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Canadians warming to China, India as Trump's tariffs push Ottawa toward the Indo-Pacific

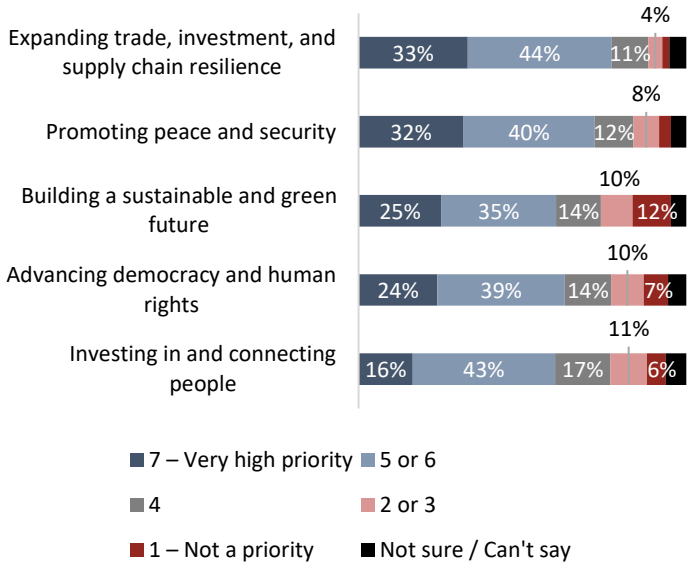
Trade and investment viewed by Canadians as a greater priority as Canada deepens Asian ties

November 10, 2026 – Prime Minister Mark Carney begins a circuit of the globe this week to continue efforts to diversify Canada's trade beyond the United States. The trip will conclude with Carney's second visit to China in 2026 as he attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen. Prior to Carney's January visit earlier this year, it had been more than eight years since a Canadian prime minister visited China, providing further evidence of the shift in Canada's international priorities in the wake of the deterioration of the Canada-U.S. relationship.

New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute in partnership with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada finds Carney's strengthening of economic ties across the Pacific coinciding with changing international assessments from Canadians. A majority say developing stronger relationships with China (69%), India (61%), Japan (87%), and South Korea (76%), is important as Canada looks to reduce its dependence on the U.S. And three-in-five (58%) say they've become more supportive of trade with the Northeast Asian economies of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan in response to U.S.-Canada trade tensions; half (49%) say the same of Southeast Asia.

The support for increasing trade with China (41% are more supportive) and India (36% are more supportive) is less pronounced, but it is increasing. Additionally, in November 2024, 15 per cent of Canadians said they had a favourable view of China. After two years of Trump, that figure has more

On a scale from 1 (Not a Priority) to 7 (Very High Priority), please identify the following areas/activities in terms of their priority for the Canadian government's relations with Asia.
(All respondents, n=1,609)



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute, in partnership with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, conducted an online survey from Oct. 29 to Nov. 4, 2026, among a randomized sample of 1,609 Canadian adults. Respondents are drawn from the Angus Reid Forum, a large-scale online panel developed to include Canadian residents in each of the 343 federal ridings in Canada and representative of the Canadian population by age, gender, family income, ethnic status, and education. The sample was weighted to be representative of adults nationwide according to region, gender, age, household income, and education, based on the Canadian census. 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 co-funded by ARI and APF Canada. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

For more information on our polling methods, click here.

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than doubled, to 38 per cent. Canadians are warming to China, but still more than half (53%) say they view the country unfavourably. Canadians' views of India have also become more positive in the past two years with 36 per cent saying they have a favourable view of the world's most populous country, an increase of 10 points from 2024.

There is much more positivity from Canadians towards other economies in the Indo-Pacific. Approaching nine-in-ten (88%) say they view Japan favourably and three-quarters (76%) have positive views of South Korea. Seven-in-ten (71%) Canadians view Southeast Asia favourably.

Despite positive views of Southeast Asia and efforts by Ottawa to connect Canada to the region, few believe it's an area where Canada should be developing closer trade ties (10%) compared to other global regions. There are also few that say the same of China (14%) or India (5%). Those regions are far behind the European Union (58%) as the preferred region for a closer trading relationship, and trail Mexico (24%), the United Kingdom (22%), and the U.S. (20%).

