AmericasBarometer

Citizens Across the Americas
Speak on Democracy and Governance

CANADA 2014

Final Report

THE ENVIRONICS INSTITUTE

Institute on Governance
LEADING EXPERTISE

Institut sur la gouvernance
EXPERTISE DE POINTE

This study was conducted by the Environics Institute, in partnership with the Institute on Governance.

THE ENVIRONICS INSTITUTE FOR SURVEY RESEARCH was established by Michael Adams in 2006 to promote relevant and original public opinion and social research on important issues of public policy and social change. It is through such research that organizations and individuals can better understand Canada today, how it has been changing, and where it may be heading. The Institute pursues this mission by:

1 Sponsoring innovative survey research on issues of public importance which are not being addressed by other organizations;

2 Proactively publishing Institute-sponsored research to encourage its use, and to promote informed public discourse on the issues covered;

3 Promoting the importance and role of survey and social research in public policy and democracy through outreach; and

4 Serving as a centre of excellence for responsible public opinion research methods and application, through education, training and consulting.

For more information, see www.environicsinstitute.org.

THE INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE is an independent, Canada-based, not-for-profit public interest institution, with a mission to advance better governance in the public interest, through exploring, developing and promoting the principles, standards and practices which underlie good governance in the public sphere. For more than 20 years, the Institute has advanced better understanding and practice of good governance in Canada, with federal, provincial, municipal and aboriginal governments, not-for-profit organizations, and in 35 other countries including most recently projects in Iraq, China and Botswana.

For more information, see www.iog.ca

For more information about this study, contact:

Keith Neuman, Ph.D.
The Environics Institute for Survey Research
416-969-2457
keith.neuman@environics.ca

Contents

Introduction

AmericasBarometer

The AmericasBarometer (www.AmericasBarometer.org) is a multi-country public opinion survey on democratic values and behaviours in the Americas, conducted every two years by a consortium of academic and think tank partners in the hemisphere.

The AmericasBarometer is coordinated by Vanderbilt University's Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), which has been supporting surveys on governance for many years, beginning in Costa Rica in the 1970. This research has grown over time and now encompasses North America, Latin America and the Caribbean (covering 26 countries representing 99% percent of the hemisphere's population) and is the only comprehensive survey project of its kind in the Western Hemisphere.

The AmericasBarometer is a unique research project that contributes to our understanding of the changes in how citizens across the hemisphere view their country on key issues of democracy and governance. This is especially true in the Latin American region, which has evolved in profound ways from one dominated in the 1970s by authoritarian and military regimes to one where democratic systems are now the norm. This research represents a unique body of public opinion data that is used extensively by academic researchers, governments, and organizations such as the World Bank, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

In each country, the survey is conducted with a representative sample of voting-age adults, in some cases including oversamples to provide for analysis at the regional level. Surveys are conducted face-to-face with respondents in their households, except in the USA and Canada where surveys are conducted online using established Internet panels. A core set of survey indicators are repeated every two years to measure evolving trends over time, as well as facilitate cross-national comparisons. Surveys undergo pre-testing, and translation into major languages used in each country.

AmericasBarometer survey data are publicly available, with comprehensive reports produced at the country level. For more information see www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/).

Canada and the AmericasBarometer

The focus of the AmericasBarometer has been on Latin America, given the changing dynamics of governance and democracy in this region over the past decade. The inclusion of Canada and the USA have also been important because they are important members of the Americas and serve as relevant benchmarks and points of comparison.

The inclusion of Canada in this international research project is significant given the country's long standing adherence to a democratic system, its tradition of good governance, and because of its proximity as an alternative to the U.S. model. A comparison of the 2008 Canadian data with those from 22 other countries showed that Canadians had the most confidence in their democratic system of government and other political institutions among all the peoples of the Americas.

The inclusion of Canada in this year's AmericasBarometer survey is especially timely because of current issues and public debate about the state and direction of the country's democratic system. The past year has seen a spending scandal in the country's Senate, increasing tensions between the Prime Minister and the Supreme Court, and the imminent expansion of government powers to address potential threats to national security (prompted in part by the recent attacks on military personnel in Montreal and Ottawa). An approaching Federal Election (scheduled for Fall 2015) is ramping up the attention on both politics and government policy.

In addition to providing the international community with insight into how Canada fits into the western hemispheric picture, the research also serves an important domestic role in providing:

- A catalyst for interchange between Canadians and Latin American/Caribbean organizations and peoples;
- A unique source of knowledge on governance and public policy for the Canadian polity, based on long-term tracking of public opinion over time;
- A data base for scholars and post-secondary students, as a source of information and tool for learning; and
- A valuable basis of comparison across regions and socio-economic segments of the Canadian population.

The USA has been included in every AmericasBarometer survey since the project's inception, but Canada has not been consistently represented because of the absence of a funded Canadian partner capable of conducting the research on a sustained basis. The primary sources of funding for AmericasBarometer surveys (e.g., UNDP, USAID) cannot be used for this type of research in developed countries like Canada.

In 2006 and 2010, a Canadian survey of modest scope was conducted through funding from Vanderbilt University, but no country-specific analysis or report was prepared. In 2008, a more comprehensive survey and analysis was conducted by the Environics Research Group as part of its syndicated Focus Canada research program. Beginning in 2012, the Environics Institute joined the LAPOP consortium as a Canadian partner, and is now conducting the Canadian portion of the international survey.

For 2014, the Canadian AmericasBarometer survey was conducted in partnership with the Institute on Governance (IOG), an independent, not-for-profit public interest institution with a mission to advance better governance in the public interest through exploring, developing and promoting the principles, standards and practices which underlie good governance in the public sphere.

2014 AmericasBarometer Survey

The 2014 AmericasBarometer survey was conducted in Spring and Summer 2014 in 26 countries, with a total sample of 43,679 individuals (individual country samples ranged from 1,416 in Haiti to 3,042 in Bolivia). The questionnaire consisted of a core set of questions (tailored to country-specific terminology) and was administered by a domestic research institute, in most cases university-based (a list of research partners can be found in Appendix A). In all countries except Canada and the USA, the survey was administered in person in people's homes.

The Canadian survey is an adapted version of the core version developed by LAPOP, with appropriate customization of terminology and the inclusion of additional questions of particular relevance to the Canadian context. The survey focused on the following themes:

- Participation in the democratic process and civil society
- Respect for, and confidence in, major civil institutions and the democratic system
- Tolerance of public dissent and persons who engage in dissent
- Experiences with crime and corruption
- Government protection of citizen privacy and surveillance for national security

The survey was conducted in English and French, by Elemental Data Collection Inc. using an established online panel, with a representative sample of 1,541 Canadians (aged 18 and over) between June 21 and July 14, 2014. The sample was weighted by region, age and gender to match the country's population.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE. This methodology is the same used for the Canadian version of the AmericasBarometer surveys in 2010 and 2012, while the 2006 and 2008 Canadian surveys were conducted by telephone. The shift from telephone to online survey methods limits the precision of comparability of results. The research literature has demonstrated that the way in which respondents complete a survey (referred to as "survey mode") can influence how they answer questions. Interview-based surveys (e.g., telephone, in-person) have a tendency to elicit more socially-desirable responses, in comparison to surveys involving self-administration (paper and pencil questionnaires, online surveys) since the latter does not involve direct contact with another individual. This means that comparisons between 2006 - 2008 and 2010 - 2014 results from the Canadian AmericasBarometer survey must be treated with caution, since some of the differences may be due to survey mode rather than changes in opinions.

Report Synopsis

The following sections of this report present the results of the 2014 Canadian survey, including an analysis of trends based on the previous waves where data are available (only some of the current questions were included in previous Canadian waves of the AmericasBarometer). The report also includes selected comparisons with other countries and regions.

Detailed tables are also available under separate cover that include: a) 2014 Canadian results by region and demographic segments of the population; and b) 2014 results for 24 other countries (the data for Suriname were not available at the time this report was prepared), for questions included on the Canadian survey. All results are presented as percentages unless otherwise noted.

Acknowledgements

The project was made possible with generous support from the Institute on Governance (IOG) and the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP). The Environics Institute would like to acknowledge the contributions of Maryantonette Flumian, Karl Salgo and David Sevigny at the Institute on Governance, as well as Daniel Montalvo and Elizabeth Zechmeister at Vanderbilt University. A special thanks goes to Nat Stone (Professor, Marketing and Business Intelligence Research Program at Algonquin College) for his ongoing support and encouragement.

Executive Summary

How do Canadians feel about their country's democratic system of government and institutions today? How have opinions shifted in the past two years, if at all, in light of the major events over the past two years, including the increasingly divisive nature of Canadian politics?

Public confidence in the country's democratic institutions. In the broadest terms, Canadians continue to be generally positive about their system of government and democracy. And they remain among the most positive of citizens across the Americas in some respects (although not all). By and large, the public is proud of their country, maintains a strong belief in democracy as the best form of government, and continues to be generally (if not fully) satisfied with the way it is functioning.

The public's trust and confidence in the central institutions of government are decidedly more mixed, as has been the case in recent years. Canadians are most likely to trust the Canadian Armed Forces, the RCMP and the justice system (including the Supreme Court). But citizens think much less of the political system and institutions, with trust in both Parliament and the Prime Minister more negative than positive. Political parties earn the least respect, with only seven percent trusting them a lot, compared with 32 percent who have none at all. As well, many Canadians are concerned about the potential for illegal manipulation of election outcomes; public trust in elections in this country is no higher than in the USA and a number of Latin American countries.

The impact of the Harper mandate. The country has been governed by Stephen Harper's Conservative government since 2006, and his mandate has been marked by significant changes in government priorities and the emergence of partisanship and rancor not previously witnessed in Canadian politics. Have these developments had a visible impact on Canadian public opinion, values and priorities?

Close to nine years of Conservative government in Ottawa appears to be nudging Canadians' self-alignment along the political spectrum. As in past surveys a majority of Canadians continue to place themselves in the political centre, but since 2010 there has been a 10 percentage point shift from the middle to the political right (which now comprises one-quarter of the population, compared with one in six who place themselves on the left). But this rise in the proportion that identify with the right is not accompanied by a noticeable shift in Canadians' attitudes or values in the direction of positions normally associated with that side of the political spectrum (e.g., on such issues as LGBT rights and tolerance for political dissent).

Commentators have written about Stephen Harper being a polarizing force in Canadian politics, and the survey results bear this out. Assessment of the Prime Minister's performance has been consistently divided, with one third voicing approval and one third expressing disapproval. He is strongly trusted by only one in six Canadians, compared with twice as many who express little or no trust. These results have been stable since 2010, and continue to place Stephen Harper among the least trusted national leaders in the hemisphere (in 2014 he rates above the leaders of Guyana, Costa Rica, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago).

At a broader level, there is evidence of a growing divide between those on the left and right of the political spectrum on some issues (e.g., trust in elections, belief that governments are listening to the people, income inequality). Canadians who identify with the right tend to be more positive about the country's institutions and the direction of the country, while those on the left have become visibly less satisfied with the state of democracy.

Public distrust of government and politics is clearly evident, but there are only minor indications of an emerging populism among Canadians. About one in ten continues to endorse the idea that people should govern directly rather than through elected representatives, although the proportion who clearly disagree has been shrinking steadily since 2008. The public is more likely than not to feel that MPs in Ottawa should vote according to what they believe, even when this may not reflect the majority view of their constituents, or the position of their own party.

Balance of powers in Canadian democracy. One of the most significant changes in the country's national political system has been the shifting balance power among central institutions, away from Parliament in favour of the Prime Minister's Office and the Supreme Court. This issue has some resonance with the public, as Canadians are more likely to believe it is the Prime Minister, rather than Parliament or the Supreme Court, that currently wields too much power; however, a significant proportion does not see an imbalance. Predictably, opinions are shaped in large part by Canadians' political orientation and party preference, with concerns about too much power in the hands of the Prime Minister most evident among those on the political left.

The public's endorsement of democratic principles outweighs its distaste for partisan bickering, with few Canadians supporting the idea that the Prime Minister should be able to limit the voices of opposition parties, and this view has been stable since 2010. Over the same period, however, a small but growing minority believe there may be justification in suspending normal democratic functioning when the country is facing difficult times, in terms of the Prime Minister governing without the other central institutions. Close to one in four would accept such a scenario in the case of closing down Parliament, making Canadians among the most likely of citizens across the Americas to endorse this view, behind those living in Paraguay, Peru and Haiti.

Unlike most Parliamentary democracies, Canada has little experience with coalition governments, and the attempt by federal opposition parties to join together to unseat the recently re-elected Conservative government in 2008 demonstrated at that time that the public was not ready to embrace this change in Parliamentary tradition. As the country approaches the next general election in 2015, an increasing majority of Canadians now accept the legitimacy of coalition government, although fewer than half continue to believe this can involve the second and third place parties joining forces to take power from the party winning the most seats.

Tolerance for political dissent. The public's continued faith in the country's democracy is also manifested in a sustained belief in the importance of free speech and the right to openly criticize governments, provided it remains within the bounds of the law. Most Canadians continue to reject the idea that those who disagree with prevailing views represent a threat to the country, and an increasing majority believe it is legitimate to participate in legal demonstrations for political purposes. By comparison, there is limited public acceptance of extra-legal forms of protest such as blocking roads, although the breadth of disapproval is down noticeably over the past two years. Canadian public views on these issues are generally comparable to opinions elsewhere across the Americas.

Most Canadians acknowledge that it is important for their governments to collect personal information from citizens to guard against security threats. But a significant minority (almost four in ten) also believe that such activity is bad for democracy, and seven in ten would consider government surveillance of their own telephone and Internet activity to be a violation of their privacy, with this view most strongly held by younger Canadians.

Protection of human rights. Across the Americas, Canadians are among the most positive about the protection of their basic rights, including the right to a fair trial (in notable contrast to the views expressed in the USA), although only a minority are strongly confident in these protections. Across the hemisphere, Canadians stand out as the most widely supportive of LGBT rights, with an increasing majority favouring the right for individuals within this community to run for public office and to marry one another. This is in sharp contrast with opinions across most of Latin America, where opposition to LGBT rights remains widespread, especially in Central America and the Caribbean.

Citizen engagement. Canadians' involvement with politics tends to be more as spectators than as active participants. Only one in six have participated in a meeting of a political party or other organization in the past year, well below the level reported in the USA and in such countries as Panama, Nicaragua, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. At the same time, Canadians are actively engaged in their communities in other ways. Civic engagement more broadly defined has increased since 2012, with this trend most evident among the country's youngest generation of adults, as well as among those born in another country. More than half of the population reports having been active in the past year in the form of signing petitions, sharing political information online or participating in demonstrations and protest marches.

Although voter turnout at elections has been tracking downward, Canadians continue to acknowledge that voting is an important component of citizenship. An increasing majority believe that voting represents a duty rather than a choice, and this view has strengthened across all age cohorts (although a generational gap between young and old remains). Notably, it is Canadians who make up the Millennial generation, not their parents and grandparents, who are most open to making it mandatory for everyone to vote in federal elections.

Local quality of life. Most Canadians continue to be positive about the quality of life where they live. Despite tight government budgets and a growing infrastructure "deficit", there is rising public satisfaction with the quality of services provided at the municipal level (Canadians are among the most positive in the Americas, even with notable improvement in many other countries over the past two years). As before, Canadians (along with Americans) are least apt to report bribery requests from police or local officials, although perceptions of government corruption have grown since 2012, primarily in Montreal and western Canada.

Perceptions of personal safety are also at an all time high, with crime victimization rates down from 2012, and among the lowest in the hemisphere. The proportion that feel very safe in their neighbourhood has increased since 2012, in contrast to a declining trend almost everywhere else in the hemisphere. Close to nine in ten Canadians are somewhat if not very satisfied with the protection being provided by local police, in sharp contrast with opinions expressed in most of Latin America. Not surprisingly, Canadians are less likely than citizens in any other country to feel others in their community are untrustworthy.

Economic security and well-being. While the Canadian economy has yet to fully regain the momentum lost during the global recession of 2008-09, the public is more positive than negative about the country's economic situation and this confidence has been gradually improving since 2010. Citizens are twice as likely to describe their own financial circumstances as good rather than as bad, also up marginally over the past two years.

At the same time, many Canadians continue to struggle to make ends meet, with four in ten reporting their household income is not sufficient (rising to two-thirds among those with incomes under $30K). The survey results confirm that income is a key determinant to overall life satisfaction in Canada, and more so than in most of Latin America where economic security is lower but life satisfaction is higher.

Canadians look to government to safeguard the economic security of its citizens, but this is less in the form of job creation than in addressing issues of fairness and access to opportunities. There continues to be strong public support for government polices to reduce income inequality between the rich and poor, and this view is evident across the country although most prevalent in eastern Canada, among those with lower incomes and those on the political left. Public support for government intervention in this area is strong across much of the Americas, with the notable exceptions of the USA, Venezuela and Panama.

Civic and Political Engagement

Local Community Engagement

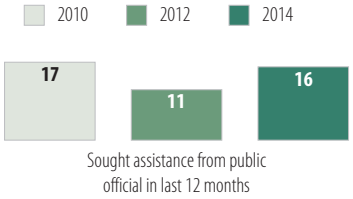
REQUESTING HELP FROM LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS. Rob Ford, Toronto's Mayor from 2010 to 2014, made a point of saying he always returned citizens' phone calls requesting help. One indication of trust in local government and engagement in the local community is the extent to which Canadians are reaching out for assistance from local public officials.

Overall, a distinct minority of Canadians are requesting assistance from local governments. About one in six (16%) have asked for assistance from a local public official or local government during the past 12 months. This is greater than the one in ten (11%) reporting having done so in 2012 and about the same as the number in 2010 (17%).

Requests for assistance were more prevalent among residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and those living in communities with a population of less than 5,000 (both 20%), as well as among the university-educated (22%), individuals for whom religion is very important (26%) and non-Christians (22%).

Perhaps contradictorily both individuals who express a federal voting preference for the NDP (22%) and those on the right of the political spectrum (27%) are among the most likely to have reported such contact with local officials. All of these groups were more likely to report such contact than in 2012.

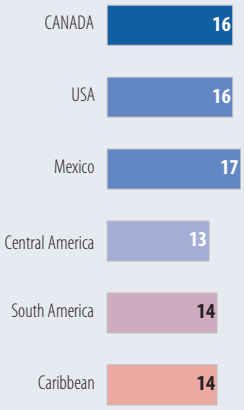
Sought assistance from local public officials in last 12 months



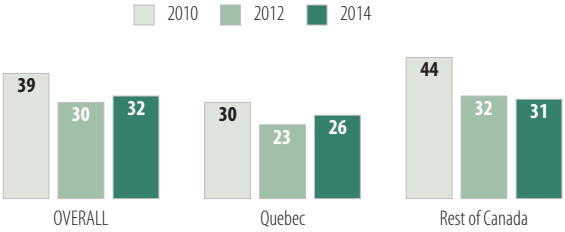
International comparison

The incidence of requesting help from public officials in the previous 12 months is similar across the Americas, with the hemispheric average up two percentage points from 2012. Such efforts are now more likely to be reported in Nicaragua (22%, up 8 points since 2012) and Uruguay (23%, up 7), while declining in Haiti (to 11%, down 11) and Guyana (8%, down 6).

Sought assistance from public officials in last 12 months



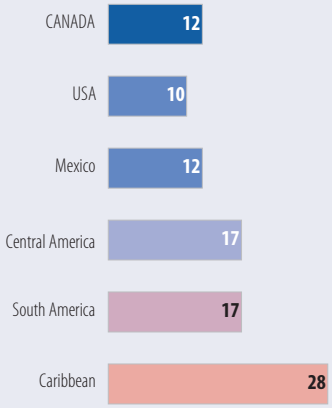
Helped solve local community problem in last year



International comparison

Canadians' efforts to help solve community problems at least once or twice a month in the past year is comparable to levels reported in the US and Mexico, but below that of other regions, especially in the Caribbean countries of Haiti (32%), Dominican Republic (24%) and Jamaica (23%). Since 2012, such efforts have increased most noticeably in Belize, Panama, Ecuador, Brazil, Paraguay and Chile, while declining in Trinidad and Tobago.

Helped solve local problem at least once a month



HELPING TO SOLVE LOCAL PROBLEM. Another key component of civic engagement is the initiative demonstrated by Canadians within their local communities as they work to solve local problems. In comparison with requesting help from local government, Canadians are more likely to report efforts to help solve problems in their local community.

Over three in ten (32%) report helping to find solutions to problems in their community at least once in the past 12 months, roughly similar to the level recorded in 2012, but down from 2010. A smaller proportion (12%) report engaging in this type of volunteer activity on a regular basis (at least once a month).

Residents of Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are among those more likely to have helped solve local problem. Quebecers residents are less likely to have done so, but show an increase since 2012 (along with residents of Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan), while participation is down in Alberta and B.C.

Participation in civic problem solving varies directly by age, as those under 45 are more likely to engage with their community than older age groups. Active community involvement is also more likely on the part of the university-educated, those for whom religion is very important (particularly evangelical Christians and those who belong to non-Christian faiths), and among those on the political right.

ATTENDANCE AT LOCAL COMMUNITY MEETINGS.

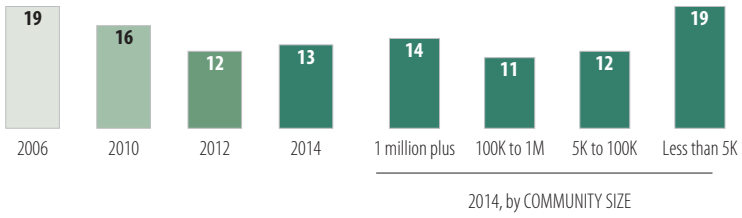
Meetings of city and town councils offer citizens an opportunity to gain information on local issues and to have a say in decisions made about those issues. Relatively few (13%) Canadians in 2014 report having attended a **town meeting, city council meeting or other types of civic meetings** in the past 12 months. This is comparable to the 2012 level (12%), but represents a decline since 2010 (16%) and 2006 (19%).[1]

Attendance at town or city council meetings is about the same in all provinces but more prevalent among Canadians living in communities with less than 5,000 population, as in 2012. Attendance at these meetings is reported most frequently by men, younger people, the university educated, those with household incomes above $100,000, and individuals on the right of the political spectrum, representing an increase from 2012 in all cases except men.

Canadians are more likely to attend other types of community meetings in the previous 12 months, including those with **community improvement organizations** (25%) and those with **religious organizations** (31%). In both cases attendance levels are unchanged from 2012. Among Canadians with at least one child living in their household, 50 percent attended meetings of a parents' association in the past year, up from 45 percent in 2012.

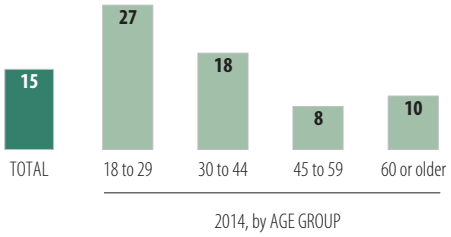
Attendance at meetings of community improvement and religious organizations is more characteristic of residents with a university education, individuals born outside Canada and those on the political right. Religious attendance is most frequent on the part of individuals describing themselves as evangelical Christians (55% report weekly attendance).

Attended town/city council meeting in the past year



[1] This may reflect possible mode effects between 2006 (where the survey was administered by telephone) and 2010 (online) – see Introduction for discussion of this methodological issue.

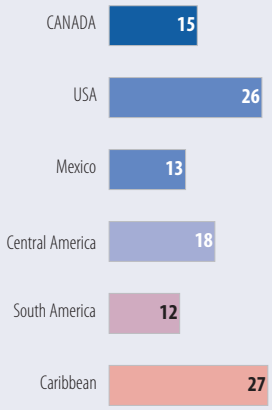
Attended meetings of political party/ organization in past year



International comparison

Canadians' participation in meetings with political parties or organizations matches the hemispheric average, but there is considerable variation across countries. Attendance at such meetings in the past year is reported by a quarter or more of people living in the USA, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Haiti and the Dominican Republic (which has the highest proportion at 34%). By contrast, fewer than one in ten has attended such meetings in the past year in Costa Rica, Peru, Chile and Argentina.

Attended meetings of political party/ organization in past year



MEETINGS OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS. Concern about low political participation among Canadians has been growing in recent years as voter turnout at elections has declined. A new question on the 2014 survey measured citizens' engagement in politics through their attendance at political meetings.

The findings reflect the low participation in electoral turnout, with just 15 percent of Canadians attending meetings of a political party or organization in the past year. Participation is noticeably higher among Canadians under 30 years of age (27%), as well as citizens with a university education (23%), and those for whom religion is very important. In no group, however, do more than one in ten report attending political party or organization meetings more than once or twice in the past 12 months.

