

Campaign 2015 Economy Questionnaire

Today, we're talking to Canadians about some of the key issues in the federal election campaign leading up to voting day on October 19th.

Warm-up

1. What do you feel are the most important issues facing Canada today? (Please pick your top two issues from the following list.)

[MULTI RESPONSE – CAN SELECT UP TO 2 RESPONSES – RANDOMIZE LIST]

Crime /Public safety
Economy
Education /Training
Energy / Natural resources
Environment /Pollution
Ethics / Accountability
Health Care
National Unity (Quebec separation)
Income inequality
Taxes
Terrorism/security
Jobs/unemployment
First Nations issues/Aboriginal Affairs
The Senate
The Deficit/Government spending
International Affairs/Canada's place in the world
Other (specify) [FIX POSITION]

Vote intentions

2. How *certain* are you about which party's candidate you will support in this upcoming federal election?

Very Certain – I know exactly who I will support

Somewhat Certain – I know who I am leaning towards but I could change my mind

Uncertain – I really don't know who I will support

3. Based on how you feel right now, which party's candidate in your own riding will you be most likely to support in the federal election next month?

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF FIRST THREE PARTIES IN ROC AND FIRST FOUR PARTIES IN QC. OTHERS LIST AS BELOW]

Conservative Party
Liberal Party
New Democratic Party (NDP)
Bloc Quebecois [QUEBEC ONLY]
Green Party
Other Party
Not sure/Can't say

[IF NOT SURE/CAN'T SAY]

4. Is there any party you are leaning towards?

[SAME ORDER AS Q3.]

Conservative Party
Liberal Party
New Democratic Party (NDP)
Bloc Quebecois [OPTION IN QUEBEC ONLY]
Green Party
Other Party
Not sure/Can't say

Economic Priorities

5. There's been talk in this election campaign about the economy and Canada's economic priorities. We want to know what people think the federal government should be focusing on when it comes to the economy. Please choose your TOP TWO economic priorities from the list below.

[Randomize List]

Promoting jobs and economic growth where I live

Taking steps to ensure a balanced budget

Improving social programs through greater investments in health care, pensions and child care

Ensuring that the tax system is fair and progressive

Controlling inflation and costs in areas such as real estate and food

Tackling the special issues confronting specific groups such as First Nations, veterans, farmers, parents, etc.

6. When you think about the economy and the major economic challenges facing Canada, would you say:

[ROTATE STATEMENTS]

Federal government actions and policies can make a big difference to the economy

Federal government actions and policies can only make a minor difference to the economy

In today's world, the economy is largely beyond the control of federal governments

The wallet -- where are you financially?

7. All things considered, do you think your current standard of living is better or worse now than it was a year ago?

Better now

The same as a year ago

Worse now

Not sure

8. And a year from now, do you think your standard of living will be better or worse than now?

Better a year from now

The same as now

Worse a year from now

Not sure

9. Over the next twelve months, do you think the economy of your own province will improve, remain the same, or worsen?

[SINGLE CHOICE]

Significantly improve

Moderately improve
Remain the same
Moderately worsen
Significantly worsen

10. Over the next twelve months, do you think the Canadian economy will improve, remain the same, or worsen?

[SINGLE CHOICE]
Significantly improve
Moderately improve
Remain the same
Moderately worsen
Significantly worsen

11. Here are a few statements people might make about their personal finances. Thinking about your own household's financial situation, tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of these statements:

I'm never really stressed about money

I'm concerned that I or someone in my household could lose a job because of the economy

I worry about how young people today will be able to find a good job

Based on my current financial position I feel I can have a comfortable retirement

I have too much credit card debt

I worry that in the future I won't live as well as my parents' generation did

Strongly agree
Moderately agree
Moderately disagree
Strongly disagree

12. One economic issue you hear discussed sometimes concerns "income inequality" and the gap between rich and poor. The idea of income inequality is often framed in terms of "the haves" and "the have-nots." If you had to choose, which of these two groups would you say you are in?

The haves

The have-nots
I really can't say

13. Now, thinking about this idea another way, which economic class would you say you fit into?

Wealthy
Upper middle class
Middle class
Lower middle class
At or below the poverty line/poor

The Parties' Policies

14. A number of economic policies and ideas have been put forward in this election campaign. We'd like to get your opinion on some of these. For each of the following, please choose the option you prefer.

[ROTATE OPTIONS WITHIN EACH PAIR]

a) Reduce the small-business tax rate to 9%

Leave the small-business tax rate as it is today - at 11%

b) The federal government should spend more in the next year on jobs and growth, even if it means deficits in the short term

The federal government should balance the budget in the next year even if it means raising taxes or cutting programs

c) Tax deductions for specific expenses such as Rotary or gym memberships or kids' sports are a good idea overall

These targeted tax deductions for specific expenses are not a good idea

d) Cut the income tax rate for people earning \$44,700 – \$89,400 from 22% to 20.5%.

