

## Truth and Reconciliation: Canadians see value in process, skeptical about government action

*Seven-in-ten agree with the TRC's characterization of residential schools as "cultural genocide."*

**July 09, 2015** – Many Canadians believe the recently concluded Truth and Reconciliation Commission was a worthwhile process for their country, and most support its key recommendations, but that doesn't mean they anticipate the federal government taking action.

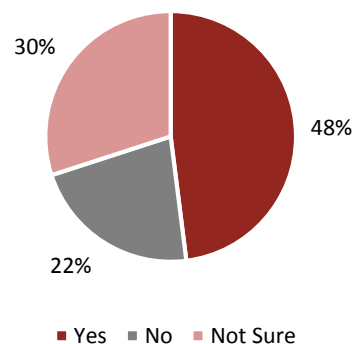
Additionally, a large majority of Canadians agree that the treatment of Aboriginal children under the residential schools policy amounted to a "cultural genocide," and they feel this way regardless of whether they know any Indigenous people personally.

These are among the main findings of a new Angus Reid Institute public opinion poll on the TRC, its recommendations, and Aboriginal people in Canada.

### Key Findings:

- Almost half (48%) of Canadians say the process has been worthwhile for Canada as a whole, and larger numbers believe the process has been worthwhile for Aboriginal people, generally, and residential school survivors, specifically.
- There is widespread support for many of the Commission's key recommendations, and majority support for all but one of those canvassed, but two-in-five (43%) say they expect the federal government to take less action than they believe it should.

**Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been worthwhile for Canada as a whole?**



### METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from June 9 – 12, 2015, among a representative randomized sample of 1511 Canadian adults who are members of the [Angus Reid Forum](#). For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

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- Seven-in-ten (70%) Canadians agree with the use of the term “cultural genocide” to describe the residential schools policy.

## Widespread support for key TRC recommendations

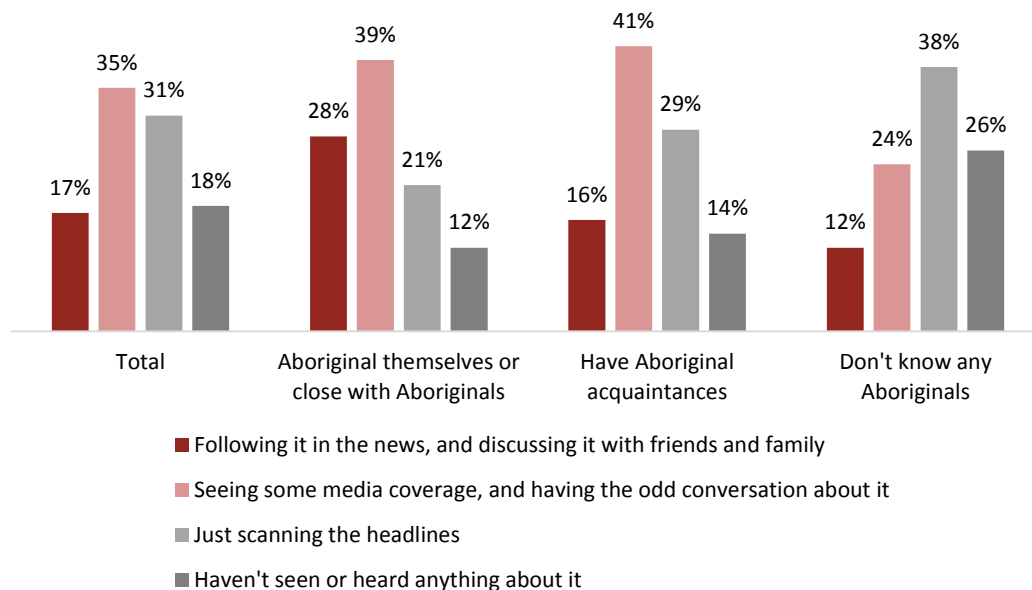
For more than 100 years, Canada's residential schools policy forcibly removed Aboriginal children from their communities and placed them in church-run boarding schools, where they were prohibited from speaking their native languages and from practicing indigenous traditions in order to try to assimilate Aboriginals into Euro-Canadian culture.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created as a result of the settlement of a class action lawsuit brought by residential school survivors against the federal government and the various churches that ran the schools. For five years, the TRC travelled the country meeting with survivors, gathering their testimony, and holding public events aimed at helping Canada heal.

News about the TRC and Aboriginal issues has the attention of roughly half of Canadians (51%). Some 17 per cent are following the story closely and discussing it with friends and family, and another one-third (35%) are seeing some media coverage and having the odd conversation it.

Those who are paying attention to the TRC story tend to be older and more highly educated. They're also more likely to have close relationships with Aboriginal Canadians, or to be Aboriginal themselves:

**How closely are you following this issue?**  
(responses by personal connection to Aboriginal Canadians)



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At the beginning of June, the TRC released [a summary of its final report](#), which included 94 “[calls to action](#)” aimed at changing the way Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians “talk to, and about” each other.

