

On promoting growth and innovation, Canadians say government, not business, should be responsible

This, despite more than half of Canadians also saying they want the size of government reduced

October 23, 2014 – A majority of Canadians say government, rather than the business community, should be primarily responsible for promoting growth and innovation in this country.

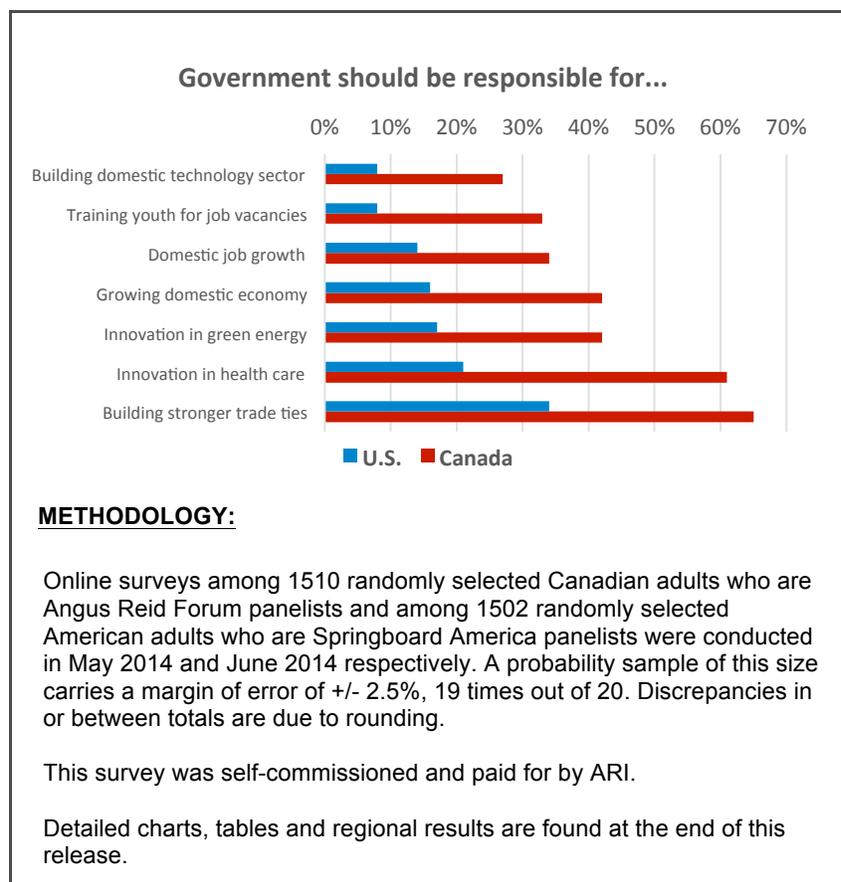
That is the finding of an Angus Reid Institute (ARI) online survey of Canadian and American adults on the subject.

In both Canada and the United States, the top two issues that respondents thought the government should be primarily responsible for were the same: building stronger trade ties with other countries and encouraging innovation in health care and health sciences.

However, Canadians say the federal government should be responsible for building stronger trade ties nearly two-to-one over Americans (65% vs. 34%, respectively). Further, they say government should be responsible for encouraging innovation in health care and health sciences three-to-one over Americans (61% vs. 21%, respectively).

This finding is notable when examining both Canadian and American responses to their opinions on size of government. Although 55 per cent of Canadians say efforts should be made to reduce the size of the federal government and its programs, the majority also want the government to take responsibility for promoting growth in several areas.

By contrast, 63 per cent of Americans say the size of government should be reduced. This finding is in line with the American sentiment favouring business responsibility for growth and innovation.



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It should be noted that both Canadian and American respondents frequently say that primary responsibility should be “both government and business equally.” This response is significantly more likely to be chosen by Americans over Canadians with respect to job growth (for full details please see the tables at the end of this release).

Canadian results:

There are regional differences in the extent to which respondents say government should be held responsible for growth on several metrics.

Generally, British Columbia respondents are less likely to say that government should be involved in promoting growth and innovation in all areas when compared to the national average, followed by Albertans. By contrast, on the majority of issues, Quebecers are the most likely to say the government should be involved, when compared to the national average.

The area in which Canadians say government should be least responsible is building Canada’s technology sector (27%). This is also the area most likely to be selected for business being primarily responsible (25%).

American results:

With respect to the American view, findings are, overall, in line with the so-called “American dream” mentality of limited government and free enterprise.

Nearly half of American respondents (48%) say business should be primarily responsible for “building America’s technology sector” and for “training young people for jobs in sectors where the greatest vacancies are.”

One-third (31%) of Americans say business should be primarily responsible for “encouraging innovation in health care and health sciences”, “encouraging job growth” and “growing the economy”. There are no noteworthy regional differences for these issues.

The issue more Americans think the government should be primarily responsible for is “building stronger trade ties.” However, this sentiment is shared by 34 per cent, compared to 65 per cent of Canadians.

As with Canadians, a high percentage of Americans say that “both government and business equally” should be responsible for promoting growth and innovation.

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Detailed tables are on the following pages.

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ARI was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. It has the status of a registered charity in Canada. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research organization established to enhance and encourage better understanding of issues and trends affecting economic, social, governance, philanthropy, public administration, domestic, and foreign policy in Canada and its world.