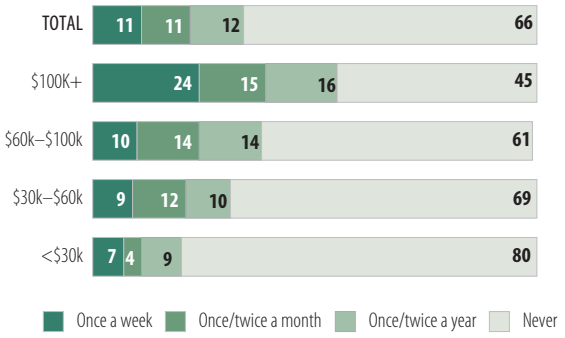
PARTICIPATION IN GROUP SPORTS. "Social capital" is the term used to describe the vibrancy of social networks, and the underlying premise is that "the people who do better are better connected." This principle also applies at the aggregate level, in terms of mutual trust and reciprocity among groups and individuals. Social capital might be considered an essential "lubricant" that makes it possible for societies to function and for people to get along peacefully even when they have little else in common. It is now widely recognized that sport serves as a means of building social capital (Skinner, et.al., 2008), with evidence published from a number of countries.[2]

The 2014 survey included a new question to measure active participation in sports (e.g. team sports) as an indicator of social capital. Overall, one in three (34%) Canadians reports having participated as a player with other people in the practice of a sport in the past year, with one in ten (11%) doing so about once a week.

Not surprisingly, frequent participation is most evident among Canadians under 45, men, and those with household incomes of $100,000 or more. By comparison, such participation is lowest among Quebecers and rural residents, as well as among low income residents and those living in rural areas (eight in ten among these latter groups never did so over the past year).

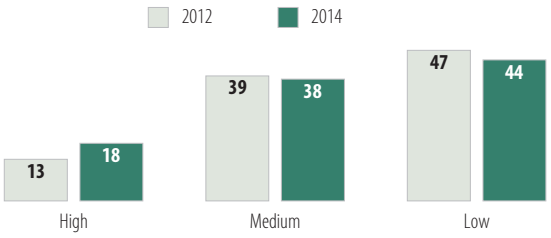
Participation/player in team sport in past year

By household income



2 Skinner, J., Zakus, D. & Cowell, J. (2008). Development through sport: Building social capital in disadvantaged communities. Sport Management Review, 11, 253-275.

Civic Action Index



CIVIC ACTION INDEX. An index of "civic action" was created to provide a measure of citizens' overall level engagement in their communities. The index was created from seven specific local engagement actions reported on the survey (attended municipal meetings, helped solve local problems, follow the news daily, participated in demonstrations/protests, signed petitions, shared political information online, and have an interest in politics). This index offers a useful way by which to understand how attitudes and behaviours about such issues as democracy and politics are linked to individuals' level of civic engagement.

Canadians were categorized into one of three levels of civic action: high (18% of the population), medium (38%) and low (44%), based on the number of these actions reported on the survey. These proportions reflect an overall aggregate increase in civic activity from 2012, with the high action group increasing by five percentage points.

Canadians most likely to be in the high civic action group include those on both the left (28%) and the right (30%) of the political spectrum, those under 30 years of age (26%), those who hold a university degree (29%), and for whom religion is very important (30%). Low civic engagement is most evident in the three Prairie provinces, among rural residents and lower income Canadians.

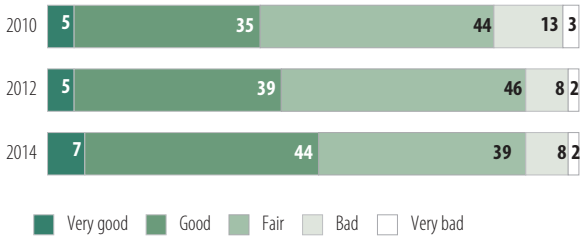
Growth in the high civic action category is evident across most of the population but is most significant among Canadians on the political right (up 14 points since 2012, compared with a 1 point drop among those on the left). Such increase is also more evident among Canadians under 30 (up 9 points), those with a university degree (up 11) and those born outside the country (up 9).

QUALITY OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES. A key priority for many residents is the services provided by their local municipality, including public transit, schools, water supply and waste disposal, and police and fire services. Across Canada, local governments have faced increasing pressures to balance citizens' desire for high quality municipal services against expectations for low taxes and balanced budgets.

Despite heated debates and controversy over service delivery in many cities, Canadians are more likely than not to express satisfaction with the services provided by their municipal government, and this sentiment has been growing since 2010. Half of citizens now rate their municipal services as very good (7%) or good (44%) (up 7 percentage points from 2012), with another four in ten (39%) describing these services as "fair." As in 2012, one in ten rate municipal services in their community to be bad (8%) or very bad (2%).

Satisfaction with municipal services is notably consistent across the country, with positive views most widely expressed among Canadians with the highest levels of education and income. In no group, however, does more than one in six describe local services as bad. Citizen satisfaction with municipal services has increased since 2012 across all groups but most significantly among top income earners, Canadians aged 30 to 44, residents of mid-sized cities, and residents of Ontario and Alberta.

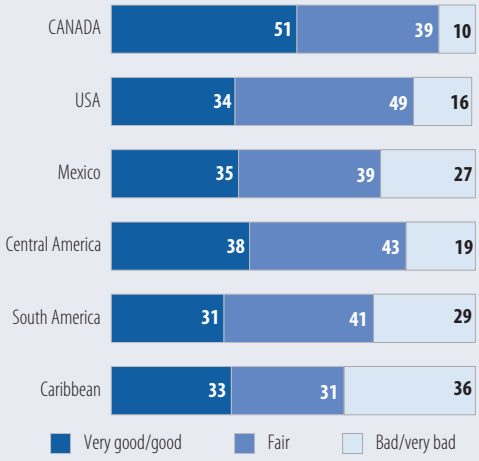
Quality of local municipal services



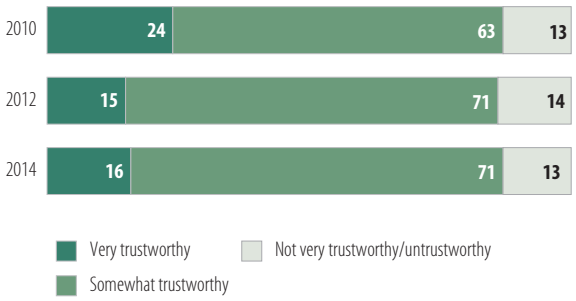
International comparison

As in 2012, Canadians stand out as being among the most positive in the hemisphere about the services provided by their municipality. Ratings of very good or good have increased across much of the Americas over the past two years, most significantly in Panama (48%, up 26 points) and Haiti (34%, up 26), while declining modestly in the larger South American countries of Brazil (26%, down 5) and Argentina (46%, down 4). Municipal services are least apt to be seen as very good or good in Venezuela (25%), Peru (22%) and Jamaica (21%), although ratings in all three countries have increased marginally since 2012.

Quality of local municipal services



Trust in people in your community



ARE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY TRUSTWORTHY?

An important benchmark of a local community's strength is the extent to which people see others as trustworthy. Most Canadians place some degree of trust in their neighbours, although relatively few do so unreservedly.

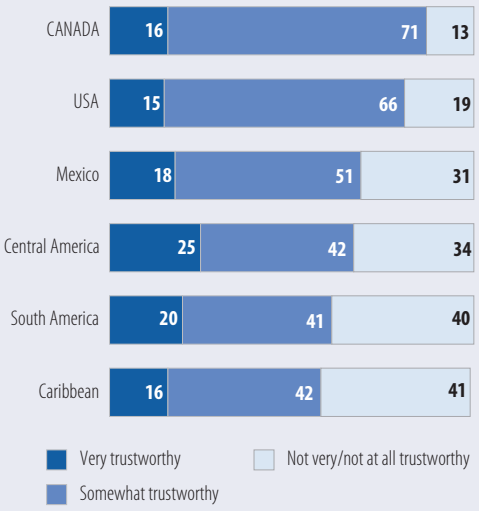
One in six (16%) say people in their community are very trustworthy, while most (71%) consider them to be "somewhat" trustworthy. Levels of reported trust are unchanged from two years ago, but lower than in 2010 when one in four (24%) said people in their community were very trustworthy.

As in 2012, trust in ones neighbours is strongest in Atlantic Canada and weakest in Quebec, with other provinces falling in between. This sentiment is also stronger among Canadians whose religious faith is Protestant and for whom religion is important. Trust is somewhat weaker in larger cities (notably Montreal), and among those with less education and income, as well as among individuals expressing dissatisfaction with their life overall (as in 2012). Over the past two years, trust in others has strengthened among Canadians 60 and older, after declining between 2010 and 2012.

International comparison

Canadians are generally comparable to the hemispheric average in terms of viewing their neighbours as very trustworthy, but much less likely than people in other countries to consider them untrustworthy. A strong sense of trust is most widely expressed in most of Central America, along with people in Paraguay (40% say very trustworthy), Chile (31%) and Uruguay (30%). By comparison, this assessment is least evident in Peru (6%) and Jamaica (11%). The proportion who see their neighbours as untrustworthy is most prevalent in Haiti (51%;, but this reflects a significant improvement from 2012 when 66% expressed this view), followed by Brazil (47%) and Peru (45%).

Trust in people in your community



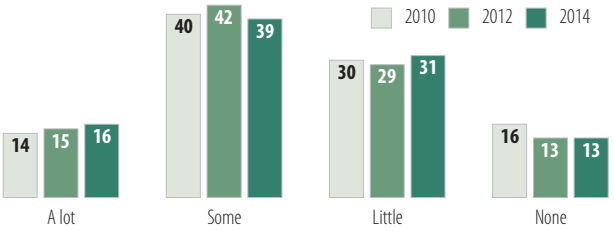
Political Engagement

GENERAL INTEREST IN POLITICS. A majority of Canadians express a general interest in politics with one in six (16%) stating they have" a lot of interest", while an additional 39 percent say they have "some" interest. This compares to those who have little (31%) or no (13%) interest in politics. These results are largely unchanged since 2010.

A strong interest in politics is most likely to be expressed by better educated Canadians, men, those on both the left and right along the political spectrum, and those for whom religion is very important. Reported level of interest in politics is consistent across supporters of the different Federal political parties, and notably lower among those without a party preference. Not surprisingly, the group most apt to be closely following politics are those high on the civic action index (51%, compared with only 1% among those with a low index score).

Another indicator of political interest is the extent to which Canadians follow the news. Seven in ten (72%) Canadians say they follow the news on a daily basis, compared with just five percent who rarely or never do so. Reported levels of interest in the news is about the same as in 2012. Those most apt to follow the news regularly include Quebecers, and those on the political right. Older Canadians are more likely than younger age groups to follow the news daily, but once again this gap is somewhat lower than in 2012.

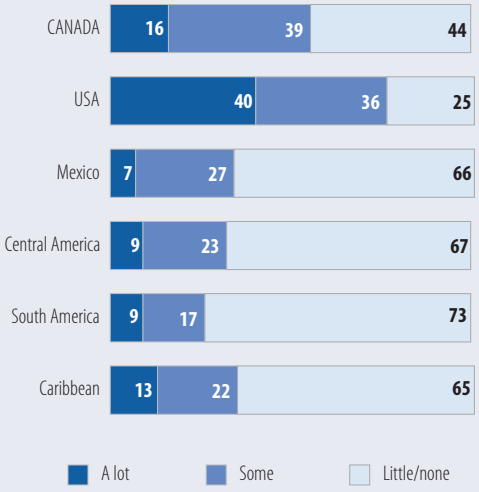
Personal interest in politics



International comparison

Canadians fall somewhere in the middle in terms of their general interest in politics. They are somewhat below the average in expressing a lot of interest in politics, but are less likely than citizens of other countries to have little or no interest. Americans continue to stand out as having the greatest interest in politics, but this proportion has declined noticeably since 2012 (to 40%, down 9 points). Three-quarters or more of citizens living in Brazil, Peru, Haiti and Guyana say they have little or no interest in politics.

Personal interest in politics

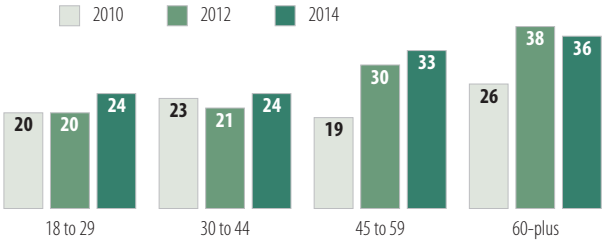


Three in ten (29%) Canadians strongly agree that they understand the most important political issues in the country, about the same level as in 2012 but up from 2010. By comparison, fewer than one in ten (8%) continue to strongly disagree.

Strong agreement about understanding the country's most important political issues is most characteristic of men, Canadians with a university degree, those earning incomes above $100,000, those with a clear political orientation (left or right), and those who are very religious. Reported understanding of issues increases along with age cohort, but the gap between young and old has narrowed over the past two years.

*You feel you understand the most important political issues of the country**

By Age group



* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (1=strongly disagree, 7=strongly agree)

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL ISSUES.

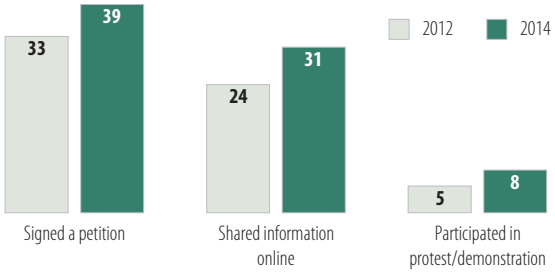
Opportunities to participate in politics are wide-ranging. How active are Canadians in directly expressing their political views? A majority say they have made at least some effort to do so in the past 12 months, having signed a petition, shared political information online using social media such as Facebook or Twitter, or participated in a demonstration or protest march. Political activity in all three forms was notably higher in 2014 than 2012, with the net level of participation (engagement in at least one of the three forms) now at 52 percent of Canadians (up from 44% in 2012).

Signing petitions. One of the most common and easiest forms of political engagement involves signing petition (especially now that most petitions are signed online). This type of action is most frequently reported by Canadians under 30 years of age, those with higher levels of education, those with no religion, and those on the left of the spectrum (57%). Increased activity since 2012 is evident across most groups, but most significant among Canadians on the political right (45%, up 12 points), as well as residents of B.C., Alberta and Quebec.

Sharing political information on social media. Political activity on the Internet is growing rapidly, especially on social media on sites like Twitter and Facebook where it is possible to share ideas and information and engage in political advocacy. Three in ten (31%) Canadians now report this type of activity (up from 24% in 2012). This type of engagement is most popular among younger Canadians, those with a university degree and those politically aligned on the right or the left. Those under the age of 30 (45%) are more than twice as likely to use social media for political expression as those 60 and over (19%). Growth in the use of social media is growing rapidly across most of the population, but most noticeably among those 30 to 44 and those on the political left (up 26 points since 2012).

Participating in demonstrations and protest marches. Given the greater commitment of time and energy entailed, participating in demonstrations or protest marches inevitably is confined to a small minority. Nevertheless conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine in 2014 prompted demonstrations and marches in Canada. Even UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon participated in a New York march to urge action on climate change.

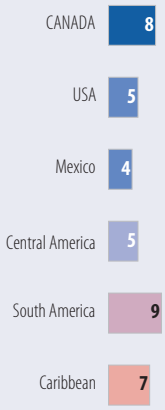
Political actions taken in last 12 months



International comparison

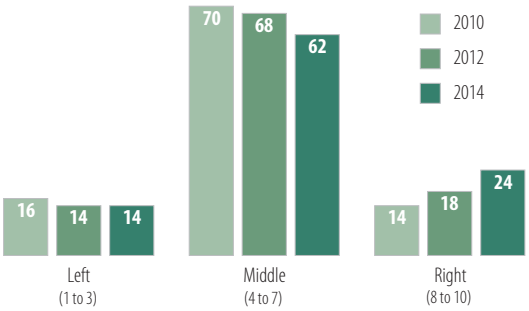
Canada is at the hemispheric average in terms of its citizens engaging in demonstrations and marches over the past year. This form of political action is most commonly reported in Paraguay (15%) and Bolivia (14%), and least common in Guatemala (2%) and El Salvador (3%). Since 2012, protest activity has increased noticeably in Venezuela (to 12%, up 8 points), while declining in Haiti (to 7%, down 11).

Participated in demonstration/march in past year



Given this context, it may not be surprising that close to one in ten (8%) Canadians report having participated in such events in the past year, up from five percent in 2012 and 2010. Such activity is most likely to be reported by residents of B.C. (13%), Canadians under 30 (14%), those with a university degree (13%) and those on both the political right (15%) and left (12%). Participation has increased across much of the population since 2012, but most noticeably in Atlantic Canada and B.C., in smaller communities, those with a university education and those on the political right.

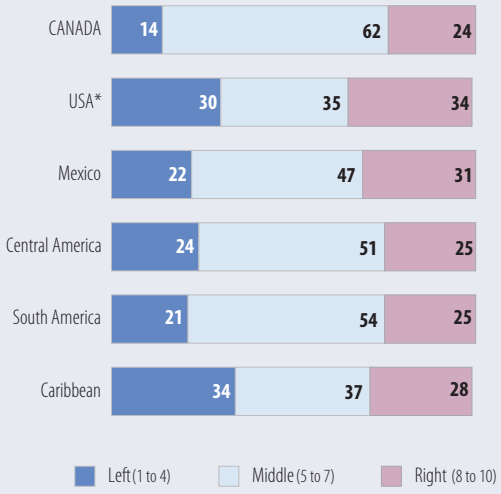
General political orientation



International comparison

As in 2012, Canadians are among the most likely to place themselves in the middle of the political spectrum, along with citizens of Peru, Argentina and Bolivia. Americans remain the most politically polarized, and also to identify with the political right, along with people living in Honduras, Venezuela, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic. Identification with the political left is most prevalent in Belize, Haiti and Nicaragua. Since 2012, political identification has shifted noticeably to the left in Belize, El Salvador, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia and Jamaica, while the opposite trend has taken place in Honduras, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. Over the past two years, polarization in both directions is evident in Mexico and Costa Rica.

General political orientation



* Data from Gallup (2014) - uses terms liberal, mixed and conservative

GENERAL POLITICAL ORIENTATION. The terms "left" and "right" have a political history dating to the aftermath of the French revolution and the seating patterns that event produced in the National Assembly. It became a convention in politics in the 20th century to define political views along a "left-right" spectrum even though the complexities of the modern world suggest it is an over-simplified conception of political differences. Nonetheless the terms "left, right and centre" have been commonly used to describe and analyze Canadian political thought. Generally Canadians have been thought of as being on the "centre-left." But since 2006, the country has been led by a Conservative government that some have described as the most "right wing" in Canada's history.

As in the two previous surveys, a majority (62%) of Canadians place themselves in the middle of the political spectrum (a rating of 4 to 7 on a 10 point scale). One in four (24%) say they are on the right (ratings of 8 to 10), while a smaller group (14%) identify with the political left (ratings of 1 to 3).[3] These latest results reveal a noticeable shift to the right over the past two years (a 6 percentage point move from the middle to the right), escalating a smaller shift between 2010 and 2012.

Left-right political orientation cannot be easily predicted based on group membership, but there are some noticeable, and in most cases predictable, patterns. Canadians on the left of the spectrum are more likely to be under 30 years of age, have a university education, support the NDP, and have no religious affiliation. The political right is most apt to be represented by men, Canadians in the top income bracket, immigrants and Conservative Party supporters.

The shift to the right since 2012 is evident across most groups, but most noticeably in B.C. and Quebec (while declining in Alberta), and among Canadians under 30. Citizens on both the left and right are more likely than those in the middle to be civically engaged, but since 2012 this involvement has increased significantly among those on the right (rising from 20% to 36%), while declining on the left (from 25% to 20%).

3 The percentage of respondents who did not provide a response to this question were removed from the data and analysis, in order to facilitate comparison with the 2010 data (the 2010 survey did not offer a "decline to answer" option).

PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

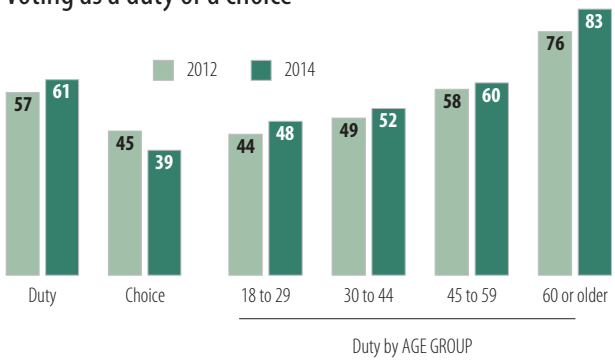
Voting in elections is the fundamental standard which defines representative democracies such as Canada. Although it is a normative value, voter turnout has largely been in decline for the past decade in Canada. Declining voter participation was confirmed in 2014 as turnout declined in two out of three provincial elections conducted this year, in Quebec and New Brunswick. Although the participation rate increased slightly in Ontario's 2013 election, this represented just a modest improvement (from 49% to 52% voter turnout), well below that of the other two provinces.

Is voting a duty or a choice? The reasons for the decline in turnout are thought to be the consequence of multiple factors, one of which is that the act of voting is increasingly considered an option (similar to choices one makes as a consumer) rather than a civic duty and obligation of citizenship.

Declining voter turnout notwithstanding, a clear majority (61%) of Canadians say voting is a duty (compared with those who say it is a choice (39%), reflecting a modest increase since 2012. As before, opinions on this issue are shaped by generation: Most Canadians 60 and older consider voting to be a civic duty, while fewer than half who are under 30 share this view. However, the latest increase in belief in voting as a duty is evident across all age cohorts.

Viewing voting as a duty is most evident in Quebec and among Canadians with higher levels of education and income, while least so among those who do not support any federal political party. Since 2012, this view has increased most noticeably among rural residents, Canadians with more education and income, immigrants, those in the middle of the political spectrum.

Voting as a duty or a choice



Mandatory voting. One reform proposed to address declining voter turnout is to make voting mandatory. Several countries enforce compulsory voting including Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru in the Americas.[4] The nation with the constitutional system most similar to Canada that practices compulsory voting is Australia. In most cases non-voting there is subject to a fine of 20 Australian dollars (similar in value to the Canadian dollar). Although Australia has had compulsory voting since 1924, it has faced a small decline voter turnout during the past decade, although its participation rate is much higher than Canada's. Its most recent election in 2013 had a turnout of 79.7[5] percent compared to Canada's turnout of 61.1 percent in the 2011 Federal Election.

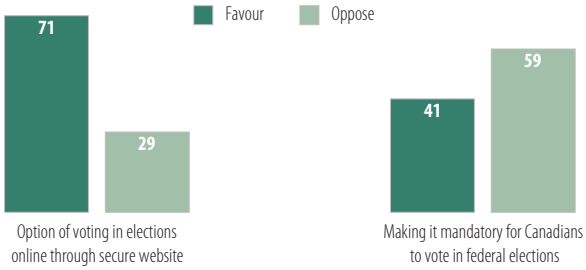
While mandatory voting is now well established in other countries, it is not a popular concept in Canada. Only four in ten (41%) would favour making it mandatory for citizens to vote in federal elections, compared with 59 percent who oppose such a policy.

Opposition is the majority view across most of the population, and especially among rural residents, older Canadians and those who do not support any federal party. Support is most evident among Montreal residents, Canadians under 30 (despite being the generation most apt to view voting as a choice), immigrants, those with a university degree, those on the political right, and those with high civic engagement.

Online voting. Voting online is currently a reality in a few municipal jurisdictions in Canada, including Peterborough and Markham (both in Ontario) and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Many widely expect that online voting will eventually become more widespread over time, but concerns remain about potential risks to the integrity of the voting process, including violation of privacy of the individual ballot, assurance that the electoral process remains free from interference, and that the vote count is accurate.

A large majority (71%) of Canadians support the idea that voters in Canada should have the option of voting in elections online through a secure website. Support is widespread across the country, but is most evident among citizens under the age of 45, those with university degrees, and especially among those born outside of Canada (80%). This view is least apt to be shared by Quebecers, and Canadians with less education and income.

Support for changes to voting procedures



4 There are other countries in the Americas that nominally have compulsory voting where it is not enforced. The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance: http://www.idea.int/vt/compulsory_voting.cfm Accessed September 29 at 13:40.

5 http://www.idea.int/vt/countryview.cfm?CountryCode=AU Accessed September 29 at 13:45

Confidence in Democracy and the Political System

This section shifts the focus from Canadians' participation and engagement to their attitudes and opinions about democracy and the country's political system. A key factor in determining the legitimacy and efficacy of a democracy such as Canada is the confidence its population has in the political system.

