

Trans Issues

PART 1: General perspectives on transgender people in society

For this survey, we're asking Canadians for their views on some different issues here in Canada. All of your answers are strictly anonymous to us and non attributable so please feel free to offer your candid responses. Please keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers. We're interested in getting your honest opinion.

1. Let's start of by thinking about some issues that have been in the news lately. How much news and commentary would you say you have seen in the media (either online or off) on each of the following issues over the last year?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Policies related to the treatment of transgender people

The refugee crisis caused by the civil war in Syria

The legalization of physician-assisted dying in Canada

Efforts to reform the Canadian electoral system by replacing "first-past-the-post" voting

Government plans to legalize marijuana in Canada

[COLUMNS]

Haven't seen or heard anything about it

Just seeing a little bit of coverage

Seeing some coverage and having the odd conversation

Seeing a lot of coverage and having discussions with family/friends

2. The word "transgender" is an umbrella term that refers to people who identify as a gender other than the one they were assigned at birth (based on a doctor's observation of their genitals). Transgender people may identify as men or women, or neither, or both.

Some transgender people choose to have surgery so their genitals match their gender identity, but many do not.

Based on whatever you've seen, read, or heard about transgender people and issues related to them, would you say this topic has been receiving too much, too little, or about the right amount of attention from each of the following?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

The news media

The entertainment industry

The government of Canada

Your provincial government

Canadian schools

[ANCHORED]The discussions you have with your friends and family

[COLUMNS]

Too little attention

About the right amount of attention

Too much attention

Don't know/Can't say

3. And, would you say each of these has been generally favourable or unfavourable toward programs/policies that would expand rights for transgender people?

[ROWS – KEEP SAME RANDOMIZATION]

The news media

The entertainment industry

The government of Canada

Your provincial government

Canadian schools

[ANCHORED]The discussions you have with your friends and family

[COLUMNS]

Very unfavourable

Moderately unfavourable

Moderately favourable

Very favourable

Don't know/Can't say

Part 2: High-level policy issues

4. As you may be aware, the federal government has introduced legislation that would add gender identity as a prohibited ground for discrimination under the Canadian Human Rights Act. This would make it illegal to discriminate against transgender people -- i.e. to deny a person employment, housing, etc. on the basis of their gender identity.

Would you say you support or oppose this?

Strongly support

Moderately support

Moderately oppose

Strongly oppose

5. Most personal identification documents – birth certificates, driver's licenses, passports, etc. – include a field labeled "gender" or "sex." By default, this field typically displays the gender a person was assigned at birth. Some say this causes problems for transgender people, whose outward appearances sometimes do not match the gender/sex listed on their identification documents.

How would you like to see this issue handled? In general, would you say these documents should:

Display a person's biological sex (M or F)

Display a person's gender identity (M or F)

Include a third option for gender/sex (M, F, or Other)
Not include gender/sex at all

6. Thinking about transgender people in the workplace, would you say you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? If you're not currently working, please choose "not applicable."

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

A worker who identifies as transgender in my workplace will be discriminated against

A co-worker who was transitioning from one gender to another would be respected in my workplace

Senior management would not accommodate an employee who was transitioning from one gender to another in my workplace

My workplace is tolerant and accommodating of all individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity

[COLUMNS]

Strongly disagree

Moderately disagree

Moderately agree

Strongly agree

Not Applicable

Part 3: Personal feelings about transgender people

7. Suppose you were the parent of an 8-year-old child who, for the last few years, has been behaving in a way that shows an affinity for a gender identity other than the one they were assigned at birth based on their biological sex. In this situation, what do you think your reaction would be? Would you:

[ROTATE]

Accept this behaviour and work to accommodate it

Resist this behaviour and work to change it

8. And, thinking about people who identify as transgender, which of the following comes closest to your own point of view?

People are born transgender

People are transgender because of social and environmental factors

Don't know/Can't say

9. Some people say increasing acceptance of transgender people is a sign that society is moving toward a more fluid concept of gender as a category – one in which less emphasis is placed on the differences between men and women, and more emphasis is placed on the variation within these two traditional categories. What are your views on this change? Would you say:

Society IS heading this way – and that's a GOOD thing

Society IS heading this way – and that’s a BAD thing
Society IS NOT heading this way – and that’s a GOOD thing
Society IS NOT heading this way – and that’s a BAD thing

Part 4: Washroom/gendered facilities policy

The next few questions refer to "gendered public washrooms" which we'll use to describe the traditional typical set-up of separate washroom facilities for men and women. While the ongoing debate over this issue concerns other public facilities in addition to washrooms, for the purposes of this survey we will focus on washrooms, specifically.