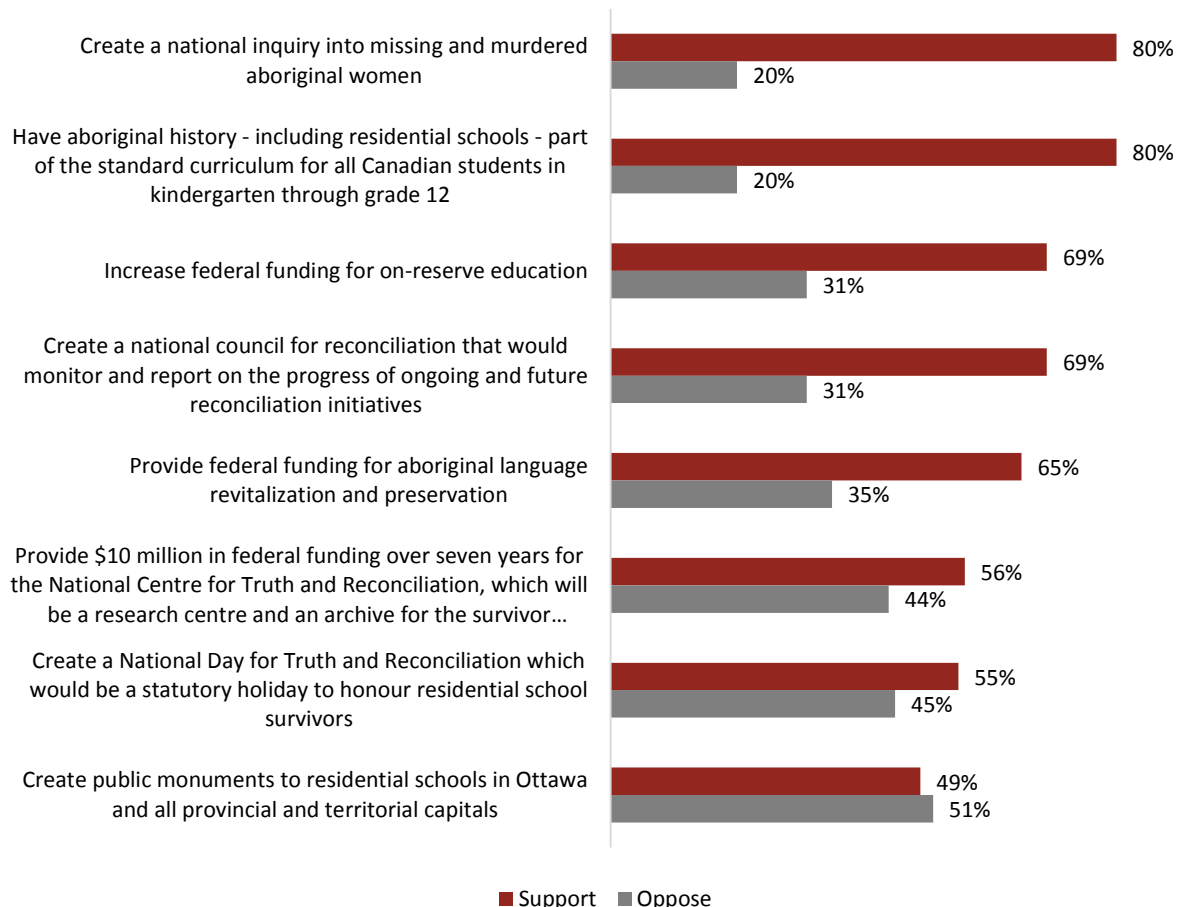
The Angus Reid Institute asked Canadians whether they would support or oppose some of the Commission’s key recommendations. All of the eight measures receive majority support, except one: creating public monuments to residential schools in Ottawa and all provincial/territorial capitals.

Two recommendations have the backing of a strong majority (80%) of Canadians:

- Creating a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women – this represents an increase since last year, when an [Angus Reid Institute poll](#) found three-quarters (73%) of Canadians in favour.
- Adding Aboriginal history – including residential schools – to the standard curriculum for all Canadian students.

Support for the eight measures surveyed is summarized in the following graph:

**Do you support or oppose each of the following recommendations made by the TRC?**



This narrative of wide-ranging support for the TRC's recommendations doesn't hold true in all parts of the country, however. In Saskatchewan and Manitoba – and to a lesser extent Alberta, feelings are more muted.

In Saskatchewan, most are actually *opposed* to five of the eight measures. The only measures supported by a majority of residents there are the three that are most popular with the general population:

- “Have Aboriginal history – including residential schools – part of the standard curriculum for all Canadian students in kindergarten through grade 12” (69%)
- “Create a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women” (63%)
- “Increase federal funding for on-reserve education” (55%)

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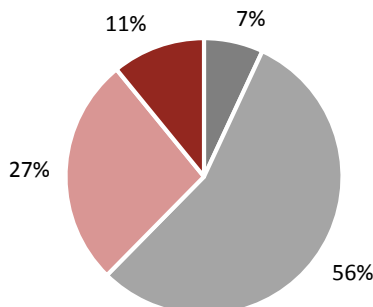
Manitobans' views of the recommendations are somewhat less negative, but their opposition to most measures is still markedly higher than that of people living in other provinces – especially Ontario and Quebec.

### Will the TRC make life better for Aboriginal people?

The best phrase to describe Canadian views about the impact of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on First Nations might be “cautiously optimistic.”

Just under two-thirds of Canadians (63%) say they're optimistic the TRC process will result in “a better situation for Canada's Aboriginal people”; only seven per cent say they're “very optimistic.” A majority (56%) is “moderately optimistic.”

#### Are you optimistic or pessimistic that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process will result in a better situation for Canada's Aboriginal people?



■ Very optimistic ■ Moderately optimistic ■ Moderately pessimistic ■ Very pessimistic

Again, prairie residents – and on this question especially Albertans – as well as past Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) voters, take a more negative view. Among the most pessimistic are:

- Fully half (50%) of Alberta residents
- Almost half (48%) of Saskatchewan residents
- 43 per cent of Manitobans
- 48 per cent of past CPC voters

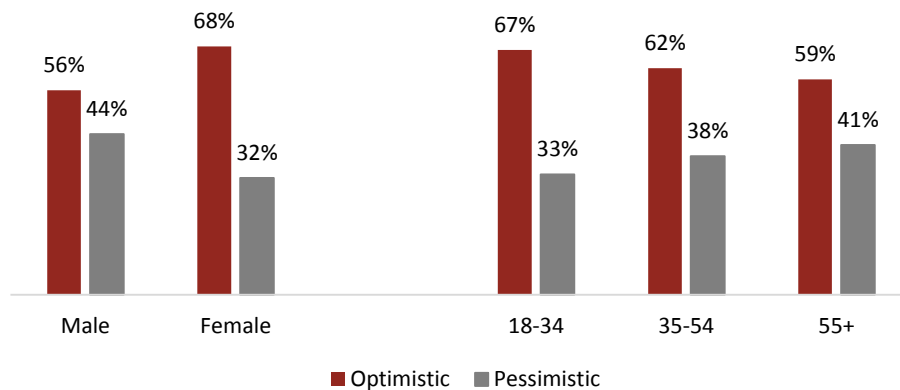
Women and younger Canadians are more likely to take the opposite position. Two-thirds each of women (68%) and those aged 18-34 (67%) are optimistic, compared to 56 per cent of men and 59 per cent of those over 55, respectively.

