

# SUMMARY

## OFL POLL RESULTS ON PAID SICK DAYS

The following list summarizes the results of a poll conducted by [Environics Research](#), which included questions about Paid Sick Days in Ontario:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Businesses have a responsibility to provide paid sick days to their employees to ensure workers are not faced with the choice of working while sick or losing pay.”

- Strongly agree 58%
- Somewhat agree 27%
- Somewhat disagree 5%
- Strongly disagree 3%
- Not sure 6%

Many jurisdictions around the world require employers to cover paid sick leave. New Zealand, for example, offers 10 paid sick days, Germany offers six weeks, while Washington State offers 6.5 days and Quebec offers 2 days. The Ontario Federation of Labour and other decent work and public health advocates are calling for at least 10 days of permanent sick leave paid for by employers in Ontario. All things considered, to what extent do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

- Strongly agree 47%
- Somewhat agree 32%
- Somewhat disagree 9%
- Strongly disagree 5%
- Not sure 7%

All things considered, do you think the Ontario Federation of Labour proposal to offer 10 days of sick leave paid for by employers in Ontario has too few days, is about right, or has too many days?

- Too few days 15%
- About right 62%
- Too many days 23%

Low wage workers, many of them in part-time, precarious work, have the least access to paid sick leave and are more likely to go to work when they have symptoms because they can't afford to lose pay. Some businesses argue they can't pay sick leave for workers who aren't full-time as this adds too much to their costs. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?

- Ontario's sick leave program **should** cover part-time and casual workers. 77%
- Ontario's sick leave program **should not** cover part-time and casual workers, and only cover full-time workers. 23%

The poll was conducted by Environics Research from November 17 to 29, 2021 via a non-probability online panel and commissioned by the Ontario Federation of Labour. The research represented the population of eligible voters in Ontario with a sample size of 1,210 respondents weighted to reflect the 2016 census by age, gender, and region.

### For more information, please contact:

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