

Migrants Questionnaire
July 24, 2018

Q6. Now, some questions about another issue.

As you may have heard, people are crossing into Canada from the United States to claim refugee status. In most cases, they've already asked for asylum in America, but fear they'll be deported by the U.S. back to their home countries. Most are coming to Canada outside of regular, designated points of entry such as airports or border crossings staffed by Canadian officials. These people are NOT part of the 310,000 new immigrants Canada plans to accept in 2018.

[T] 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

Q7. Based on whatever you've seen heard or read, how many people would you estimate have crossed into Canada in this way since the beginning of 2017?

More than 100,000
75,000-100,000
50,000-75,000
25,000-50,000
5,000-25,000
Fewer than 5,000

Q8. In fact, more than 30,000 people have been intercepted at non-designated crossings along the Canada-U.S. border since the start of 2017. Thinking about the number of people who have come, the Canadian border and priorities for Canada's resources and attention, which statement best reflects your view?

This is too many people for Canada to handle
This is a manageable number of people for Canada to handle
This is a small number of people, Canada can handle more

[T] Q9. How much priority do you think should be given to 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

[COLUMNS]

Not a priority at all
A lower priority
Important
Major priority

[T] Q10. And 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

Q11. There's been debate about how many people crossing the border are genuine refugees fleeing a crisis or persecution and how many are just looking for economic opportunities. What's your own impression?

Almost all are genuine refugees fleeing persecution
Most are genuine refugees fleeing persecution
About half and half
Most are just looking for opportunities
Almost all are looking for economic opportunities

Q12. When the asylum seekers cross the border, they are arrested, screened for security, and turned over to the Canada Border Services Agency to claim asylum. This process is governed by something called the Safe Third Country Agreement.

The agreement prohibits people entering Canada from the U.S. from applying for refugee status here. However, it doesn't apply to people who enter by walking across at an unguarded section of the border. People who do this are allowed to apply for refugee status in Canada – though there is no guarantee they'll be allowed to stay.

Some people say Canada should suspend the STCA, which would allow people seeking refugee status to enter Canada at a legal border-crossing. They argue that this would be safer for those seeking refugee status, and more orderly for processing.

Others have said Canada should not suspend the STCA. They argue that doing so would encourage larger numbers to seek refugee status here, and that those currently crossing outside of normal points of entry are breaking the law and should not be rewarded for doing so.

What is your opinion on this? Would you say:

The Safe Third Country Agreement should be suspended
The Safe Third Country Agreement should remain in force
Don't Know/Can't Say

Q13. Some people are calling this situation a crisis – they argue Canada’s ability to shelter, screen and process the asylum seekers has reached its limit. Other people say it’s not a crisis, and certain politicians and media outlets have blown it out of proportion. Which is closest to your view:

This situation is a crisis – Canada’s ability to handle the situation is at a limit

This situation is NOT a crisis – the situation is being overblown by politicians and the media

[T] Q14. Based on whatever you have seen, read, or heard about this issue, would you say Canada is too generous, about right, or not generous enough toward these people?

Too generous

About right

Not generous enough

Don’t know/Can’t say

Q15. Overall, which major party leader do you trust most to handle this issue of people crossing the border irregularly?

[Randomize]

Liberal Party Leader Justin Trudeau

Conservative Party Leader Andrew Scheer

New Democratic Party Leader Jagmeet Singh