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**Are you optimistic or pessimistic that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process will ultimately result in a better situation for Canada's aboriginal people?**

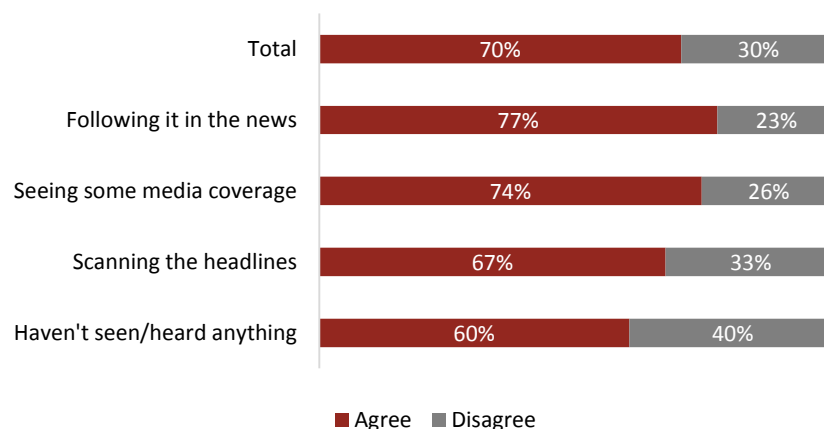


**Were residential schools 'cultural genocide'?**

As the TRC's five-year mandate drew to a close at the end of May, both its chairman Justice Murray Sinclair and Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin each described the residential schools policy as a "cultural genocide."

As it turns out, a strong majority of Canadians (70%) agree with this characterization:

**Do you agree or disagree with using the term "cultural genocide" to describe the residential schools policy and how it was carried out?**



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Those paying closer attention to news about the TRC are even more likely to agree: 77 per cent of those following the issue closely and 74 per cent of those who have seen a few stories and had the odd conversation.

Even among segments that tend to be less sympathetic to Aboriginal causes in their responses to this survey – prairie residents, past Conservative voters, and those without any personal connection to First Nations – majorities agree that Canada committed “cultural genocide” in carrying out the residential schools policy. This includes:

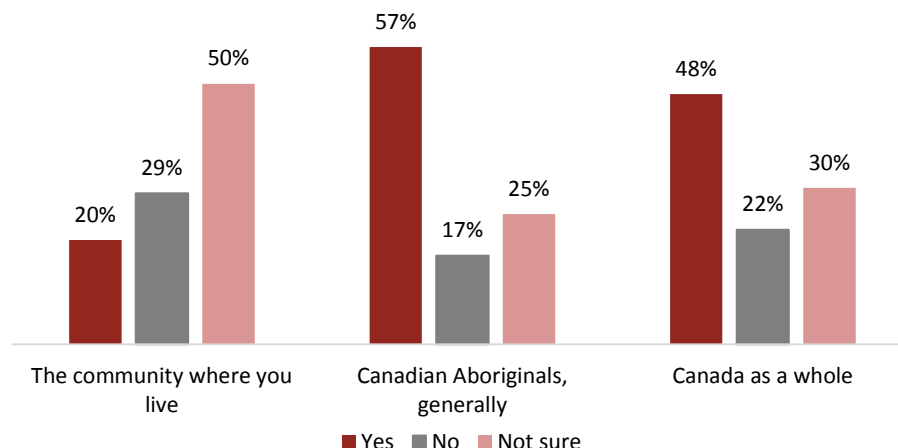
- 54 per cent of Manitobans and 57 per cent of Saskatchewan residents
- 57 per cent of people who voted for the Conservative party in the 2011 federal election
- 71 per cent of those who don’t know any Aboriginal Canadians.

## Has the TRC been worthwhile? And for whom?

With the Commission’s nationwide information gathering process now completed, most Canadians believe the TRC has been worthwhile for survivors of residential schools. Nearly six-in-ten (58%) say this (see detailed tables at the end of this release).

An almost identical portion of the population believes the TRC has been worthwhile for Aboriginal Canadians generally, and a 48 per cent plurality believes it has been worthwhile for Canada as a whole.

### Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?



Canadians are much less certain about the value of the TRC process to their own communities. Fully half (50%) are uncertain of whether the Commission has been worthwhile for their hometown, and among those who have an opinion, more say the process has not been worthwhile (29%) than say it has (20%).

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This finding speaks to a disconnect many Canadians may feel from this issue; while supporting the TRC and thinking it's been a good thing for other people, they struggle to see the process affecting their communities or themselves directly.

This is especially true in rural areas, where 16 per cent feel the process has been worthwhile for their communities and twice as many (34%) say it has not. That said, half (50%) of rural Canadians are unsure how worthwhile the TRC has been.