The increased positivity towards China and India comes as Canadians reorder their priorities with the world's two most populous countries. In 2021, in the wake of a diplomatic break between Canada and China over the saga involving Meng Wanzhou, Michael Kovrig, and Michael Spavor, Canadians by a three-to-one margin said "human rights and the rule of law" should be Canada's focus when dealing with China (77%) rather than trade (23%). Now, a majority (57%) believe economics should be prioritized over those former concerns.

There has been similar movement when it comes to India, as Carney and the federal Liberals have begun to repair ties severed by allegations levelled by Carney's predecessor of India's involvement in the killing of a Canadian Sikh leader. In 2024, 38 per cent believe trade and investment should be more important in Canada's relationship with India while three-in-five (62%) believed it should be "human rights and the rule of law". Now a majority (56%) of Canadians believe trade and investment with India should be prioritized over the latter.

More Key Findings:

- Beyond Europe, Canadians are looking to Asia as U.S. tensions reshape their view of trade partners, 77 per cent say promoting trade, investment, and supply chain resilience should be a priority as Canada engages with Asia, while 74 per cent say Canada would benefit from more investment from Asia.

- Canadians are much more likely to report favourable views of Japan (88%), the United Kingdom (79%), European Union (78%), South Korea (76%), Mexico (75%) and Southeast Asia (71%), than towards China (38%), India (36%), or the U.S. (25%).

- Canadians are more likely to say it's "extremely important" for Canada to build relationships with Japan (36%), South Korea (24%), China (24%), Taiwan (21%), than Singapore (18%), Indonesia (13%), or Vietnam (12%) as Canada looks to reduce its dependence on the United States.

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*

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administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.

About Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

*The **Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada)** is an independent, not-for-profit public institution focused on Canada's relations with Asia. Its vision is a prosperous, secure Canada shaping its future through high-impact engagement with Asia, and its mission is to enable Canadians to understand, connect with, and succeed in Asia. APF Canada is dedicated to strengthening ties between Canada and Asia through its research, education, and convening activities. APF Canada's research provides high-quality, relevant, and timely information, insights, and perspectives on Canada-Asia relations for Canadians and stakeholders across the Asia Pacific.*

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Part One: Changing international assessments

Trade, investment viewed as highest priority in engagement with Asia

In the wake of a more adversarial relationship with Canada's closest neighbour and largest trading partner, Prime Minister Mark Carney has made broadening trade ties a focus of his term since he took office last year. Carney has worked to thaw Canada's previously frosty relationships with China and India, while laying the path to increased economic co-operation in Europe and Southeast Asia.

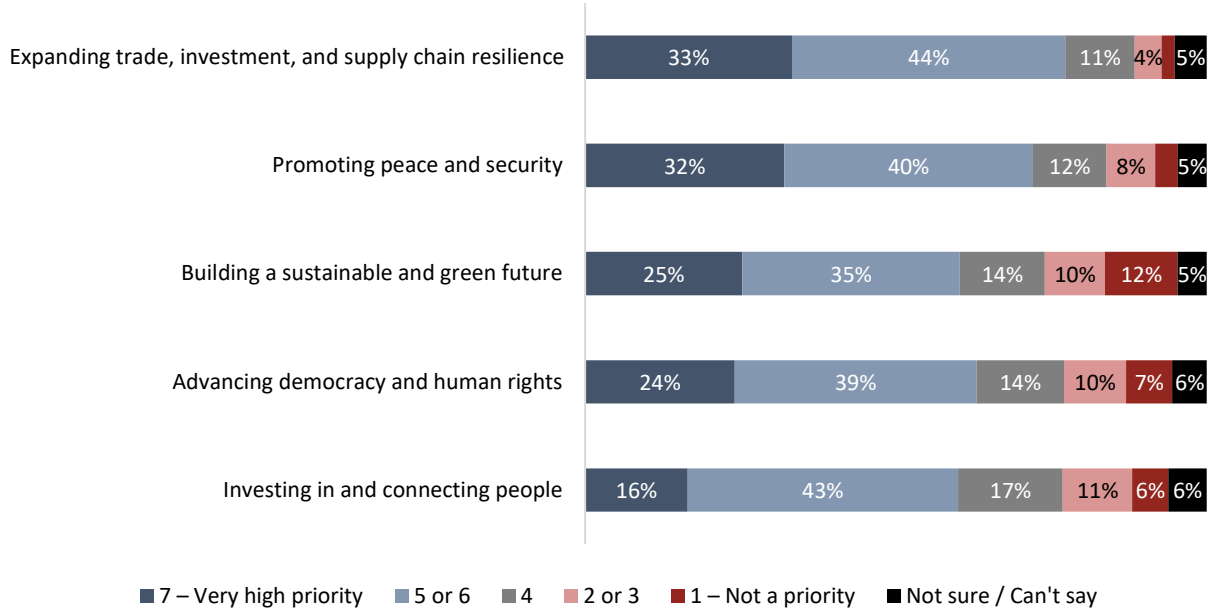
For the second fall in a row, Carney will be travelling across the Pacific to further ties with Southeast Asia, including a trip to China for the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen. The trip begins with the Prime Minister landing in Ireland to continue to work towards becoming an associate member of the European Union.