Leave the income tax rate for people earning \$44,700 – \$89,400 at 22%.

e) Increase the corporate tax rate from the current 15% back up to roughly 2006 levels (21%)

Leave the corporate tax rate where it is now.

f) Make a new federal income tax bracket for those with incomes over \$200,000 with a tax rate of 33%

Keep the highest federal income tax bracket starting at \$138,586 a year and its current rate of 29%

g) Allow yearly Tax-Free Savings Account or TFSA contributions up to \$10,000
Limit yearly Tax-Free Savings Account or TFSA contributions to \$5,500

h) The eligibility age to collect Old Age Security benefit should be 67
The eligibility age to collect Old Age Security benefit should be 65

15. Until 1996, there was a federal minimum wage. This wage applied to all employers regulated by the federal government -- such as railways, financial services, and telecommunications.

Which do you prefer?
[Rotate]

Re-introduce the federal minimum wage for federally-regulated employers at \$12 per hour and increase it to \$15 per hour by 2019

OR

Let the individual provinces continue to set all minimum wages, with no separate federal minimum for federally-regulated employers

16. Income splitting allows eligible couples with children to transfer up to \$50,000 in income from one partner to another, to potentially take advantage of a lower tax bracket.

Which statement best describes your view on this?

[Rotate]

I support the income splitting policy.

OR

I don't support the income splitting policy

17. The issue of child care has received a lot of attention. Which, if any, of the following options would you prefer:

[Randomize first three options]

The creation of one million licensed day care spaces to be provided to parents for \$15 per child per day

A universal "child benefit" of \$160 a month for all children under age six

A "child benefit" that boosts payments to families with incomes under \$150,000 and excludes those making higher incomes than this

None of these

18. Some people say Canada should raise its foreign aid contributions to 0.7% of Gross National Income, the target of Millennium Development goals for developed nations (about \$15B/year)

Others say Canada should follow its own aid plan, which currently sets foreign aid contributions at 0.24% of Gross National Income (about \$5B/year)

Which do you support?

Raise foreign aid to 0.7% of GNI

Keep foreign aid at 0.24% of GNI

19. We've been considering a lot of different campaign promises and policies. Is there any campaign promise or platform – from any party – that you feel would be a direct benefit for you or your household?

Yes

No

[ASK IF YES]

20. Which party has put forward the campaign promise or platform that you feel MOST benefits you or your household?

[Keep same randomization as Q3/4]

Conservative Party

Liberal Party

New Democratic Party (NDP)

Bloc Quebecois [QUEBEC ONLY]

Green Party

Other Party

Not sure/Can't say

21. Thinking very generally, now that we've considered these various policy ideas, what is your own overall view of the quality of the economic policy proposals that are so far coming out in this federal election? Are you generally impressed or not impressed?

Impressed

Not impressed

Leaders'/Parties' positioning on the economy

22. Thinking about the issues we've been talking about in this survey, we'd like to get your views on how each of the main national party leaders would perform when it comes to handling the economy if they won this election and formed the next federal government.

[Randomize pages]

Thomas Mulcair - NDP

Stephen Harper - Conservative Party

Justin Trudeau - Liberal Party

He can be trusted on economic issues

He is too risky a choice when it comes to the economy

He'll work closely with the provinces to better manage the economy

He'll inspire confidence in investors at home and abroad

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Don't know/Can't say

23. As you may have heard, Statistics Canada has reported an economic decline for the first two quarters of 2015 and that the country is in a recession.

Which statement most closely reflects your point of view?

[Rotate]

This recession is just a blip for the Canadian economy and will go away – I'm not worried about it.

OR

This recession is a sign of a deeper, lasting problem for the Canadian economy – it definitely has me worried.

24. Thinking **about** Election Day on October 19th, suppose the top issue **on your mind** is the Canadian economy. If that **were** the case, which party's candidate in your riding would you yourself be most likely to vote for?

[SAME ORDER AS Q3/4]

Conservative Party
Liberal Party
New Democratic Party (NDP)
Bloc Quebecois [OPTION IN QUEBEC ONLY]
Green Party
Other Party
Not Sure/Can't say

14a. Which one of the following best describes your religion?

[Rows]

Roman Catholic
United Church
Anglican
Lutheran
Presbyterian
Baptist
Pentecostal
Other evangelical Christian
Other Christian
Muslim
Hindu
Jewish
Sikh
Buddhist
No religious identity
Other (please specify)