

Western Canada – Issues, Opinions and Options
A Special National Study from the Angus Reid Institute
– Final Questionnaire – December 14, 2018 –

Introduction/Warm-up

Today's survey looks at some different issues in Canada and [Province] today. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers; as always, we're really just interested in everyone's opinions. The survey will only take 10 or 15 minutes. Remember, if you need to, you can leave the survey and come back to complete it.

Identity/Affinity/Who is the “us”?

Q4. Thinking of the values and lifestyles of the people of your province, which of the following geographic areas would you say [Province] has most in common with? (One only)

[Randomize List]

British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
--	British Columbia	British Columbia	British Columbia
Alberta	--	Alberta	Alberta
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan	--	Saskatchewan
Manitoba	Manitoba	Manitoba	--
Ontario	Ontario	Ontario	Ontario
Washington State	Montana	Montana	Minnesota
California	Colorado	North Dakota	North Dakota

Q5. When you think of yourself and your own personal identity, would you say you yourself identify MOST as:

Province: British Columbian/Albertan/Saskatchewanian/Manitoban
 Western Canadian
 Canadian

b) And second most? [Hide or do not allow first choice]

Province: British Columbian/Albertan/Saskatchewanian/Manitoban
 Western Canadian
 Canadian

Q7. When you see or hear a reference to: “Western Canada”, which provinces would you say that typically includes? Please select one from the list below.

[This order]

The four western-most provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba)

The three western-most provinces (BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan – Not Manitoba)

The three prairie provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba – Not BC)

BC and Alberta Only

Something else (Specify: _____)

No idea/Can't say

[Display screen:]

Let's use that first definition and consider Western Canada or "the West" to be:

The four western provinces: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

[Insert map of Canada highlighting the West]

Q8. Some people think that, in some important respects, the West should be thought of as a unique region in Canada. Other people do not think the West is a unique region. What do you think?

Unique

Not unique

Canada/Confederation/the state of the nation

Let's turn our attention to the country as a whole now.

Q15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

[Randomize]

My province is respected by the rest of the country

My province is treated fairly by the national government

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Q16a. Some people feel that, overall, the West has basically been treated fairly by the rest of Canada, while others feel that, overall, the West has been treated unfairly by the rest of Canada. How do you feel?

West has been treated fairly
 West has been treated unfairly

[Those in West who said unfairly at Q16a, ask b and c: (East skips)]

Q16b. Even though you feel the West has been treated unfairly, would you say that over the past few years the treatment of the West by the rest of the country, including Ottawa, has been better, worse or has not changed?

A lot better
 A little better
 A little worse
 A lot worse
 Has not changed

Q16c. For some people, the unfair treatment of the West by the rest of Canada is only a minor nuisance which really doesn't affect their life. Others see this as a major issue which really does affect their life. Which of these two feelings is closest to your own?

Minor nuisance
 Major issue

The relationship and representation

Q19. Thinking about your province's relationship and dealings with the federal government, which of these three overall approaches would you say your own provincial government should take:

A "soft" approach – focus on keeping a good relationship and avoiding conflict
 A "firmer" approach – speak up for the province's interests even if that means disagreement
 A "tough" approach – stand firm and do what it takes to defend our interests (such as refusing to participate in federal initiatives to make a point)

Q20. And how well would you say each of the following reflects and represents your province?

[Randomize]

The CBC's national programming
 National programming of private networks (CTV, Global)
 The Canadian Armed Forces
 The federal government in Ottawa
 The Supreme Court of Canada
 Parliament of Canada
 The RCMP

Reflects very well
Fairly well
Not very well
Reflects poorly
Not sure/Can't say

Other Key Issues

Let's turn our attention to some other issues that are sometimes talked about here in Canada.

Bilingualism

Q27. In 1969 Canada became an officially bilingual country, giving all citizens the right to communicate in English or French when dealing with the federal government and its various agencies.

Overall do you feel that official bilingualism has had a positive impact on your province, a negative impact or no impact one way or another?

Positive
Negative
No impact

Q28. There's sometimes discussion about how far we should go in promoting official bilingualism. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

The established practice of having all candidates for Prime Minister be fluently bilingual
Requiring that all members of the Supreme Court of Canada be fluently bilingual
Requiring that the leaders of major federal departments and agencies be bilingual

Strongly support
Support
Oppose
Strongly oppose

Q29. Some people feel that the policy of official bilingualism has placed Western Canada at a disadvantage in terms of access to senior jobs and political positions at the federal level since it is more difficult to learn and maintain French in regions where relatively few people speak French. From your point of view, how much of an issue is this?

A major issue
A minor issue
Not an issue at all