

Canadians' Views on Issues Concerning Children's Well-Being  
An Angus Reid Institute Study in partnership with Children First

Final Survey Questionnaire (October 6)

Total sample of 2500, including:

Children aged 12 to 17: 850.

Young adults aged 18 to 25: 400.

Adults 25+: 1250.

Samples will be drawn from the *Angus Reid Forum* research panel and will be broadly representative by region, age, gender and other relevant population characteristics.

Kids' Contact and Permission – will be sent to adult/parent members of Angus Reid Forum.

You have previously indicated that you have one or more children between the ages of 12 and 17 living in your home. We are conducting a survey of Canadian youth - in partnership with the *Children First* organization.

The survey looks at different topics concerning life today and at some ideas for improving Canadian children's well-being. (It does not focus on sensitive subject matter).

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. As always, answers will be held completely confidential. Would you be willing to let your child participate in this survey?

Please select "Yes" below to certify that you are the parent/guardian of the child, are over the age of 18 years and grant permission for your child to participate in this survey.

Yes

No [Thank and Terminate]

Please go get your child and have them complete the survey now if possible. If your child is not home, please ask them to do the survey when they return. You may sit with them as they complete the survey but please let them answer the questions.

(If you have more than one child between the ages of 12 and 17, please try to have the one whose birthday is closest to today fill out the survey.)

Survey map: questions to be asked of:

**Everybody -- Adults and Kids**

**Kids Only**

**Parents and Kids**

**Adults Only**

**Parents Only**

**Introduction** (Everybody – Adults and Kids)

Welcome to this survey. We'll be asking some questions about life here in Canada today. It should only take about 10 minutes.

We're interested in your views and opinions. There are no right or wrong answers -- just tell us what you think.

Adult Survey – Parent ID

1a. Do you have children?

No children

Yes, kid(s) under 18 living with me

Yes, kid(s) under 18, not living with me

Yes, kid(s) over 18

[Note: For the purposes of the survey, "parents" are defined as "Yes, kid(s) under 18" regardless of where they live]

[If Yes, kids at all:]

1b. How many children do you have in total?

# \_\_\_\_\_

[If Yes, kids under 18:]

1c. How many children do you have under the age of 18?

#: \_\_\_\_\_

1d. Please indicate the gender and age of your children under 18, starting with the youngest. [For those with one child under 18: Please indicate the gender and age of your child under 18]  
[Capture up to 5 children.]

Child 1:

Is this child...

M/F/O

And what age?

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Now thinking about your [second/third/fourth/fifth] youngest child, please indicate their gender and age.

Child 2:

M/F/O

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

### Kids profile

2. First, how old are you?

12

13

14

15

16

17

3. Are you...?

Male

Female

Neither/Other/Both

### Community/Life Satisfaction (Everybody – Adults and Kids)

Q4. Let's start by thinking about where you live. How would you rate each of the following:

[ROWS - KEEP ITEMS IN THIS ORDER]

Your own house or apartment

The neighbourhood you live in

Your school (kids)

Your local schools (adults)

Opportunities for recreation for young people in your area

Your life overall these days

[COLUMNS]

Very Poor

Poor

Only Fair

Good

Very Good

### Kids' Ratings of Key Areas (Kids only)

Q5. And thinking about your own day-to-day life, how would you rate these things:

[ROWS -- Randomize items]

Your relationship with your parents

Your friends and social life

How accepted and included you feel by people in your life

[COLUMNS]

Very Poor

Poor

Only Fair

Good

Very Good

**School Zone** (Parents and Kids)

Q6. Now thinking about your school/the schools in your community, what rating would you give to each of the following?

[ROWS - RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

How much you/the students are learning

The quality of after school (or extracurricular) programs

The teachers

The school(s) as a safe and supportive place(s)

[COLUMNS]

Very Poor

Poor

Only Fair

Good

Very Good

**Activities/Doing Stuff** (Kids only)

Q7/8. We want an idea of what you do in your free time -- evenings and weekends. Please select any of the things on this list that you do regularly:

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

Reading

Lessons - music/language, etc.

Sports

Homework

Part time job

Helping out at home/chores

Video games

Watch TV/Movies/Netflix

Just hanging out with friends

Enjoying time with your family

Volunteering

Social media

9. Thinking about your free time and the things you do, overall would you say:

[ROTATE TOP TWO OPTIONS]

You are too busy in your free time

You wish you had more to do in your free time

Your free time feels about right for you

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

I am under a lot of pressure these days

If something were bothering me, there's an adult I trust that I could talk to

I'd like to do more things like clubs or sports or lessons but my family can't afford it

Overall I am happy with my physical health

I would like more support for mental health such as help with stress or anxiety

I have at least one close friend that I trust and can talk to

Totally Disagree

Mostly Disagree

Mostly Agree

Totally Agree

Q11. If you had a million dollars to spend on things for kids in your community, what would you spend it on? (Could be anything.)