### On TRC recommendations, many expect government will do less than they say it should

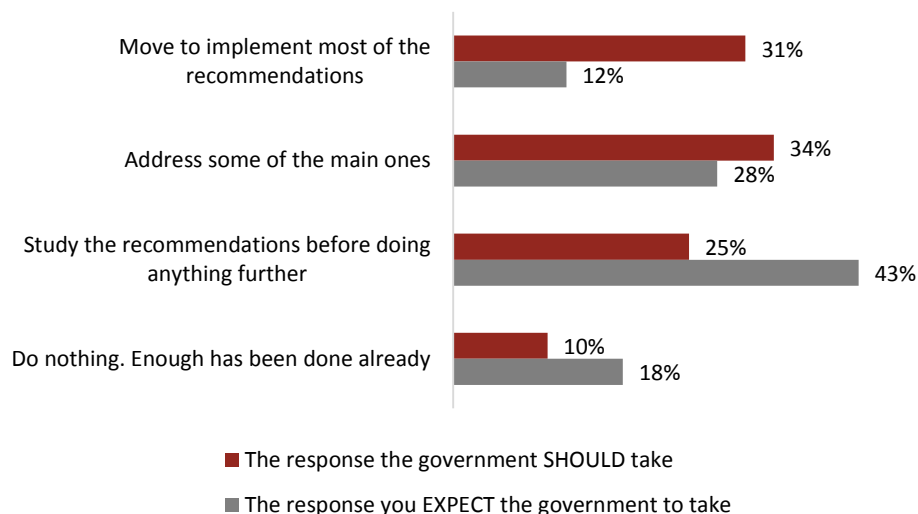
The Angus Reid Institute also asked Canadians about the impact of the TRC on governance – namely:

- what they think the federal government *should* do about these recommendations
- what they think it *will* do about them.

On what the government *should* do, Canadians would like to see action. Three-in-ten (31%) say the government should move to implement most of the recommendations, and another third (34%) say it should address some of the main ones.

These percentages are notably higher than those for what people think the government actually *will* do:

#### What are your views on the response the government *should* take and the response you *expect* it to take to the TRC?



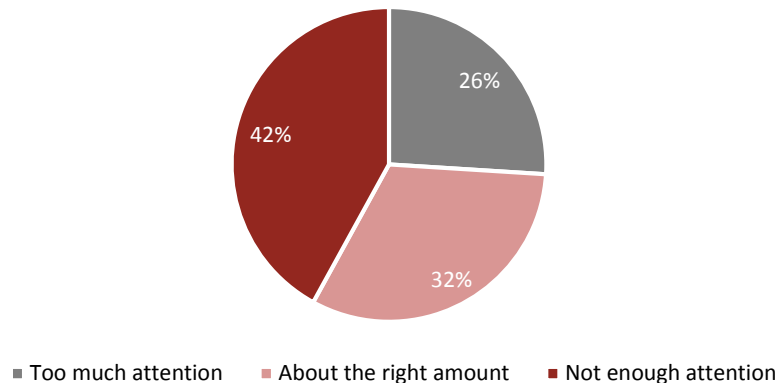
Looking at these two questions together, it becomes apparent that many Canadians believe their government will do less than they feel it should do on this file (see detailed tables at the end of this release).



## Many say not enough attention paid to Aboriginal issues

In a similar vein, Canadians are more likely to say “not enough” attention is being paid – by government and others. This finding mirrors the result when ARI [asked the same question](#) last year.

**What is your view of how much focus and attention is being given to Aboriginal issues in Canada in recent years?**



The roughly one-quarter (26%) who say too much attention is being paid to Aboriginal issues skews older, more Conservative, and includes a higher proportion of prairie residents.

## Is this an election issue?

Though many Canadians are underwhelmed by the amount of attention Aboriginal issues receive, most are unlikely to base their vote in the upcoming federal election on this fact.

Asked to indicate how much of a factor Aboriginal affairs and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will be for them in the 2015 election on a scale from 1 to 10, with a one meaning the issue is “not a factor at all” and a ten meaning “it’s the deciding factor,” most Canadians are closer to the former than the latter.

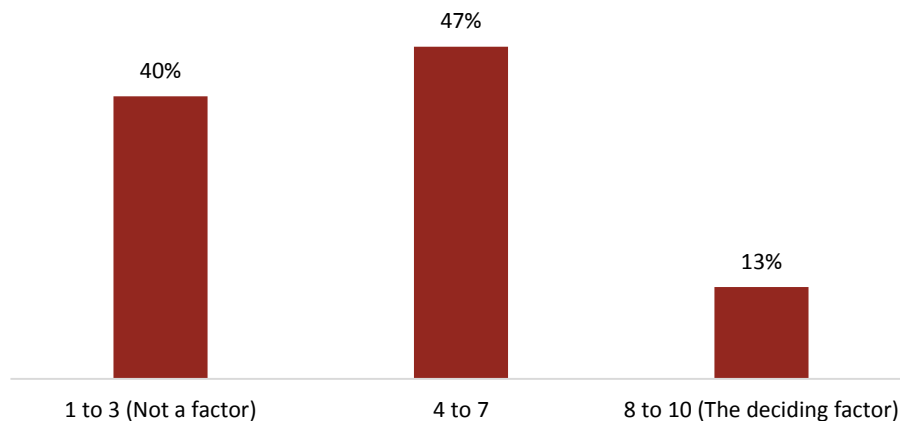
More people choose a one than any other individual option (23% do so), and just 2 per cent choose a ten. Looking at the numbers in aggregate, 87 per cent of Canadians choose a 7 or less on the scale:

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**How much will this whole issue of Aboriginal affairs and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission be a factor for you in this year's federal election?**



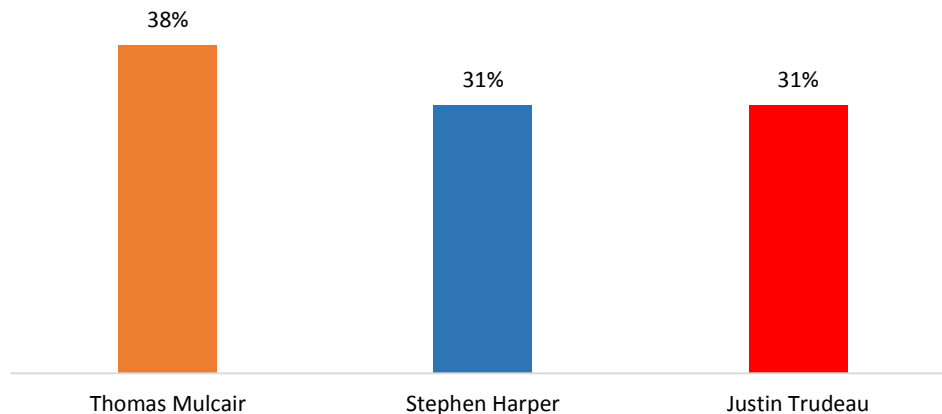
For comparison, on [Bill C-51 and domestic terrorism](#), for example, more than one-in-five (21%) chose one of the top three numbers on the scale, as did 16 per cent of Canadians when asked about the [Senate expenses scandal](#).

