There has been some discussion lately about the Canada Pension Plan – or CPP – and specifically whether or not it should be expanded. This also includes the Quebec Pension Plan (QPP), which operates as an equivalent program in that province. We want to ask a few questions about this.

Q1. How closely would you say you have been following this issue? Would you say you are:

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

Very briefly, the CPP/QPP is funded by mandatory payroll deductions and employer contributions. The benefits you get when you’re retired depend on the years you contributed. Currently, the maximum payment the CPP pays out comes to just over $13,000 per year.

Q2. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

[RANDOMIZE]
- It’s important for the government to play a lead role in how Canadians fund their retirements
- Canadians aren’t saving enough for retirement
- The economy is too weak to support a CPP expansion at this time
- Small businesses would be hurt by the increase in payroll tax if the CPP/QPP is expanded
- Expanding CPP would ensure more seniors are not living in poverty

[COLUMNS]
- Strongly disagree
- Moderately disagree
- Moderately agree
- Strongly agree

Q3. All things considered, do you think the CPP/QPP should be expanded – which would mean higher deductions from workers and higher employer contributions, and in turn higher annual benefit payments upon retirement?

- Yes, expanded significantly
- Yes, expanded moderately
- No, leave the CPP/QPP as it is
- No, in fact the CPP/QPP should be phased out entirely

Q4. Are you currently retired?

- Yes
- No
Semi-retired

[FOR RETIRED/SEMI-RETIRED]
Q5. Which of the following categories best describes your situation:

I have enough money to do everything I want
I live comfortably but don’t have money for luxuries
Making ends meet is a struggle

Previous French. Nous cherchons à comprendre, dans l’ensemble, comment s’en sortent les Canadiens à la retraite. Lequel de ces énoncés décrit le mieux votre situation:

J’ai assez d’argent pour faire tout ce que je veux
Je vis confortablement, mais je n’ai pas d’argent pour le superflu
C’est extrêmement difficile de joindre les deux bouts

[FOR NON-RETIRED]
Q5b. Which of the following broad categories best describes your expectations for your personal finances in retirement:

I expect to have enough money to do everything I want
I expect to live comfortably but not have money for luxuries
I expect that making ends meet will be a struggle

Previous French. Laquelle de ces déclarations générales décrit le mieux vos attentes pour ce qui est de vos finances personnelles pendant la retraite:

Je m’attends à avoir assez d’argent pour faire tout ce que je veux
Je m’attends à vivre confortablement, mais à ne pas avoir d’argent pour le superflu
Je m’attends à ce qu’il soit très difficile de joindre les deux bouts.

Q6. How are you – or how do you expect to be – primarily financing your retirement? (If you have a spouse, please consider you and your spouse together.)

Choose up to 3 [RANDOMIZE]
Work pension
Your retirement savings (RRSPs, etc)
Investments
Downsizing/selling assets
Inheritance
Support from children/family
Government pension (Old Age Security/CPP/QPP)
Other, specify:
Previous French. Comment financez-vous principalement votre retraite? (si vous avez un(e) époux/épouse, veuillez considérer vos finances et celles de votre époux/épouse ensemble.)
(Choisissez-en trois)

Régime de pension professionnelle
Vos économies de retraite (REER, etc.)
Retour d’investissements
Vente de biens/réduction du mode de vie
Héritage
Soutien des enfants, de la famille
Régime de pension gouvernemental (pension de vieillesse)
Autre, spécifiez...

Q7. How important would you say the CPP/QPP is to your retirement? (If you never paid into CPP/QPP, please indicate that)

Very important, I plan to rely heavily on it
Important, it will definitely help
Not that important, I have other savings I will rely on primarily
Not important at all, I won’t really notice it
I won’t receive CPP because I never paid in