Which statement best describes your opinion about the overall size of the federal government of the <u>Canada</u> ?							
	Total (1505)	Region					
		BC (208)	AB (167)	MB/SK (103)	ON (590)	PQ (336)	ATL (101)
We should work to <u>reduce</u> the size of the federal government and its programs, to cut taxes and the public debt	55%	47%	50%	52%	50%	69%	58%
<u>Maintain</u> the federal government more or less as it is	25%	24%	30%	24%	28%	19%	18%
We should be willing to <u>expand</u> the federal government and its programs to address the important issues facing the country	20%	29%	21%	24%	22%	12%	24%

Which statement best describes your opinion about the overall size of the federal government of the <u>USA</u> ?					
	Total	Region			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
We should work to <u>reduce</u> the size of the federal government and its programs, to cut taxes and the public debt	63%	56%	64%	63%	65%
<u>Maintain</u> the federal government more or less as it is	20%	21%	17%	21%	20%
We should be willing to <u>expand</u> the federal government and its programs to address the important issues facing the country	18%	23%	19%	16%	15%

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Whom do you think should be primarily responsible for promoting growth and innovation - government or business? <u>Canada</u> (Exclusively/Mostly/Mainly Government)							
	Total (1510)	Region					
		BC (203)	AB (157)	MB/SK (97)	ON (570)	PQ (371)	ATL (112)
Building stronger trade ties with other countries	65%	57%	65%	76%	68%	62%	66%
Encouraging innovation in health care and health sciences	61%	48%	64%	70%	60%	64%	71%
Encouraging innovation in green energy and environmental sciences	42%	37%	37%	46%	40%	48%	41%
Growing the economy in Canada	42%	34%	29%	39%	40%	56%	42%
Job growth in Canada	34%	30%	23%	30%	30%	49%	36%
Training young people for the jobs in sectors where the greatest vacancies are	33%	31%	30%	32%	30%	41%	23%
Building Canada's technology sector	27%	18%	21%	29%	22%	42%	21%

Whom do you think should be primarily responsible for promoting growth and innovation - government or business? <u>USA</u> (Exclusively/Mostly/Mainly Government)					
	Total	Region			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Building stronger trade ties with other countries	34%	34%	39%	35%	30%
Encouraging innovation in health care and health sciences	21%	22%	21%	20%	20%
Encouraging innovation in green energy and environmental sciences	17%	20%	18%	15%	17%
Growing the economy in the US	16%	17%	17%	15%	18%
Job growth in the US	14%	14%	16%	12%	15%
Training young people for the jobs in sectors where the greatest vacancies are	8%	10%	7%	8%	9%
Building America's technology sector	8%	6%	11%	8%	8%

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Whom do you think should be primarily responsible for promoting growth and innovation - government or business? CANADA (Exclusively/Mostly/Mainly Business)							
	Total (1510)	Region					
		BC (203)	AB (157)	MB/SK (97)	ON (570)	PQ (371)	ATL (112)
Building Canada's technology sector	25%	33%	32%	32%	28%	13%	19%
Training young people for the jobs in sectors where the greatest vacancies are	18%	22%	24%	13%	20%	13%	17%
Job growth in Canada	13%	15%	22%	10%	13%	8%	16%
Growing the economy in Canada	11%	17%	15%	10%	11%	7%	10%
Encouraging innovation in green energy and environmental sciences	9%	9%	9%	6%	11%	7%	5%
Encouraging innovation in health care and health sciences	6%	7%	7%	5%	5%	7%	3%
Building stronger trade ties with other countries	5%	7%	2%	3%	4%	5%	5%

Whom do you think should be primarily responsible for promoting growth and innovation - government or business? USA (Exclusively/Mostly/Mainly Business)					
	Total	Region			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Building America's technology sector	48%	47%	49%	51%	51%
Training young people for the jobs in sectors where the greatest vacancies are	48%	45%	50%	47%	47%
Job growth in the US	31%	30%	32%	31%	32%
Growing the economy in the US	31%	29%	38%	30%	32%
Encouraging innovation in health care and health sciences	31%	25%	32%	34%	31%
Encouraging innovation in green energy and environmental sciences	27%	27%	29%	29%	24%
Building stronger trade ties with other countries	15%	13%	13%	15%	20%

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Whom do you think should be primarily responsible for promoting growth and innovation - government or business? CANADA (Both government and business equally)							
	Total (1510)	Region					
		BC (203)	AB (157)	MB/SK (97)	ON (570)	PQ (371)	ATL (112)
Job growth in Canada	53%	54%	55%	60%	57%	43%	49%
Training young people for the jobs in sectors where the greatest vacancies are	49%	47%	46%	55%	50%	46%	59%
Encouraging innovation in green energy and environmental sciences	49%	54%	54%	48%	49%	44%	54%
Building Canada's technology sector	48%	49%	46%	39%	50%	45%	60%
Growing the economy in Canada	47%	49%	57%	51%	49%	37%	48%
Encouraging innovation in health care and health sciences	33%	45%	29%	25%	35%	29%	26%
Building stronger trade ties with other countries	30%	36%	33%	21%	28%	33%	29%

Whom do you think should be primarily responsible for promoting growth and innovation - government or business? USA (Both government and business equally)					
	Total	Region			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Job growth in the US	55%	56%	52%	57%	53%
Encouraging innovation in green energy and environmental sciences	55%	53%	53%	55%	59%
Growing the economy in the US	54%	55%	54%	55%	51%
Building stronger trade ties with other countries	50%	53%	47%	50%	50%
Encouraging innovation in health care and health sciences	49%	54%	46%	47%	49%
Training young people for the jobs in sectors where the greatest vacancies are	44%	45%	43%	45%	44%
Building America's technology sector	43%	47%	40%	42%	42%

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