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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**‘Private Schools better than BC Public Schools’ – says those with children in the public system**

**Vancouver, BC** – Half of those with children in public schools in BC think that their children would be better educated in a private school.

A recent NRG Research Group poll found that parents and those expecting to be parents are more likely to favor private schools for their children. Fully 53% of those who have children in BC’s public schools feel that the public education system is worse than the private system. Only 27% of those with children in the system felt that public education is equal to private in terms of quality of education.

“This is not a vote of confidence for BC’s public schools”, said Dr. Adam Di Paula, Senior Vice President of NRG. “Even those with children in the public system feel it is a worse option – this would suggest that parents’ expectations are not being met by the public system.”

Overall, 46% of BC residents feel that the quality in BC’s public schools is either excellent or good. At the same time, 48% said the quality of public education is either fair or poor.

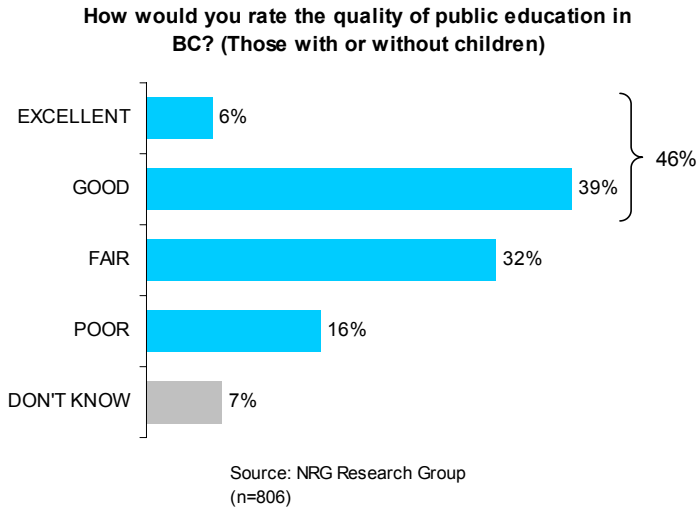
The NRG poll also asked respondents if they planned on having children enter the school system in the next five years. NRG then asked “If you had a choice, would you want these children to go to private schools?” 54% said private, 42% said public.

**About the survey**

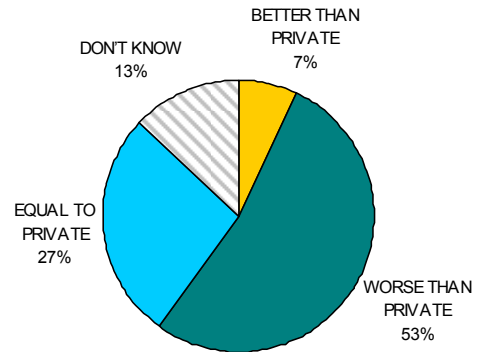
Eight hundred randomly selected BC residents, proportionate to the province’s population, were interviewed as part of NRG Research Group’s monthly omnibus – *Ask BC*, BC’s leading monthly omnibus survey. Overall results are accurate to within +/- 3.5%, 19 times out of 20 and were collected from May 31 to June 5, 2005.

## About NRG Research Group

NRG Research Group was formed in June 2005 from a merger between Western Opinion Research and Nordic Research Group. NRG is one of Canada's leading market and public opinion research firms. NRG provides both quantitative and qualitative research services through its Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto and Halifax offices to clients throughout North America and worldwide.



**Is the quality of education provided in BC's public schools better or worse than in private schools? (Those with children in public school system)**



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