Trade ranks the highest when Canadians are asked to consider priorities for connections with Asia specifically. More than three-quarters (77%) give "expanding trade" at least a five on a seven-point priority scale. Promoting peace and security (72%) is close behind.

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Sustainability (60%), advancing democracy (63%) and investing in people (59%) are also selected by a majority as key areas for Canada to consider as it develops Asian relations, but are less likely to be viewed as a "very high" priority compared to trade and peace.

On a scale from 1 (Not a Priority) to 7 (Very High Priority), please identify the following areas/activities in terms of their priority for the Canadian government's relations with Asia.
(All respondents, n=1,609)



Views of China, India have improved but remain low

Official overtures to China and India by the Canadian government have coincided with changing public opinion. Prior to the start of U.S. President Donald Trump's second term, views of China and India were wallowing in historic valleys in Angus Reid Institute tracking data. In November 2024, 15 per cent of Canadians said they had a favourable view of China; 26 per cent said the same of India. Trump's tariff agenda perhaps led Canadians to reassess their views of the world. There was an uptick in Canadians who had a favourable view of China (+23 points from 2024) and India (+10 points).

Related:

- **Rising diplomatic tensions and allegations of foreign interference fuel plummeting Canadian views of India (Dec. 2024)**
- **A slight thaw in the Sino-Canadian frost? Amid ongoing tension with the U.S., Canadian views of China warmer (Oct. 2025)**

Another full year of living in a world of U.S. tariffs has – perhaps – further altered Canadian views. Two-in-five (38%) now say they have a favourable view of China, matching assessments from 2018, prior to the decline of relations between Canada and China during the Meng Wanzhou, Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig affair.

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Views of India, too, have risen from prior lows. One-third (36%) of Canadians say they view India favourably (up 7 points since 2025, and 10 points since 2024). More Canadians view India and China positively than do the U.S. (25% favourability).

Of the countries and regions measured on this survey, those three (China, India and the U.S.) stand alone as places where Canadians are more likely to have an unfavourable opinion than a favourable one. Majorities of more than seven-in-ten say they view Southeast Asia (71%), Mexico (75%), South Korea (76%), the European Union (78%), the United Kingdom (79%) and Japan (88%) favourably.

The U.K. and Japan have consistently been highly appraised by Canadians in ARI tracking data, while this is the highest favourability recorded for South Korea and Mexico.

Percentage of Canadians who say they have a favourable view of the following countries or regions over time (Blank spaces indicate country/region wasn't offered as answer option that cycle)									
	Japan	U.K.	European Union	South Korea	Mexico	Southeast Asia	China	India	U.S.
Nov-26	88%	79%	78%	76%	75%	71%	38%	36%	25%
Oct-25	82%	76%		62%	69%		27%	29%	32%
Nov-24	82%	76%		67%	57%		15%	26%	47%
Feb-23					57%		12%	44%	58%
Oct-21	72%	75%		59%	51%		10%	35%	41%
May-20	80%	83%		69%	59%		14%	42%	38%
Dec-19	85%	85%		72%	63%		29%	56%	59%
Oct-18	79%	82%		61%	58%		38%	44%	49%

