

Canada's response to Trump

As you know, Donald Trump has been the U.S. President since January 20th. We are interested in your views on this.

Q1 First, how closely would you say you've been following the first few weeks of the Trump presidency? Are you:

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

Specific policy assessments

The Trump administration is either planning or already taking action on several policies that could affect Canada. For each one, we'd like to know your opinion on the policy itself, as well as how you think the Canadian government should respond to it, if at all.

[RANDOMIZE PRESENTATION OF POLICIES]

On Refugee and immigration policy...

The president has signed an executive order that suspends all refugee admissions for 120 days, bars Syrian refugees indefinitely and blocks citizens from seven countries (Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen) from entering the U.S. for at least the next 60 days.

Q2 Do you think this executive order on refugees was:

A very good idea
A good idea
A bad idea
A very bad idea
Don't know/Can't say

Q3 After that US executive order was signed, Canada's government considered changing its own refugee policies, but ultimately decided to keep its existing target of 40,000 refugees for the coming year, including a significant number of Syrians. Would you say the Canadian government:

Made the right call to keep the refugee levels already set
Should have adopted a temporary ban similar to the U.S. policy
Should have chosen to take MORE refugees in response to the U.S. policy

Q4 Suppose the new Trump administration puts pressure on Canada and makes it very clear it wants Canada to take similar action and put some new restrictions on our own immigration and refugee policies. If that happens, how would you like to see Canada respond? Should Canada:

[ROTATE]

Agree to make the changes the U.S. wants and avoid potential consequences

Stick to its own policies even at the risk of consequences

On NAFTA...

The U.S. is Canada's largest trading partner, and Canada is the U.S.' second-largest partner. The terms of this trade relationship are governed by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which also includes Mexico. The new U.S. administration has signaled it wants to renegotiate NAFTA.

Q5. Do you think the US government's intention to renegotiate NAFTA is:

A very good idea

A good idea

A bad idea

A very bad idea

Don't know/Can't say

Q6. Assuming the US does give official notice that it wants to renegotiate NAFTA, which of these overall approaches should Canada take?

[ROTATE]

A "soft" approach – making difficult concessions to keep a good relationship with our biggest trading partner

A "hard" approach – refusing difficult concessions even if it means a worsening of trade relations with the U.S.

Q7 Regardless of which approach Canada actually takes, if NAFTA is renegotiated, will the end result be a better or worse deal for this country?

Better deal

Worse deal

The same overall

Don't know/Can't say

Q7b. More recently, President Trump said the US will be "*tweaking*" NAFTA where Canada is concerned, and instead be much more focused on Mexico. In light of these more recent statements, do you think:

[this order]

Trump means this and Canada won't be much affected by new NAFTA negotiations

OR

We can't count on better treatment for Canada – he can so easily change his mind

On the environment and climate change...

The new U.S. government may not follow through on the reduced emissions targets set in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change – originally signed by 174 countries including the U.S. and Canada.

Q8 110

A very good idea – the U.S. should definitely withdraw

A good idea

A bad idea

A very bad idea – the U.S. should definitely NOT leave the agreement

Don't know/Can't say

Q9 Suppose the U.S. does decide to reduce its commitment to the Paris Agreement or to withdraw from it altogether. If that were the case, what would you like to see Canada do? Would you say Canada should:

Also reduce its commitment to the Paris Agreement

Carry on with our current commitment

Increase its current commitment, by setting higher emission reduction targets for Canada

On abortion...

A Trump executive order restores a policy sometimes referred to as the “global gag rule” – which refuses U.S. government funding to international non-profit organizations that provide abortion counselling or referral, or advocate for abortion services in other countries.

Q10 Do you think this executive order was:

A very good idea

A good idea

A bad idea

A very bad idea

Don't know/Can't say

Q11 And, what do you think Canada's policy on this issue should be? Should Canada:

Also refuse funding for international organizations with some involvement in abortion

Carry on with its current international funding policies (which do support such agencies)

Instead, increasing funding for those organizations who lose funding due to the U.S. policy

On Russia...

The president has stated that he would like to forge a closer relationship with Russia, including potentially lifting sanctions imposed on that country for its annexation of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. The U.S. government has already eased some of the sanctions placed on Russia's spy agencies for their role in attempting to influence the 2016 presidential election.

