compared to the remainder (36%) who believe they should be completely dispensed with.

Bike Lanes

While the Ford government awaits the appeal of a judge's ruling that halted the unilateral removal of bike lanes by the province, the poll finds Toronto city

residents are evenly divided on their own verdict of stripping bike lanes from major arteries such as University Avenue (50 percent agree, 50 percent disagree).

Ontario Place Redevelopment

Ford's plan to redevelop Ontario Place into a commercial spa and waterpark—incorporating what remains of the former Ontario Science Centre—draws more opposition than support: forty-one percent agree with the project while 59 percent disagree.

School Trustees

The proposal to eliminate elected school trustees in favour of provincial control also divides opinion (51 percent agree while 49 percent disagree).

Little Referendum Appetite for Ontario Sovereignty

And finally, when presented with a referendum-style question—identical to that being proposed in the province of Alberta by the citizen group Alberta Prosperity Project (APP)
— on whether Ontario should either remain in Canada or become a sovereign country, overwhelming majorities rejected separation outright. Ninety-four percent of Toronto residents and 92 percent across the GTA say the province should remain part of Canada, reaffirming a broad consensus on national unity.

About the Survey

This public opinion poll was undertaken for Rogers CityNews by Canada Pulse Insights. The online survey was administered by the sample and data collection experts at Sago from September 30 to October 6, 2025, among adult (aged 18+) residents of Toronto (n=406) and throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA n=403). The data has been weighted to represent the adult population based on the most recent census. For comparison purposes, probability samples of this size for both the city of Toronto and the GTA each have a margin of error of ±4.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Canada Pulse Insights is an independent, Canadian owned public opinion research firm led by veteran pollster John Wright. The company adheres to the Canadian Research and Insights Council (CRIC) public opinion research standards and disclosure requirements. Sago, formerly the Schlesinger Group, is CRIC accredited and brings more than 55 years of experience in both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

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