**Which federal party leader is best on the issue?**

If the TRC and Aboriginal issues *were* to define the campaign, Canadians are split on which of the three main party leaders would handle it best.

A plurality (38%) choose New Democratic Party Leader Thomas Mulcair, giving him an edge over Conservative Party Leader and Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal Party Leader Justin Trudeau (31% each).

**If Aboriginal affairs and the TRC were to become a defining issue of the upcoming federal campaign, which of the main federal party leaders would you say is best to deal with the issue?**



Each leader's support is strongest among those who voted for his party in 2011. Regionally, Harper is the most popular choice in Alberta (where he gets 42% support), Saskatchewan (44%), Manitoba (42%), and Ontario (37%), but a full majority in Quebec (55%) choose Mulcair as the best to deal with the issue.

Support for party leaders is also correlated with the degree of government action Canadians would like to see on the issue.

Those who favour less action (i.e. studying the recommendations before doing anything else) or no action at all are more likely to say Harper is the best leader on the issue.

Those who favour implementing some or all of the Commission's recommendations are more likely to choose Mulcair or – to a lesser extent – Trudeau.

## Historical context

Skepticism about the relationship between the federal government and First Nations improving has been reflected in Canadian polling on Aboriginal issues for decades.

In 1991 – roughly a year after the Oka crisis in which the Canadian Armed Forces were sent to deal with a month-long standoff between Mohawks and local authorities near the town of Oka, Que., over plans to expand a golf course on land that included a Mohawk burial ground – an Ipsos-Reid poll found that three-quarters of Canadians (74%) felt that little or no progress had been made on addressing Aboriginal Canadians concerns' after the crisis.

Similarly, after the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crisis in 2010, nearly four-in-five Canadians (79%) [told Angus Reid Public Opinion](#) they believed Oka could happen again.

In 2013, 43 per cent of Canadians said they felt relations between the federal government and First Nations [had worsened](#) since the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) came to power in 2006. Slightly fewer (38%) said relations had stayed the same, and only seven per cent said they had improved.

Seen in this context, the findings of this ARI poll reflect a continuation of Canadians' long-held desire for change in both the government's handling of Aboriginal issues and in the situation of Canada's First Nations themselves.

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research organization established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.*

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We want to begin with some issues concerning Canada's Aboriginal people and specifically the "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" How closely have you yourself been following this issue?								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Following it in the news, and discussing it with friends and family	17%	18%	17%	15%	22%	17%	14%	15%
Seeing some media coverage, and having the odd conversation about it	35%	46%	39%	42%	37%	34%	28%	34%
Just scanning the headlines	31%	21%	28%	27%	27%	31%	39%	30%
Haven't seen or heard anything about it	18%	16%	16%	15%	14%	19%	19%	22%

We want to begin with some issues concerning Canada's Aboriginal people and specifically the "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" How closely have you yourself been following this issue?						
(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Following it in the news, and discussing it with friends and family	17%	19%	14%	13%	16%	21%
Seeing some media coverage, and having the odd conversation about it	35%	36%	33%	32%	32%	40%
Just scanning the headlines	31%	31%	30%	29%	33%	30%
Haven't seen or heard anything about it	18%	13%	22%	27%	19%	10%

[Summary of Support] Please indicate whether you yourself support or oppose each of these measures.								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Create a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women	80%	79%	70%	63%	65%	83%	85%	84%
Increase federal funding for on-reserve education	69%	63%	56%	55%	60%	74%	73%	67%
Provide federal funding for Aboriginal language revitalization and preservation	65%	63%	56%	45%	51%	68%	70%	68%
Create a national council for reconciliation that would monitor and report on the progress of ongoing and future reconciliation initiatives	69%	62%	57%	48%	55%	72%	77%	71%
Have Aboriginal history - including residential schools - part of the standard curriculum for all Canadian students in kindergarten through grade 12	80%	81%	80%	69%	65%	82%	80%	84%
Provide \$10 million in federal funding over seven years for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, which will be a research centre and an archive for the survivor testimony to the Commission	56%	56%	49%	34%	33%	58%	62%	54%
Create public monuments to residential schools in Ottawa and all provincial and territorial capitals	49%	48%	39%	30%	37%	50%	56%	46%
Create a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation which would be a statutory holiday to honour residential school survivors	55%	51%	46%	41%	54%	55%	64%	57%

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**[Summary of Support] Please indicate whether you yourself support or oppose each of these measures.**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Create a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women	80%	75%	86%	82%	80%	79%
Increase federal funding for on-reserve education	69%	66%	71%	70%	67%	70%
Provide federal funding for Aboriginal language revitalization and preservation	65%	61%	70%	65%	65%	65%
Create a national council for reconciliation that would monitor and report on the progress of ongoing and future reconciliation initiatives	69%	64%	74%	71%	67%	69%
Have Aboriginal history - including residential schools - part of the standard curriculum for all Canadian students in kindergarten through grade 12	80%	76%	84%	80%	81%	79%
Provide \$10 million in federal funding over seven years for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, which will be a research centre and an archive for the survivor testimony to the Commission	56%	55%	56%	58%	56%	53%
Create public monuments to residential schools in Ottawa and all provincial and territorial capitals	49%	46%	52%	59%	49%	39%
Create a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation which would be a statutory holiday to honour residential school survivors	55%	49%	61%	68%	53%	47%

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[Create a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Strongly support	42%	43%	31%	27%	26%	44%	48%	40%
Support	38%	36%	39%	36%	39%	39%	36%	44%
Oppose	13%	17%	16%	23%	22%	12%	11%	12%
Strongly oppose	6%	4%	14%	14%	13%	5%	5%	4%