10. Legislation proposed in some U.S. states would require transgender people to use gendered public washrooms that correspond with the gender they were assigned at birth, and not use the washrooms that match their gender identity. What is your opinion on this issue? Generally speaking, should transgender people use:

[ROTATE TOP TWO]

The washrooms that correspond to their gender identity

The washrooms that correspond to their biological sex

[ANCHORED] It depends

[ASK ONLY THOSE WHO CHOOSE "IT DEPENDS"]

11. On what should it depend? Please select the one or two things on the list below that you believe to be the **most important** factors in determining what washroom a transgender person should use (or write your own in if it's not on the list.)

[RANDOMIZE – CHOOSE UP TO 2]

Whether the transgender person has had genital surgery

The type of facility in question (e.g. washroom vs. locker room)

The availability of a single-stall washroom in the building

The location (e.g. a restaurant/bar vs. a school)

The laws, rules, or policies in place in that area

The transgender person’s personal preference

[ANCHORED] Other (please specify)

12. Thinking about this another way: Some people say transgender people should use the gendered public washrooms they personally feel most comfortable using, while others say there should be rules and policies in place to determine which washrooms transgender people should use. Which of these perspectives is closer to your own opinion?

[ROTATE]

Transgender people should choose to use the washrooms they feel most comfortable using

Which washroom a transgender person uses should follow some pre-set rules and regulations

This issue has also come up at public schools. In recent years, several school systems across the country have created policies for which washrooms transgender students should use. In many other school systems, no policy is currently in place.

[SPLIT SAMPLE FOR THESE NEXT TWO QUESTIONS (Q13a AND Q13b)]

13a. Consider the following situation: A student at an elementary school identifies as a girl, but has male genitals. The child, who has identified as a girl since before starting school, would like to use the girls' washroom at school. In your opinion, would it be acceptable or unacceptable if the school allowed the child to use the girls' washroom?

Very acceptable
Moderately acceptable
Moderately unacceptable
Very unacceptable

13b. Consider the following situation: A student at an elementary school identifies as a boy, but has female genitals. The child, who has identified as a boy since before starting school, would like to use the boys' washroom at school. In your opinion, would it be acceptable or unacceptable if the school allowed the child to use the boys' washroom?

Very acceptable
Moderately acceptable
Moderately unacceptable
Very unacceptable

14. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

I would be uncomfortable with a transgender person moving in next door to me
Increasing acceptance of transgender people is a sign of social progress
Transgender people face a lot of discrimination in their daily lives
Society is too fixated on issues related to transgender people
Being transgender is just unnatural
Transgender celebrities such as Caitlin Jenner and Chaz Bono generally worsen my opinion of transgender people
Canada should work to accommodate and protect transgender people in society
Government should not be involved in deciding which washrooms transgender people use
It's appropriate that society is reconsidering the way it organizes things like gender-specific washrooms

[COLUMNS]

Strongly disagree
Moderately disagree
Moderately agree
Strongly agree

Part 5: Relationships to LGBT people

15. How would you describe your personal relationship to transgender people? Would you say you:

- Are transgender yourself
- Have a close relationship with one or more transgender people
- Are acquainted with someone who is transgender
- Do not know any transgender people

16. And, how would you describe your personal relationship to gay, lesbian and bisexual people? Would you say you:

- Are gay, lesbian or bisexual yourself
- Have a close relationship with someone who is gay, lesbian or bisexual
- Are acquainted with someone who is gay, lesbian or bisexual
- Do not know anyone who is gay, lesbian or bisexual

Part 6: Religion demo questions

And, finally, to assist with our statistical analysis:

17. Which one of the following best describes your religious identity?

- 1 - Atheist
- 2 Agnostic
- 3 Roman Catholic
- 4 United Church
- 5 Anglican
- 6 Lutheran
- 7 Presbyterian
- 8 Baptist
- 9 Pentecostal
- 10 Other evangelical Christian
- 11 Other Christian
- 12 Muslim
- 13 Hindu
- 14 Jewish
- 15 Sikh
- 16 Buddhist
- 17 No religious identity
- 18 Other (please specify)

18. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week

Once a week
Once or twice a month
A few times a year
Seldom
Never