[WIDE OPEN-ENDED QUESTION – NOT TO BE CODED, BUT CAN BE REVIEWED AND SORTED]

### Q Prayer

How often, if at all, do you:

[Rows] Randomize

Pray at home

Say table grace/given thanks for food

Pray in a church or other place of worship

[Columns]

Never

Hardly ever

Less than once a month

About once a month

2-3 times a month

About once a week

Several times a week

Daily

**Outlook** (Everybody -- Kids and Adults)

Q12. Let's think for a moment about the future. When you think about Canadian kids growing up today - like you, would you say you are generally confident or worried about your own future/their generation when it comes to:

[ROWS]

Getting a good job or career  
Achieving your/their big goals in life  
Being happy in life  
The health of the environment

[COLUMNS]

Very Worried  
Worried  
Confident  
Very Confident

**What kind of country/society?** (Everybody -- Kids and Adults)

13. We've been talking about our own life and community. Now let's think about our country - Canada. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[ROWS - RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS]

Young Canadians get the support they need to achieve their full potential  
Canada is doing its best for poor people  
People in Canada are all treated equally  
Canada is a great place to be a kid  
It is hard for families like mine to afford college or university

Young people don't have enough say on the big issues that affect them  
We should lower the voting age to 16

There's a lot of pressure on kids today  
It's harder to be a parent today than it used to be

[COLUMNS]

Totally Disagree  
Mostly Disagree  
Mostly Agree  
Totally Agree

Q14. Thinking overall about young people here in Canada and the things that affect them, would you say that most:

- Are doing just fine
- Could use some extra support
- Need a lot more support

**On the Agenda** (Everybody)

Q15. Overall, would you say Canadians give children and their issues:

- Too much attention
- About the right amount
- Not enough attention

Q16. What would you say are the **biggest priorities** for young people like you today? (Choose your top 3 from the list below, or type yours in if it is not on this list.)

[KEEP THESE ISSUE BLOCKS, RANDOMIZE BLOCKS]

Childcare/Pre-school programs  
Schools/Education  
Cost of college/university/tech school

Poverty/Poor families  
Recreation and after-school programs  
Safe neighbourhoods

Bullying  
Safety online

Health/Fitness/Obesity/Nutrition  
Drugs/alcohol  
Mental health/depression/anxiety

Family/divorce/separation  
Domestic violence  
Child abuse

Other issues (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Kids on Policy (Kids only)

Q16b. Here are some different ideas. Please read through these and then pick up to three that you think are **most important** for young people like you in your community today.

More support for kids in poor families

More things for kids to do

Improve the places kids can go to play sports and games

More drug and alcohol abuse education for young people

More mental health support for young people

More focus on physical health

Stronger action against bullying

More support for Indigenous children

More support for immigrant and refugee children

Do more to prevent child abuse and neglect

### **Where Canada Ranks** – Adults Only

Q17. Let's think about how Canada compares to other wealthy countries like ours when it comes to children's well-being.

If you had to guess, would you say:

Canada is in the top 5 countries for overall child well-being

Not as high as that but in the top 10

In the top 15

In the top 20 (which would put us "in the middle of the pack")

In the top 25

In the top 30

Canada ranks lower than the top 30 countries

Q18. In fact, UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) ranks Canada 17<sup>th</sup> for children's well-being, "in the middle of the pack". Meanwhile, Canada ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the world for overall wealth and prosperity.

What do you think are the **main reasons** that Canada's ranking for children's well-being is significantly lower than Canada's overall prosperity ranking?

(Please select up to 4 of your biggest reasons from the list below, or write yours in if it's not there.)

[Keep reasons in blocks, randomize blocks]

The UNICEF ranking is wrong/flawed  
You can't really compare different countries

Kids are not a priority here in Canada  
Programs/Children's welfare agencies aren't good  
Not enough money/governments are in debt  
Education system/public schools  
Not enough good child care

Parents have to work too much  
Poor parenting  
Kids are spoiled/distracted/lazy

Poverty/inequality  
Immigration/new Canadians  
Indigenous/First Nations kids

Canadians aren't aware/the problems aren't visible

Other reason (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Q19. How much of a priority, if any, should Canada put on improving its rating for children's well-being?

Very high priority  
High priority  
Low priority  
Very low priority

**What is to be done? Policy proposals** (Adults Only)

Q20. Different ideas and proposals have been suggested to address the well-being of children in Canada. We want to know what people think of some of these – specifically, in your opinion, how necessary or not each one of these is for young people in Canada today. Keep in mind that these kinds of programs cost money.

