

## Foreign Interference: Two-thirds, including majority of CPC voters, say all leaders should read NSICOP report

*Majorities feel Poilievre, Trudeau, parliament, not taking foreign interference seriously enough*

**June 21, 2024** – The House of Commons rose for summer break this week. It is a ritual that sends bills yet to be passed into legislative purgatory, while sending MPs back into ridings to work the proverbial 'barbeque circuit'.

One subject MPs of all stripes will surely be talking about: the capital gains inclusion increase, most likely to be boosted by Liberal caucus members and pilloried by those in the Conservative tent. What they're less likely to raise spontaneously: lingering questions and murkiness over the latest revelations in the foreign interference scandal.

### **Capital Gains Tax: One-in-five say increasing inclusion rate will cost them more over next five years**

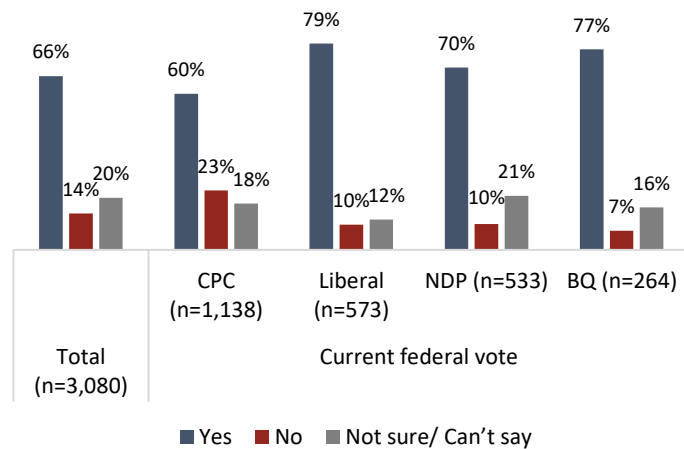
A [bombshell report](#) was released earlier this month by the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP), a group made up of cross-parliament MPs and senators. The committee's report detailed the ways foreign interference has been infiltrating Canadian politics.

The ensuing political firestorm has put pressure on the Trudeau government to name the individuals who, as the report says were '[semi-witting or witting](#)' participants in the efforts of foreign states to interfere in Canadian politics. It has also put Opposition Leader Pierre Poilievre's decision not to seek the security clearance required to [read the report](#) under the microscope.

New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds Canadians largely aligned on the [seriousness of the issue](#) and the feeling that their political leaders need to do more to reflect it. The public opinion polling data shows a strong majority of Canadians say all federal leaders should be informed about the report by receiving the necessary security clearance. Notably, even three-in-five who would support the CPC in a future federal election say this.

Poilievre, has, however, gone on record as stating that the government should release the names of those the report lists as having been a "witting or semi-witting" participant in foreign interference. For their part, Canadians agree. Seven-in-10 say those names should be made public.

### In your opinion, should all the federal leaders receive security clearance and read the report, or not?



#### **METHODOLOGY:**

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from June 14 - 17, 2024 among a representative randomized sample of 3,080 Canadian adults who are members of [Angus Reid Forum](#). For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

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Perhaps because of the heavy politicization of the issue, there is broad sentiment parliamentarians must take it more seriously. Only CSIS, and to a lesser extent the RCMP, appear to have the confidence of Canadians in handling the issue.

### **About ARI**

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research foundation established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.*

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### **Foreign interference debate**

The fires of the nation's political discourse were only stoked further in early June when the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICOP) released a report alleging that some parliamentarians have either "[wittingly or semi-wittingly](#)" participated in foreign interference targeted at Canadian elections. Both India and China have been alleged as participating, complicating Canada's tense diplomatic efforts with each Asian giant.