Q12 What are your views on the new US administration's approach to Russia? Would you say it is:

A very good idea – the U.S. should take this new approach to Russia

A good idea

A bad idea

A very bad idea – the U.S. should definitely NOT do that

Don't know/Can't say

Q13 Suppose the Trump administration does pursue a closer relationship with Russia. If that were the case, how would you like to see Canada respond? Should Canada:

Also pursue closer ties with Russia

Carry on with its current approach to Russia

Pull back from relations with Russia

On the U.S. role in global affairs, generally...

The new President has also been critical about international organizations such as the United Nations in the past, and talks about focusing on "America First." Some see this as a call for the U.S. to reduce its overall role and involvement in world affairs.

Q14 What are your views on the U.S. becoming more isolated and reducing its involvement in global organizations and world affairs? Overall, would you say this is:

A very good idea – the U.S. should definitely do it

A good idea

A bad idea

A very bad idea – the U.S. should definitely NOT do it

Don't know/Can't say

Q15 And, how should Canada respond if the U.S. does pull back from global affairs? In that case, should Canada:

Also step back and reduce its involvement in global affairs

Carry on with its current approach to global affairs

Work to take a larger role in the international community

Regarding NATO...

Trump has also suggested that the U.S. would not come to the defence of nations that are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) unless those nations spend 2 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) on defence – the amount that NATO recommends for participating members.

[DISPLAY Q16 AND Q17 ON THE SAME PAGE, AND ROTATE THEIR ORDER]

Q16 Leaving aside your own feelings about how much NATO countries should spend on defence; do you think it is appropriate or inappropriate for the president to suggest that the U.S. might not defend its NATO allies depending on their defense spending? Would you say it is:

Totally appropriate – the threat of not responding should be on the table

Mostly appropriate

Mostly inappropriate

Very inappropriate – not something a President should even suggest

Q17 Leaving aside whether it was appropriate for Trump to suggest that the U.S. might not defend its NATO allies, how do you feel about his call for NATO members to spend the NATO-recommended 2 per cent of GDP on defence? Would you say:

[ROTATE]

Trump is right – NATO members should contribute the recommended amount on defence

Trump is wrong – it's OK for NATO members to decide to spend less on defence

Q18 Canada currently spends half the NATO guideline on defence -- just under 1% instead of 2%.

Regarding Trump's point of view, that each nation should contribute 2%, do you think Canada should:

Increase its spending on defence

Keep current defence spending levels

Spend less on defence

On pipelines...

Q19 A Trump executive order calls for the reconsideration of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry oil from Alberta to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast. Based on whatever you have seen, read, or heard about the project, would you say you support or oppose the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline?

Strongly support

Moderately support

Moderately oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't Know/Can't Say

[RANDOMIZATION ENDS HERE]

More general questions

That's it for the specific policy issues. For our last few survey questions, let's consider things more generally, from an overall point of view.

Q20. Based on the Trump administration's performance in these first few weeks, is your overall impression positive or negative so far?

- Very positive
- More positive than negative
- Mixed – about equally positive and negative
- More negative than positive
- Very negative
- Don't know/Not sure

Q21. And, overall, do you think Trump being U.S. President will benefit or hurt Canada and Canadians, or have no real impact either way?

- Significantly benefit
- Benefit more than hurt
- No real impact either way
- Hurt more than benefit
- Significantly hurt
- Don't know/Not sure

Q22. How confident are you in the ability of the Canadian government to effectively represent Canada's national interests in future dealings with the Trump administration? Would you say you are:

- Very confident
- Moderately confident
- Not that confident
- Not confident at all

[ASK THOSE WHO SAY 'NOT THAT' OR 'NOT AT ALL' CONFIDENT]

Q23. And, which of the following would you say is closer to the reason you're not confident? (Even if neither is exactly how you feel)

[ROTATE]

The Trump administration is too unpredictable – no Canadian government would be well-qualified to deal with it

The Trudeau government is poorly qualified to deal with the Trump administration – some other party would handle it better

Q24. And overall, thinking about the next four years with Donald Trump as U.S. President, would you describe yourself as:

[Rotate]

Optimistic and hopeful

OR

Pessimistic and worried

25. Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited President Trump in Washington this past Monday, February 13th. Did you see or hear anything in the news about that meeting?

Yes, lots

Yes, a bit of news about it

No, didn't hear/see anything

[ASK IF YES TO Q27A]

Q26. And based on whatever you heard or read about this Trudeau – Trump meeting...

Overall, are you now feeling more confident or more worried about the Canada—US relationship with Trump as President?

Much more confident

More confident

About the same overall

More worried

Much more worried