

**Canadians on Indigenous Issues: Focus on Reserves
Final Survey Questionnaire – Post Pre-Test Feedback
(March 19, 2018)**

This survey is about issues related to Indigenous people in Canada and here in your own province.

When we use the term *Indigenous Canadians*, we're referring to people who are descendants of the original inhabitants of North America, including:

- First Nations;
- Inuit; and
- Métis people.

Some parts of the survey, as will be noted, will focus on a specific Indigenous group or circumstance.

As always, there are no right or wrong answers in this survey. We just want people's honest views and opinions on these issues.

A. Getting Started

QA1a. Are you yourself an Indigenous Canadian?

Yes, Indigenous

No, not Indigenous

If Yes, Indigenous:

QA1b. Which Canadian Indigenous group do you belong to? (multi-choice, but no prompt as such)

First Nation

Inuit

Métis

Other

None of the above (exclusive)

If First Nation:

QA1c. Have you ever lived on a First Nation land reserve?

No, have not

Yes, have lived on a reserve, but do not now

Yes, live on a reserve now

B. First Nation Reserves

[Display to all respondents:]

This part of the survey will focus on First Nation land reserves and life on these reserves. A First Nation reserve is land that has been set aside by the federal government for the use of a recognized “Indian band” (that is, a group of Indigenous people who have a treaty with Canada or other formal recognition under the Indian Act).

Approximately 325,000 First Nation Canadians currently live on a reserve.

There are roughly 650 recognized First Nations with land reserves in Canada (some have multiple locations), including reserves in every province -- as shown on this map:

[Insert Canada map with FN reserves highlighted]

[if yes, have or do live on a reserve at QA1c, skip to QB2. All others continue.]

QB1. Have you spent any time on a First Nations land reserve(s)?

- No, never been to one
- A bit of time – just drove through
- Some time – saw a few things/visited a bit
- Yes, spent lots of time on a reserve(s)

Let’s focus for a few minutes on the First Nations reserves here in your own province of [Province]

[Display reserve map for single province]

[Ask everyone]

QB2. Here is a list of descriptions that might be made of First Nation reserves here in [Province]. Please choose the three that you feel most accurately describe them.

[Randomize items]

Wilderness/fresh air

Simple lifestyle/no city hassles

Tight knit community/Know everybody

More traditional way of life (trapping, fishing)

Closer to Indigenous traditions and culture

Remote/isolated/so far from services

Poor economy/Not enough jobs or opportunity

Social services lacking/poor quality (ie: housing, education, healthcare)

Social problems (ie: substance abuse, violence)

Nothing to do/Boring

Corrupt leadership/chiefs

QB3. Thinking about the people living on First Nation reserves in your own province, based on whatever you've seen or heard and on your own impressions, how do you think their overall quality of life compares to that of other people here in this province? Is it:

Much better on reserves

Somewhat better

About the same

Somewhat worse

Much worse on reserves

QB4. And do you think the overall quality of life on First Nation reserves in your province has been improving or getting worse over the past 15 or 20 years (since about the year 2000)?

Improving a lot

Improving

Staying the same overall

Getting worse

Getting a lot worse

No idea/Can't say

QB6. You sometimes hear news stories about troubled reserves – that is, those with serious social problems such as substance abuse, violence and high suicide rates. Here are some suggestions that people have made for addressing some of the issues facing troubled reserves. Keeping the focus on your own province, please indicate whether you think each of the following is a good or a bad idea.

[Randomize first 5 items, leave last 2 at end in that order]

More emphasis on support and training for local reserve governments

More Indigenous independence and self-government on reserves

Programs to promote and support businesses located on reserves

Spend more money and effort to provide better social services on reserves

Spend more money and effort on improving the education available to reserve residents

Have programs to help people who want to move off reserves by offering financial and other support for them to relocate and get settled elsewhere

Close down reserves with the most serious and damaging social problems, and help the relocated people adjust to living somewhere else

Very bad idea

Bad idea

Good idea

Very good idea

Not sure/Really can't say

QB7. Which of the following broad statements comes closest to your own view about the reserves in your province?

Most are doomed to fail -- they just aren't sustainable in the long run

OR

Most can succeed -- they just need the right investments and leadership

QB8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Canada's history means this country has a moral and legal obligation to maintain and improve the quality of life on reserves

Strongly agree

Moderately agree

Moderately disagree

Strongly disagree

C. Indigenous People living off-reserve in towns and cities

A lot of Indigenous Canadians, including First Nations people as well as Inuit and Métis, do not live on reserves. Many live in towns and communities in northern Canada, and many also live in the big cities in southern Canada.

[If Indigenous at QA1a, Skip to QC2c. Ask everyone else:]

Let's turn our focus now to consider your own community where you live.

QC1. Do you have any contact or interactions with Indigenous Canadians in your own life?
(Select any forms of contact you have.)

No, none [Exclusive]

Some, impersonal contact out in public places

Yes, acquaintances from neighbourhood or work/school

Yes, friends/personal relationship

[If No contact at QC1, ask:]

QC2a. Suppose more Indigenous Canadians came to your community and you were in-contact. Generally speaking, would you expect this would be positive or negative for you?