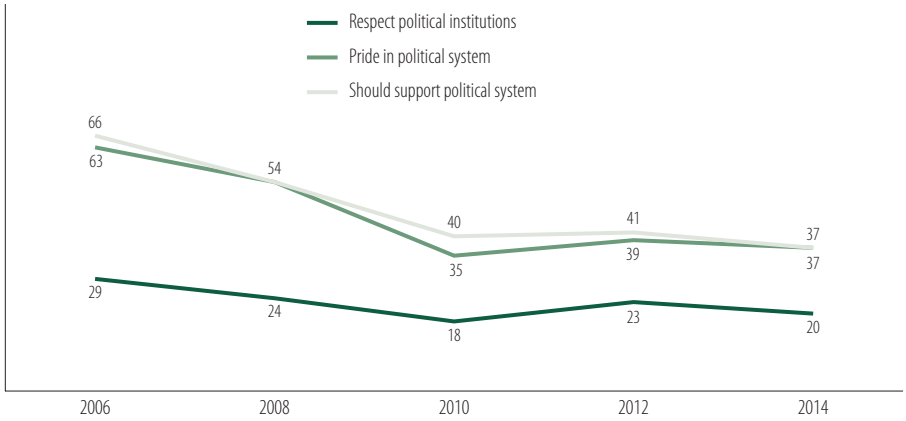
Confidence in the Political System

Canadians continue to be more positive than negative about their political system generally but few express clear respect for our political institutions, including political parties and elections. The public is cynical about the extent to which government listens to people like them.

Pride in the political system. Canadians ranked the extent to which they "feel proud of living under the Canadian political system" on a scale ranging from "1" (not at all) to "7" (a lot). Fewer than four in ten (37%) are strongly proud of the Canadian political system (ratings of 6 or 7), compared to half (53%) who are neutral (ratings of 3 to 5), and one in ten (11%) who have little pride in the nation's political system (ratings of 1 or 2). Canadians' pride in the political system is similar to reported levels in 2012 and 2010, but down sharply from 2006 and 2008.[6]

Across the country, Canadians' sense of pride and support for the political system is strongest among Canadians over 60, federal Conservative Party supporters, those on the political right, and Protestants, while low levels of pride are most evident among those on the political left, Quebec and B.C. residents, and those who do not support any federal political party. Since 2012, strong pride in the system has declined noticeably among Canadians under 30, and those on the political right.

Strong confidence in Canadian political system*



* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (1=not at all, 7=a lot)

6 Here is another example where the change in survey mode likely accounts for some of the change in opinions between 2008 and 2010.

Should support the political system. Regardless of how much pride they feel about the country's political system, Canadians continue to be more likely than not to say the system should be supported. Close to four in ten (37%) feel strongly that "one should support the political system of Canada", compared to a majority who are neutral (56%), and fewer than one in ten (8%) who think the political system does not deserve support.

Positive opinions have declined modestly since 2012 (down 4 percentage points). As with the question about pride, belief in the importance in supporting the political system is strongest among Canadians 60 plus, those on the political right and Conservative party supporters, but this view has declined noticeably among these groups since 2012.

Respect for political institutions. While Canadians are more likely than not to express confidence in the country's political system as a whole, opinions are less positive with respect to the institutions that make up this system. Only one in five (20%) of Canadians say they have strong respect for "the political institutions of Canada", with almost as many (18%) having little or no respect. Opinions have declined marginally since 2012, but comparable to 2010 levels.

Public respect for the country's political institutions is most evident among older Canadians, those on the political right, federal Conservative supporters, the very religious and those born outside Canada. Respect does not vary by regions, community size or socio-economic status, and is unrelated to level of civic engagement.

International comparison

Canadians' continue to be among the most proud of their political system, following citizens of Costa Rica (45%), Nicaragua (42%) and Uruguay (37%). Such pride is least apt to be expressed in Peru (12%), Jamaica (11%), Haiti (13%) and Brazil 12%, where 51% have none at all). Pride in ones political system is down overall since 2012, most noticeably in the USA, Mexico, Venezuela and Jamaica, while the opposite trend has taken place in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

Canadians are a bit above average in stating the importance of supporting their country's political system, although less so than Mexicans and citizens of most Central American countries and some in South America (Ecuador, Uruguay, Argentina). Such support is least evident in Brazil (13%) and Haiti (12%). Since 2012, public support for political systems has strengthened significantly in parts of Central America, while more likely than not to be declining in South American and the Caribbean.

In terms of respect for political institutions, Canadians' relatively low regard is similar to opinions across the hemisphere, although somewhat less likely to be strongly positive or negative. As in 2012, Americans are among the least respectful of their political institutions, while Mexicans are among the most positive (along with citizens in most of Central America, as well as Colombia, Uruguay, Argentina and the Dominican Republic). Over the past two years, respect for political institutions has increased in most of Central America and in Haiti, while declining in Venezuela and Jamaica.

Strong confidence in political system*

	Proud of political system	Should support political system	Respect political institutions
CANADA	37	37	20
United States	25	32	12
Mexico	20	39	35
Central America	28	35	40
South America	17	21	30
Caribbean	19	23	31

* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (7 = a lot, 1 = not at all)

Trust in Key Institutions

How much do Canadians trust a number of key institutions? Using the same rating scale ("1" = "not at all" to "7" = "a lot"), trust levels vary noticeably across institutions, with relatively little change since 2012.

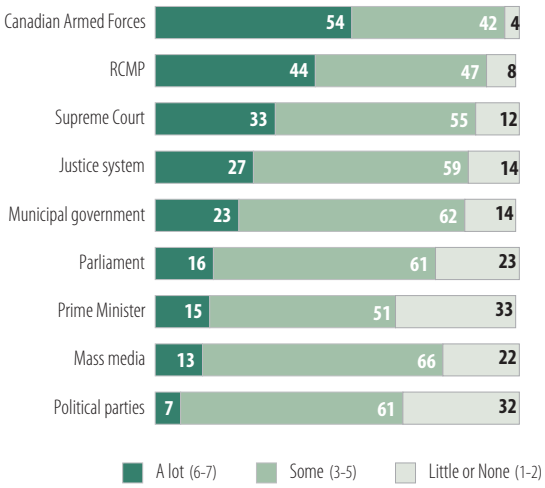
Trust in Canadian Armed Forces. Among the institutions presented, the one garnering the most trust from Canadians is the Canadian Armed Forces. More than half (54%) say they have a lot of trust in the military, compared with only four percent who have little or no trust; these numbers are essentially unchanged since 2012, although up five percentage points since 2010.

Trust in the Armed Forces is widespread across the country but strongest in Ontario and Alberta, among Canadians 60-plus, Conservative party supporters, the political right and mainline Protestants. This view is less apt to be shared among Canadians under 30, the political left and those who do not support any federal party, although positive views greatly exceed negative evaluations across the population. The stability in opinion since 2012 nationally masks some notable shifts within some groups: A favourable view of the Armed Forces has increased in Quebec, Ontario and Vancouver, while declining in Atlantic Canada, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, in smaller town and among rural residents, as well as among Canadians on both the left and right of the political spectrum.

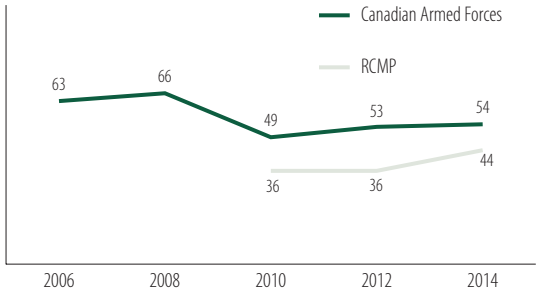
Trust in the RCMP. Like the Armed Forces, the RCMP is among Canada's most trusted institutions, and despite being the subject of repeated controversies its public image has improved noticeably over the past two years. More than one in four (44%) citizens now express strong trust in the RCMP (up from 36% in 2012), compared with less than one in ten (8%) who have little or no trust.

Higher levels of public trust in the RCMP since 2012 is evident across most groups, except among rural residents, Canadians under 30 and those with a high school diploma (in these groups opinions remain unchanged). The most positive views are expressed by Canadians 60 plus, and mainline Protestants, while less so among B.C. residents, Canadians on the political left, and those who do not support any federal party (26% have a lot of trust, versus 22% who have little or none).

Level of trust in key institutions



Strong trust in Canadian Forces and RCMP*



* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (1=not at all, 7=a lot)

Trust in the Supreme Court. One in three (33%) Canadians place a lot of trust in the Supreme Court, compared to one in ten (12%) who have little or no trust. Opinions are essentially unchanged since 2010 at the national level, but have declined since 2012 in Alberta and B.C., among Canadians on the political right, and supporters of the Conservative party, as well as among those who do not support any party (among this group only 18% express clear trust in the Supreme Court, compared with 28% who have little or no trust). Trust levels are strongest among Canadians who have a university education, were born in another country, support the Liberal party, place strong importance on religion and are mainline Protestants. Opinions also vary by generation: Canadians under 30 are considerably less positive toward the Supreme Court (22% positive versus 15% negative) than those 60 and over (46% versus 8%).

Trust in the Justice system. A little over one quarter (27%) of Canadians express strong trust in the country's justice system, compared to half as many (14%) who express distrust, largely unchanged since 2012, but slightly higher than in 2010.

Opinions vary noticeably across the country: Strong trust outweighs distrust by a clear margin in Ontario, Atlantic Canada and Alberta, while opinions are divided in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan (Quebec falls somewhere in between, with 24% positive versus 17% negative). Trust in the justice system is more evident among immigrants, Canadians 45 and older, Canadians on the political right, and supporters of the Conservative and Liberal parties, while weakest among those who do not support any party

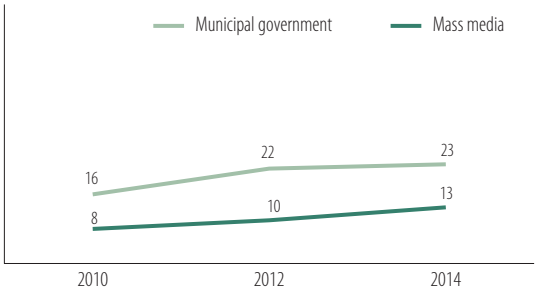
Trust in municipal government. Just under a quarter (23%) of Canadians express strong trust in their municipal government, compared to those who have little or no trust (14%), unchanged from 2012, but a marked improvement from 2010.

Across the country trust in municipal government is positive in all regions but strongest in Quebec (28% percent, up 5 points from 2012), while more divided in B.C. (18% versus 16%), as well as in Manitoba and Saskatchewan where trust levels have dropped 18 points. Canadians 60 plus are the most positive about their municipal government, along with those without a high school diploma, those on the political right and those who are strongly religious. Views do not vary by community size.

Strong trust in Canadian justice*

* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (1=not at all, 7=a lot)

Strong trust in municipal government and mass media*



* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (1=not at all, 7=a lot)

Trust in mass media. Democratic institutions require a strong and vibrant media in order to flourish. In Canada, such confidence is low with just over one in ten (13%) expressing strong trust in the country's media, compared with almost twice as many (22%) who have little or none. This low standing notwithstanding, Canadians trust levels have increased modestly since 2010 (when only 8% expressed a positive view).

Opinions about the country's mass media are generally similar across the country. Favourable views are somewhat more evident in larger cities, among Canadians on the political right and those who are civically engaged, while most negative among those on the political left (7% strong trust, versus 39% little or none).

Trust in Parliament. Parliament is the country's key legislative political institution, composed of the elected House of Commons and appointed Senate. Public opinion of Parliament has not been strong, but has held steady over the past two years despite a considerable amount of negative attention over the past year due in large part to scandals involving several Senators.

One in six (16%) Canadians place strong trust in the institution, compared to a quarter (23%) who express strong distrust. Trust in Parliament has changed little since 2010.

Across the population, trust in Parliament is somewhat higher in Quebec, among urban residents, those 60 plus and those on the political right (26%, versus 6% among those on the left). Strong distrust is most evident in B.C., among those on the political left, and those who are dissatisfied with their life overall.

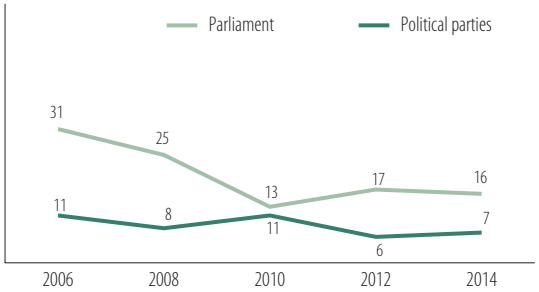
Trust in Prime Minister. Although not head of state, the Prime Minister is the leader of the government, making the office an important Canadian political institution. The current Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, has been among the most polarizing federal leaders since Brian Mulroney in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Canadians' trust in the Prime Minister is similar to their trust in Parliament, with one in six (15%) indicating strong trust, compared with more than twice as many (33%) expressing clear distrust (comparable to the level of distrust of political parties). Trust in the Prime Minister has remained stable since 2010.

As might be expected, trust in the Prime Minister comes primarily from the political right (30%) and among Conservative supporters (35%), compared with his opponents on the political left (5%) and supporters of the NDP (7%; 66% of whom strongly distrust Stephen Harper). Those in the centre of the political spectrum are somewhere in the middle, with 12% expressing strong trust, compared with 31 percent indicating strong distrust. Canadians' views are also divided geographically, with Albertans having the most trust and Atlantic Canadians the least.

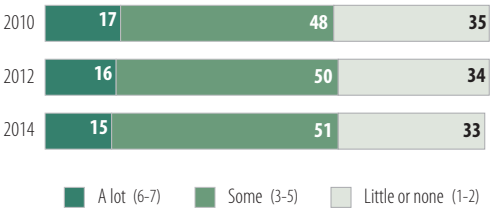
Since 2012, trust in the Prime Minister has increased marginally in Quebec, while declining among Canadians on the political right, residents of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and B.C., in Toronto, among Canadians 60 plus, and those in the top income bracket.

Strong trust in parliament and political parties*

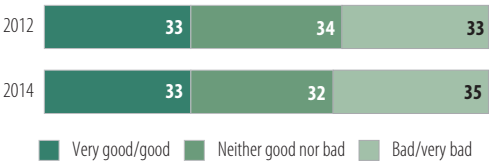


* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (1=not at all, 7=a lot)

Trust in the prime minister



Prime minister Harper's job performance



Apart from their degree of trust in the Prime Minister, Canadians are evenly divided in their appraisal of his performance. One in three say he is doing a very good (9%) or good (24%) job, while an equal proportion rate his performance as bad (19%) or very bad (16%). The remaining third (32%) say neither good nor bad. This assessment is unchanged since 2012.

Canadians divide along political lines in their evaluation of the Prime Minister's performance, with Conservatives and the political right assessing Mr. Harper's performance highly, while those on the left, Liberals and New Democrats give him low ratings. The political geography of the country echoes regional divisions with the Prairie provinces rating him highly while a negative view prevails in Quebec and Atlantic Canada. As in 2012, Mr. Harper's performance is more positively rated among immigrants and those with higher incomes. Canadians with high civic engagement split evenly on his performance, with significant percentages giving both positive and negative reviews of his performance, and also showing modest improvement since 2012.

Trust in political parties. Among our most important institutions are political parties and the elections that permit voters to choose among the various parties. While parties may be central to the functioning of our political system, fewer than one in ten (7%) have a lot of trust in them, compared with one-third (32%) who have little or no trust (similar to 2012 levels).

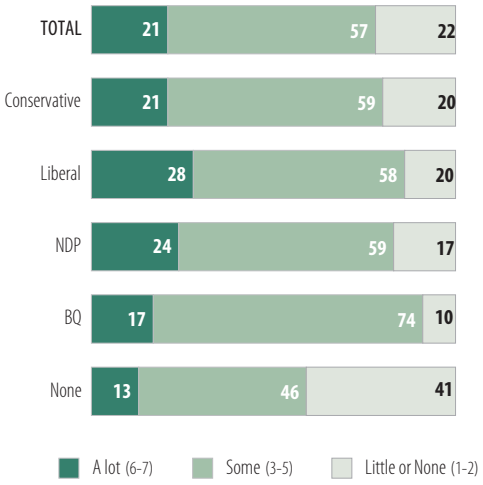
Confidence in political parties varies by political orientation, with strong confidence more evident among those on the political right (14%) than those in the middle (6%) or on the left (3%; with another 47% saying little or none). However, since 2012 the proportion with low levels of trust has increased among Canadians both on the right and left of the political spectrum.

Trust in elections. Elections are an important symbol and manifestation of democracy, and have rarely been a source of controversy in this country. However, the current survey reveals that Canadians' trust in elections is relatively week. Just one in five (21%) express strong trust in the country's elections, with an equal proportion (22%) having little or no trust (57% are in the middle on this question).

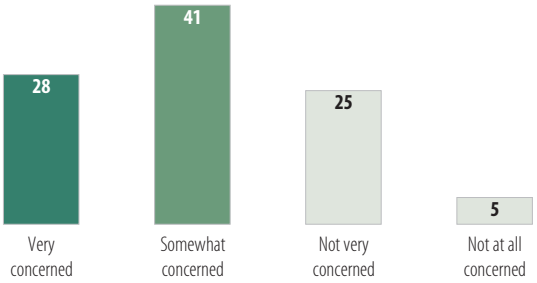
Trust in elections is strongest in Quebec (31% have a lot of trust), among urban residents, Canadians 60 plus, those with a university degree, and high on civic action, while lowest in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (11%) and among rural residents. Such trust is most widespread among Canadians on the political right (30%), compared with those on the left (21%) and in the middle (19%). Opinions are similar across the three main political parties, but lower among those who do not support any party (41% of this group have a high level of distrust of elections).

Do you trust elections in this country?

By federal party support



Concern about political parties illegaly manipulating election outcomes



The 2014 survey also asked Canadians how concerned they are that political parties might attempt "to manipulate the outcome of future elections through illegal activities", and found a significant majority who are very (28%) or somewhat (41%) concerned about this possibility.

This may reflect concern arising from the so-called "robocalls" scandal that made headlines in Canada during the 2011 Federal Election. To date one person has been convicted of illegal activities, with other cases still pending.

Public concern about potential election fraud is evident across the country, but most pronounced among Canadians on the political left (42% are very concerned), as well as among older Canadians, those with lower incomes, and high levels of civic engagement.

International comparison

As in 2012, Canadians' level of trust in their institutions is at or above average for the hemisphere, with some notable exceptions. Canadians are among the most trusting of their Armed Forces, national police (RCMP) and justice system. Canadian trust levels are comparable to those expressed elsewhere for municipal government, Parliament, elections, and political parties.

As in 2012, Canadians' trust in their national leader is below that of most other countries in the Americas, ahead of Guyana (12%), Costa Rica (11%), Peru (10%) and Trinidad and Tobago (9%). Since 2012, public trust in national leaders has fluctuated significantly across countries, marking significant improvement in some countries (Honduras, Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic), and substantial decline in others (Mexico, Belize, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago). The most trusted national leaders are now in Nicaragua (46%), Ecuador (48%), Haiti (46%) and the Dominican Republic (55%).

Strong trust in key institutions*

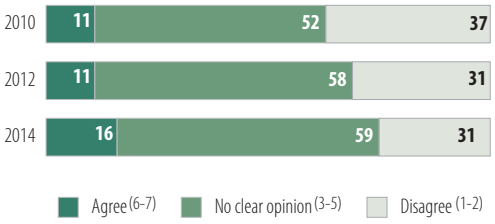
	CANADA	United States	Mexico	Central America	South America	Caribbean
Armed Forces	54	55	45	49	36	32
National police	44	25	14	21	21	21
Justice system	27	13	13	19	14	13
Municipal government	23	14	21	23	17	15
Elections	21	20	14	23	17	12
Parliament/legislature	16	5	17	16	12	15
Prime Minister/President	15	22	16	24	21	47
Political parties	7	4	8	9	6	9

* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (7 = a lot, 1 = not at all)

Do politicians listen? Lack of public trust in the political system and institutions may be in part because citizens are skeptical about how well their elected officials pay attention to citizens' view and priorities. Only one in six (16%) of Canadians agree that "those who govern this country are interested in what people like you think", although this percentage is higher than the level recorded in 2012 (up 5 percentage points). One in four (24%, down 7 points) disagree with this statement, while six in ten continue to be somewhere in the middle.

Opinions are largely similar across the country, although somewhat more positive among Canadians with a post-secondary education, immigrants, and those with some religious affiliation. As in 2012, the strongest predictor is political orientation: those on the right agree that politicians care (by a 29% to 15% margin), in sharp contrast with those on the left (8% versus 43%). Canadians high on civic engagement are more likely to have either a positive or negative view, but have shown the most improvement of any group in the past two years.

*Those who govern are interested in what people like you think**



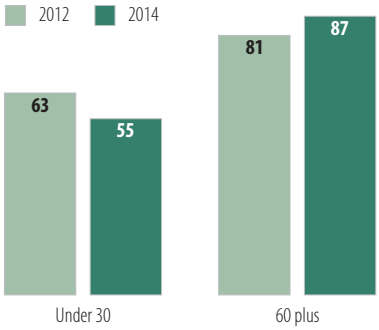
* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (1=strongly disagree, 7=strongly agree)

Strong pride in being Canadian*

* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (1=not at all, 7=a lot)

Strong pride in Canada

By age cohort



Pride in the Country

Canadians may have lack full confidence in many of the country's important political institutions, but most continue to be proud of being Canadian and believe that, despite our differences, we are united as a country.

Pride in being Canadian. While Canadians do not tend to think of themselves as especially patriotic as a nation (at least in comparison with their American neighbours to the south), most feel a clear sense of pride in their country.

Seven in ten (71%) state they have a lot of pride in being a Canadian, compared with very few (4%) who feel little or no pride. Opinions are unchanged since 2010, and somewhat lower than in 2008 (when the survey was conducted by telephone, which might account for a higher proportion expressing strong pride).

As before, Quebecers are much less likely than other Canadians to express strong pride in their national citizenship (54%, and only 49% among francophones), although this level has held steady since 2012. A sense of pride is equally strong across the other parts of the country, and is now equally the case between native born and immigrant Canadians.

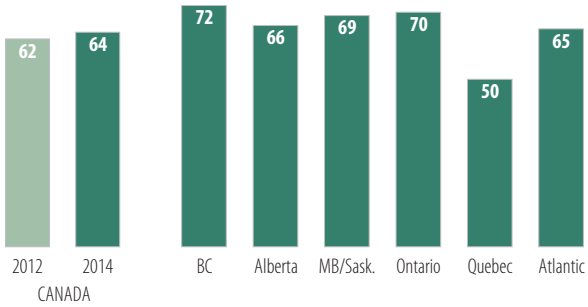
The most notable difference on this measure is by generation: Pride in being Canadian increases significantly by age cohort, and this gap has widened noticeably over the past two years (strong pride is now expressed by 87% of Canadians 60 plus, compared with just 55% of those under 30).

Things that unite Canadians. Canadians live in a diverse nation with significant cultural and linguistic differences, and a vast landscape with five and a half time zones. Nonetheless, more than six in ten (64%) continue to strongly agree that despite Canada's differences "there are many things that unite us as a country", while just three percent disagree, essentially unchanged from 2012.

As with pride, Quebecers (50%) are less likely than other Canadians to agree with this statement, although the gap has narrowed since 2012 (when only 43% shared this view). Agreement is most widespread among Vancouverites (up 10 points since 2012), and least so among those who do not support any federal political party. Once again, age is an important factor, with belief in a common identity expressed by 81 percent of Canadians 60 plus (up 6 points since 2012), compared with 52 percent among those under 30 (unchanged).

Opinions are consistent by education level, community size and country of birth.

*Despite differences, we Canadians have many things that unite us**



* 6 or 7 on a 7-point scale (1=strongly disagree, 7=strongly agree)

Attitudes about Democracy

DEMOCRACY AS BEST FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

While the public's trust in some of Canada's institutions has been in decline, Canadians retain a strong faith in democracy as the best form of government whatever its difficulties.

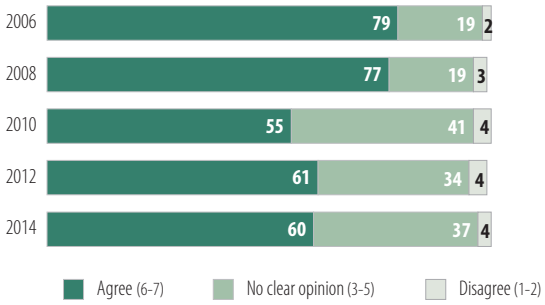
Asked whether they agree or disagree on a seven point scale (where "7" represents "strong agreement" and "1" is "strong disagreement"), a clear majority of six in ten (60%) endorse the statement: "Democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government", while only four percent disagree. This support is nearly identical to 2012 and somewhat stronger than in 2010.

Confidence in the democratic ideal prevails across Canada, in communities large and small, as well as along the political spectrum. This opinion strengthens along with level of education, household income and age, with the gap between young and old increasing modestly over the past two years (now 84% among those 60 plus, compared with 44% among those under 30).

Consistent with this view, three-quarters (74%) of Canadians agree that democracy is preferable to any other form of government, with the remainder split between those who say it doesn't matter to them whether a government is democratic or not (14%), and those who believe that under some circumstances an authoritarian government might be preferable (11%). Opinions are unchanged from 2012.