[Create a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.						
(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Strongly support	42%	36%	48%	43%	40%	44%
Support	38%	39%	38%	39%	41%	35%
Oppose	13%	16%	11%	12%	13%	15%
Strongly oppose	6%	9%	4%	6%	6%	6%



[Increase federal funding for on-reserve education] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Strongly support	27%	27%	16%	13%	21%	32%	27%	23%
Support	42%	36%	39%	42%	39%	42%	46%	43%
Oppose	21%	26%	23%	29%	27%	18%	19%	22%
Strongly oppose	10%	11%	21%	16%	12%	8%	8%	12%

[Increase federal funding for on-reserve education] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.						
(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Strongly support	27%	23%	31%	30%	25%	27%
Support	42%	43%	41%	40%	43%	43%
Oppose	21%	21%	20%	20%	21%	21%
Strongly oppose	10%	12%	8%	10%	12%	9%

[Provide federal funding for Aboriginal language revitalization and preservation] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Strongly support	20%	21%	11%	11%	13%	25%	20%	18%
Support	45%	42%	44%	34%	38%	43%	50%	49%
Oppose	24%	25%	27%	36%	30%	22%	23%	25%
Strongly oppose	11%	12%	18%	19%	19%	9%	7%	8%

[Provide federal funding for Aboriginal language revitalization and preservation] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.						
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Strongly support	20%	18%	23%	21%	23%	18%
Support	45%	43%	46%	45%	42%	48%
Oppose	24%	25%	23%	23%	25%	24%
Strongly oppose	11%	14%	7%	11%	10%	11%

[Create a national council for reconciliation that would monitor and report on the progress of ongoing and future reconciliation initiatives] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.								
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Strongly support	18%	18%	7%	10%	11%	22%	17%	23%
Support	51%	45%	50%	38%	44%	50%	60%	49%
Oppose	22%	27%	25%	29%	34%	19%	18%	22%
Strongly oppose	9%	11%	18%	23%	11%	8%	5%	7%

[Create a national council for reconciliation that would monitor and report on the progress of ongoing and future reconciliation initiatives] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.						
(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
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Strongly support	18%	15%	21%	19%	18%	17%
Support	51%	49%	53%	52%	49%	52%
Oppose	22%	23%	20%	19%	23%	22%
Strongly oppose	9%	13%	6%	10%	10%	8%

[Have Aboriginal history, including residential schools, part of the standard curriculum for all students K through 12] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Strongly support	31%	32%	31%	24%	24%	36%	28%	19%
Support	49%	49%	50%	45%	41%	46%	52%	65%
Oppose	13%	14%	11%	11%	24%	12%	14%	10%
Strongly oppose	7%	6%	9%	20%	11%	6%	6%	6%

[Have Aboriginal history, including residential schools, part of the standard curriculum for all students K through 12] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.						
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Strongly support	31%	26%	36%	34%	31%	28%
Support	49%	50%	48%	46%	50%	51%
Oppose	13%	14%	12%	13%	12%	14%
Strongly oppose	7%	10%	4%	7%	7%	7%

**[Provide \$10 million in federal funding over 7 yrs for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.**

(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Strongly support	14%	15%	9%	7%	8%	16%	16%	10%
Support	42%	41%	41%	28%	25%	42%	46%	44%
Oppose	29%	28%	23%	33%	44%	30%	27%	32%
Strongly oppose	16%	16%	28%	32%	23%	13%	12%	13%

**[Provide \$10 million in federal funding over 7 yrs for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Strongly support	14%	14%	14%	14%	15%	12%
Support	42%	41%	42%	44%	41%	41%
Oppose	29%	27%	31%	27%	28%	31%
Strongly oppose	16%	18%	13%	15%	16%	16%

**[Create public monuments to residential schools in Ottawa and all provincial and territorial capitals] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.**

(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Strongly support	11%	9%	7%	4%	9%	12%	13%	9%
Support	38%	39%	32%	26%	28%	38%	43%	37%
Oppose	37%	36%	39%	43%	46%	36%	33%	41%
Strongly oppose	15%	16%	21%	27%	18%	14%	11%	13%

**[Create public monuments to residential schools in Ottawa and all provincial and territorial capitals] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Strongly support	11%	11%	11%	12%	12%	8%
Support	38%	35%	41%	47%	37%	31%
Oppose	37%	36%	37%	29%	37%	43%
Strongly oppose	15%	18%	11%	12%	14%	18%

**[Create a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation which would be a statutory holiday to honour residential school survivors] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.**

(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Strongly support	17%	18%	9%	7%	15%	18%	19%	12%
Support	39%	33%	37%	34%	39%	37%	45%	45%
Oppose	31%	33%	31%	34%	28%	31%	26%	36%
Strongly oppose	14%	16%	23%	26%	18%	14%	10%	7%

**[Create a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation which would be a statutory holiday to honour residential school survivors] Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these measures.**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Strongly support	17%	13%	20%	23%	16%	12%
Support	39%	36%	42%	45%	37%	35%
Oppose	31%	33%	28%	23%	30%	37%
Strongly oppose	14%	18%	10%	9%	16%	16%

[The community where you live] Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Yes, the process has been worthwhile	20%	23%	16%	20%	24%	19%	23%	21%
No, the process has not been worthwhile	29%	29%	35%	33%	31%	28%	28%	28%
Not sure	50%	47%	49%	47%	45%	54%	49%	51%

[The community where you live] Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?						
(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Yes, the process has been worthwhile	20%	21%	20%	20%	20%	21%
No, the process has not been worthwhile	29%	34%	24%	25%	32%	30%
Not sure	50%	45%	56%	55%	48%	49%

[Canadian Aboriginals generally] Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Yes, the process has been worthwhile	57%	61%	50%	44%	47%	59%	61%	53%
No, the process has not been worthwhile	17%	17%	25%	29%	24%	14%	16%	20%
Not sure	25%	22%	25%	27%	29%	26%	23%	28%