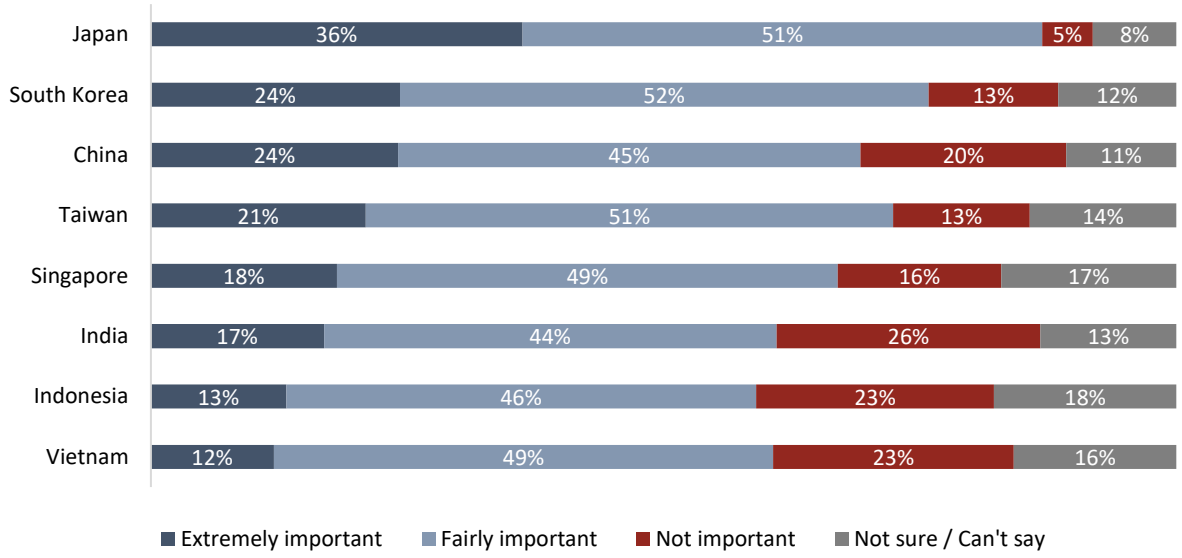
Where should Canada look for stronger relationships?

Despite high positivity towards Southeast Asia, countries in that region are viewed as less important for Canada to develop stronger relationships as it attempts to diversify away from the United States. Japan (36%), South Korea (24%), and China (24%) are the most likely to be viewed as "extremely important" countries for stronger ties than Vietnam (12%), Indonesia (13%), or Singapore (18%).

India, too, falls down the list: one-quarter (26%) of Canadians say it's not important for Canada to develop a stronger relationship with India, although 17% say it is "extremely important" to do so.

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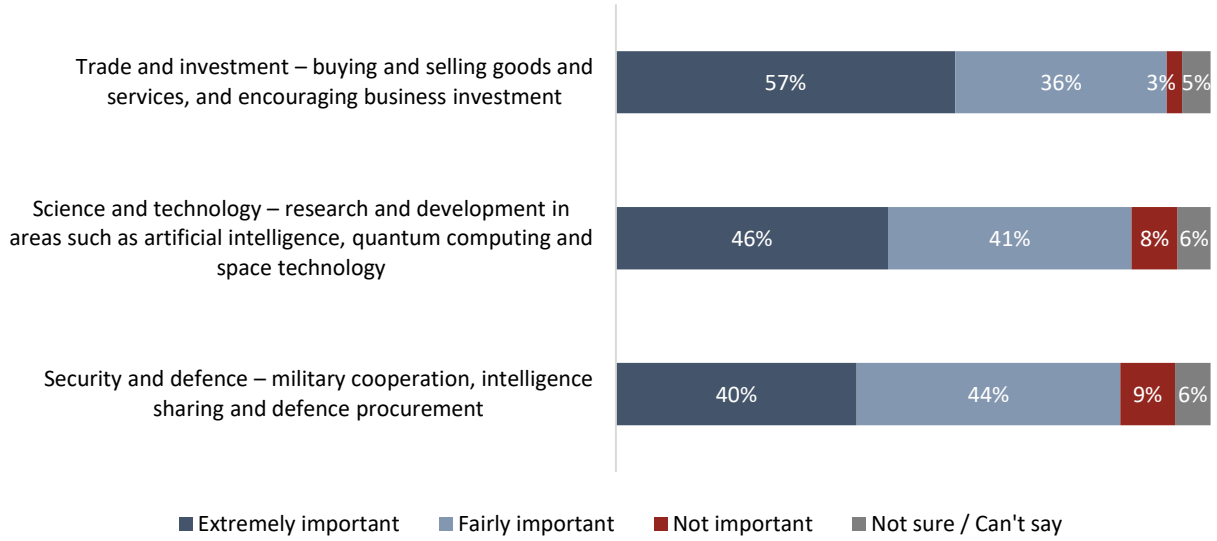
As Canada looks to reduce its dependence on the United States, how important do you believe it is for Canada to develop stronger relationships with each of the following countries?
(All respondents, n=1,609)



There are numerous potential areas for international co-operation as Canada navigates an altered relationship with the United States. Although research and development and defence are viewed by most Canadians as important areas for Canada to consider as it develops international ties, trade and investment is the area most likely to be described as “extremely important” (57%).