Preference for democracy is the norm across the country, but also rises along with education, income and age group. This view is now most widely held by Canadians on the political left (81%), compared with those on the right (74%) where this sentiment has softened since 2012.

Democracy is the best form of government

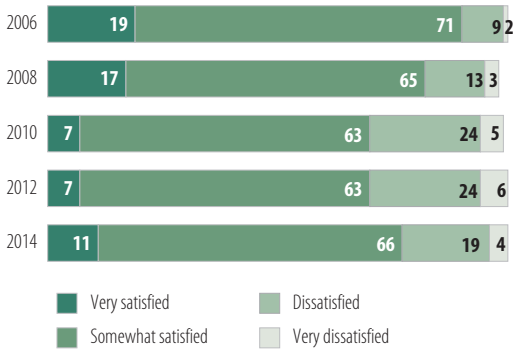


SATISFACTION WITH HOW DEMOCRACY WORKS IN CANADA. Beyond the aspirational principles of what democracy means, how well do Canadians believe it is working in their country today? The lack of confidence in key institutions such as Parliament and political parties notwithstanding, three-quarters of Canadians are very (11%) or somewhat (66%) satisfied, with this proportion up seven percentage points from 2012 and 2010 (higher percentages in 2006 and 2008 are likely a function of the different survey mode used for those surveys).

Overall satisfaction with the country's democracy is fairly consistent across the country, but has increased most noticeably since 2012 in Quebec (up 18 points), among Canadians 60 plus (up 13) and those without a high school diploma (up 15), while declining marginally in B.C. (down 4).

Satisfaction is more widespread among Canadians on the political right (83%, versus those on the left at 62%), but is now marginally lower than two years ago. Supporters of the Conservative and Liberal parties are most apt to express satisfaction, followed by NDP supporters, and those who do not endorse any party.

Satisfaction with democracy in Canada

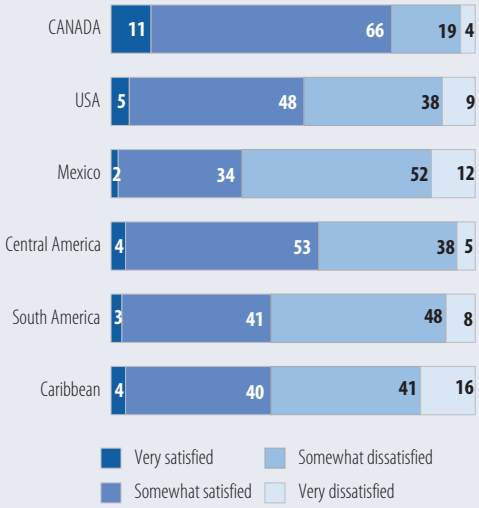


International comparison

Canada stands out as being the most satisfied people in the Americas in terms of how its democratic system is working, and this lead has widened since 2012 as many countries have witnessed a worsening view of their democracy. Satisfaction in ones democracy has declined by 10 percentage points or more in South America, most noticeably in Venezuela (down 31 points), Brazil (down 25), Colombia (down 19), Peru (down 15), Argentina (down 10), as well as Jamaica (down 17), Belize (down 16) and Mexico (down 11). The opposite trend has taken place to a more modest degree in Bolivia, Chile and Guyana. Satisfaction in democratic system is now lowest in Venezuela (31%), Mexico (36%), Guyana (35%) and Peru (37%).

Canadians are also among the most likely to see democracy as the best form of government, despite its problems, second only to Argentina (69%). Agreement with this viewpoint has declined across much of the Americas, especially in Panama, Jamaica, Venezuela and Guyana. It is now least apt to be expressed among those living in Panama (32%), Peru (35%) and Jamaica (38%).

Satisfaction with democracy in your country



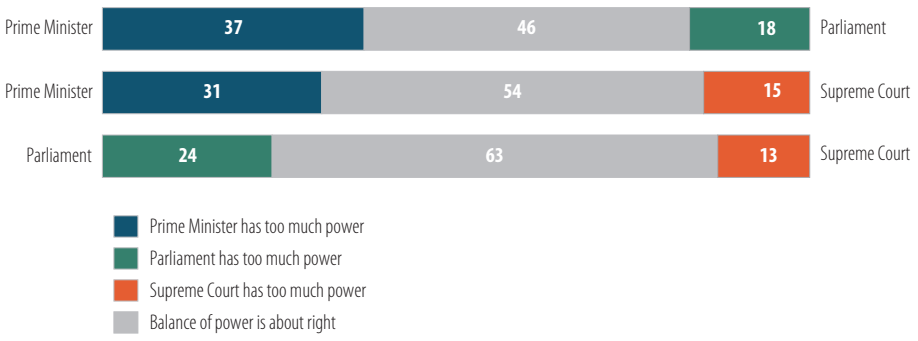
Balance of Powers in Canadian Democracy

The 2014 survey explored the views of Canadians on the relative powers of the Prime Minister, Parliament and the Supreme Court within the Canadian political system. Since the adoption of the Constitution Act, 1982 (including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms), the Supreme Court has ruled on a number of cases that invoked the Charter that have have overturned legislation and effectively limited the powers of Parliament.

At the same time some scholars and commentators have documented the growing concentration of power within the Prime Minister's Office over the past several decades, and the limits this has placed on the effectiveness of individual members of Parliament and the institution itself. Prime Minister Harper has come into conflict with the Supreme Court in response to an unsuccessful bid to appoint a justice of the Federal Court of Appeal to sit on the Supreme Court as one of the three Quebec justices. Moreover, the Supreme Court has also stymied government efforts to enact Senate reform and a national securities regulation regime. Amidst this debate among opinion leaders, how do Canadians view the current balance of powers in Ottawa?

RELATIVE BALANCE OF POWERS AMONG THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT. The survey presented each pair of these three institutions, and in each case asked if either one has too much power, or if the balance is about right. Overall, Canadians are more likely than not to say the the balance is about right in each case. Among those who do not share this view, the Prime Minister is more likely seen as having too much power in comparison with both Parliament and the Supreme Court. One-quarter believe Parliament has too much power over the Supreme Court, while just over one in ten hold the opposite opinion.

How do you see the current balance of power in the federal government?



Prime Minister versus Parliament. Just under half of Canadians (46%) regard the current balance of power as appropriate, compared with 37 percent who perceive that the Prime Minister has too much power, and just under one in five (18%) who believe Parliament has too much power.

This issue appears to be viewed mainly through the lens of political preferences. The impression that the Prime Minister has too much power is held more strongly by residents of Atlantic Canada, the political left, and NDP supporters, as well as by Canadians over 60 and those highly civically engaged. Those most likely to see Parliament has having the greater power include younger Canadians and those with lower incomes (in each case by no more than one in four). By comparison those more likely to see the balance as about right include residents of the Prairie provinces, federal Conservatives, higher income Canadians, immigrants and rural residents.

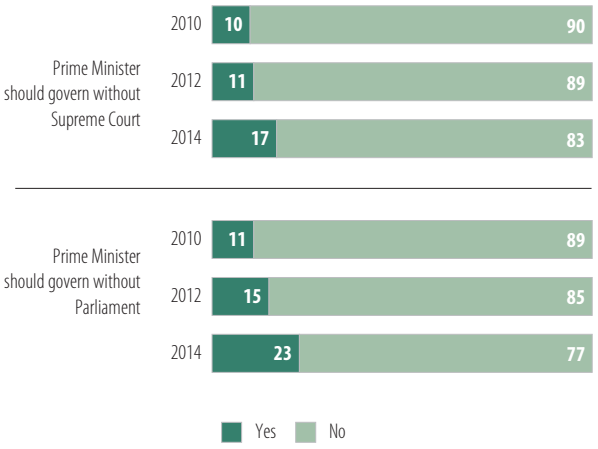
Prime Minister and Supreme Court. More than half of Canadians (54%) believe that the balance of power between the Prime Minister and the Supreme Court is about right. The remainder are twice as likely to see the Prime Minister as having too much power (31%) compared with those who place this emphasis on the Supreme Court (15%).

As with Parliament, it is the political left, supporters of the NDP and those high on the civic action index who are most likely to say the Prime Minister wields the upper hand over the Supreme Court, although a majority of New Democrats see the balance as about right. By comparison, the political right are twice as likely as the population-at-large to believe the Supreme Court as being too powerful (31%), with this view shared to a lesser extent among the very religious and Canadians 60-plus. Conservatives, immigrants and higher income Canadians are among those most likely to see the balance as about right. Views on this issue do not vary by province of residence, community size or education.

Supreme Court and Parliament. Canadians are most likely to be satisfied with the current balance of powers between Parliament and the Supreme Court (63%). The remainder are split between those who say it is Parliament that has too much power (24%) and those who give the edge to the Supreme Court (13%). This comparison is less closely linked to political orientation, but the political right is more likely than others to see the Supreme Court has having too much power. Conservatives, older Canadians, residents of Toronto and those with higher incomes are most likely to see the balance as right, and less likely to perceive Parliament as having too much power.

When the results of the three questions are combined, they reveal that one-quarter (23%) of Canadians believe the Prime Minister has too much power over both Parliament and the Supreme Court, while no more than one in ten say that either Parliament (10%) or the Supreme Court (7%) has too much power over the other two institutions. One-third (35%) of the population is satisfied with the current balance of power across all three institutions.

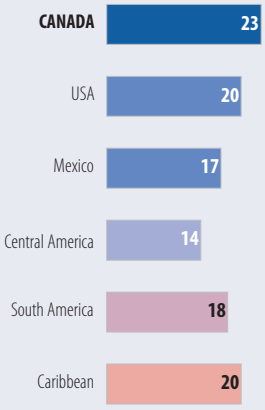
Limiting the democratic process in difficult times



International comparison

The increase in support for silencing legislatures in difficult times is not limited to Canada, although Canadians are now among the most likely to endorse such a scenario (behind Paraguay (29%), Peru (27%) and Haiti (26%)). This sentiment has grown since 2012 in many countries, most noticeably in Panama (up 17 points), while declining in Ecuador, and Trinidad and Tobago. Support for leaders to close down legislatures in times of crisis is lowest Belize (8%), Venezuela (7%), Guyana (8%) and Uruguay (9%).

It is justifiable for Prime Minister/President to govern without parliament/legislature in difficult times



SUSPENDING DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN DIFFICULT TIMES. Canada is one of the world's oldest democracies, although the extension of full voting rights for all citizens dates only from 1960 when the restriction on voting rights for Aboriginal people in national elections was removed. In comparison to many other countries, Canada has experienced very few threats to civil order, the most recent being when the Canadian government temporarily suspended civil liberties when it imposed the War Measures Act, in response to the October crisis of 1970.

Given the country's stable historical record as a democracy, there would appear to be little prospect of witnessing a suspension of civil liberties or the normal functioning of the democratic system. But would Canadians be prepared to accept such a scenario under certain circumstances? Most would not, but the minority who sees justification has increased in recent years.

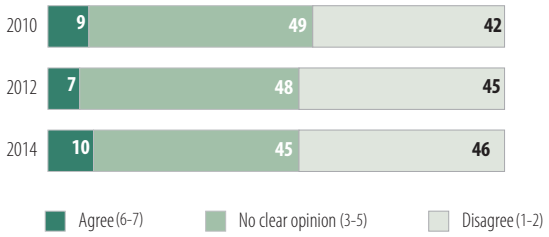
Suspension of Parliament and the Supreme Court. A small but growing minority (23%) of Canadians believe it would be justified for the Prime Minister to close down Parliament when the country is facing very difficult times, up from 15 percent who expressed this view in 2012, and 11 percent in 2010. Similarly, one in six (17%) would accept the Prime Minister dissolving the Supreme Court under such circumstances, up from 11 percent in 2012.

Acceptance of justification for closing down Parliament and the Supreme Court are minority views across the population, but this sentiment is somewhat higher among Canadians on the political right, Conservative Party supporters, those without a high school diploma, and immigrants. This view has increased since 2012 among most groups, but notably among younger Canadians, those without a high school diploma, immigrants, and those on the middle and right of the political spectrum.

Limiting the Voice of Opposition Parties. There is little public support for the Prime Minister placing limits on opposition parties. One in ten (10%) agree strongly (6 or 7 on the seven point scale discussed previously) that "It is necessary for the progress of this country that our prime ministers limit the voice and vote of opposition parties", compared with almost half (46%) who strongly disagree (34% disagree in the strongest possible terms, with a rating of 1). Opinions on this question are largely unchanged from 2010.

Opposition to limiting the opposition is the prevailing view across the country, but there are noticeable differences based on political philosophy and partisan preferences. The strongest opinions come from those on the political left, with an overwhelming majority (76%) strongly disagreeing with limiting the opposition, while slightly higher support for limits can be seen among those on the political right (19%, up from 12% in 2012). Greater disagreement can also be found in Atlantic Canada and British Columbia, and among Canadians over 60. Those who are civically engaged are more likely to have polarized views (either in strong agreement or strong disagreement).

Prime minister should limit the voice of opposition parties



COALITION GOVERNMENT. A "first past the post" electoral system such as Canada's is more likely than others to permit parties with only a plurality of the popular vote to gain majority control of the government. This means that coalition governments, especially at the federal level, have been rare in Canada.

Shortly after the 2008 Federal Election, a bid to form a coalition among the opposition parties that would seek office following a vote of non-confidence in the government failed when the Prime Minister secured a prorogation, and the proposed coalition did not sustain itself once Parliament resumed sitting. This produced heated debate on whether a coalition is legitimate under Canada's democratic system. Since 2008, coalition governments have been formed successfully in the United Kingdom and Australia.

A growing majority of Canadians are comfortable with the principle of a coalition government when no party wins a majority in a general election. Three quarters (74%) believe it is an option that should be considered, up from 69 percent who expressed this view in 2012.

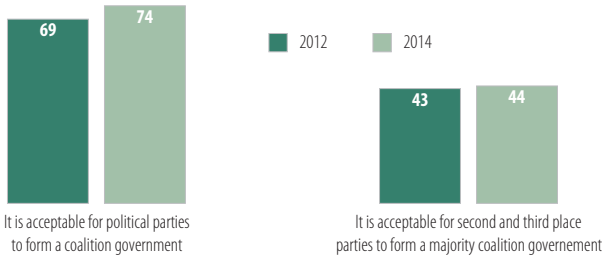
Not surprisingly, support for government coalitions is strongest among Canadians who support the federal parties that attempted to form one in 2008 (those on the political left, and supporters of the Liberals and NDP), and weakest among those who support the Conservative party and those on the political right. Since 2012, support has increased primarily among those in the political middle and right, among Conservative and NDP supporters (as well as those who do not like any of the parties), while declining among those who support the Federal Liberal Party.

A coalition government could hypothetically be formed in two ways. The party that finishes first could find a coalition partner to form a majority, as happened when British Conservatives and Liberal Democrats negotiated their 2010 coalition agreement. The other alternative is something like the 2008 Canadian failed effort at coalition where the parties that finished in second (Liberals) and fourth (NDP) place in seats (albeit second and third in popular vote) formed the coalition with the support of the Bloc Québecois, which controlled the third largest number of seats.

Broad public support for government coalitions notwithstanding, Canadians are less likely to be comfortable when it does not include the party winning the most seats. A small majority of Canadians (56%) say a coalition should only be permitted if it includes the party that holds the most seats after an election while fewer (44%) say it would acceptable if parties winning the second and third largest shares of seats were to form a coalition, results that are essentially unchanged from 2012.

Not surprisingly, support for permitting only a first place party to form a coalition is most widely expressed by the political right and federal Conservatives, while there is majority support for allowing second and third place parties to form coalitions among Canadians on the political left, those who would vote NDP, and Canadians under 30 .

Support for coalition government in Canada



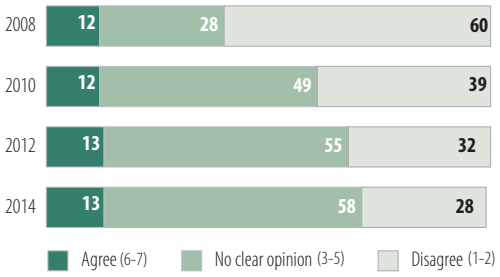
Representation by the People

DIRECT GOVERNANCE BY THE PEOPLE. Canada's democracy is based on representative government; members of Parliament are selected in democratic elections and then are authorized to govern. It is not a form of direct democracy although reforms such as recall and referendum have been promoted by populist movements to give citizens a more direct role in government. British Columbia has enacted both recall and citizen-initiated referendum legislation, the latter being used to overturn the B.C. government's Harmonized Sales Tax law.

Public support for direct democracy in Canada has yet to blossom, although resistance to the concept continues to wane. Just over one in ten (13%) Canadians agree strongly with the statement: "The people should govern directly rather than through elected representatives", compared with more than twice as many (28%) who strongly disagree, and a majority (58%) falling in the middle. Disagreement with this statement has been steadily declining since 2008 when 60 percent held this position.

Opinions about direct democracy are largely consistent across the country, but support has increased since 2012 among Canadians under 30, those born outside the country, and those on the political right. This view is most apt to be expressed among Canadians without a high school diploma (23%) and those who are highly civically engaged (21%). Disagreement is most prominent among Canadians 60 and older (47%).

The people should govern directly rather than through elected representatives



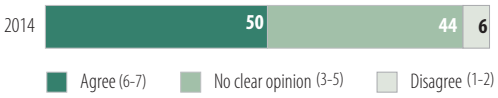
Role of Members of Parliament. Edmund Burke, an 18th century member of the British House of Commons (long viewed as a key figure in the development of modern conservatism), made a famous 1774 speech to his electors in Bristol in which he addressed the proper role of a member of Parliament, noting "to live in the strictest union, the closest correspondence, and the most unreserved communication with his constituents." However, he did not believe MPs should necessarily respect their wishes. He further said: "Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion."

MPs should vote according to what they believe, even if this may not reflect the majority view of their constituents

Canadians are more likely than not to endorse Burke's perspective. Three in ten (30%) agree with the statement: "MPs should vote in Parliament according to what they believe is right, even if this may not reflect the majority view in the community they represent." By comparison, one in five (19%) disagrees with just over half (51%) falling somewhere in the middle.

Perhaps not surprisingly, strongest agreement with this sentiment comes from those on the political right (40%) in comparison with those on the left (23%), although there is little difference in the opinions by federal party support. Agreement with Burke's perspective is also more evident among Canadians who are very religious and those with high civic engagement.

MPs should be allowed to vote according to what they believe, even if it is not consistent with their party's position



A reform bill introduced by Conservative backbencher Michael Chong that would enhance the independence of ordinary MPs vis-à-vis their party leadership is consistent with public opinion. Half of Canadians (50%) strongly agree with the statement: "Political parties should allow MPs to vote in Parliament according to what they believe is right, even if this is not consistent with their party's position", with very few (6%) who strongly disagree.

There is clear support for greater MP autonomy across the country, but especially in Atlantic Canada and BC (the two outlying regions of the country), as well as among men, older Canadians, those born in Canada, and those who are civically engaged. No more than one in ten from any group expresses clear disagreement.

Tolerance for Political Dissent

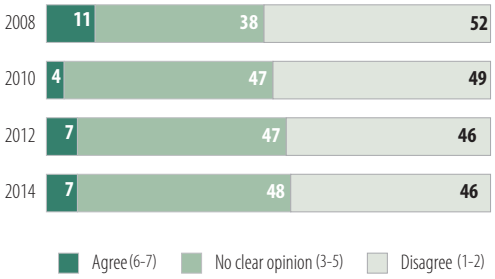
Free speech is a cornerstone of Canadian democracy. What makes it more than an aspirational phrase is when it is applied in the context of tolerating dissent. Canada has a reputation for freedom of speech but this has at times been tested, for example, by the animated Quebec "maple spring" demonstrations in 2012 against rising tuition fees, and the protests in Toronto in 2010 at the G20 summit of international leaders. How well do Canadians accept those who may dissent against established norms?

DO MINORITY VIEWS THREATEN THE COUNTRY?

Few Canadians perceive dissent as a threat to the country, and this sentiment has held steady at least since 2008. Fewer than one in ten (7%) agrees with the statement: "Those who disagree with the majority represent a threat to the country", with close to half (46%) expressing clear disagreement. Views on this question are largely unchanged since 2008.

Public comfort with dissent is the majority view across most of Canada. But those on the political left are by far the most likely to support the right to dissent (76%), strengthening since 2012 (up 8 points) and widening the gap with those on the political right (35%). Over the past two years, support for public dissent has increased modestly among residents of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and B.C., residents of smaller towns and rural areas, among older Canadians and those with the least education and income. The opposite trend is evident among those with higher socio-economic status, Albertans, residents of major urban centres, and those civically engaged.

Those who disagree with the majority represent a threat to the country



APPROVAL OF POLITICAL ACTION. Canadians may express tolerance of dissenting opinions in general terms, but what actions by dissenters to pursue their political objectives are acceptable? Public approval rests primarily on whether such actions are legal and non-violent. As in past years, the survey tested Canadians' acceptance of six forms of political action on a 10-point scale ranging from "1" ("strongly disapprove") to "10" ("strongly approve"). Public acceptance of political actions have nudged upwards over the past two years, and in one case increased noticeably.

Working with organizations to solve community problems. Among the actions tested, Canadians are most comfortable with people taking action within the context of working with established organizations on local issues. Two thirds (66%) approve initiatives of this nature, with almost no disapproval. This opinion is held across Canada, but most widely among those on the political left (87%) and those high on the civic action index (80%). Support for this type of political action is stable since 2012 at the national level, but has increased modestly among older Canadians and those on the political left, while declining among those under 30.

Working on political campaigns. Elections and political campaigns are the conventional means of political participation in Canada. However, the low reputation of political parties (see elsewhere in this report) may explain why working in political campaigns meets with less approval than working with community organizations.

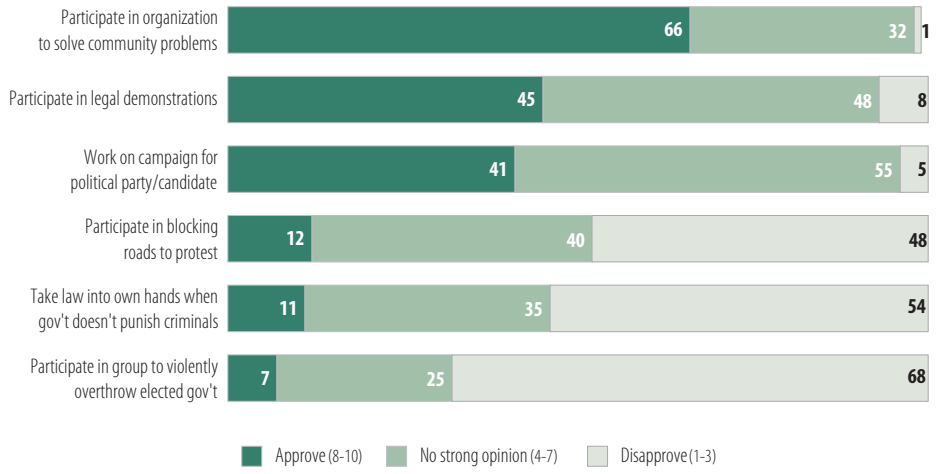
Four in ten (41%) Canadians express strong approval of political campaign work, compared to only five percent who disapprove. This reflects a marginal improvement since 2012 when 38 percent expressed approval.

Predictably, public approval for working on political campaigns is stronger among Canadians on both the political right and left, as well as among those civically engaged (58%), while least evident among those who do not support any federal party. A positive view of such activity also increases with age, and this gap has widened over the past two years (28% among those under 30, versus 51% among those 60 plus). Support also increases with education, although the gap has narrowed since 2012.

Participating in legal demonstrations. More than four in ten (45%) Canadians now express approval of legal demonstrations as a way voicing dissent, up from 35 percent who stated this view in 2012. Fewer than one in ten (8%) now disapprove (down 5 points).

Public acceptance of legal protests has increased across most of the country since 2012, but notably not in Quebec (54%, where support remains higher than elsewhere) and among Canadians under 30 (39%). Support continues to be strongest among those on the political left (70%), those civically engaged (68%), and least evident among Conservative party supporters (34%) and those who do not support any party (25%).

Approval of people's actions to achieve political goals



Vigilante justice. Most Canadians do not accept that citizens are entitled to ignore the rule of law and initiate punitive measures against law breakers if they believe the government has failed to punish criminals. More than half (54%) disapprove of such actions, compared with one in ten (11%) who think it is justified. This sentiment is largely unchanged since 2006, although disapproval is down marginally since 2012, with this shift most evident among Canadians on the political right and Liberal Party supporters. Disapproval of vigilante justice is strongest among older Canadians, those in the top income bracket, those on the political left, and mainline Protestants.

