

SUPREME COURT

QJ1. [T]

Base=Canada

Grid

Thank you for your answers. Now we'd like to ask you a few questions about Canada's justice system.

How much confidence do you have in each of these elements of the Canadian justice system?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

The RCMP

Your provincial police force [ON/QC/NL ONLY]

Your local municipal police (or local RCMP detachment)

Criminal courts in your province

The Supreme Court of Canada

[COLUMNS]

A complete lack of confidence

Not a lot of confidence

A lot of confidence

Complete confidence

Don't know

QJ2.

Base=Canada

Grid

We'd like to ask you a few questions about the role of judges who sit on the Supreme Court of Canada. There are no wrong answers, we're just curious how much Canadians know about their Supreme Court. Please indicate whether the following statements about Supreme Court justices are true or false.

In Canada, Supreme Court justices...

Can hold other jobs or run a business

Can accept gifts from people involved in cases they are presiding over

Are allowed to be active politically – i.e. be a member of a political party or attend events in support of political parties

Are appointed for life

Are appointed because of their political leanings – i.e. Liberals appoint Liberal judges,

Conservatives appoint Conservative judges

True

False

Not sure/ Can't say

QJ3.

Base=Canada

Multichoice

Please look at the following list of names and select all those who you believe are current members of the Supreme Court of Canada.

[Show six total – randomize three from the true list and three from the false list]

[TRUE LIST]

Richard Wagner

Andromache Karakatsanis

Suzanne Côté

Malcolm Rowe

Sheilah L. Martin

Nicholas Kasirer

Mahmud Jamal

Michelle O'Bonsawin

[FALSE LIST]

Rhys Warren

Bill McCollam

Karin Atkin

Ann Gravelle

QJ4.

Base=Canada

Single choice

In Canada, Supreme Court justices can only serve until the age of 75. If you were the Minister of Justice, would you change the current age limit or leave it as is?

Leave it as is

Raise it – to 85 or older

Lower it – to 65 or younger

Set it to a time limit – e.g. 15-year terms, regardless of age

Not sure/ Can't say

QJ5.

Base=Canada

Single choice

In Canada, Supreme Court justices must be functionally bilingual because they are required to hear cases in English and French, Canada's official languages. Some people say this limits the pool of available justices and potentially excludes other qualified candidates. Other people say there's no problem with the requirement because Canada is an officially bilingual country.

If you were the Minister of Justice, would you keep this rule as is, or change it to allow those who only speak one of the official languages to serve on the court?

The rule should stay as is

The rule should change to allow those who only speak one official language

Not sure/ Can't say

QJ6.

Base=Canada

Single choice

In general, do you believe the justices appointed to the Supreme Court are impartial – making decisions on cases in a fair and just manner – or biased – making decisions on cases in an unfair and unjust manner?

Completely impartial

Mostly impartial

Mostly biased

Completely biased

Not sure/ Can't say

QJ7.

Base=Canada

Single choice

And, in general, do you believe the majority of the justices on the Supreme Court of Canada lean one way or another on the political spectrum or not?

[Rotate top two]

They are left leaning – more liberal than conservative

They are right leaning – more conservative than liberal

Neither left nor right

Not sure/ Can't say

QJ8.

Base=Canada

Single choice

And, generally, based on what you've read, seen or heard, what do you believe is a greater consideration when it comes to the decisions made by justices appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada?

Law – as set out in the criminal code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Politics, specifically the judges' political leanings

Not sure/ Can't say

QJ9.

Base=Canada
Single choice

[Text screen]

Some people say Canada's Supreme Court judges are too "activist" and issue rulings that go beyond what is written in Canada's constitution.

Others disagree and say such rulings simply address evolving societal issues that aren't otherwise covered by the constitution.

Regardless of how you feel specifically about these examples, let's go back to the broader issue. Please select the statement that is closer to your view:

Justices on the Supreme Court are too "activist", making rulings that go beyond the constitution
Supreme Court justices are NOT "activist" they are simply addressing societal issues that aren't currently covered by the constitution
Not sure/ Can't say