

TRC Questionnaire

(June 5th, 2015)

For today's survey we want to begin with some issues concerning Canada's aboriginal people and specifically the "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" which has now released its report on Canada's residential schools policy and its impact on aboriginal Canadians and their relationship with broader Canadian society.

1. How closely have you yourself been following this issue? Would you say you are:

Following it in the news, and discussing it with friends and family

Seeing some media coverage, and having the odd conversation about it

Just scanning the headlines

Haven't seen or heard anything about it

Very briefly, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was originally created in 2008 as part of the federal government's settlement with residential school survivors. Canada's residential schools policy removed aboriginal children from their families and sent them to boarding schools where their culture was suppressed. Many experienced physical and sexual abuse at these residential schools.

2. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has made a total of 94 recommendations for changes in policies, programs and approaches to dealing with aboriginal issues in Canada. Below is a summary of some of the specific recommendations from the Commission. Please indicate whether you yourself support or oppose each of these measures.

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Create a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women

Increase federal funding for on-reserve education

Provide federal funding for aboriginal language revitalization and preservation

Create a national council for reconciliation that would monitor and report on the progress of ongoing and future reconciliation initiatives

Have aboriginal history – including residential schools – part of the standard curriculum for all Canadian students in kindergarten through grade 12

Provide \$10 million in federal funding over seven years for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, which will be a research centre and an archive for the survivor testimony to the Commission

Create public monuments to residential schools in Ottawa and all provincial and territorial capitals

Create a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation which would be a statutory holiday to honour residential school survivors

[COLUMNS]

Strongly oppose
Oppose
Support
Strongly support

3. So far, would you say the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process has been worthwhile for each of the following?

[ROWS – FIXED ORDER]

The community where you live
Canadian aboriginals, generally
The residential school survivors
Canada as a whole
The relationship between aboriginal and other Canadians

Yes, the process has been worthwhile
No, the process has not been worthwhile
Not sure

4. And, looking ahead, are you optimistic or pessimistic that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process will ultimately result in a better situation for Canada's aboriginal people?

Very optimistic
Moderately optimistic
Moderately pessimistic
Very pessimistic

5. As we've noted, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report includes 94 different recommendations on the overall approach to aboriginal issues in Canada. (including the ones we looked at a moment ago.) Overall, what are your views on:

[Keep this order:]

The response the federal government *should* take to the Commission recommendations
The response you *expect* the federal government to take

Move to implement most of the recommendations
Address some of the main ones
Study the recommendations before doing anything further
Do nothing. Enough has been done already

6. Canada's residential schools policy forcibly removed aboriginal children from their communities and placed them in church-run boarding schools, where they were prohibited from speaking their native languages and from practicing indigenous traditions in order to try to assimilate aboriginals into the dominant Canadian culture.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has referred to this policy as a "cultural genocide" against aboriginals in Canada. Do you agree or disagree with using the term "cultural genocide" to describe the residential schools policy and how it was carried out?

Strongly agree

Moderately agree

Moderately disagree

Strongly disagree

7. Generally speaking, what is your view of how much focus and attention is being given to aboriginal issues in Canada in recent years? Would you say:

There's been way too much attention

Too much attention

About the right amount

Not enough attention

Not nearly enough attention

8. How much will this whole issue of aboriginal affairs and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission be a factor for you in this year's federal election? (Please use the 1 to 10 scale below; you can choose any number that best reflects how much of a factor this is for you.)

[1-10 Scale]

Left hand label = 1 – Not a factor at all

Right hand label = 10 – It's the deciding factor

9. Regardless of how important it is to you personally, if aboriginal affairs and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission were to become a defining issue of the upcoming federal campaign, which of the main federal party leaders would you say is best to deal with this issue?

[Randomize leaders]

Stephen Harper

Justin Trudeau

Thomas Mulcair

10. Lastly, which of the following best describes your own personal relationship, if any, with aboriginal Canadians?

You are aboriginal yourself

You have a close relationship with one or more aboriginal Canadians

You are acquainted with some aboriginal Canadians

No, you do not know any aboriginal Canadians