Blocking roads. Blocking roads has been a protest tactic used by some environmental and Aboriginal protests in Canada, although there has been little activity over the past couple of years. Few (12%) Canadians express approval of this form of political action, compared to nearly half (48%) who disapprove. However, public disapproval has declined noticeably since 2012 (when 59% disapproved), with this decline evident across much of the population but most significantly in B.C. and among those on the political right. Disapproval in blocking roads is now most widespread in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (62%), among Canadians 60 plus (67%), and those supporting the Federal Conservative Party (63%), although levels are down in each case since 2012. Approval is most evident among Canadians on the political left and those who are civically engaged.

Violent overthrow of government. Canadians are mostly in agreement that political violence aimed at overthrowing governments is not a legitimate form of political action, although disapproval has declined over the past two years. Just under seven in ten (68%) strongly disapprove of such action (down from 74% in 2012), compared with seven percent who voice approval.

This type of action is rejected by clear majorities across the population, but most noticeably among older Canadians, those on the political left, and Conservative party supporters, a view shared by a much smaller majority of Canadians under 30 (53%). Since 2012, disapproval of violent actions against governments has declined across most of the population, but most noticeably among Canadians on the political right and Liberal Party supporters, while increasing over this time period among those on the political left.

International comparison

Canadian opinion on the acceptability of political actions is comparable to most other parts of the hemisphere. Canadians' support for participation in legal demonstrations is now on par with the hemispheric average, as such support has declined noticeably in Mexico, most of Central America and to a lesser extent across South America. Acceptance of this type of action is now most widespread in Uruguay (67%) and Venezuela (64%).

Public support for blocking roads in protest is up marginally since 2012, primarily in South America and the Caribbean. This view is most prevalent in Paraguay (41%, up 13 points) and Colombia (24%, up 7), and least so in Guyana (7%), El Salvador (7%), Panama (6%) and Ecuador (6%). Support for vigilante justice also remains low, but has increased marginally over the past two years, but most significantly in Paraguay (31%, up 16) and Honduras (26%, up 13).

Finally, few in any country advocate for groups working to violently overthrow an elected government, but this sentiment is up since 2012 in Venezuela (8%, up 6), Brazil (11%, up 4), Paraguay (14%, up 10, and Jamaica (8%, up 4).

Approve of actions to achieve political goals*

	CANADA	United States	Mexico	Central America	South America	Caribbean
Participate in legal demonstrations	45	55	32	30	48	51
Participate in blocking roads to protest	12	14	9	10	16	18
Take law into own hands when government doesn't punish criminals	11	11	16	19	14	21
Participate in group to violently overthrow elected government	7	6	6	5	8	5

* 8-10 on a 10-point scale (1 = strongly disapprove, 10 = strongly approve)

RIGHTS FOR THOSE CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT.

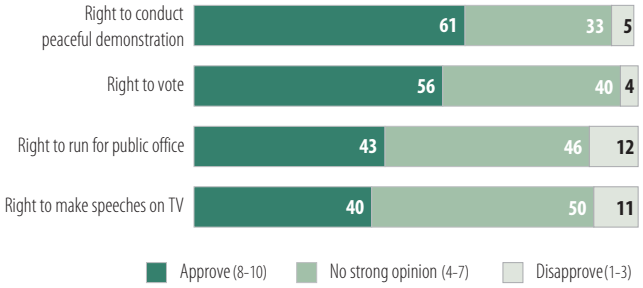
One test of a democratic system is the extent to which it tolerates the rights of those who criticize it. The survey asked Canadians how they felt about the rights of citizens who say bad things not just about the current government but the Canadian system of government (using the same 10 point approval-disapproval scale). Overall Canadians approve of the rights of dissenters but to a greater degree for some forms of political expression than others.

Right to conduct peaceful demonstrations. Six in ten (61%) Canadians approve of the right of those critical of the system of government to conduct peaceful demonstrations, while just five percent disapprove. Approval is marginally higher than in 2012 and 2010. Support for this form of free speech is strongest among Canadians who are civically engaged, the political left, and those who support the NDP.

Right to vote. A modest majority of Canadians (56%) approve of the right of those who criticize the system of government to vote (versus 4% who disapprove), unchanged from 2012 but up from 2010. Approval is consistent across the population, but most widespread among Canadians on the political left and those who are civically active.

Right to run for public office. Public support for expressions of dissent is weaker when it comes to running for public office. Just over four in ten (43%) Canadians say they believe those who criticize the Canadian form of government have a right to run for public office, compared with one in ten (12%) who disapprove, unchanged from 2012. Once again, support for this right is strongest among Canadians on the political left and those civically active, as well among as those under 30 and those with a university degree.

Protection of the rights of people critical of the Canadian form of government



Right to make speeches on TV. The importance of television stems from its potential to have a significant political impact. Four in ten (40%) of Canadians approve of the right of those criticizing the Canadian form of government to make speeches on TV, versus one in ten (11%) who disagree, unchanged since 2010. Such approval is strongest among Canadians on the political left, NDP supporters, those civically active, and French-speaking Canadians, and least so among residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and Canadians 60-plus.

International comparison

As in 2012, public approval of these different forms of political dissent varies noticeably across the Americas. Canadians are among the most accepting, second only to Americans. By comparison, such approval is significantly lower in Central America where acceptance of these forms of dissent has declined noticeably over the past two years (except in Honduras). Approval levels are now lowest in Panama and Guatemala. In South America, acceptance of dissent has increased noticeably in Venezuela, while declining in Brazil and Argentina.

Protection of the rights of people critical of the national form of government*

	CANADA	UNITED STATES	MEXICO	CENTRAL AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	CARIBBEAN
Right to conduct peaceful demonstration	61	73	34	25	36	45
Right to vote	56	66	33	23	33	32
Right to run for public office	43	51	19	12	26	20
Right to make speeches on TV	40	48	20	13	26	19

* 8-10 on a 10-point scale (1 = strongly disapprove, 10 = strongly approve)

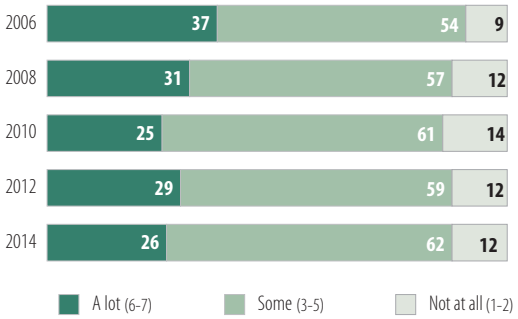
Democratic and Human Rights

PROTECTION OF CITIZENS' BASIC RIGHTS. Another central principle of democracy is the protection of civil and human rights for its citizens and (as Canada's Supreme Court has confirmed) respect for minorities.

Citizens' basic rights protected by political system. Canadians were asked to what extent they believe citizens' basic rights are well protected by the country's political system (responding on a 7 point scale, where "7" means "a lot" and "1" means "not at all"). The public is more likely than not to see basic rights as well protected in Canada, but just a quarter (26%) believe this strongly (a rating of 6 or 7), while one in ten (12%) think such rights are not protected (a rating of 1 or2), with the remainder falling in the middle. Public confidence in Canada's protection of basic rights is down marginally from 2012, and comparable to 2010 results.

Confidence in rights protections is generally consistent across the population, but somewhat stronger among urban residents, Canadians with a university degree, those born in another country, those on the political right, and those who support the Conservative party. This view is least apt to be shared by Atlantic Canadians and British Columbians, rural residents and those who do not support any federal party. Notably, there is little variation in views across age cohorts and income groups.

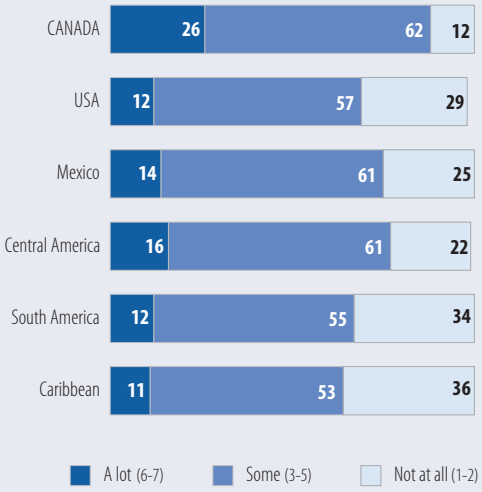
Citizens' basic rights are well-protected in Canada



International comparison

While relatively few Canadians express strong confidence in the protection of basic rights, they are in fact the most positive of any country in the hemisphere. They are now more than twice as likely as are citizens of the USA, Mexico, and many other countries to believe their rights are protected. Positive views are also expressed in Nicaragua and Argentina. Since 2012, opinions on this question have declined in some countries (Mexico, Belize, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Chile), while improving in others (Honduras and Panama).

Extent to which citizens' basic rights are protected



Private property rights. Property rights are not current enshrined in the country's Constitution, although there has been some discussion of changing this, off and on for years. The survey reveals that the lack of such legal protection is not a widespread concern for most citizens. Canadians are more likely (24%) than not (15%) to agree that the Canadian government currently respects the private property of its citizens, with a majority (60%) somewhere in the middle.

Belief in current protection of private property results is stronger among Canadians on the political right, supporters of the federal Conservatives, Torontonians, foreign born residents, as well as those with a university education. This view is least apt to be shared by Atlantic Canadians and British Columbians, as well as rural residents.

LGBT rights. The survey also explored public attitudes about rights of individuals who make up the LGBT community, who have been gaining recognition of its civil rights over the past decade. The latest survey reveals gradual but steady public acceptance of these rights.

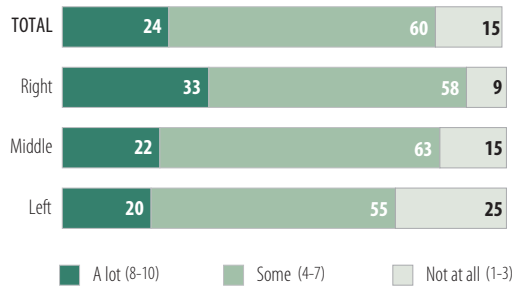
Seven in ten (70%) Canadians approve of the right of homosexuals to run for public office, compared with just six percent expressing disapproval.[7] Public support is up marginally from 2012 (67%) and 2010 (65%). Endorsement of this civil right for LGBT individuals is now highest among rural residents (81%), those on the political left (88%) and those with no religion (80%). This view is least apt to be shared by evangelical Christians (50%), but this reflects a significant jump from 2012 when only 33 percent supported this right for LGBT individuals.

In 2005, Canada became one of the first nations to recognize same-sex marriages when the House of Commons enacted legislation redefining marriage as no longer applying to just one man and one woman. A clear majority (60%) of Canadians now approve same-sex marriage (up 3 points since 2012), while about one in seven (15%) still disapproves, a reflection of the general acceptance and recognition of the LGBT community noted earlier.

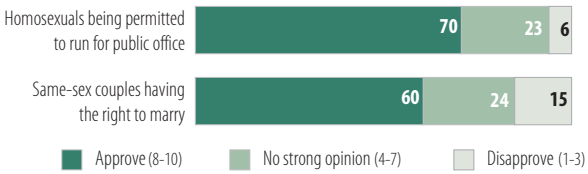
Majority approval of same-sex marriage is evident across the country, but most widespread among those on the political left (83%) and those with no religion (74%). The few groups where less than a majority share this view include the political right, federal Conservatives and the very religious. About half (49%) of evangelical Christians remain opposed to same sex marriage, but somewhat less so than in 2012. Approval levels have increased over the past two years among most groups, except for declines in B.C., among Canadians born in another country, followers of non-Christian religions, and supporters of the Liberal Party and NDP.

The Canadian government respects the private property rights of its citizens

By political orientation



Acceptance of LGBT rights

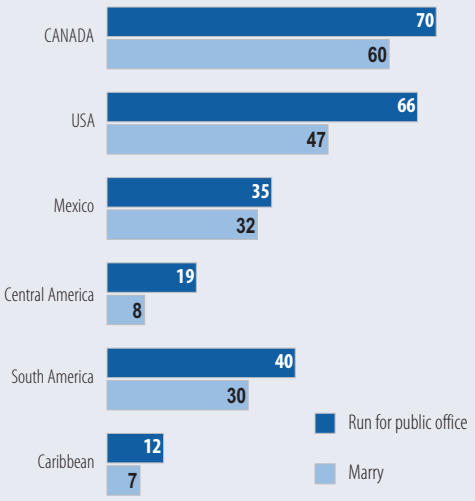


7 The term "homosexual" is now outdated, but has been used on AmericasBarometer surveys across the hemisphere since their inception.

International comparison

As in 2012, LGBT rights are an issue that sharply divides Canada and the USA from most of the other countries in the Americas. Canadians (along with Uruguayans) continue to be the most supportive of LGBT persons running for public office and marrying, followed by Americans. By contrast, this view is shared by few in Central America and the Caribbean, with 80 to 90 percent disapproval in some countries. Opinions are somewhat more varied in South America where, in addition to Uruguay, acceptance is more prevalent in Brazil, Chile and Argentina. Since 2012, public support for LGBT rights have made modest gains in a few countries (Venezuela, Chile, Mexico, Honduras and Argentina).

Support for LGBT rights*



* 8 to 10 on a 10 point scale (1=strongly agree, 10=strongly disagree)

Rule of Law, Crime and Corruption

A properly functioning constitutional democracy in a country such as Canada is based on the principle of the rule of law: every citizen is subject to the law, including law makers themselves. Overall, trust and confidence in Canada's justice system exceeds the faith the public has in other aspects of Canadian democracy such as Parliament. This section delves into the justice system, including views on crime and the court system.

Confidence in the Justice System

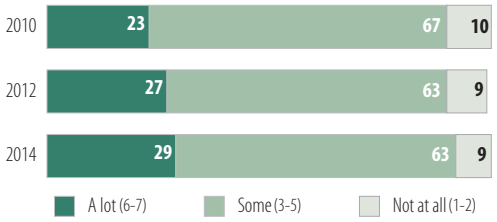
TRUST IN JUDICIAL PROCESS. The justice system is a complex process that begins with law making in the country's legislatures, then proceeds to enforcement of criminal law by the police and concludes with prosecution of crimes and the resolution of civil conflicts in the courts. The process of trial in the courts must be seen to be fair, while the courts must also be seen to be delivering appropriate punishment to those deemed guilty of crimes.

Guarantee of a fair trial. The right to a fair trial is laid out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and is defined as the right "to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law in a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal." Belief in the ability of courts to live up to this principle is important to the legitimacy and stability of the Canadian justice system.

Canadians are more likely than not believe the courts in Canada guarantee a fair trial, although their faith in the courts is qualified. Based on the 7 point scale (described earlier where a rating of "7" is "a lot" and "1" is "not at all"), three in ten (29%) of Canadians express a lot of confidence in the court system (rating of 6 or 7), compared with one in ten (9%) who have little or no faith in the system (rating of 1 or 2). Confidence in the courts has risen modestly since 2010.

The level of public confidence in fair trials is similar across the country, but somewhat higher in Ontario, among older Canadians, those with the most education and income, those who are religious (especially mainline Protestants), those on the political right, and those civically engaged. Since 2012, however, this view has increased most noticeably among Atlantic Canadians and citizens with the least education and income. Public attitudes about the guarantee of a fair trial are similar to the public's trust in the justice system as a whole.

Extent to which courts in Canada guarantee a fair trial

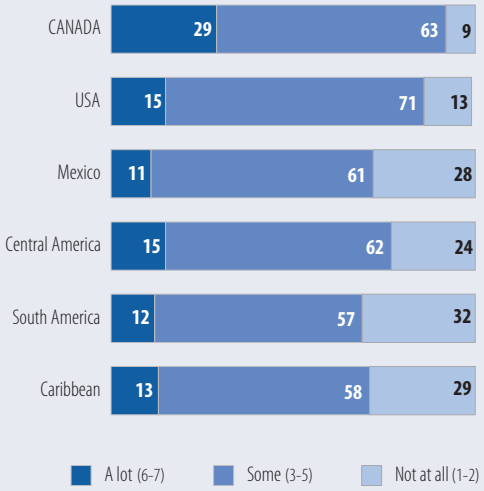


International comparison

Canadians are now more likely than citizens elsewhere to believe their courts guarantee a fair trial, as this view has declined since 2012 across most of the hemisphere. This downward trend is most widespread in Belize, Guyana, Chile and Jamaica, and confidence in the courts is now lowest in Chile (8%), Peru (7%) and Bolivia (6%). More than four in ten citizens of Venezuela and Paraguay have no confidence in their country's court system.

When it comes to punishing the guilty, Canadians are no more likely than others in the hemisphere to express a lot of confidence, but along with Americans are among the least likely to be strongly negative. The strongest faith in punishing the guilty can be found in Nicaragua (28% have a lot of confidence), followed by the Dominican Republic (21%) (both down from 2012), as well as Panama (22%, up 9 points).

Extent to which courts guarantee a fair trial



Faith in punishing the guilty. The fundamental principle of sentencing is that the sentence fits the crime. However, other factors are often considered in arriving at an appropriate sentence, such as deterring crimes by others, preventing the individual being sentenced from re-offending, the potential for rehabilitation, and providing reparation for harm done to victims. As well those who plead guilty without a trial often receive a reduced sentence.

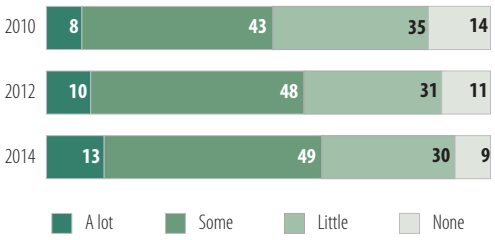
The survey asked: "If you were a victim of a robbery or assault, how much faith do you have that the judicial system would punish the guilty?" As with confidence in fair trials, Canadians' faith in appropriate sentencing of those convicted of crimes is lukewarm. Just over one in ten (13%) express a lot of faith in the system, with a comparable proportion (9%) having none at all. Most fall somewhere in between, having "some" (49%) or little (30%) faith in the system as it applies to punishment of those who deserve it. As with opinions about fair trials, confidence levels have improved noticeably since 2010.

Faith in punishing the guilty is somewhat more evident in Ontario and Alberta, and least so in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (where opinions have declined marginally over the past two years). Since 2012, confidence in the system has improved modestly across many groups, but more significantly in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, as well as among Canadians with the least education and income.

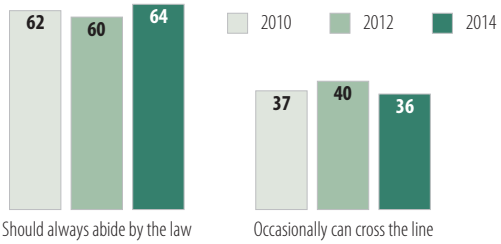
SHOULD AUTHORITIES ABIDE BY THE LAW? Since the adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights there are additional burdens on police in pursuing criminals, including the right to be secure against unreasonable searches, the right not to be arbitrarily detained and the right to be informed of the reason for arrest. Police investigations can be controversial as has recently been the case with the use of "Mr. Big" investigations (a covert investigation technique used by undercover police investigators to gather confessions for prosecution). Do the public believe that authorities should always abide by the law in their pursuit of criminals?

Most, but not all, Canadians believe the authorities should work within the law in catching criminals. A clear majority (64%) want authorities always to abide by the law, with this view strengthening modestly since 2012 when 60 percent expressed this view, and is comparable to 2010 opinions. Fewer than four in ten (36%) now think it would acceptable if authorities occasionally "cross the line" in pursuit of criminals.

Faith in punishing the guilty



To catch criminals, authorities ...



Staying within the law to enforce them is the majority view across the population, and is most widespread among Canadians with a university degree, those born in another country, those on the political left, those civically engaged, and those who are evangelical Christians and belong to non-Christian religions. This opinion has strengthened over the past two years most significantly in Alberta and Vancouver, while declining among Canadians 60 years and older (in this group only 54% say authorities should always abide by the law, compared with 46% who say they can occasionally cross the line).

Crime and Community Safety

A key factor in building strong local communities is individuals feeling safe and secure where they live. The survey explored Canadians feelings about their sense of safety in their neighbourhood, perceptions of local gang activity, their own experiences with crime and what they have done about it individually and in their community.

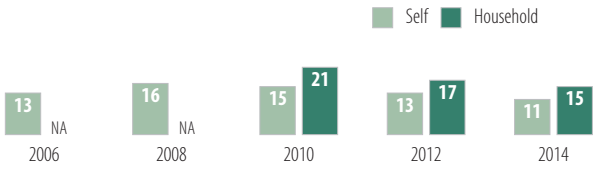
PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH CRIME. Crime statistics are gathered in two ways: police reported crime data, and surveys that allow victims to self-identify. Statistics Canada reported this year that police-identified crime was down for the tenth year in a row in 2013. However, crimes often go unreported to police. This survey asked a number of self-reporting questions about individuals' experience with crime as victims, and the results confirm the reported statistics indicating that victimization is on the decline.

One in ten Canadians (11%) report to have been the victim of a crime in the past year, down marginally from two years ago and the lowest level reported since this question was first asked in 2006. Six percent of also indicate someone else in their household was victimized over this time period. Accounting for the overlap, this translates into 15 percent of Canadian households experiencing some form of crime in the past 12 months; this represents a decline of almost one-third since 2010 when the proportion was 21 percent.

Personal victimization rates have declined in most groups, but most noticeably in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (to 7%, down 9 points). As in 2012, experience with crime is higher among younger Canadians (17% among those under 30), and has declined marginally in all age groups except among those 60 plus (7%). Victimization is somewhat more widely reported among Canadians on the political right (15%) and those who are very religious (16%). There is little difference across income levels or community size (although a bit lower among those living in rural areas).

Among Canadians reporting personal experience with crime over the past 12 months, most (63%) say this happened to them once during this period, with another 18 percent reporting two such incidents, and a small proportion (5%) indicating five or more times (this group represents about one-half of one percent of the adult Canadian population).

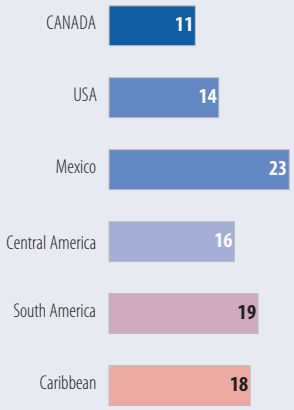
Victimized by crime in last 12 months



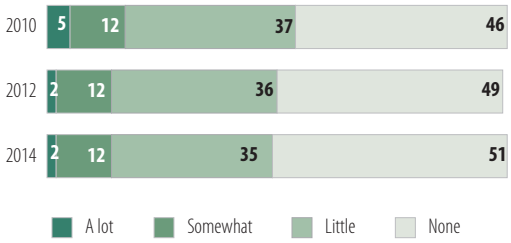
International comparison

Canadians' personal experience with crime is among the lowest in the hemisphere, comparable with the USA and several Latin American countries (Costa Rica, Chile and Trinidad and Tobago). Victimization rates are most varied in South America, ranging from highs in Peru (31%), Ecuador (28%) and Argentina (24%) to lows in Guyana (7%) and Chile (11%). Variation is also evident in the Caribbean, ranging from 23 percent in the Dominican Republic to only seven percent in Jamaica. Since 2012, crime victimization has increased by four percentage points or more in Venezuela, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, while declining in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Bolivia and Haiti.

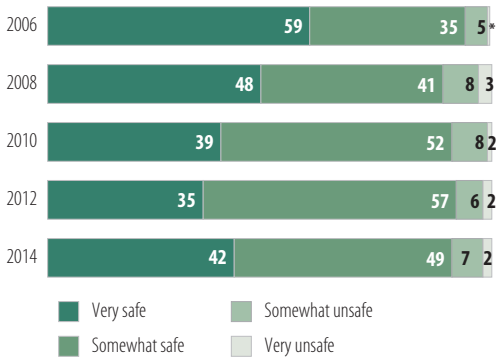
Self victimized by crime in last 12 months



Neighbourhood affected by gangs



Safety of neighbourhood where you live



* Less than one percent

LOCAL GANG ACTIVITY. In many Canadian cities the presence of gangs, particularly youth gangs, has been associated with criminal activity. About one in six Canadians report their neighbourhood is affected by gang activity either "a lot" (2%) or "somewhat" (12%), with roughly a third (35%) saying there was "a little" gang activity. Overall perceptions of gang activity are similar to 2012 and down marginally from 2010.

The stability in perceptions nationally notwithstanding, there have been notable shifts. Since 2012, reports of local gang activity have jumped in Quebec (doubling in Montreal from 12% to 24%), while declining in the Prairie provinces and B.C (halving in Vancouver, from 30% to 15%). The lowest rate of reported gang activity is now in Atlantic Canada and Alberta (7% respectively in each), while highest in the major urban centres (20%). Opinions have shifted over the past two years by political orientation: Canadians on the left are now less apt to report local gang issues (10%, down 6 points), while those on the right are more apt to do so (21%, up 9).