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When deciding which countries or regions Canada should work more closely with, how important should each of the following areas be?
(All respondents, n=1,609)



Both the E.U. (78%) and Southeast Asia (71%) are viewed favourably by more than seven-in-ten Canadians, but that positivity towards Southeast Asia does not translate into a strong desire for a closer economic relationship. One-in-10 (10%) believe Canada should try to develop closer trade ties to Southeast Asia, trailing China (14%), the United States (20%), the U.K. (22%), and Mexico (24%).

Notably, few (5%) want closer trade ties with India compared to other global options.

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As we look to the future, with which of the following countries or regions do you think Canada should try to develop closer trade ties? (Up to two chosen; blank spaces indicate region wasn't offered as answer option that cycle)										
	Jul-14	Apr-15	Aug-17	Nov-19	May-20	Mar-21	Mar-23	Dec-24	Oct-25	Nov-26
The European Union	37%	48%	44%	38%	52%	49%	44%	45%	57%	58%
Mexico								16%	33%	24%
The United Kingdom			29%	19%	26%	26%	16%	16%	19%	22%
The United States	36%	49%	41%	28%	37%	49%	45%	45%	24%	20%
China	34%	40%	24%	22%	11%	11%	17%	9%	14%	14%
Southeast Asia	12%	14%	6%	10%	9%	10%	8%	7%	7%	10%
South and Central America	16%	25%	11%	13%	20%	14%	11%	10%	10%	8%
India	18%	20%	13%	13%	10%	11%	8%	6%	5%	5%
Taiwan					5%	5%	7%		2%	3%
Other							5%	4%	2%	3%

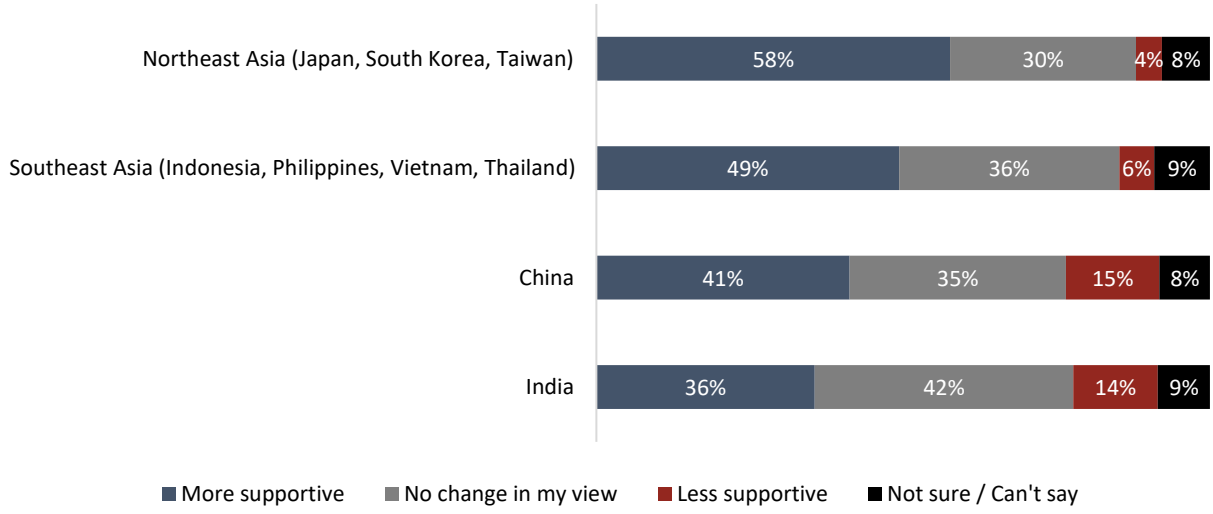
But Canadians more supportive of trade with Asia in wake of U.S. tensions

That doesn't mean, however, that Canadians are not supportive of the idea of increased trade with Asia. The tensions between Canada and the U.S. have a majority (58%) of Canadians saying they are "more supportive" of trade with northeast Asian economies Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan and half (49%) are more receptive to further trade with Southeast Asia (9 points behind northeast Asia).

