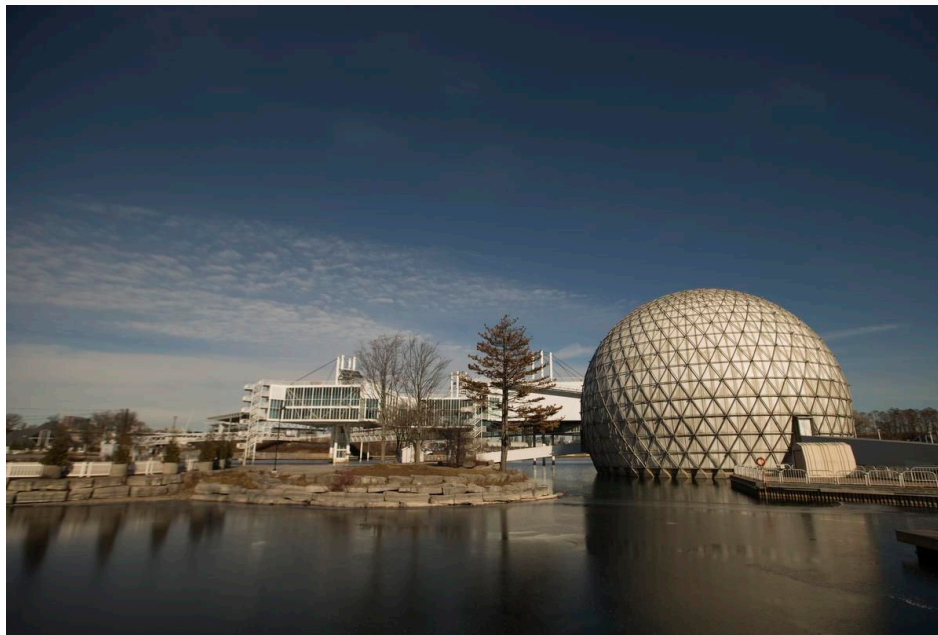


Majority of Toronto residents want public waterfront access at Ontario Place — not a casino, poll finds

By [DAVID RIDER](#) City Hall Bureau Chief
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Torontonians overwhelmingly want easy public access to the Ontario Place waterfront, something not guaranteed in the Doug Ford government's [redevelopment plan](#).

And, according to a [Forum Research poll](#) conducted Jan. 15 to 17, most Torontonians don't want a casino at Ontario Place and are unlikely to visit one if it's built, but they would support a landmark Ferris wheel on the site.



Some 56 per cent of people surveyed in a Forum Research poll said they disapprove of a casino at Ontario Place, with 30 per cent

approving. Seventy-one per cent said they would be unlikely to visit a casino if one is built there. (RICK MADONIK / TORONTO STAR)

Forum asked 1,427 Torontonians several questions about Ontario Place, including: “How important is it that members of the public can easily access the waterfront at Ontario Place?”

An overwhelming 87 per cent said public waterfront access is important, with a clear majority 60 per cent saying it’s very important. Thirteen per cent said that issue is not important. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points 19 times out of 20.

Ontario Tourism Minister Michael Tibollo recently released [guidelines](#) for redevelopment proposals “with potential landmarks such as sports and entertainment attractions, and retail.” Premier Doug Ford and his ministers say they don’t want to take anything off the table, including a casino, although the guidelines say there will be no residential development.

The site, except for the Budweiser Amphitheatre, is open for redevelopment and long-term lease by private corporations with no financial cost to the province.