NEIGHBOUR SAFETY. How safe do Canadians feel about their neighbourhoods, in terms of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed? Most Canadians believe they live in a safe area, and this sense has strengthened in the past two years, reversing a downward trend. More than four in ten (42%) now report feeling very safe in their neighbourhood, up from 35 percent who reported this in 2012, although below the levels recorded in 2006 and 2008 which were based on telephone rather than online surveys.[8] Another half (49%) feel "somewhat" safe, while fewer than one in ten feel somewhat (7%) or very (2%) unsafe.

Feelings of safety in ones neighbourhood have increased in all groups since 2014, but most significantly in Alberta and BC, and in major urban centres. Very safe neighbourhoods are most widely reported among Canadians 60 plus (51%), those in the top income bracket (54%) and mainline Protestants (55%), while this is least evident in Quebec (29%), and lower among those living outside Montreal (35%). Unsafe neighbourhoods are most apt to be identified by Canadians without a high school diploma (16%). Notably, the gender gap in perceptions of living in a very safe neighbourhood has almost disappeared (44% of men, compared with 41% of women).

8 Comparisons between telephone-based and online-based surveys must be treated with caution because they can elicit slightly different responses to the same questions. Telephone surveys have been shown to elicit somewhat more "socially desirable" responses to certain types of questions.

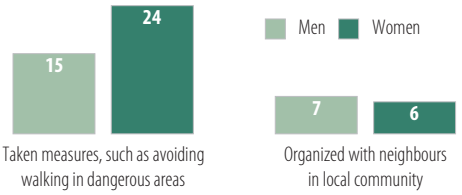
STEPS TAKEN TO IMPROVE PERSONAL SAFETY. The 2014 survey asked Canadians about steps they may have taken in the past 12 months out of concerns about crime and personal safety in their community.

One in five (20%) Canadians report having taken some type of measure(s) to protect themselves, such as avoiding walking through some areas of their neighbourhood because they perceive them as dangerous. A smaller proportion (6%) indicate they organized with their neighbours out of concerns about crime.

Personal actions to keep oneself safe are most commonly reported by women (24%), residents in communities of 100,000 or more (22%) Canadians under 30 (29%), those in households earning under $30K per year (27%), those on the political right (26%), those civically engaged (34%), and those who belong to non-Christian religions (28%). This is least apt to be the case for rural residents (7%)

Organizing with neighbours out of fear of local crime is most evident among francophones (12%), Canadians on the political right (12%), those civically engaged (18%), and non-Christians (14%).

Steps taken to protect self from local crime

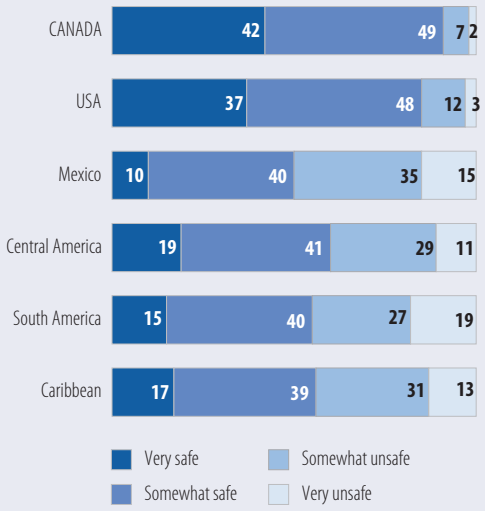


International comparison

Canadians stand out as feeling the most secure in terms of personal safety in their neighbourhood, and are among only a handful of countries where this comfort has strengthened over the past two years. Perceptions of safe neighbourhoods have declined almost everywhere else, most noticeably in Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic. After Canada, it is Jamaicans (39%) and Americans (37%) who are most apt to feel they live in safe neighbourhoods. Unsafe neighbourhoods are most prevalent in Venezuela (67%), Peru (60%), the Dominican Republic (56%) and Bolivia (55%).

Given perceptions of safety, it is not surprising that Canadians and Americans are among the least likely to report having taken measures to protect themselves from crime. Such actions are most widely reported in South America, notably Venezuela (71%), Brazil (56%) and Peru (53%), along with the Dominican Republic (59%) and Costa Rica (54%). This is least apt to be reported in Haiti (19%) and Guyana (21%). Organizing with neighbours to address local crime is most widespread in Peru (28%), Bolivia (28%) and the Dominican Republic (28%)

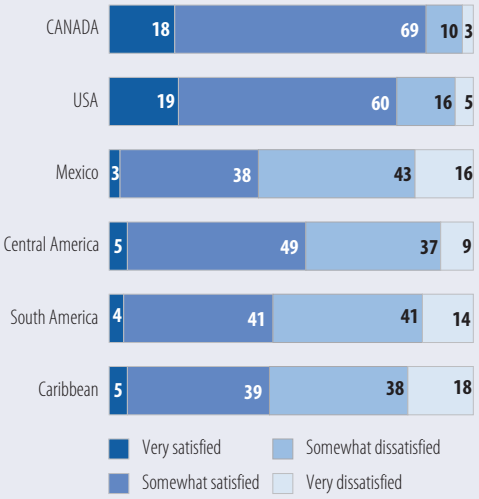
Safety of neighbourhood where you live



International comparison

As with perceptions of safety, Canadians and Americans are the most satisfied with the protection provided by their local police. Fewer than one in ten from every other country say they are very satisfied, and dissatisfaction is widespread, especially in Venezuela (71%), Peru (69%), Bolivia (68%) and Haiti (65%).

Satisfaction with the performance of police in your neighbourhood



PROTECTION BY LOCAL POLICE. One in five (18%) Canadians are very satisfied with the performance of the local police in protecting their neighbourhood. Most (69%) are somewhat satisfied, while just over one in ten are somewhat (10%) or very (3%) dissatisfied.

Opinions are similar across the country, although strong satisfaction is somewhat lower in rural communities (14%). This view is most evident among Canadians 60 plus, those on the political right and Conservative supporters. Dissatisfaction is most prevalent among Canadians with no federal vote preference (23%) and those generally dissatisfied with their life overall (30%). Those civically engaged are among those most likely to be either very satisfied or dissatisfied (with fewer in the "somewhat" category).

Corruption in Government

Corruption in government, including bribery of officials, is an ongoing concern around the world as it delegitimizes democratic governance. The United Nations believes corruption diverts public resources to private gain and thereby reduces access to public services. While evidence of corruption is low in Canada by international standards, there are many current examples on today's front pages, including a major municipal corruption scandal in Quebec, the conviction of the Mayor of London Ontario for misuse of public funds, and spending irregularities by several of the country's Senators.

BRIBERY REQUESTS FROM PUBLIC SERVANTS. In some countries petty bribery is relatively common, either to expedite access to public services or to avoid sanctions such as traffic tickets. While such transactions may occur from time to time in Canada, they are not common.

Three percent of Canadians report having been **asked for a bribe by a police officer** during the past year, (similar to findings from 2012 and 2010). The reported frequency of such bribery requests is similar across the country, but marginally higher among Canadians born in another country (6%), those civically engaged (8%), and the very religious (6%), as well as by those with the least and most education (6% each, respectively).

Similarly, three percent of Canadians report that they had been **asked for a bribe by a government employee** in the past 12 months, comparable to findings dating back to 2006.

This experience is marginally higher in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (6%), among younger Canadians (7%), those with less than a high school education (7%), those born outside the country (6%), those on the political right (6%), the very religious (8%), and those high on the civic action index (8%).

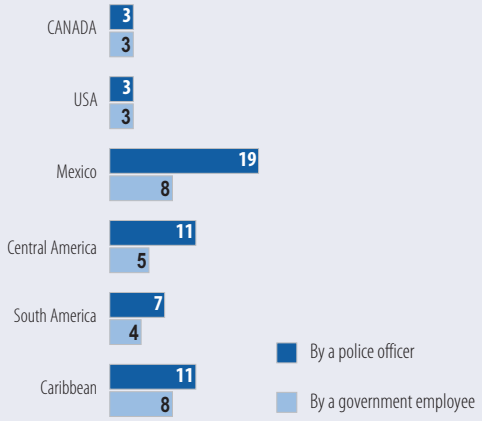
There is some overlap between those who were asked for bribes from police officers and government officials; about six in ten reporting either type of bribery request report both of them.

International comparison

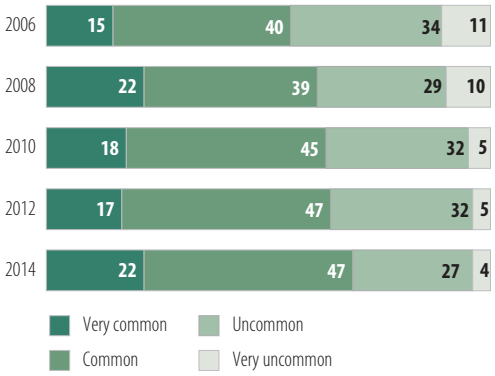
As in 2012, Canadians and Americans are among the least likely in the hemisphere to have been asked for a bribe from police or government officials, along with residents of Chile and Uruguay. This experience is most common in Mexico, Bolivia and Paraguay (in each country about one in five report requests from police in the past year), and also above the average in Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and the Dominican Republic.

Overall, reports of bribe requests have remained relatively stable since 2012. Requests from police have increased in Panama, Belize, Venezuela and Paraguay, while requests from government officials have gone up in Panama, while declining in Haiti.

Asked for a bribe in the last 12 months



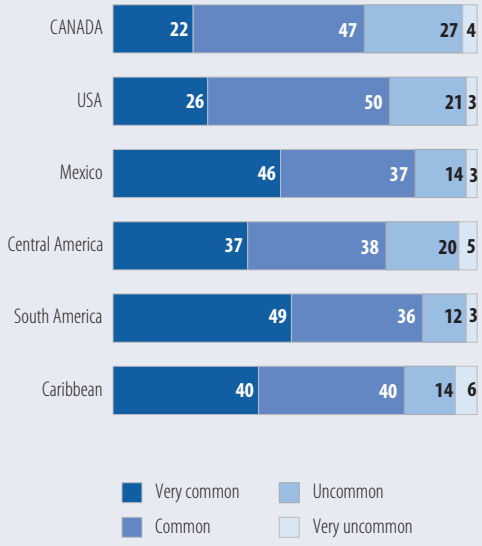
Corruption among public officials



International comparison

Canadians (along with Haitians) are the least likely across the hemisphere to believe that corruption among public officials is very common in their country. Perceptions of widespread corruption are most widespread in Colombia (59%), Paraguay (56%), the Dominican Republic (53%) and Venezuela (52%). Since 2012 this view has increased noticeably in Belize, Honduras, Venezuela and Paraguay, while declining in Panama and Haiti.

Corruption among political officials



CORRUPTION AMONG PUBLIC OFFICIALS. Canadian citizens report little direct experience with corruption among public officials, but read or hear about such activities in the media on almost a daily basis. To what extent does the public believe corruption takes place among public officials who are elected or hired to represent their interests as citizens and taxpayers?

Seven in ten Canadians believe that such corruption is very common (22%) or common (47%), compared with one in four (27%) who say uncommon, and a mere four percent who maintain is it very uncommon. Public perceptions of corruption are on the rise since 2012, when only 17 percent thought it was very common, reversing a marginal decline dating back to 2008.

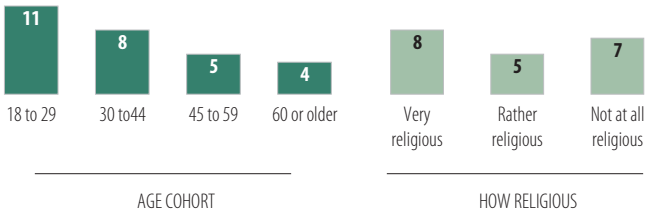
A majority of Canadians across the country and in every population group perceive that corruption is either common or very common. However, this perspective is particularly widespread in Quebec (34% say very common), where a commission of inquiry into allegations of municipal corruption has been underway since 2011. However, the increased belief in corruption among public officials has increased most significantly since 2012 in provinces from Manitoba and west (by roughly 10 points), while declining in Atlantic Canada (where only 14% now say corruption is very common). This view has also jumped in Montreal (to 38%, up 13 points), but not elsewhere in the province (nor among francophones).

Perception of corruption among public officials is somewhat more evident among Canadians on the political left, federal NDP supporters and those civically engaged, while less so among Conservative Party supporters and mainline Protestants.

ARE BRIBES JUSTIFIED? Apart from the prevalence of corruption in society, do Canadians believe it is acceptable behaviour to engage in under some circumstances? Few (7%) believe that "given the way things are, sometimes paying a bribe is justified", with nine in ten (91%) saying it is not (the remaining 3% declined to answer the question).

The public's acceptance of bribery as sometimes justifiable is somewhat higher in Toronto (11%), among Canadians under 30 (11%), those without a high school diploma (12%) or a university degree (10%), those on the political right (10%), and those civically engaged (10%). This view is least apt to be shared in B.C. (2%) and among rural residents (3%). Notably, responses to this question about what constitutes in part a moral issue are not linked to the importance people place on religion.

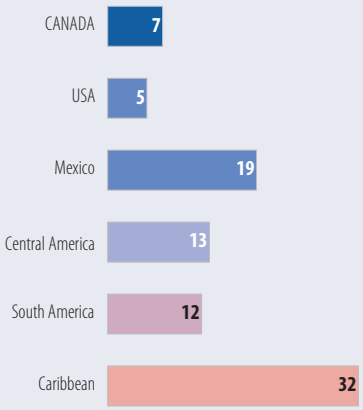
Sometimes paying a bribe is justified



International comparison

Canadians and Americans are the least apt to say that paying bribes is sometimes justified. This view is most commonly expressed in Haiti (43%), followed by Jamaica (32%), Guyana (26%) and the Dominican Republic (22%), Nicaragua (20%) and Mexico (19%).

Sometimes paying a bribe is justified



Government and Citizen Privacy

Federal Government Protection of Personal Information

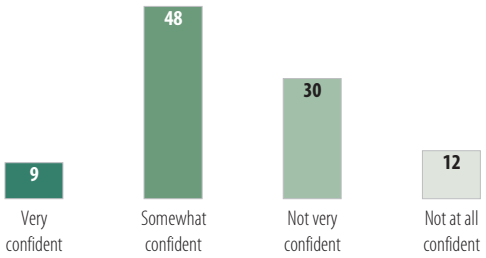
In early 2013 former American intelligence professional Edward Snowden leaked secret documents revealing the existence and scale of global surveillance programs conducted by the United States and other governments. His actions provoked a global public debate that has continued unabated on mass surveillance, government secrecy, national security and information privacy. How much confidence do Canadians have in their government's policies and practices, whether it is about maintaining the confidentiality of Canadians' personal information or ensuring the country's national security?

PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION. The federal government collects personal information about its citizens in many forms, including when they fill out their taxes, apply for a passport, cross the border, and seek employment assistance. In the modern interconnected world of global electronic communications, this inevitably raises issues of privacy and confidentiality.

On the whole, Canadians express a qualified level of confidence that the information the federal government collects on them is adequately protected. A modest majority say they are very (9%) or somewhat (48%) confident, compared with four in ten who are not very (30%) or not at all (12%) confident in this protection. The fact that almost eight in ten place themselves in the middle two points on this scale reveals that few have strongly held views about the issue.

Opinions are broadly similar across the population, with confidence in government protections somewhat greater among Canadians under 45, those earning top incomes, and Conservative Party supporters. This view is least evident among rural residents, those on the political left and those who do not support any federal party. In no group, however, do more than one in six say they are very confident in the federal government protection of their personal information.

Confidence in federal government protection of your personal information

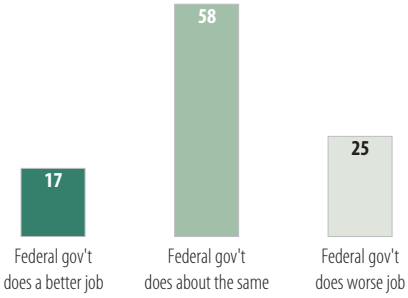


Canadian's confidence in this area is closely linked to their broader attitudes about government and democracy, including belief that citizens' basic rights are well protected, respect the country's political institutions, trust Parliament, trust the Prime Minister, and are satisfied with the way democracy works in Canada.

COMPARISON WITH PRIVATE SECTOR PROTECTION. The private sector (banks, cable companies, health care providers) also collect and maintain a considerable amount of personal information on individuals. Are Canadians more or less comfortable with the protections put in place by the companies they choose to do business with, in comparison with the federal government? A majority (58%) of Canadians do not (or cannot) see a difference in the performance of the two sectors on this issue. The remainder are somewhat more likely to believe the private sector does a better job (25%), compared with those who put more faith in the federal government (17%).

There is little variation across the population on this issue, with a majority or plurality in every group making no distinction in the privacy protection provided by the federal government and private sector. In comparative terms, Quebecers, and those on the political right are more likely to believe the federal government does a worse job of protecting personal information than the private sector. Greater confidence in the federal government is expressed by younger Canadians, those without a high school diploma, those high on the civic action index, and the very religious. As would be expected, responses to this question are very closely linked to Canadians' overall level of confidence in the federal government's protection of their personal information.

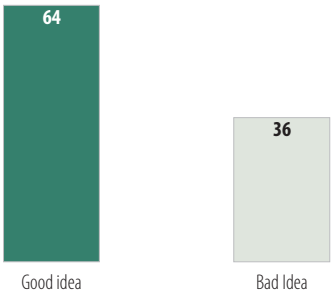
How well does the federal government protect your personal informational compared to the private sector?



SHARING INFORMATION ACROSS FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS. Personal information is collected and maintained by a number of different federal departments and agencies, and currently there is a limited amount of integration of files which sometimes reduces the speed and efficiency of services that Canadians expect from their government, such as employment insurance, pensions and veterans benefits. While greater sharing of citizen information across government entities might potentially entail greater risks to privacy protection, a clear majority (64%) of Canadians think the benefits outweigh the risks, compared to fewer than four in ten (36%) who disagree.

Public support for the concept of greater sharing of personal data across government departments is the majority view across the population, and most widespread among Canadians born in another country and mainline Protestants.

Should federal government departments share personal information to improve service delivery?



Government Surveillance for Security

In addition to collecting personal information to provide services and benefits, the federal government also gathers data such as telephone records and Internet usage for security purposes. This activity was significantly expanded following the events of 9/11, and the recent attacks by a lone gunman on Parliament and upon two Canadian Forces personnel in Montreal will very likely lead to expanded surveillance powers.

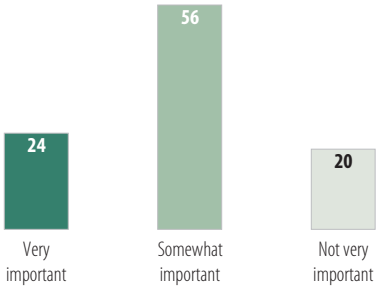
PRIORITY OF GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE FOR SECURITY. Most Canadians endorse the view that the government needs to collect personal information to protect the country and its citizens from security threats. One in four (24%) say this is very important, with another 56 percent indicating it is somewhat important.

Opinions on this question are largely similar across the country, and vary noticeably only by age and political orientation. Strong importance on government surveillance of its citizens is more evident among Canadians 45 and older (27%) compared with those under 30 (16%). And this view is shared by more than twice as many on the political right (36%) as on the political left (16%; 39% of whom say this is not very important). The priority placed on government surveillance is weakly linked to broader opinions about satisfaction with democracy and respect for the country's political institutions.

On the general question of whether the collection of personal information is beneficial or harmful for the country, a clear majority (62%) of Canadians believe collecting this data is good for the nation's democracy, compared with just under four in ten (38%) who see it as bad for democracy.

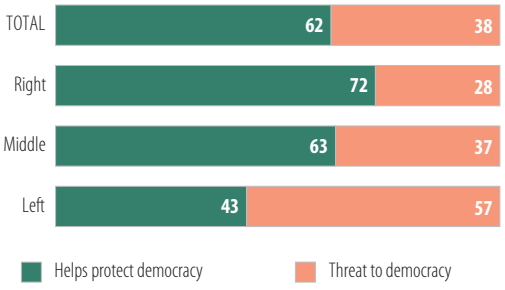
Views on this question are closely tied to the importance placed on this type of government surveillance, and this is reflected in how opinions vary across the country. In particular, such activity is most widely viewed as beneficial to the country among Canadians on the political right (72%), while least apt to be shared among those on the left (43%). This perspective also increases with age (expressed by 54% among those under 30, rising to 68% among those 60 plus).

Important government collection of personal informational to protect national security



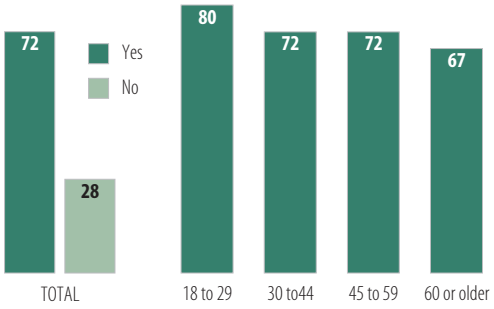
Government collection of personal information on citizens is good or bad for democracy

By political orientation



Would government collection of your telephone/ web use be a violation of privacy?

By age



CONCERNS ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF PERSONAL PRIVACY. While the public expresses general support for government surveillance in pursuit of national security, there are also concerns when it applies to them. More than seven in ten (72%) Canadians say they would feel their personal privacy would feel violated if they knew that the federal government had collected data about their own telephone and Internet activity.

Such concerns about the violation of their privacy is the majority view across the population, and especially so among Quebecers (77%), rural residents (77%), Canadians under 30 (80%), those on the political left (80%) and those civically engaged (80%). This view is least apt to be shared by Conservative Party supporters (57%). Concerns about such violation increases as confidence in the government's protection of personal information declines.

The Economy, Life Satisfaction and Government Policy: Canada in the Americas Context

This final section focuses on topics outside the main themes covered in the Americas Barometer 2014 study, but which further enhance our understanding of how Canadians compare with citizens in other countries throughout the western hemisphere. The survey included questions about overall life satisfaction, religiosity, internet use, the economy and household financial well-being, the role of the federal government in economic life, and income inequality.

Overall Life Satisfaction

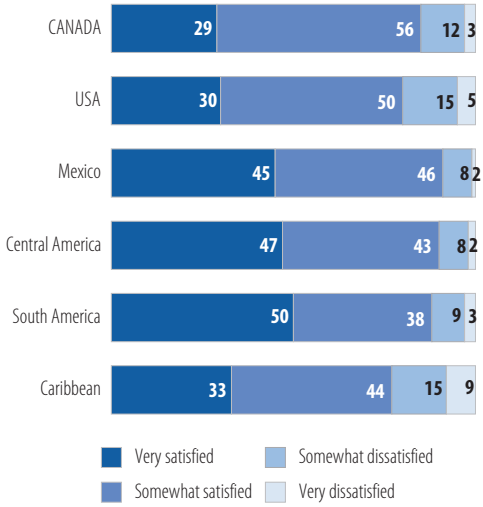
The first question in the survey asks how satisfied people are with their life. Over eight in ten Canadians claim that they are "very" (29%) or "somewhat " (56%) satisfied, compared with one in six who are "somewhat" (12%) or "very" (3%) dissatisfied. This reflects a modest improvement from 2012 (very satisfied ratings have increased by 4 points), but comparable to 2010 ratings.

As was the case in 2012, Canadians are less likely than citizens of most other countries in the Americas to be very satisfied with their lives, although the proportion dissatisfied is about average (Canadians are among the most likely to say they are "somewhat satisfied). Strong life satisfaction is most widespread in Colombia (61%) and Panama (60%), and least so in Bolivia (22%), Jamaica (24%), Haiti (20%), and Trinidad and Tobago (22%).

Over the past two years, life satisfaction level have changed little on a regional basis, but there have been some changes within specific countries: Satisfaction has increased in Paraguay and Chile, while declining in Guyana, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Brazil and Ecuador. The trend in Haiti has shown increases in both those very satisfied, and those dissatisfied (with fewer now in the "somewhat" category).

Across Canada, strong life satisfaction is most evident in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (37%), and British Columbia (36%, which along with Alberta records the most notable improvement since 2012), and least so in Quebec (22%). Overall life satisfaction is also highest among Canadians 60 plus, those with a university education, those on the political right, federal Conservatives and evangelical Christians. As in the past, life satisfaction is linked to household income, and the past two years has shown the most notable improvement among those in the top income bracket.

Overall satisfaction with your life



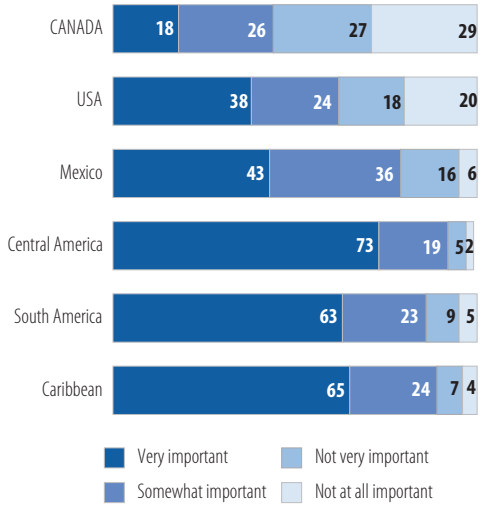
Importance of Religion

Affiliation with religious faiths has been in gradual decline in Canada for decades, and the importance which Canadians place on religion has eroded further in the past two years. Fewer than one in five (18%) say religion is very important to their life, compared with three in ten (29%) who say it is not at all important (up from 24% in 2012).