Positive

Negative

Mixed – some good/some bad

Really can't say/don't know

[If some contact at QC1, ask:]

QC2b. Generally speaking, how do you feel about the contact you have with Indigenous Canadians – is this positive or negative for you?

Positive

Negative

Mixed – some good/some bad

Really can't say/don't know

[If Indigenous at QA1a, ask:]

QC2c. You earlier identified yourself as an Indigenous Canadian. Generally speaking, how would you describe your own contact and interaction with non-Indigenous Canadians – is this positive or negative for you?

Positive

Negative

Mixed – some good/some bad

Really can't say/don't know

[If live on a reserve at QA1c, Skip the rest of section C]

QC3. Generally, how is the life of Indigenous Canadians living in and around your own community compared to other non-Indigenous residents there? Would you say:

The Indigenous residents are way better off

Somewhat better off

Mixed -- some better, some worse

Somewhat worse off

The Indigenous residents are way worse off

No idea/Can't say

QC4. And, over the past 10 or 15 years or so, would you say the situation of Indigenous Canadians in your own community is improving or getting worse?

Improving a lot

Improving a bit

Staying about the same

Getting worse

Getting a lot worse

No idea/Can't say

QC5. What do you think are the biggest issues or problems facing Indigenous Canadians in your own community/city/town? Please select what you consider to be the two or three most important/urgent issues. (Or type one in if it's not on the list.)

[Randomize items]

Poverty/Jobs

Official system discriminates (ie: police, courts, child welfare)

Racism/discrimination from other Canadians

Social services (ie: health, education, recreation)

Social issues (ie: violence, substance abuse)

Other – Specify: _____ [Anchor]

Don't know

Dependence

Corruption

D. Indigenous Issues – Trade-offs

Now, let's broaden our attention beyond your own community and province, and consider Indigenous Canadians as a whole. Again, this includes First Nations, Inuit and Métis -- whether living on a reserve or in a city or town, in your own province and elsewhere in Canada.

The following questions will present you with a series of paired statements. For each pair, we'll ask you to select the statement that more closely reflects your own beliefs, values and attitudes (even if you don't completely agree).

We realize some of the ideas and arguments we're considering may be controversial – but we are trying to understand overall public opinion in Canada and so we want to consider a range of points of view here.

[Randomize presentation of pairs and of statements within pairs]

QD1. Would you say Indigenous communities should be:

Moving towards more independence and control over their own affairs

OR

Governed by the same systems and rules as other Canadians

QD2. Overall, Indigenous Canadians would be better off:

Integrating more into broader Canadian society, even if that means losing more of their own culture and traditions

OR

Strengthening their own culture and traditions, even if that keeps them more apart from the rest of Canada

QD3. Fundamentally, do you think:

Indigenous Canadians have an inherently unique status because their ancestors were here first, before Europeans came and took over

OR

In modern Canada, Indigenous people should have no special status that other Canadians don't have

QD4. In your opinion, would you say:

Canada spends too much time apologizing for residential schools – it's time to move on

Or

The harm from residential schools continues and cannot be ignored.

QD5. Treaties with Indigenous people have been:

Appropriately respected and honoured by Canada

OR

Too often ignored and disregarded by Canada

E. Attention

That's it for the pairs of statements -- now, back to some broader questions to take us to the end of the survey.

QE1. Do you think Indigenous Canadians and the issues facing their communities are getting too little attention, too much attention or about the right amount of attention from each of the following:

[Randomize items]

The news media

The federal government

The educational system for young Canadians

Your provincial government

Too little attention

About the right amount

Too much attention

QE2. What about the amount of money being spent on Indigenous Canadians and these types of issues? Would you say Canadian governments are spending too little money, too much money, or about the right amount of money on Indigenous issues?

Way too little money

Too little

About the right amount

Too much

Way too much money

No idea/Can't say

QE3. And do you think whatever money and/or attention that is going towards Indigenous issues is generally effective or ineffective in terms of results?

Very effective in terms of results

Effective

Ineffective

Very ineffective in terms of results

No idea/can't say

QE4. And, would you say each of the following are paying too little, too much or about the right amount of attention to Indigenous issues?

[Randomize items]

The Conservative Party led by Andrew Scheer

The Liberal Party led by Justin Trudeau

The New Democratic Party led by Jagmeet Singh

Too little attention

About the right amount

Too much attention

Don't know/Can't say

QE5. Overall, looking towards the future, are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the overall outlook for the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians?

Very optimistic
Optimistic
Pessimistic
Very pessimistic

QE6. Some people follow these issues more closely than others. How well informed would you say you are about Indigenous issues and the topics we've been considering today? Would you say you:

Don't know much at all about these issues
Know a bit/the basics
Know a fair amount
Have a good understanding of Indigenous issues

[ASK ALL NON-INDIGENOUS]

How long have you or your ancestors been in Canada? Are you:

First generation Canadian – you were born in another country
Second generation – one or both of your parents were born in another country
Your family has been in Canada longer than that
Unsure/Prefer not to say

Socio-Demographics

Region/Province

"Northern" booster of areas with higher proportion of IC's

Gender/Age

Education/HH income

Born in Canada/Visible minority

Vote 2015