

**Canada Summer Jobs  
Revised April 25, 2018**

The federal government recently made some changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program, which helps employers with grants to hire students during the summer.

All employers applying for a grant must now confirm that the job they want to fill – and their organization’s “core mandate” – “respects the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms” and specifically refers to women’s rights, including access to abortion. If an employer doesn’t confirm (or “attest”) its agreement with this, they will not be eligible to receive funding.

Q1. Have you heard anything about this new requirement the federal government has added to the student jobs program, or the debate surrounding it?

No, heard nothing until now

Heard a bit about it

Yes, heard a fair amount about it

[SCENARIO INTRO SCREEN]

The Trudeau government argues that abortion rights – though not mentioned specifically in the Charter – are part of the Charter’s protection of women’s rights. It argues that organizations whose core mandates include opposition to abortion should not receive government funding.

Opponents of this new requirement argue that the Charter does not include abortion rights, and, even if it did, the government should not be able to require employers to support abortion rights as a condition for receiving government funding.

Now, we’d like to get your opinion on two scenarios in which this new requirement might come into play. For each one, we’d like to know whether the organization in question should or should not in that case be eligible for federal funding to hire students for the summer.

[RANDOMIZE PRESENTATION OF SCENARIOS]

Q2. Consider this scenario:

Suppose the employer applying for the Canada Summer Jobs program is a religious group morally opposed to abortion. It is applying for money so students can be hired to run a soup kitchen and programs for the homeless. None of the student employees would be involved in anti-abortion activities.

In this case, do you think such a group:

Should be eligible for federal funds to hire students

Should NOT be eligible for these federal funds to hire students

Q3. Consider this scenario:

Suppose the employer applying for the Canada Summer Jobs program is a religious anti-abortion group promoting and advocating for stricter abortion laws in Canada. In this scenario, the student employees would be hired to help out by distributing flyers in their community.

In this case, do you think such a group:

Should be eligible for federal funds to hire students

Should NOT be eligible for these federal funds to hire students

Q4. Which of the following is closest to your own overall view? Please pick the argument closest to your view even if it's not exactly it.

[ROTATE]

These new rules are fair – abortion is permitted Canada and those who don't support this should not be eligible for student summer job funding

These rules are not fair – the federal government is over-reaching when it withholds funding from organizations because of their beliefs on the issue of abortion

Q5. And, overall, would you say you support or oppose this new requirement that organizations must attest to support women's right to abortion in order to apply for these summer job grants?

Strongly support – this change was needed

Moderately support

Moderately oppose

Strongly oppose – this change was unnecessary

Q6. Finally, where do you stand on the issue of abortion rights? Which of the following options would you prefer to see as Canada's policy?

There should be no laws on abortion and women should have the right to this procedure at any time during the pregnancy

There should be some laws on abortion in Canada, especially in areas such as late term pregnancies

We should have abortion laws in Canada which severely restrict availability of abortion except in cases of sexual assault