Canadians are more likely to express reluctance for further trade with China (15% less supportive) and India (14%), but those are minority opinions that are outnumbered by those who are open to considering closer economic relationships with those two countries in the wake of Trump's tariffs.

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Thinking about recent tensions between Canada and the United States under President Donald Trump, have these developments made you more or less supportive of Canada developing closer trade relationships with each of the following countries?
(n=1,609)



Part Two: Canada's relationship with China and India during Trump 2.0

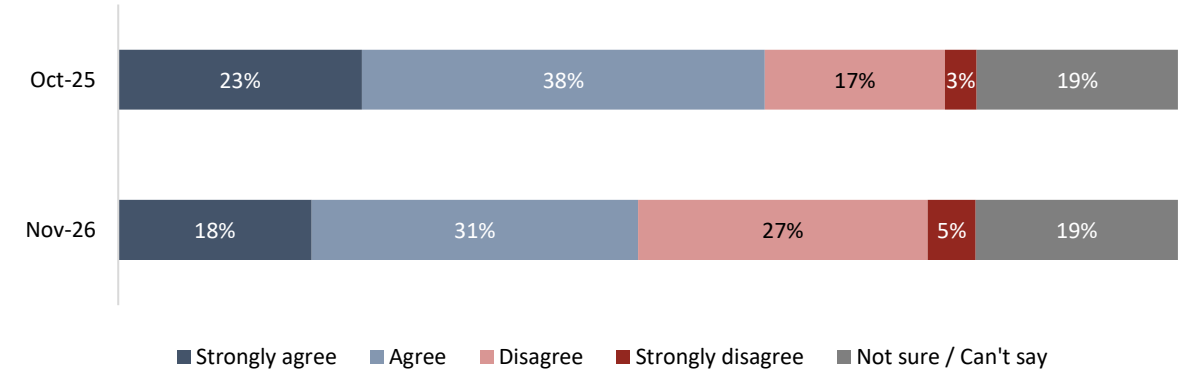
Lingering wariness of Beijing as a threat to Canadian interests

Prime Minister Carney and the current Liberal federal government have been trying to navigate Canada out of the turbulence of its relationship with China during the previous Trudeau government. There has been progress on economic co-operation, including the dissolution of tit-for-tat tariffs on Canadian agriculture and Chinese electric vehicles.

But there remains an undercurrent of wariness from Canadians on China. Half (49%) believe China's rise is a threat to Canadian interests, although that is a marked decline from the majority who said so a year ago (61%).

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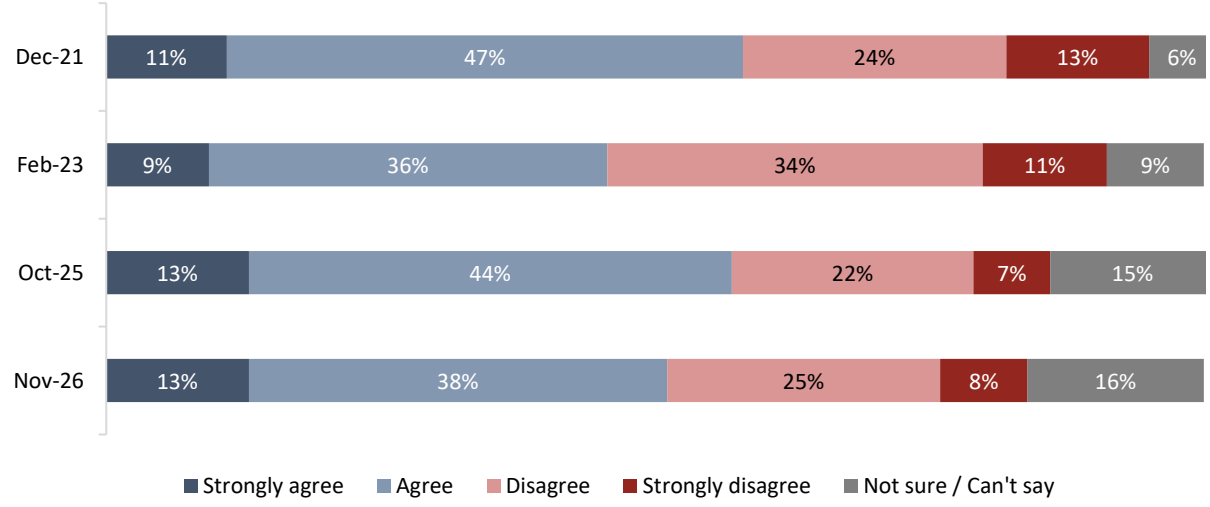
Agree vs. disagree - "China's rise as a regional and global power is a threat to Canadian interests"