Canadians are by far the most secular people in the Americas, with this distinction getting stronger since 2012. Strong majorities say religion is very important across most countries, most notably in El Salvador (82%), Nicaragua (78%), Guyana (78%) and Brazil (75%), where fewer than five percent of the population places no importance. Countries with more significant secular populations include Uruguay, Argentina and Chile

In Canada, a strong importance on religion is most widely expressed by residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan (29%), Canadians on the political right (24%), Conservative supporters (26%), those very satisfied with their life (28%), those civically engaged (30%), and both evangelical Christians (71%) and those with non-Christian faiths (30%). This view is least evident in Quebec (9%).

Importance of religion in your life

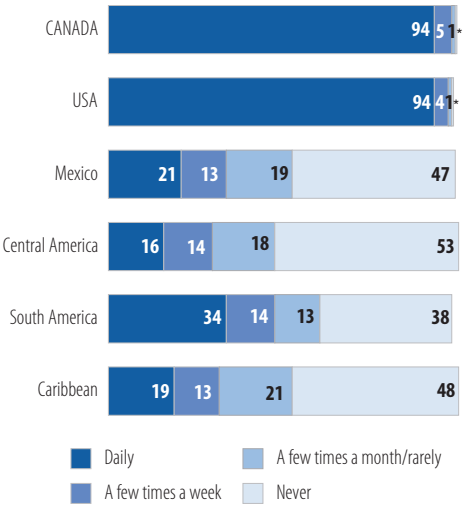


Internet Use

One of the sharpest contrasts across the north-south axis of the hemisphere is in use of the Internet. Almost all Canadians and Americans report using the Internet on a daily basis, and in Canada this practice is reported by at least nine in ten from every identifiable group.

Regular Internet use is much less common throughout the rest of the Americas. Just over four in ten citizens of Trinidad and Tobago (45%), Uruguay (43%) and Argentina (40%) report daily Internet use, and this proportion falls to under one in ten in Guyana and Nicaragua. The Internet is rarely or never used by significant majorities living in Haiti (76%), Nicaragua (73%), El Salvador (71%), Guyana (70%), and close to half (47%) the population of Mexico.

How often do you use the internet?



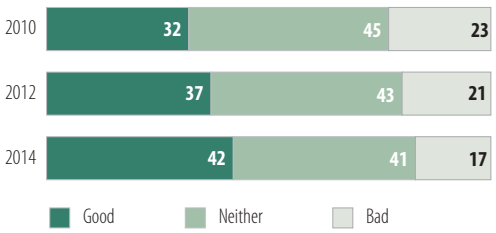
National Economic Trends

CURRENT NATIONAL ECONOMY. Canadians have a generally positive outlook when they are asked to describe the country's economic situation, and this view has been strengthening since 2010. More than four in ten (42%) now rate the economy as either very good (6%) or good (36%), which is up from 37 percent in 2012 and 32 percent in 2010. Fewer than one in five (17%) rate the national economy as bad or very bad.

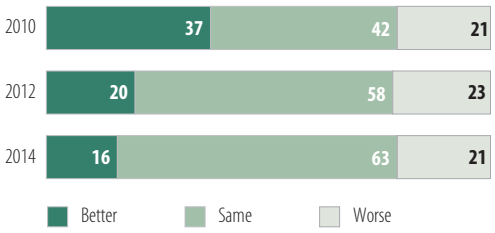
Within Canada, there are notable differences in perceptions of the current national economy. Views are more positive in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and among residents of Toronto, while they are less positive in Quebec. Good ratings of the economy have increased in all parts of the country, but most noticeably in British Columbia (43%, up 15 points).

Canadians most likely to see the economy overall as either good or very good include those with a university degree, those with household incomes over $100,000, those born in another country, the political right, federal Conservatives, those high on the civic action index, the very religious, and those very satisfied with their life. Those less apt to share this view include those with the lowest incomes and least education, and those on the political left. However, no more than one-quarter of any group describes the current national economy as in bad shape.

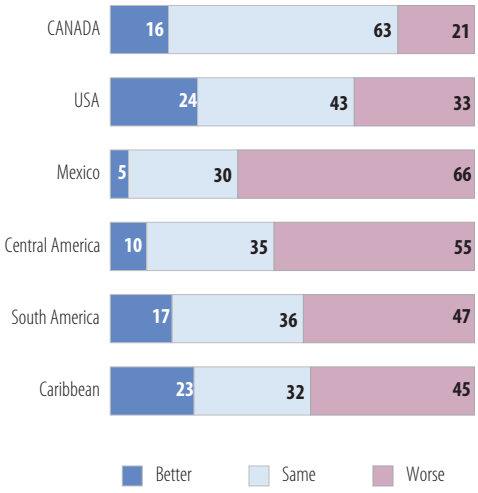
Canada's current economic situation



Canada's economic situation compared to 12 months ago



Your country's current economic situation compared to 12 months ago



ECONOMY COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR. Despite improving perceptions of the national economy, a declining proportion of Canadians believe it has improved over the past year. One in six (16%) say the economy is better than 12 months ago, down from 20 percent in 2012 and 37 percent in 2010. There has been a corresponding increase in the view that the country's economic situation has remained the same, while one in five (21%) continue to say it is now worse. This trend can likely be explained by the fact that Canada has been recovering from the deep recession of 2008-09, which would have provided citizens with the basis of comparison.

Opinions about the change in national economic circumstances are notably more pessimistic in most other countries in the hemisphere (the exceptions being Ecuador and Chile). Perceptions of worsening conditions are most widespread in Guyana (70%), Venezuela (80%), Argentina (70%), Mexico (66%) and Jamaica (63%). USA residents are more polarized than most, with one-quarter (24%) saying their economy is now in better shape, compared with one-third (33%) who take the opposite view.

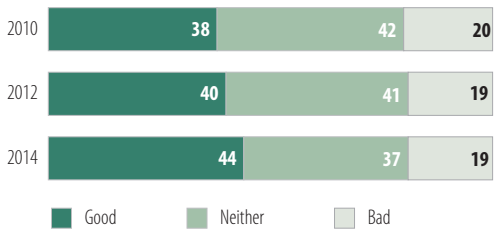
Canadians most likely to see the economy getting better include those with the most education and income, those on the political right, Conservative Party supporters, the civically engaged and those who are very religious. Younger Canadians are as likely to see the economy as improving as getting worse, but their sentiment is noticeably less positive than in 2012.

Household Financial Circumstances

CURRENT HOUSEHOLD FINANCES. Canadians' description of their own overall economic situation is similar to their assessment of the nation's economy. More than four in ten (44%) say their circumstances are either very good (8%) or good (36%), compared with one in five who describe them as bad (15%) or very bad (4%). The remainder (36%) indicate their finances are somewhat in the middle, neither good nor bad). This represents steady improvement since 2010, when 38 percent described their financial circumstances as good.

In Canada, the most positive assessments are given by men, Canadians 60 plus, and those with higher levels of education and income (65% of those in the top bracket, compared with only 23% of those at the bottom). This view is also most apt to be shared by those on the political right and Conservative party supporters. Since 2012, improved circumstances are reported by almost all parts of the population, but most noticeably by Canadians with a high school education and those on the political right.

Your own current economic situation

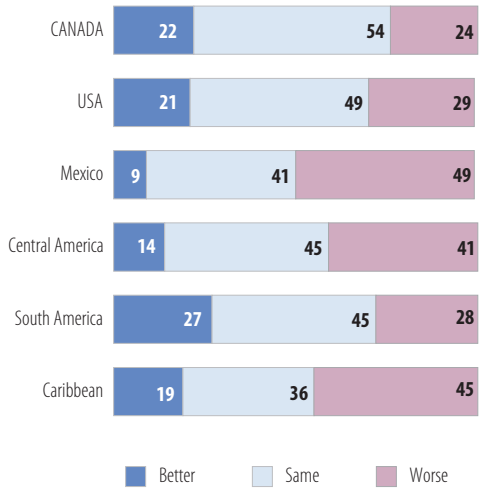


PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR. Two in ten (22%) Canadians say their economic situation was better than last year, versus one-quarter (24%) who indicate it is now worse. These results are essentially unchanged from findings in 2012 and 2010.

Across the Americas, there is considerable variation in responses to this question. Improved economic circumstances are most widely reported by citizens in Nicaragua (29%), Colombia (32%), Brazil (33%) and Uruguay (30%). In contrast, worsening circumstances are indicated by half or more of those living in Mexico (49%), Guyana (50%), Venezuela (63%), and Argentina (48%).

Across Canada, improved financial circumstances are most likely to be reported by residents in Alberta and Toronto, men, younger Canadians, and those on the political right. Worsening finances are more apt to be mentioned by British Columbians, women, middle-aged Canadians, those with lower incomes, and those on the political left.

Your own current economic situation compared with 12 months ago



ADEQUACY OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME. A direct measure of the economic circumstances of families is whether the income received in the household is sufficient for their needs. Close to six in ten Canadians describe their current income as either "good enough for them and they can save from it" (22%), or "just good enough for them so that they do not have major problems" (35%). Four in ten (39%) report their income is inadequate, either "not enough for them so that they are stretched" (26%), or that it is "not enough for them to the extent that they are having a hard time" (13%). These findings are essentially unchanged from the 2012 and 2010.

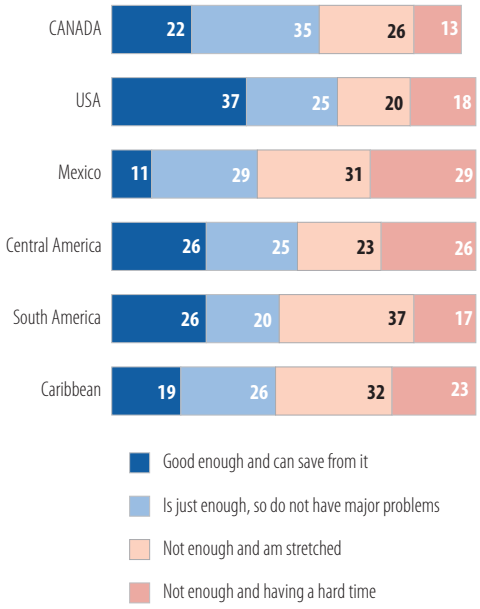
Income security varies across the Americas. The most positive self-assessments are reported in the USA, Belize and Chile, and the most negative in Mexico, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Trinidad and Tobago (where 7% have full security, compared with 39% who are do not have enough and are struggling).

In Canada, income security is most widely reported by Albertans and Canadians under 30, and least so among Atlantic Canadians. Security is predictably linked closely to household income: 44 percent of Canadians in the top income bracket say their income is good enough and they can save from it, compared with only seven percent of those earning under $30K per year (66% of whom say it is not enough).

Income security plays a major factor in determining overall life satisfaction. Among Canadians who say their household income is good enough and they can save from it, close to half (47%) are very satisfied with their life, compared with only seven percent who are somewhat or very dissatisfied. These percentages are almost reversed among those who do not have enough and are having a hard time (10% very satisfied, versus 42% dissatisfied). Among those who fall somewhere in between these two categories of financial security, most indicate they are somewhat satisfied.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE. Governments in most countries provide some form of income assistance to address income insecurity and poverty. One in six (16%) Canadians say their household receives regular assistance in the form of money, food, or products from the government, not including pensions. This is most likely to be reported by Canadians in the lowest income bracket (37%), compared with just six percent among those in the top bracket.

Your current household income is ...



Overall satisafaction with your life

By adequacy of income

Across the Americas, this form of government assistance is most commonly reported in the Caribbean, especially in Haiti (49%) and Jamaica (45%). By comparison, very few receive such support in Venezuela (1%), Brazil (<1%) and Uruguay (2%)

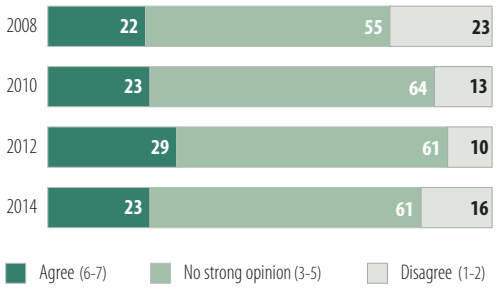
Role of the federal government

The role of government in shaping the economy and encouraging growth is typically one of the most important subjects of public debate in democracies across the Americas and in other parts of the world. For Canadians expectations that the federal government responds appropriately to economic crises, and adopts policies that benefit the economic fortunes of Canadian citizens are important determinants of public confidence in governments. Political scientists regard the economy as fundamental to election outcomes.

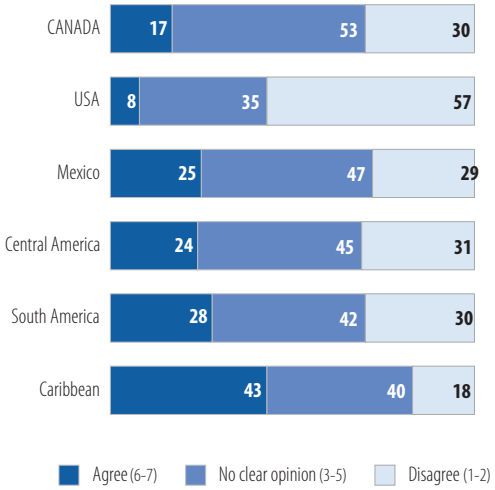
RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREATING JOBS. Employment is typically the key indicator used to judge the economic effectiveness of government. The media pay much attention to the monthly jobs reports, and there is ongoing debate about the roles of government and the private sector in creating jobs. On the question of how much responsibility the federal government carries in boosting employment, the public remains largely divided. Just under one-quarter (23%) of Canadians agree that the Canadian government, more than the private sector, should be primarily responsible for creating jobs, compared with one in six (16%) who disagree. This represents a six percentage point shift from "agree" to "disagree, and is now back to 2008-2010 levels.

In Canada, agreement with active government responsibility for job creation has declined across much of the population, but most noticeably in Montreal, among rural residents and Canadians on the political left. This perspective is now most widely endorsed in Quebec, among Canadians without a high school diploma, those born outside of the country, those on the political right, those civically engaged, and Catholics. This view is least evident in Alberta, among Canadians 60 plus, those in the top income bracket and Conservative party supporters. No more than a quarter from any group clearly disagrees with the principle that the federal government has a primary role in boosting employment.

The Canadian government, instead of the private sector, should be primarily responsible for creating jobs



National government should own most important industries in the country



GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF INDUSTRY. Canadians are less supportive of government involvement in the economy through ownership in the private sector. Only 17 percent agree that the Canadian government, instead of the private sector, should own the most important enterprises and industries of the country, compared to three in ten who strongly disagree (30%). Opinions are largely unchanged from 2010 and 2012.

In comparison with opinions in Canada, public support for government ownership is noticeably stronger almost everywhere else across the hemisphere, the notable exception being the USA (where only 8% agree, versus 36% who disagree) and Venezuela (11% versus 48%). Support is most widespread in Belize, Paraguay, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

In Canada, support for public ownership of major industries is similar across the population, with disagreement most evident among older Canadians, those born in the country, and Conservative Party supporters. Endorsement of the concept is similar between those on both the left and the right of the political spectrum.

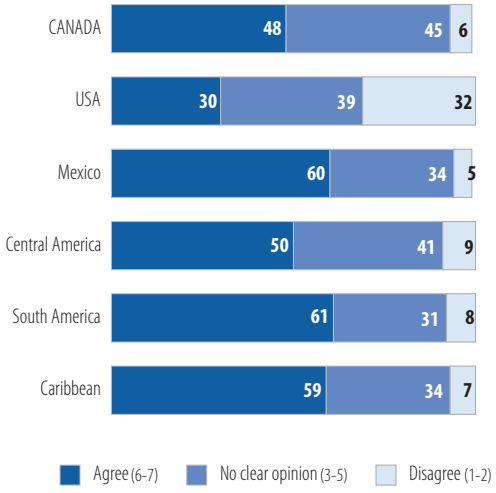
RESPONSIBILITY FOR REDUCING INCOME INEQUALITY. Attention to the issue of income inequality has grown significantly in the past few years and has been drawing considerable attention. Examples include the Occupy Wall Street movement that started in New York in 2011 and quickly spread to many cities around the world. In 2014, French economist Thomas Picketty published *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, and despite its academic tone rapidly became a runaway best seller.

Almost half (48%) of Canadians agree that the "Canadian government should implement strong policies to reduce income inequality between the rich and the poor", compared with very few (6%) who disagree. Agreement levels are down marginally from 2012, but above that recorded in 2010.

Throughout the Americas, there is a similar degree of public support for active government efforts to reduce income inequality, with majorities in most countries expressing agreement and no more than one in ten in disagreement. Support is most widespread in South America, especially Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina. This view is least apt to be shared in Venezuela (only 35% agree with the statement), Panama (38%) and the USA (30%)

In Canada, support for active government policies to reduce inequality is strongest in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, among Canadians with lower incomes, those on the political left, and those civically engaged. Support is weakest among Canadians in the top income bracket, and Conservative Party supporters. Since 2012, public support for government actions in this area dropped sharply in Quebec (while still remaining strong) and in rural areas.

Government should implement strong policies to reduce income inequality



Appendix A:

AmericasBarometer – International Partners

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

- The Environics Institute for Survey Research
- The Institute on Governance

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Miami Consortium for Latin American & Caribbean Studies
- Project on Ethnicity and Race in Latin America (PERLA)
- Vanderbilt University

MEXICO

- Data – Opinión Publica y Mercados (DATA-OPM)
- Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

- Universidad de Costa Rica
- Estado de la Nacion
- Centro Centroamericano de Población (CCP)/Universidad de Costa Rica

EL SALVADOR

- Fundación Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo (Funda Ungo)

GUATEMALA

- Universidad Rafael Landívar

HONDURAS

- Federación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de Honduras (FOPRIDEH)
- Hagamos Democracia

NICARAGUA

- Red Nicaragüenese por la Democracia y el Desarrollo Local

PANAMA

- Centro de Iniciativas Democráticas (CIDEM)

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

- Universidad Torcuato Di Tella

BOLIVIA

- Ciudadanía – Comunidad de Estudios Sociales y Acción Pública
- Embajada De Suecia

BRAZIL

- Vox Brasíl

CHILE

- Instituto de Ciencia Política (ICP)/Pontifica Universidad Católica de Chile
- Pontifica Universidad Católica de Chile

COLOMBIA

- Observatorio de la Democracia
- Facultad de Ciencias Sociales/Universidad de Los Andes

ECUADOR

- Prime Consulting
- Universidad San Francisco de Quito

PARAGUAY

- Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo (CIRD)

PERU

- Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (IEP)

URUGUAY

- CIFRA González Raga & Asociados
- Universidad de Católica del Uruguay

VENEZUELA

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

CARIBBEAN

BELIZE

- Borge y Asociados

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- Gallup República Dominicana
- Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)

GUYANA

- Development Policy and Management Consultants

HAITI

- Université d'Etat d'Haïti

JAMAICA

- The University of the West Indies at Mona

SURINAME

- DataFruit

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

- The University of the West Indies at St. Augustine

Appendix B:

AmericasBarometer 2014 – Canadian Questionnaire (English)

AmericasBarometer: Canada Online Survey, 2014

SPLASH PAGE

Thank you for participating in this survey, which is part of an international (27-country) study covering a broad range of topics. The Canadian survey is being conducted by the non-profit Environics Institute and the Institute on Governance.

The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. You must provide a response to all questions, but some offer a "decline to answer" option.

To move forward in the survey, please click on the Next button located in the bottom left of your screen. Do not use your browser buttons.

More information about the international study is provided at the end of the survey.

1. (LS3) *[10/12]* To begin, in general how satisfied are you with your life? Would you say that you are...?
(1) Very satisfied (2) Somewhat satisfied (3) Somewhat dissatisfied (4) Very dissatisfied

2. (SOCT1) *[10/12]* How would you describe the country's economic situation?
(1) Very good (2) Good (3) Neither good nor bad (fair) (4) Bad (5) Very bad

3. (SOCT2) *[10/12]* Do you think that the country's current economic situation is better than, the same as or worse than it was 12 months ago?
(1) Better (2) Same (3) Worse

4. (IDIO1) *[10/12]* How would you describe your overall economic situation?
(1) Very good (2) Good (3) Neither good nor bad (fair) (4) Bad (5) Very bad

5. (IDIO2) *[10/12]* Do you think that your economic situation is better than, the same as, or worse than it was 12 months ago?
(1) Better (2) Same (3) Worse

Now let's talk about your local municipality...

6. (NP1) *[06/10/12]* Have you attended a town meeting, city council meeting or other meeting in the past 12 months?
(1) Yes (2) No

7. (NP2) *[10/12]* Have you sought assistance from or presented a request to any office, official or councillor of the municipality within the past 12 months?
(1) Yes (2) No

8. (SGL1) *[10/12]* Would you say that the services the municipality is providing to the people are…? (1) Very good (2) Good (3) Neither good nor bad (fair) (4) Bad (5) Very bad

	Once a week	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a year	Never		
9. (CP5) *[10/12]* Now, changing the subject. In the last 12 months have you tried to help to solve a problem in your community or in your neighborhood? Please, tell us if you did it at least once a week, once or twice a month, once or twice a year or never in the last 12 months.	1	2	3	4		

10. For each of the following groups and organizations, please indicate if you attend their meetings at least once a week, once or twice a month, once or twice a year, or never.

	Once a week	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a year	Never		
a. (CP6) *[06/08/10/12]* Meetings of any religious organization?	1	2	3	4		
b. (CP7) *[06/08/10/12]* Meetings of a parents' association at school?	1	2	3	4		
c. (CP8) *[06/08/10/12]* Meetings of a community improvement committee or association?	1	2	3	4		
d. (CP13) *[NEW]* Meetings of a political party or political organization	1	2	3	4		
e. (CPSS1) *[NEW]* During the last two years, have you participated as a player with other people in the practice of a sport?	1	2	3	4		

11. (IT1) *[06/08/10/12]* And speaking of the people from around here, would you say that people in your community are very trustworthy, somewhat trustworthy, not very trustworthy or untrustworthy...?
(1) Very trustworthy (2) Somewhat trustworthy (3) Not very trustworthy (4) Untrustworthy

12. (L1) *[12]* Now, to change the subject...The following scale goes from left to right, where "1" means **LEFT** and "10" means **RIGHT**. Nowadays, when we speak of political leanings, we talk of those on the left and those on the right. In other words, some people sympathize more with the left and others with the right.
According to the meaning that the terms "left" and "right" have for you, and thinking of your own political leanings, where would you place yourself on this scale?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Decline to answer (88)
Left									**Right**	

13. (WWW1) *[NEW]* Talking about other things, how often do you use the internet?
(1) Daily
(2) A few times a week
(3) A few times a month
(4) Rarely
(5) Never

14. (GI0) *[10/12]* About how often do you pay attention to the news, whether on TV, the radio, newspapers or the internet?
(1) Daily (2) A few times a week (3) A few times a month (4) Rarely (5) Never

15. (PROT3) *[10/12]* In the last 12 months, have you participated in a demonstration or protest march?
(1) Yes (2) No

16. (PROT6) *[12]* In the last 12 months have you signed any petition?
(1) Yes (2) No

17. (PROT8) *[12]* And in the last 12 months, have you read or shared **political information** through any social network website, such as Twitter or Facebook?
(1) Yes, has done (2) No, has not done

18. (VIC1EXT) *06/08/10/12]* Now, changing the subject, have you been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, have you been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or any other type of crime in the past 12 months?
(1) Yes **[Continue]** (2) No **[Skip toVIC1HOGAR]**
(88) Decline to answer **[Skip to VIC1HOGAR]**

19. (VIC1EXTA) *[10/12]* How many times have you been a crime victim during the last 12 months?
____ [fill in number] (88) Decline to answer (99) N/A

20. (VIC1HOGAR) *[10/12]* Has any other person living in your household been a victim of any type of crime in the past 12 months? That is, has any other person living in your household been a victim of robbery, burglary, assault, fraud, blackmail, extortion, violent threats or **any other type** of crime in the past 12 months?
(1) Yes (2) No (99) No one else in household (88) Decline to answer

21. (POLE2N) *[NEW]* In general, are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the performance of the police in your neighborhood?
(1) Very satisfied (2) Satisfied (3) Dissatisfied (4) Very dissatisfied

22. (AOJ8) *[01/12]* In order to catch criminals, do you believe that the authorities should always abide by the law or that occasionally they can cross the line?
(1) Should always abide by the law (2) Occasionally can cross the line

23. (INFRAX) *[NEW]* Suppose someone enters your home to burglarize it and you call the police. How long do you think it would take the police to arrive at your house on a typical day around noon?
(1) Less than 10 minutes
(2) Between 10 and 30 minutes
(3) More than 30 minutes and up to an hour
(4) More than an hour and up to three hours
(5) More than three hours
(6) There are no police/they would never arrive

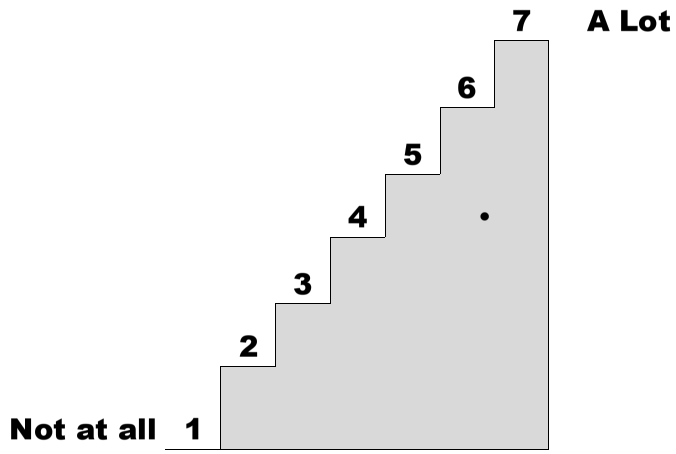
24. (INFRA2) *[NEW]* Suppose now that your house catches fire. How long do you think it would take the firefighters to arrive at your house on a typical day around noon?
(1) Less than 10 minutes
(2) Between 10 and 30 minutes
(3) More than 30 minutes and up to an hour
(4) More than an hour and up to three hours
(5) More than three hours
(6) There are no firefighters/they would never arrive

25. (AOJ11) *[06/08/10/12]* Speaking of the neighborhood where you live and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe?
(1) Very safe (2) Somewhat safe (3) Somewhat unsafe (4) Very unsafe

26. (AOJ17) *[10/12]* To what extent do you think your neighborhood is affected by gangs?
(1) A lot (2) Somewhat (3) Little (4) None

	Yes	No		
27. (FEAR10) *[NEW]* In order to protect yourself from crime, in the last 12 months, have you taken any measures such as avoiding walking through some areas in your neighbourhood because they are dangerous?	1	0		
28. (VIC44) *[NEW]* In the last 12 months, out of fear of crime, have you organized with the neighbors of your community?	1	0		

29. (AOJ12) *[10/12]* If you were a victim of a robbery or assault how much faith do you have that the judicial system would punish the guilty?
(1) A lot (2) Some (3) Little (4) None



30. Here is a staircase with steps numbered 1 to 7, where "1" is the lowest step and means NOT AT ALL and "7" the highest and means A LOT.

