

April 6, 2017

Border Crossings Questions

In recent months, people have been walking across unguarded areas of the Canada-U.S. border, in places such as rural Manitoba and Quebec, and applying for refugee status in Canada. We want to ask people their views on this.

Q1. First, how closely have you been following the news about these border crossings? Are you:

- Following it in the news and discussing it with friends and family
- Seeing some media coverage and having the odd conversation
- Just scanning the headlines
- Not seeing anything about it

Q2. Let's think for a minute about the Canadian border – both the official crossings and the unguarded areas too, and the priorities for Canada's resources and attention.

How much priority do you yourself think should be given to each of the following:

[ROTATE ITEMS]

Getting these new arrivals safely into Canada and providing medical, housing and other needed assistance

Assigning police, immigration officers and technology (such as drones) to monitor and secure the unguarded areas of our border

- Not a priority at all
- A lower priority
- Important
- Major priority

Q3. Putting this another way – if you were in charge of the Canadian border, how would you focus available resources? Would you focus:

- Exclusively on assisting the arrivals
- Mostly on assisting the arrivals
- Mostly on border monitoring and security
- Exclusively on border monitoring and security

Q4. In the first several weeks of 2017, roughly 400 people have walked across the Canada-US border at unguarded places and applied for refugee status. That works out to about 40 people per week. And, thinking ahead to the rest of this year, do you expect the number of these arrivals to:

- Decrease to just a trickle
- Stay at the same levels as now
- Increase slightly
- Increase quite a bit
- Become a flood of refugee seekers

Q5. Based on whatever you've seen or heard and on your own general impressions – how much of a risk, if any, do you think there is that criminal or dangerous people are among the arrivals entering Canada this way?

- No real risk
- Minor risk
- Significant risk
- Huge risk

Q6. And, how confident are you in the Canadian government to identify and appropriately deal with newcomers who are criminals or represent a threat to Canadian security?

- Very confident
- Moderately confident
- Not very confident
- Not confident at all

Q7. There has been some discussion about how many of these people crossing the border are genuine refugees fleeing a crisis or persecution and how many are people looking for economic opportunities. Using the slider, please tell us your own impressions of what the overall proportion of these arrivals are?

[SLIDER - 10 POINT SCALE]

- Genuine refugees fleeing a crisis or persecution
- People looking for economic opportunities

Q8. Some churches, charities and other agencies have expressed interest in privately sponsoring refugee applicants. This means these organizations would provide on-the-ground support to help settle these new arrivals crossing the Canada-U.S. border. Overall, do you think the Canadian government should be encouraging or discouraging charitable organizations who want to sponsor more of these refugees?

Encouraging
Discouraging

Q9. Considering the issue of people crossing into Canada at unguarded places along the border and applying for refugee status here, based on whatever you've seen or heard – overall should Canada be:

[ROTATE FIRST TWO OPTIONS]

More concerned about the threat posed by these arrivals
More focused on the opportunity to help these people
Torn between the two

Q10. Overall, what kind of job do you think the Canadian federal government has done so far in managing this issue?

Very good job
Good job
Poor job
Very poor job
Don't know

Q11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS:]

It's not fair that people can cross into Canada illegally and apply for refugee status here

Many of these people have real reason to be concerned they won't be treated fairly under Donald Trump's policies

Canada should be an example in the world when it comes to generosity toward refugees

Canada should follow Donald Trump's lead and also ban refugees from certain Muslim-majority countries

Strongly Disagree
Moderately Disagree
Moderately Agree
Strongly Agree