**[Canadian Aboriginals generally] Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Yes, the process has been worthwhile	57%	57%	58%	51%	58%	63%
No, the process has not been worthwhile	17%	20%	15%	20%	16%	17%
Not sure	25%	23%	27%	29%	26%	20%

**[Residential school survivors] Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?**

(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Yes, the process has been worthwhile	58%	58%	52%	54%	51%	60%	60%	49%
No, the process has not been worthwhile	15%	18%	21%	20%	18%	12%	14%	20%
Not sure	27%	23%	27%	26%	31%	28%	26%	31%

**[Residential school survivors] Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Yes, the process has been worthwhile	58%	59%	56%	50%	60%	62%
No, the process has not been worthwhile	15%	16%	14%	16%	13%	17%
Not sure	27%	25%	30%	34%	27%	21%

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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**[Canada as a whole] Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?**

(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Yes, the process has been worthwhile	48%	50%	46%	41%	43%	52%	46%	47%
No, the process has not been worthwhile	22%	22%	29%	29%	27%	19%	21%	25%
Not sure	30%	28%	26%	30%	31%	29%	33%	28%

**[Canada as a whole] Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Yes, the process has been worthwhile	48%	48%	49%	45%	48%	51%
No, the process has not been worthwhile	22%	27%	18%	22%	23%	21%
Not sure	30%	26%	33%	33%	29%	28%

**[The relationship between Aboriginal and other Canadians] Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?**

(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Yes, the process has been worthwhile	41%	42%	28%	29%	28%	44%	48%	37%
No, the process has not been worthwhile	25%	28%	34%	36%	37%	22%	20%	23%
Not sure	34%	30%	38%	34%	36%	34%	32%	40%

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl

**[The relationship between Aboriginal and other Canadians] Would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Yes, the process has been worthwhile	41%	40%	43%	41%	41%	42%
No, the process has not been worthwhile	25%	29%	20%	24%	24%	26%
Not sure	34%	31%	37%	35%	35%	32%

**Looking ahead, are you optimistic or pessimistic that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process will ultimately result in a better situation for Canada's Aboriginal people?**

(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Very optimistic	7%	7%	4%	4%	5%	7%	8%	8%
Moderately optimistic	56%	57%	46%	48%	52%	54%	62%	56%
Moderately pessimistic	27%	26%	32%	29%	25%	29%	22%	27%
Very pessimistic	11%	11%	18%	19%	18%	10%	8%	9%

Looking ahead, are you optimistic or pessimistic that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process will ultimately result in a better situation for Canada's Aboriginal people?						
(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Very optimistic	7%	8%	6%	9%	7%	5%
Moderately optimistic	56%	49%	62%	58%	55%	54%
Moderately pessimistic	27%	29%	24%	24%	25%	31%
Very pessimistic	11%	14%	7%	9%	13%	10%

Looking ahead, are you optimistic or pessimistic that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process will ultimately result in a better situation for Canada's Aboriginal people?				
	Total (1511)	Federal Vote Last		
		CPC (414)	Liberal Party (254)	NDP (349)
Very optimistic	7%	6%	7%	7%
Moderately optimistic	56%	47%	57%	59%
Moderately pessimistic	27%	31%	26%	27%
Very pessimistic	11%	17%	10%	7%

[The response the federal government should take to the Commission recommendations:] Overall, what are your views on:								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Move to implement most of the recommendations	31%	32%	23%	21%	16%	33%	33%	35%
Address some of the main ones	34%	34%	31%	29%	39%	36%	33%	27%
Study the recommendations before doing anything further	25%	22%	27%	27%	33%	23%	28%	26%
Do nothing. Enough has been done already	10%	12%	19%	23%	12%	8%	6%	12%

[The response the federal government should take to the Commission recommendations:] Overall, what are your views on:						
(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Move to implement most of the recommendations	31%	30%	31%	30%	30%	32%
Address some of the main ones	34%	30%	37%	39%	30%	33%
Study the recommendations before doing anything further	25%	27%	23%	23%	28%	25%
Do nothing. Enough has been done already	10%	12%	9%	9%	12%	10%

[The response you expect the federal government to take] Overall, what are your views on:								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Move to implement most of the recommendations	12%	7%	9%	11%	6%	11%	17%	13%
Address some of the main ones	28%	23%	24%	24%	33%	27%	31%	30%
Study the recommendations before doing anything further	43%	49%	47%	40%	38%	45%	35%	41%
Do nothing. Enough has been done already	18%	20%	20%	25%	24%	16%	17%	15%

[The response you expect the federal government to take] Overall, what are your views on:						
(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Move to implement most of the recommendations	12%	11%	12%	11%	13%	11%
Address some of the main ones	28%	26%	29%	33%	26%	26%
Study the recommendations before doing anything further	43%	42%	43%	38%	45%	44%
Do nothing. Enough has been done already	18%	20%	15%	18%	16%	19%

[The response you expect the federal government to take] Overall, what are your views on:					
	Total (1511)	Response government <i>should</i> take			
		Implement most recommendations (464)	Address some recommendations (509)	Study the recommendations (382)	Do nothing (156)
Move to implement most of the recommendations	12%	26%	6%	5%	6%
Address some of the main ones	28%	18%	42%	28%	11%
Study the recommendations before doing anything further	43%	36%	44%	56%	28%
Do nothing. Enough has been done already	18%	20%	9%	11%	55%

[The response you expect the federal government to take] Overall, what are your views on:					
	Total (1511)	Response government <i>should</i> take			
		Implement most recommendations (464)	Address some recommendations (509)	Study the recommendations (382)	Do nothing (156)
Think the government will do less than it should	43%	74%	53%	11%	0%
Think the government will do what it should	42%	26%	42%	56%	55%
Think the government will do more than it should	15%	0%	6%	33%	45%

**The TRC has referred to this policy as a “cultural genocide” against Aboriginals in Canada. Do you agree or disagree with using the term "cultural genocide" to describe the residential schools policy and how it was carried out?**