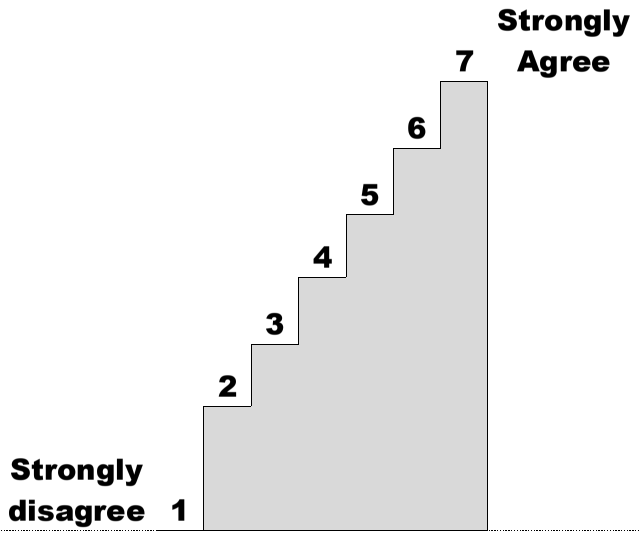
x. FOR EXAMPLE: If we asked you to what extent do you like watching television, if you don't like watching it at all, you would choose a score of 1, and if, in contrast, you like watching television a lot, you would indicate the number 7. If your opinion is between not at all and a lot, you would choose an intermediate score. So, to what extent do you like watching television?

a. (B1) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent do you think **the courts in Canada guarantee a fair trial**?	
b. (B2) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent do you respect the political institutions of Canada?	**Coded 1-7**
c. (B3) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent do you think that citizens' basic rights are well protected by the political system of Canada?	**Coded 1-7**
d. (PR4) *[NEW]* To what degree do you feel that the Canadian government respects the private property of its citizens?	**Coded 1-7**
e. (B4) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent do you feel proud of living under the political system of Canada?	**Coded 1-7**
f. (B6) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent do you think that one should support the political system of Canada?	**Coded 1-7**
g. (B10A) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent do you trust the justice system?	**Coded 1-7**
h. (B12)) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent do you trust the Canadian Armed Forces?	**Coded 1-7**
i. (B13) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent do you trust the Parliament?	**Coded 1-7**
j. (B18) *[10/12]* To what extent do you trust the RCMP?	**Coded 1-7**
k. (B21) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent do you trust political parties?	**Coded 1-7**
l. (B21A) *[10/12]* To what extent do you trust the Prime Minister?	**Coded 1-7**
m. (B31) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent do you trust the Supreme Court?	**Coded 1-7**
n. (B32) *[10/12]* To what extent do you trust your municipal government?	**Coded 1-7**
o. (B43) *[06/08/10/12]* To what extent are you proud of being a Canadian?	**Coded 1-7**
p. (B37) *[10/12]* To what extent do you trust the mass media?	**Coded 1-7**
q. (B47A) *[NEW]* To what extent do you trust elections in this country?	**Coded 1-7**

31. (CAND3) *[NEW]* How concerned are you about one or more political parties manipulating the outcome of future elections in this country?

(1) Very worried (2) Somewhat worried (3) Not very worried (4) Not at all worried

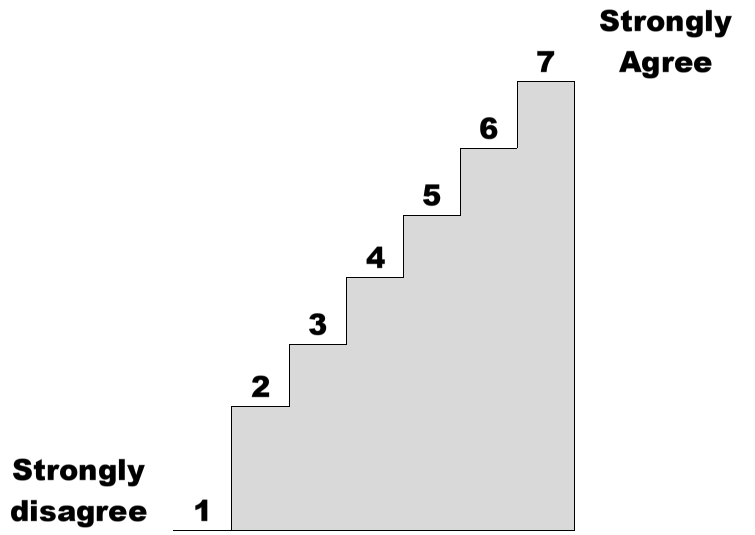
32. Now we will use a similar staircase, but this time "1" means STRONGLY DISAGREE and "7" means STRONGLY AGREE. A number in between 1 and 7 represents an intermediate score.



Taking into account the current situation of this country, and using the staircase, we would like you to tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. **a.** (POP101) *[10/12]* It is necessary for the progress of this country that our prime ministers limit the voice and vote of opposition parties.	**Coded 1-7**
b. (POP107) *[08/10/12]* The people should govern directly rather than through elected representatives.	**Coded 1-7**
c. (POP113) *[08/10/12]* Those who disagree with the majority represent a threat to the country.	**Coded 1-7**

33. (M1) *[10/12]* Speaking in general of the current government, how would you rate the job performance of Prime Minister Harper? (1) Very good (2) Good (3) Neither good nor bad (fair) (4) Bad (5) Very bad	

34. The powers of the federal government are divided among several institutions, including Parliament, the Supreme Court, and the Prime Minister (who oversees the government's departments and agencies). The distribution of power across these institutions is to ensure the government overall represents the interests of all Canadians.	
a. (CANA1) *[NEW]* Which of the following best reflects your view about the current balance of power between the Prime Minister and Parliament? (1) Prime Minister has too much power (2) Parliament has too much power (3) The balance of power is about right	
b. (CANA2) *[NEW]* Which of the following best reflects your view about the current balance of power between the Prime Minister and the Supreme Court? (1) Prime Minister has too much power (2) Supreme Court has too much power (3) The balance of power is about right	
c. (CANA3) *[NEW]* Which of the following best reflects your view about the current balance of power between the Supreme Court and Parliament? (1) Supreme Court has too much power (2) Parliament has too much power (3) The balance of power is about right	



35. Now we are going to show you some items about the role of the federal government. Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements. We will continue using the same staircase from 1 to 7

a (ROS1) *[10/12]* The Canadian government, instead of the private sector, should own the most important enterprises and industries of the country.	**Coded 1-7**
b. (ROS3) *[08/10/12]* The Canadian government, more than the private sector, should be primarily responsible for creating jobs.	**Coded 1-7**
c. (ROS4) *[08/10/12]* The Canadian government should implement strong policies to reduce income inequality between the rich and the poor.	**Coded 1-7**

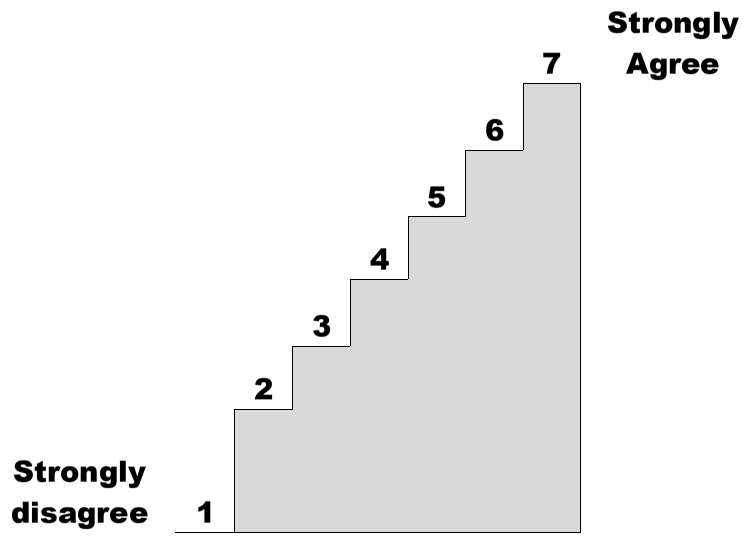
Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?

d. (ING4) *[06/08/10/12]* Democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government.	**Coded 1-7**
e. (CANAB2008) *[08/12]* Despite our differences, we Canadians have many things that unite us as a country.	**Coded 1-7**
f. (EFF1) *[10/12]* Those who govern this country are interested in what people like you think.	**Coded 1-7**
g. (EFF2) *[10/12]* You feel that you understand the most important political issues of this country.	**Coded 1-7**

36. (PN4) *[06/08/10/12]* And now, changing the subject, in general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the way democracy works in Canada?
(1) Very satisfied (2) Satisfied (3) Dissatisfied (4) Very dissatisfied

37. (DEM2) *[06/10/12]* Which of the following statements do you agree with the most:

(1) For people like me it doesn't matter whether a government is democratic or non-democratic
(2) Democracy is preferable to any other form of government
(3) Under some circumstances an authoritarian government may be preferable to a democratic one.



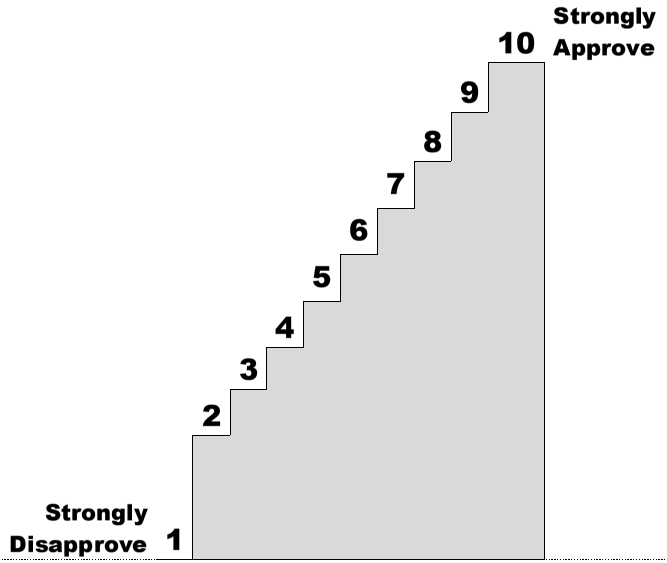
We would now like to ask you about the role of Members of Parliament in our democratic system. Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements using the same staircase, where 1" means STRONGLY DISAGREE and "7" means STRONGLY AGREE.

38. (CANB1) *[NEW]* MPs should vote in Parliament according to what they believe is right, even if this may not reflect the majority view in the community they represent.	**Coded 1-7**
39. (CANB2) *[NEW]* Political parties should allow MPs to vote in Parliament according to what they believe is right, even if this is not consistent with their party's position.	**Coded 1-7**

40. (JC15A) *[10/12]* Do you believe that when the country is facing very difficult times it is justifiable for the Prime Minister to close the Parliament, and govern without Parliament?	(1) Yes, it is justified	(2) No, it is not justified	
41. (JC16A) *[10/12]* Do you believe that when the country is facing very difficult times it is justifiable for the Prime Minister to dissolve the Supreme Court, and govern without the Supreme Court?	(1) Yes, it is justified	(2) No, it is not justified	

42. Now here is a 10-point staircase, which goes from 1 to 10, where "1" means that you STRONGLY DISAPPROVE and "10" means that you STRONGLY APPROVE.

Below is a list of some actions that people can take to achieve their political goals and objectives. Please tell us how strongly you would approve or disapprove of people taking the following actions.



a. (E5) *[10/12]* Of people participating in legal demonstrations, how much do you approve or disapprove?	**Coded 1-10**
b. (E8) *[10/12]* Of people participating in an organization or group to try and solve community problems	**Coded 1-10**
c. (E11) *[10/12]* Of people working for campaigns for a political party or candidate	**Coded 1-10**
d. (E15) *[10/12]* Of people participating in the blocking of roads to protest.	**Coded 1-10**
e. (E3) *[10/12]* Of people participating in a group working to violently overthrow an elected government.	**Coded 1-10**
f. (E16) *[06/10/12]* Of people taking the law into their own hands when the government does not punish criminals.	**Coded 1-10**

43. The following questions are to find out about the different ideas of the people who live in Canada. Please continue using the 10 point staircase, with "1" meaning STRONGLY DISAPPROVE, and "10" meaning "STRONGLY APPROVE."	
a. (D1) *[06/08/10/12]* There are people who only say bad things about the Canadian form of government, not just the incumbent government but the system of government. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people's right to vote?	**Coded 1-10**
b. (D2) *[06/08/10/12]* How strongly do you approve or disapprove that such people be allowed to conduct peaceful demonstrations in order to express their views?	**Coded 1-10**
c. (D3) *[06/08/10/12]* Still thinking of those who only say bad things about the Canadian form of government, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office?	**Coded 1-10**
d. (D4) *[06/08/10/12]* How strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people appearing on television to make speeches?	**Coded 1-10**
e. (D5) *[06/08/10/12]* And now on a different topic, thinking about homosexuals, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of such people being permitted to run for public office?	**Coded 1-10**
f. (D6) *[12]* How strongly do you approve or disapprove of same-sex couples having the right to marry?	**Coded 1-10**

And now on another topic.

44. (CANC1) *[NEW]* How confident are you that the federal government protects the privacy of the personal information about you that it collects for various purposes (such as tax returns, social insurance and passports)?

(1) Very confident
(2) Somewhat confident
(3) Not very confident
(4) Not at all confident

45. (CANC2) *[NEW]* Do you believe that the federal government does a better job, a worse job, or does about the same as private sector companies (such as banks and cable providers) in protecting your personal information?

(1) Federal government does a better job than private sector
(2) Federal government does a worse job than private sector
(3) Federal government does about the same as private sector

46. (CANC3) *[NEW]* Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for federal government departments to share with each other the personal information they each collect, in order to improve the efficiency and speed of the services they provide to citizens?

(1) Good idea (2) Bad idea

47. (CANC4) *[NEW]* As in other countries, the federal government collects information (such as phone records and Internet use) on Canadian organizations and individuals for security purposes. To what extent do you think this type of government surveillance is important for protecting Canada and its citizens from potential security threats?

(1) Very important
(2) Somewhat important
(3) Not very important

48. (CANC5) *[NEW]* Do you think the government's collection of personal information on citizens:

(1) Helps protect our country's democracy (2) Is a threat to our country's democracy

49. (CANC6) *[NEW]* If you knew that the federal government had collected data about your telephone or internet activity, would you feel that your personal privacy had been violated, or not?

(1) Yes, would feel like a violation of my privacy
(2) No, would not feel like a violation of my privacy

	No	Yes	Decline to answer	
Now we want to talk about your personal experience with things that happen in everyday life...				
50. (EXC2) *[10/12]* Has a police officer asked you for a bribe in the last 12 months?	0	1	88	
51. (EXC6) *[06/10/12]* Did any government employee ask you for a bribe in the last 12 months?	0	1	88	
52. (EXC18) *[NEW]* Do you think given the way things are, sometimes paying a bribe is justified?	0	1	88	

53. (EXC7) *[06/08/10/12]* Taking into account your own experience or what you have heard, corruption among public officials is…
(1) Very common (2) Common (3) Uncommon (4) Very uncommon

54. (POL1) *[10/12]* How much interest do you have in politics: a lot, some, little or none?
(1) A lot (2) Some (3) Little (4) None

55. (CANVB1) *[12]* People have different views about voting. For some, voting is a DUTY. They feel that they should vote in every election. For others, voting is a CHOICE. They only vote when they feel strongly about that election. For you personally, is voting FIRST AND FOREMOST a Duty or a Choice?
(1) A duty (2) A choice

56. (CANAD1) *[NEW]* Do you think voters in Canada should have the option of voting in elections online through a secure website?

(1) Yes (2) No

57. (CANAD2) *[NEW]* To encourage voter turnout, some countries have passed a law making it mandatory for all citizens to vote in national elections, with those failing to do subject to a modest fine. Would you favour or oppose making it mandatory for Canadians to vote in federal elections?

(1) Favour (2) Oppose

58. (CANVB2) *[12]* In some countries, including Canada, when no single party wins a majority of seats in an election, several parties come together to form a coalition government. Do you think this is an option that the Canadian parties should consider if none wins a majority in an election?
(1) Yes, parties should consider coalitions (2) No, parties should not consider coalitions

59. (CANPOL2) *[12]* If a federal election results in the second and third place parties together having a majority of seats in the new Parliament, do you believe they should be allowed to form a coalition government? Or do you believe that only the party with the most seats should be allowed to form a government?
(1) Second and third place party should be allowed to form a government
(2) Only the party with the most seats should be allowed to form a government

60. (BVUQ30) *[NEW]* In thinking about the issue of climate change (sometimes known as global warming), which comes closest to your own view?
(1) Climate change is not occurring
(2) Climate change is occurring mostly because of human activities
(3) Climate change is occurring mostly because of natural changes in the environment

And now a few questions about yourself for classification purposes. .

61. (Q3C) *[12]* What is your religion, if any?

(1) Catholic
(4114) Greek Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox
(2) Protestant, Mainline Protestant or Protestant non-Evangelical (Anglican; Calvinist; Lutheran; Methodist; Presbyterian; Episcopalian}
(5) Evangelical and Pentecostal (Evangelical; Pentecostals; Church of God; Assemblies of God; Universal Church of the Kingdom of God; Gospel; Christ Pentecostal Church; Christian Congregation; Mennonite; Brethren; Christian Reformed Church; Charismatic non-Catholic)
(6) Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) (Mormon)
(12) Jehovah's Witness.
(4113) Muslim
(10) Jewish (Orthodox; Conservative; Reform, Reconstructionist, Renewal)
(3) Other Non-Christian Eastern Religions (Buddhist; Hinduism; Taoist; Confucianism; Baha'i)
(7) Traditional or Aboriginal Religions
(4) None (Believe in a Supreme Entity but do not belong to any religion)
(11) Agnostic, atheist (Do not believe in God).
(15) Other

(88) Decline to answer

62. (Q5B) *[12]* How important is religion in your life?

(1) Very important (2) Rather important (3) Not very important (4) Not at all important

63. (Q10NEW) *[12]* Which of the following best describes the total annual income before taxes of all members in your household for 2013?

(01) Less than $10,000
(02) $10,000 to $19,999
(03) $20,000 to $29,999
(04) $30,000 to $39,999
(05) $40,000 to $49,999
(06) $50,000 to $59,999
(07) $60,000 to $69,999
(08) $70,000 to $79,999
(09) $80,000 to $99,999
(10) $100,000 to $119,999
(11) $120,000 to $139,999
(12) $140,000 to $159,999
(13) $160,000 to $189,999
(14) $190,000 to $219,999
(15) $220,000 to $249,999
(16) More than $250,000

(88) Decline to answer

64. (Q10D) *[10/12]* The salary that you receive and total household income:
(1) Is good enough for you and you can save from it
(2) Is just enough for you, so that you do not have major problems
(3) Is not enough for you and you are stretched
(4) Is not enough for you and you are having a hard time (88) Decline to answer

65. (WF1)) *[NEW]* Do you or someone in your household receive regular assistance in the form of money, food, or products from the government, not including pensions?
(1) Yes (2) No (88) Decline to answer

66. (Q11n) *[10/12]* What is your marital status?
(1) Single (2) Married
(3) Domestic partnership (living with an unmarried partner)
(4) Divorced (5) Separated (6) Widowed (88) Decline to answer

67. (Q12C)) *[10/12]* How many people in total live in your household at this time?
_____ (88) Decline to answer

68. (Q12)) *[10/12]* How many children, if any, do you have? _____
(00 = none) (88) Decline to answer

69. (CANETID) *[10/12]* n addition to being Canadian, what is your primary ethnic or cultural background? *(If more than one, please indicate your primary background)*

(1) English/Scottish/Irish Welsh
(2) French/Quebecois
(3) Italian
(4) Portuguese
(5) Other European (Russian, German, Dutch, Scandinavian, Polish, Spanish, Hungarian)
(6) Aboriginal (First Nations, Metis, Inuit)
(7) African
(8) Greek
(9) Jewish
(10) West Indian (Caribbean, Jamaican, Guyanese)
(11) South Asian (East Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistan)
(12) Southeast Asian (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Filipino)
(13) Chinese
(14) Other East Asian (Japanese, Korean)
(15) West Asian/Middle Eastern/Arab
(16) American
(17) Canadian
(18) Latin American (Mexican, Central/South American)
(20) Acadian
(21) Mixed Race
(97) Other (SPECIFY _____)

(88) Decline to answer

70. (CANNC4) *[10/12]* Were you born in Canada?
(1) Yes (2) No (88) Decline to answer

71. (CANNC5) *[10/12]* Was your **mother** born in Canada?
(1) Yes (2) No (88) Decline to answer

72. (CANNC6) *[10/12]* Was your **father** born in Canada?
(1) Yes (2) No (88) Decline to answer

73. (Q2Y) *[10/12]* In what year were you born? __ __ __ __
(8888) Decline to answer

74. (Q1) *[10/12]* Please indicate your gender.
(1) Male (2) Female (88) Decline to answer

75. (ED) *[06/08/12]]* What is the highest level of education that you have reached?

(01) Some elementary
(02) Completed elementary
(03) Some high school
(04) Completed high school
(05) Community college/ vocational/ trade school/ commercial/ CEGEP
(06) Some university
(07) Completed university
(08) Post-graduate university/professional school

(88) Decline to answer

76. (PROV) *[10/12]* In which province do you currently live?

(01) Alberta
(02) British Columbia
(03) Manitoba
(04) New Brunswick
(05) Newfoundland
(06) Nova Scotia
(07) Ontario
(08) Prince Edward Island
(09) Quebec
(10) Saskatchewan

77. (CANPOS) *[10/12]* Please indicate your postal code: *(Do not include any spaces)*

(888888) Decline to answer

This completes the survey. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

This survey is part of an international study called the "AmericasBarometer" and is being conducted in 27 countries across the Western Hemisphere.. The results for the Canadian survey (and international comparisons) will be published by the Environics Institute for Survey Research and the Institute on Governance later this year.

For more information about the Americas Barometer, visit:
http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/about-americasbarometer.php

For more information about the Environics Institute, visit:
http://environicsinstitute.org

For more information about the Institute on Governance, visit:
http://iog.ca

THE
ENVIRONICS
INSTITUTE

900-33 Bloor Street East
Toronto, ON M4W 3H1
416 • 969 • 2457
www.environicsinstitute.org