

Supreme Court of Canada Survey

Confidence in Institutions

1. First, we would like to get your feelings towards political institutions. Please indicate how much confidence you have in the following institutions

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

The courts

Parliament (The House of Commons)

Political parties

Politicians

The Supreme Court of Canada

The Senate

The media

[COLUMNS]

A great deal

Quite a lot

Not very much

None at all

2. Now, we'd like to ask you a few questions about the Supreme Court of Canada more specifically. Would you say your overall opinion of the Supreme Court of Canada is favourable or unfavourable?

Very favourable

Mostly favourable

Mostly unfavourable

Very unfavourable

3. In general, how closely do you usually follow news about major decisions made by the Supreme Court of Canada? Would you say you:

Follow the news and discuss with friends and family

See some media coverage and have the odd conversation about it

Just scan the headlines

Haven't seen or heard anything

4. We want to get people's opinions about some recent major decisions made by the Supreme Court of Canada. For each decision, please indicate whether you yourself agree or disagree with the court's decision. **If you are not sure, or if you have not heard of the decision, please indicate that.**

[COLUMNS]

Strongly disagree
Moderately disagree
Moderately agree
Strongly agree
Not sure what I think
Have not heard of this decision

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Striking down prostitution laws that criminalized brothels, selling sex and soliciting a prostitute

Granting Aboriginal title of a specific tract of land to a First Nation for the first time (the Tsilqhot'in Nation in British Columbia)

Blocking the federal government from introducing legislation to elect Senators without a formal constitutional amendment involving the provinces

Striking down a law which prohibited doctor-assisted suicide for competent adults who (1) consent to suicide; and (2) have an illness, disease or disability that causes enduring suffering

Striking down mandatory minimum sentences for unlawful possession of a firearm

5. Thinking of these recent decisions, and the role of the Supreme Court of Canada, generally, would you say the court has a positive or a negative effect on each of the following?

[ROWS]

Canada as a whole
Individual rights and freedoms of Canadians
Everyday life for Canadians
You specifically

[COLUMNS]

Very negative
Negative
No effect either way
Positive
Very positive

6. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

[COLUMNS]

Strongly agree
Agree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Don't know/Can't say

[ROWS: RANDOMIZE]

The Supreme Court has too much authority to decide on controversial issues.

It's a good thing that we have the Supreme Court to keep government in check.

Supreme Court Justices who consistently make decisions at odds with the opinions of the majority of Canadians should be removed from the bench.

The Supreme Court can usually be trusted to make decisions that are right for the country as a whole.

The Harper Conservative Government has recently tried to provoke the courts for political gain.

The Supreme Court is increasingly weighing in on social issues that have nothing to do with upholding the Constitution.

The Prime Minister's power to appoint Supreme Court justices without parliamentary approval leads to overly partisan appointments

7. Thinking about the way justices are appointed to the Supreme Court – by Prime Ministerial appointment – which of the following statements is closest to your view?

The current system is acceptable – it has worked for more than a century and there's no reason to change it.

The current system is unacceptable – it gives too much power over the composition of the court to the sitting Prime Minister.

8. From time to time you hear about the Supreme Court of Canada disagreeing with a law made by the Government because they maintain that it is in conflict with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Generally speaking, when you think of these disagreements, who would you yourself be most likely to agree with?

[Randomize first two options]

The Government

The Supreme Court of Canada

Neither side really

Not sure

9. Finally, we'd like to get your thoughts on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Since it was adopted in 1982, would you say the Charter has been good or bad for Canada, overall?

Very good

Good

Bad

Very bad

CUBA:

Changing topics now, we'd like to ask you a few questions about U.S.-Cuba relations.

1. As you may have heard, the United States recently re-established diplomatic relations with Cuba, opening an embassy in Havana after more than 50 years without any formal connection between the two countries. How closely would you say you've been following this issue? Would you say you are:

- Following it in the news, and discussing it with friends and family
- Seeing some coverage, and having the odd conversation about it
- Just scanning the headlines
- Haven't seen or heard anything about it

2. All in all, do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba?

- Strongly approve
- Approve
- Disapprove
- Strongly disapprove

3. And, would you support or oppose the U.S. ending its trade embargo against Cuba, which would allow U.S. companies to do business in Cuba and Cuban companies to do business in the U.S.?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose

4. Do you believe this normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba will ultimately make Cuba a more or less democratic country?

- More democratic
- Less democratic
- About the same as now
- Don't know/Can't say

5. For many years, travel restrictions have prevented Americans from visiting Cuba as tourists in large numbers. If those travel restrictions are lifted, and large numbers of Americans begin

visiting Cuba, how will the experience of visiting Cuba as a Canadian tourist change? Would you say it will be:

- Better than it is now
- Worse than it is now
- The same as it is now

6. Would you say normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba will be good or bad for:

[ROWS]

- Cuba
- U.S.
- Canada

[COLUMNS]

- Good
- Bad
- Not sure

7. Finally, have you yourself ever traveled to Cuba for any reason?

- Yes, as a tourist
- Yes, for some other reason
- No, I have never been to Cuba