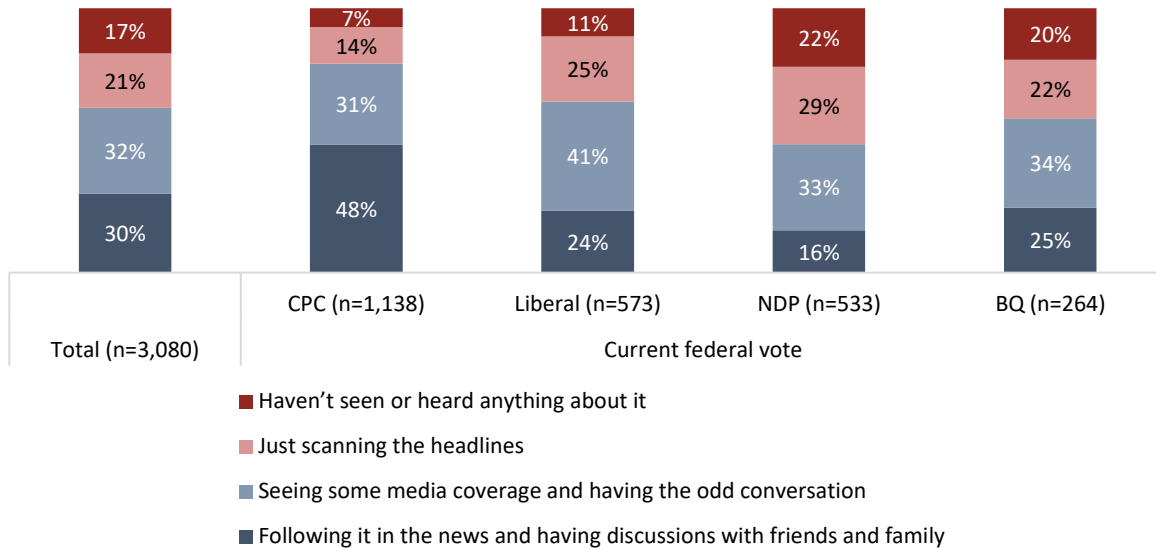
Some details of the report remain murky, with NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, Green leader Elizabeth May, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau offering varying interpretations. For their part, three-in-10 Canadians are following the issue closely, which rises to half among those who would support the Conservative Party.

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**How closely have you been following this issue of foreign interference in Canadian elections?**

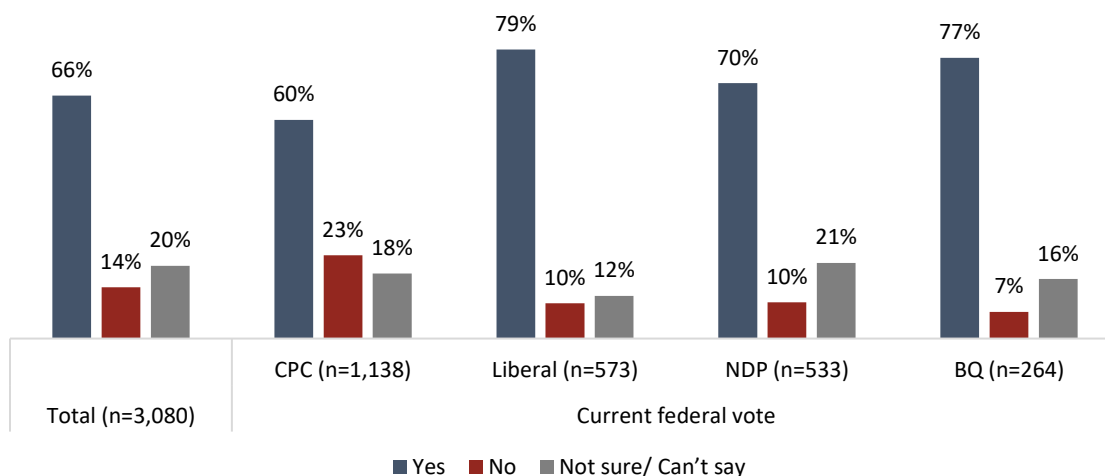


**Canadians tell leaders to read the report**

Unlike May, Singh and Trudeau, CPC leader Pierre Poilievre has resisted calls to read the report. Observers say Poilievre would be “hamstrung” politically, given that he would be unable to comment on what he read in the report. Others have criticized Poilievre for placing political concerns at the forefront.

