

Majority (56%) of Ontarians Believe Harmonized Sales Tax Applies to Resale Home

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Toronto, ON - The introduction of the Harmonized Sales Tax has been widely unpopular throughout the province and has affected the cost of a range of goods and services. One such issue has been whether the price of a resale home that has been previously occupied, as opposed to a newly constructed home, has been affected by the HST. When asked whether the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) apply to the purchase price of a resale home, over half (56%) of Ontarians said 'yes' according to a new poll conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of the Ontario Real Estate Association. An equal proportion of men and women (56%) think the HST applies to the purchase price of a resale home. The majority (55%) of Ontarians between the ages of 18-34 as well as 35-54 agree, as do almost six in ten (59%) of those 55 and over. Seven in ten (71%) of residents in Northern Ontario say 'yes' too, as do 59% of those in the South West and East, 54% in the Greater Toronto Area and just half (51%) of those in Central Ontario. Ontarians with kids are more likely to believe the HST applies to the purchase price of a resale home compared to 56% of those without kids in their household.

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between October 4 and 11, 2010, on behalf of the Ontario Real Estate Association. For this survey, a sample of 830 adults from Ipsos' Ontario online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of +/-3.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what the results would have been had the entire

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population of adults in Canada been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.

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