[KEEP BLOCKS BELOW – RANDOMIZE BLOCKS] [ONE BLOCK PER SCREEN]

Please rate each of the proposals below using the slider scale from "absolutely necessary" to "not necessary at all", and remember to use the middle parts of the slider if you're somewhere in between.

Increase child tax benefits for families with kids  
More financial support for families living below the poverty line  
More services for indigenous children

More services for immigrant and refugee children

Q21. Please rate each of the proposals below using the slider scale from "absolutely necessary" to "not necessary at all", and remember to use the middle parts of the slider if you're somewhere in between.

Move ahead with a national child care program  
More early childhood and pre-school programs  
More after-school recreation programs

Q22. Please rate each of the proposals below using the slider scale from "absolutely necessary" to "not necessary at all", and remember to use the middle parts of the slider if you're somewhere in between.

More drug and alcohol abuse education for kids  
Better programs to prevent child health problems like diabetes and obesity  
More programs to prevent child abuse and neglect  
Better programs to prevent bullying  
More mental health support for young people

Q22b. And, of all these different policy ideas we've just considered, please select your own top 2 or 3 that you see as most important for Canada's young people today.

[Present in same blocks here]

Increase child tax benefits for families with kids  
More financial support for families living below the poverty line  
More services for indigenous children  
More services for immigrant and refugee children

Move ahead with a national child care program  
More early childhood and pre-school programs  
More after-school recreation programs

More drug and alcohol abuse education for kids  
Better programs to prevent child health problems like diabetes and obesity  
More programs to prevent child abuse and neglect  
Better programs to prevent bullying  
More mental health support for young people

Q23. Here are three other proposals. Please read the description and let us know your overall view of each of these.

[ROWS -- Randomize items]

**A National Children's Commissioner** who would raise the profile of children's issues, promote their best interests, and speak on their behalf.

**A National Strategy for Children** which would outline objectives on children's issues and monitor progress

**A National Children's Budget**, so that Canadians can track what is allocated and spent on programs and policies for children

1 – Not necessary at all

2

3 – Nice to have

4

5 – Absolutely necessary to do this

Q24. Again, remembering that programs cost money, what would you like to see happen to Canada's spending on children and the types of children's issues and programs we've been looking at? Should Canada:

Spend more on children's issues

Spend more, but only from money taken from other government spending

Spend the same amount as now

Spend less on children's issues

**Attitude Section** (Adults Only) (One parents-only items)

Q25. Do you agree or disagree with these statements:

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

There's not all that much more the government should be doing for kids - it's up to parents themselves

Too many parents are relying on daycares and schools to raise their children

Today's families are under a lot of financial pressure

Investing in children saves additional spending down the line

The cost of licensed daycare is out-of-reach for too many families who need it

[COLUMNS]

Totally Disagree

Mostly Disagree

Mostly Agree

Totally Agree

Q26. There are some specific issues where there is sometimes discussion on whether it should be up to the parent to decide on their own what's best, or whether there should be rules or policies everyone has to follow. What is your overall view on these two issues:

A) Whether or not to vaccinate children:

Should be up to the parents to decide

Should be a law requiring that all children get the main vaccinations

B) Whether or not parents physically punish their children:

Should be up to the parents to decide

Should be a law prohibiting any physical punishment of children

**Exposure/Interaction with Kids** (Adults Only)

Q27. Nearly finished now. We've confirmed earlier in the survey whether you are a parent or not. Now, a few quick questions about any other relationships you might have with children. Are you:

[THIS ORDER]

A grandparent

An aunt or uncle

A child care worker

A teacher

Working some other way directly with kids (other job in a school, or children's health care, etc.)

Have a close relationship with one or more children (not including your own)

No

Yes

Q28. Are you personally involved in any of the following:

Volunteer for a kids' program/activity

Coach kids' sports

Donate money to a children's charity

Support children's causes (by writing letters or signing a petition, etc.)

No, have not done that

Have done, not now

Yes, do that

Q29. This survey has been talking about children and their issues. How would you describe your own childhood?

- Great
- Mostly good
- A mix of good and bad
- Difficult

**Parents (Parents only)**

Q30. Just a last few additional questions for parents.

Overall, is being a parent easier or harder than you thought it would be before you had kids?

- Way easier
- Easier
- About what I thought
- Harder
- Way harder

Q31. Do you ever worry that you are not a good parent?

- Yes, often
- Sometimes
- Not really
- No, do not

Q32. Is money a concern for you in raising your kids as well as you'd like?

- No, I can afford to provide what my kids need
- Yes, a lack of money is hurting my kids

Q33. Besides more money, what types of additional support would be most helpful to you as a parent? Select your top two or three from the list below.

- [Randomize]
- Parenting info/coaching
- Affordable Child care options
- After-school programs
- Better recreation facilities nearby
- Flexible work hours
- Better part-time work options
- Can't think of any/None of these [Anchor]