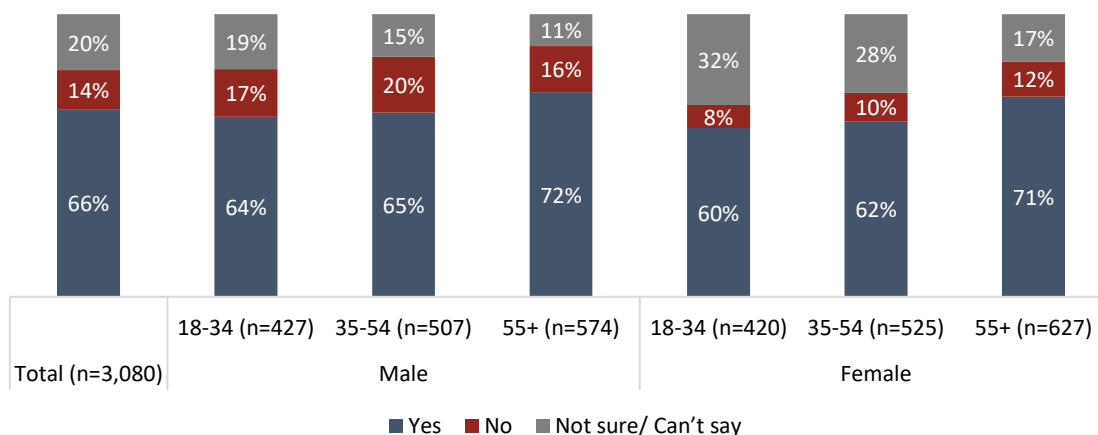
At least three-in-five (60%) across all party supporters say that each leader should take steps to read the report. This is evidently a rare moment of disagreement between intending CPC voters and Poilievre, as just one-quarter (23%) agree with his decision to not read the report.

**In your opinion, should all the federal leaders receive security clearance and read the report, or not?**



Canadians broadly feel that all federal party leaders should receive security clearance and read the report. One-in-five are unsure (20%) and 14 per cent disagree that this is necessary:

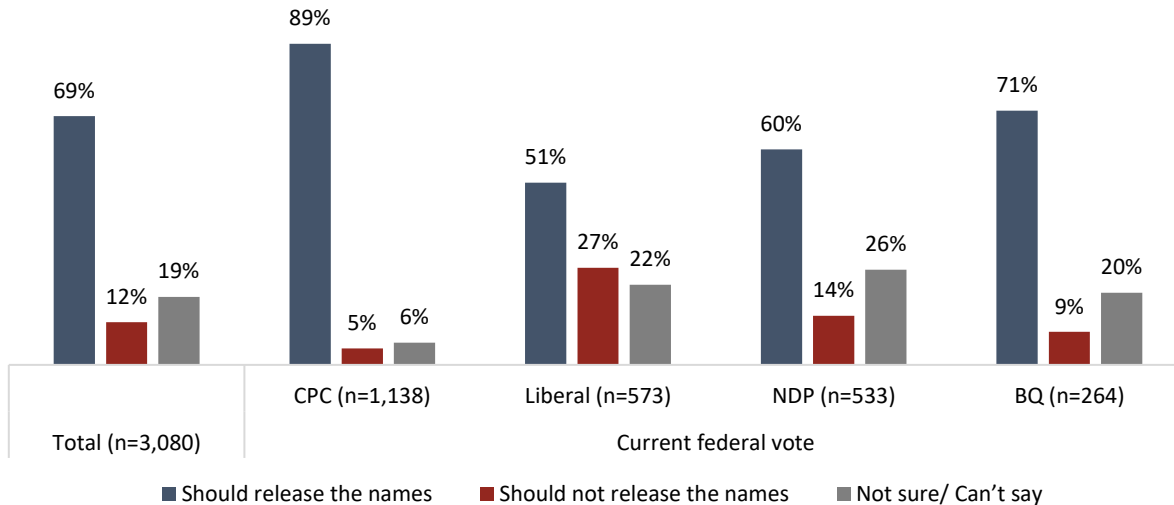
**In your opinion, should all the federal leaders receive security clearance and read the report, or not?**



**Seven-in-10 say names should be made public**

While Poilievre has chosen not to read the report, he has publicly [called on the government](#) to release the names of any MP who is under suspicion of working with foreign actors. Public Safety Minister [Dominic Leblanc](#) has stated that publicly discussing intelligence information would be inappropriate, although [others disagree](#). For their part, seven-in-10 (69%) say the names should be released, though this ranges from 89 per cent of CPC voters to half of Liberal voters (51%).