(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Strongly agree	36%	40%	28%	20%	25%	35%	45%	25%
Agree	34%	33%	36%	36%	28%	34%	34%	34%
Disagree	17%	16%	18%	19%	23%	17%	13%	25%
Strongly disagree	13%	11%	17%	24%	24%	14%	8%	15%

**The TRC has referred to this policy as a “cultural genocide” against Aboriginals in Canada. Do you agree or disagree with using the term "cultural genocide" to describe the residential schools policy and how it was carried out?**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Strongly agree	36%	30%	41%	35%	35%	38%
Agree	34%	34%	34%	39%	34%	30%
Disagree	17%	18%	16%	16%	17%	18%
Strongly disagree	13%	18%	9%	11%	14%	15%



**The TRC has referred to this policy as a “cultural genocide” against Aboriginals in Canada. Do you agree or disagree with using the term "cultural genocide" to describe the residential schools policy and how it was carried out?**

	Total (1511)	Federal Vote Last		
		CPC (414)	Liberal Party (254)	NDP (349)
Strongly agree	36%	21%	41%	48%
Agree	34%	36%	31%	31%
Disagree	17%	21%	17%	12%
Strongly disagree	13%	22%	11%	9%

**The TRC has referred to this policy as a “cultural genocide” against Aboriginals in Canada. Do you agree or disagree with using the term "cultural genocide" to describe the residential schools policy and how it was carried out?**

	Total (1511)	Awareness			
		Following it in the news (249)	Seeing some media coverage (525)	Scanning the headlines (465)	Haven't seen/heard anything (272)
Strongly agree	36%	52%	42%	29%	21%
Agree	34%	25%	32%	38%	39%
Disagree	17%	10%	12%	20%	25%
Strongly disagree	13%	13%	13%	13%	15%

Generally speaking, what is your view of how much focus and attention is being given to Aboriginal issues in Canada in recent years? Would you say:								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
There's been way too much attention	11%	13%	18%	22%	18%	10%	7%	9%
Too much attention	15%	20%	22%	25%	21%	11%	11%	19%
About the right amount	32%	31%	30%	34%	37%	29%	36%	29%
Not enough attention	31%	23%	20%	11%	21%	36%	34%	35%
Not nearly enough attention	12%	12%	9%	8%	3%	14%	11%	9%

Generally speaking, what is your view of how much focus and attention is being given to Aboriginal issues in Canada in recent years? Would you say:						
(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
There's been way too much attention	11%	14%	8%	10%	11%	12%
Too much attention	15%	17%	13%	10%	17%	17%
About the right amount	32%	31%	32%	35%	31%	30%
Not enough attention	31%	26%	35%	31%	30%	31%
Not nearly enough attention	12%	12%	11%	14%	11%	10%

How much will this whole issue of Aboriginal affairs and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission be a factor for you in this year's federal election?								
(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
1 Not a factor at all	23%	23%	34%	26%	34%	24%	16%	23%
2	8%	11%	11%	12%	14%	6%	9%	5%
3	8%	12%	8%	13%	6%	9%	6%	6%
4	8%	11%	6%	10%	2%	8%	6%	10%
5	15%	14%	12%	17%	14%	15%	18%	18%
6	13%	8%	12%	7%	7%	14%	16%	13%
7	11%	7%	10%	9%	10%	11%	14%	11%
8	8%	9%	5%	4%	8%	8%	10%	10%
9	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	4%	3%	3%
10 Deciding factor	2%	3%	1%	0%	2%	2%	2%	1%

How much will this whole issue of Aboriginal affairs and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission be a factor for you in this year's federal election?						
(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
1 Not a factor at all	23%	27%	19%	23%	24%	23%
2	8%	10%	7%	8%	10%	8%
3	8%	9%	8%	8%	8%	9%
4	8%	8%	7%	9%	7%	7%
5	15%	13%	18%	17%	17%	13%
6	13%	12%	14%	13%	12%	14%
7	11%	9%	13%	11%	9%	14%
8	8%	7%	10%	9%	8%	8%
9	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%
10 Deciding factor	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%

**If Aboriginal affairs and the TRC were to become a defining issue of the upcoming federal campaign, which of the main federal party leaders would you say is best to deal with the issue?**

(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
Stephen Harper	31%	32%	42%	44%	42%	37%	17%	25%
Justin Trudeau	31%	28%	27%	27%	32%	33%	28%	39%
Thomas Mulcair	38%	40%	31%	30%	26%	30%	55%	35%

**If Aboriginal affairs and the TRC were to become a defining issue of the upcoming federal campaign, which of the main federal party leaders would you say is best to deal with the issue?**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
Stephen Harper	31%	35%	28%	29%	32%	32%
Justin Trudeau	31%	28%	33%	39%	29%	26%
Thomas Mulcair	38%	37%	39%	32%	39%	42%

**Lastly, which of the following best describes your own personal relationship, if any, with Aboriginal Canadians?**

(unweighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Region						
		BC (203)	AB (154)	SK (100)	MB (100)	ON (502)	PQ (351)	ATL (101)
You are Aboriginal yourself	3%	4%	4%	1%	4%	2%	3%	2%
You have a close relationship with one or more Aboriginal Canadians	15%	21%	17%	36%	28%	15%	7%	12%
You are acquainted with some Aboriginal Canadians	49%	56%	59%	63%	63%	48%	35%	60%
No, you do not know any Aboriginal Canadians	36%	23%	23%	9%	11%	38%	57%	26%

**Lastly, which of the following best describes your own personal relationship, if any, with Aboriginal Canadians?**

(weighted sample size)	Total (1511)	Gender		Age		
		Men (738)	Women (773)	18 – 34 (432)	35 – 54 (566)	55+ (513)
You are Aboriginal yourself	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%
You have a close relationship with one or more Aboriginal Canadians	15%	15%	15%	17%	15%	13%
You are acquainted with some Aboriginal Canadians	49%	52%	46%	45%	50%	51%
No, you do not know any Aboriginal Canadians	36%	32%	40%	41%	34%	34%