

Boushie case, February 2017

Today we are asking Canadians about a variety of issues that have been in the news lately. One issue we want people's views on is the recent trial and verdict in the "Boushie" case.

QB1 A jury has found Gerald Stanley, a farm owner in Saskatchewan, not guilty of second-degree murder in the shooting death of 22-year-old Colten Boushie, an Indigenous Canadian from the Cree Red Pheasant First Nation.

How closely would you say you have been following this issue?

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 heard anything about it

[Exclude those who haven't heard anything about it]

QB2 The jury's not guilty verdict in this Boushie case has led to some discussion and debate.

Overall, based on whatever you've seen or heard about this and on your own overall impressions, would you say that the decision of the jury in this trial was:

Good and fair
Flawed and wrong
Not sure/Can't say

QB3 Prime Minister Trudeau commented after the verdict, saying he "can't imagine the grief and sorrow the Boushie family is feeling tonight. Sending love to them." He also met with the family privately this past week to discuss "concrete changes" to the judicial system as it relates to Indigenous Canadians.

Some people say it was appropriate for the Prime Minister to offer the family his personal sympathy and highlight some concerns about how the justice system works for Indigenous Canadians.

Others say it was inappropriate for the Prime Minister to publicly comment on the findings of a lawfully delivered verdict from a jury

Would you say it was appropriate or inappropriate for the Prime Minister to personally respond to the Boushie verdict?

Appropriate
Inappropriate
Not sure/Can't say

QB4 The Boushie trial was conducted by jury. In creating a jury, the lawyers can exclude a certain number of potential jurors on any basis which they don't have to state, using something called a peremptory challenge. The Boushie jury ended up including no Indigenous people (or no one Indigenous

in appearance) even though the community has a large Indigenous population. Reportedly, five potential Indigenous jurors were excluded by the defence.

In your view, do you think:

This is the way it works, and juries generally deliver good verdicts regardless of their composition
We should reform these rules to ensure juries reflect the whole community better