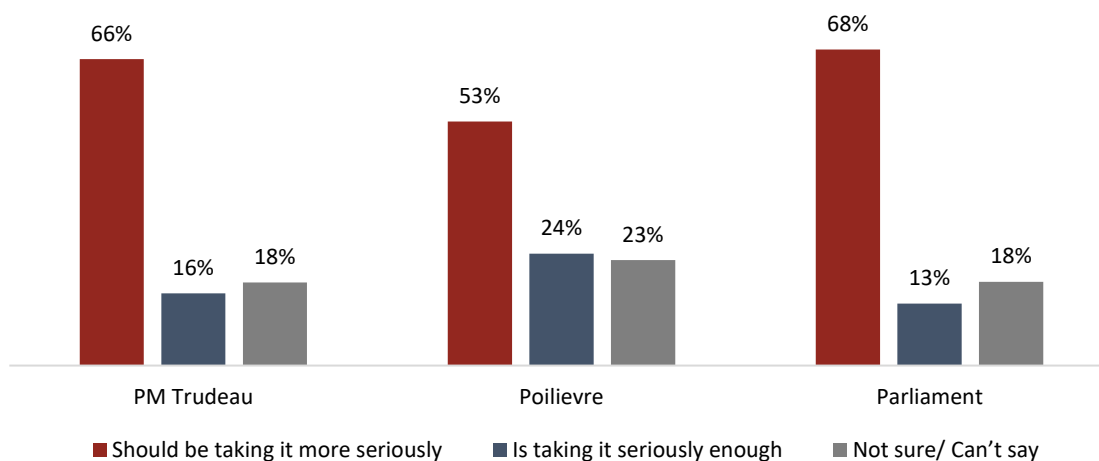
**In your opinion, the government....**



**Are leaders taking the issue seriously enough?**

Perhaps it's the politicking that has many Canadians feeling that neither the government nor parliament are taking this issue seriously enough. Asked how they feel the issue has been handled, two-thirds say both the prime minister and parliament more broadly are not treating the issue with sufficient seriousness. Half (53%) say this of the leader of the opposition.

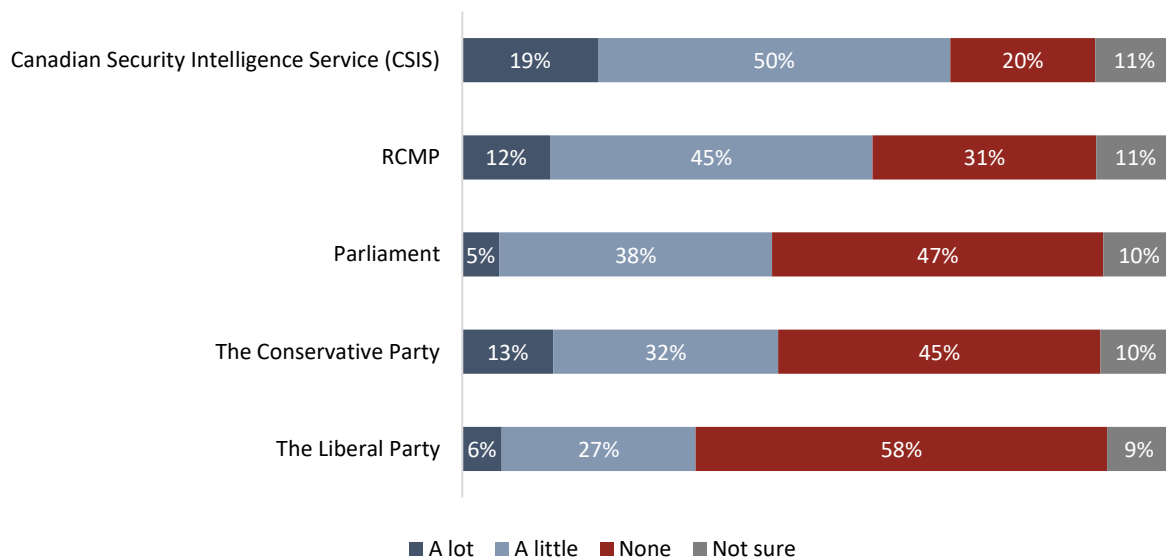
**Do you believe the following party leaders are taking this seriously enough or not?**



**Confidence in CSIS and RCMP, not in politicians**

The broader issue of ensuring the integrity of Canadian elections is one that many Canadians feel an urgency around. Two-in-five said last year that they were worried that Canadian elections were becoming less free and fair (42%). Confidence in the Canadian Security Intelligence Service is relatively high, with seven-in-10 Canadians saying they have a least some confidence in that body to stop foreign election interference in the future. Approaching three-in-five (57%) say this about the RCMP, while fewer than half have confidence in parliament (43%) or the Conservative Party (47%). The governing Liberals fare worst on this issue, with three-in-five saying they have no confidence at all (58%) in that party’s ability to stop this going forward:

**Do you have confidence, or not, in the following to stop foreign election interference in the future?**



*For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).*