There are also half (51%) who say they worry about the economic consequences of "standing up to China." Notably, that belief was at its lowest (45%) in February 2023 after a series of media reports alleging interference by Beijing in the 2019 and 2021 federal elections. At that time, half (53%) of Canadians said the Trudeau Liberal government's response to alleged election interference was not strong enough and they wanted their government to take "further action".

Related: China, Canada and Challenging Diplomacy: Two-in-three Canadians believe Beijing did attempt election interference (March 2023)

Agree vs. disagree - "I'm worried about the economic consequences of standing up to China"



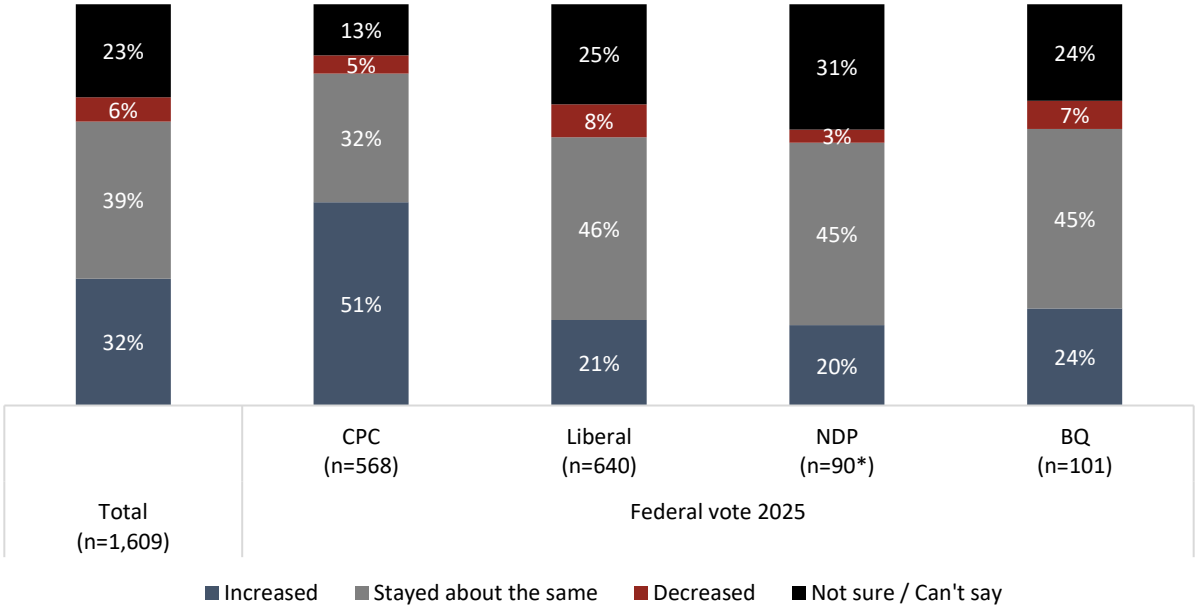
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And concern of political interference

And those concerns about political interference persist among Canadians. Few (6%) believe attempts by the Chinese government to interfere in Canadian public institutions has decreased over the past five years. Instead, one-third (32%) say it has increased, while two-in-five (39%) say it has been consistent.

Past Conservative Party of Canada voters (51%) are more likely to believe interference by Beijing in Canadian political processes has increased over the past five years compared to past Liberal (21%), NDP (20%), or Bloc Québécois voters (24%).

Thinking about the situation today, compared to five years ago, do you believe attempts by the Chinese government to interfere in Canada's political processes and public institutions have…

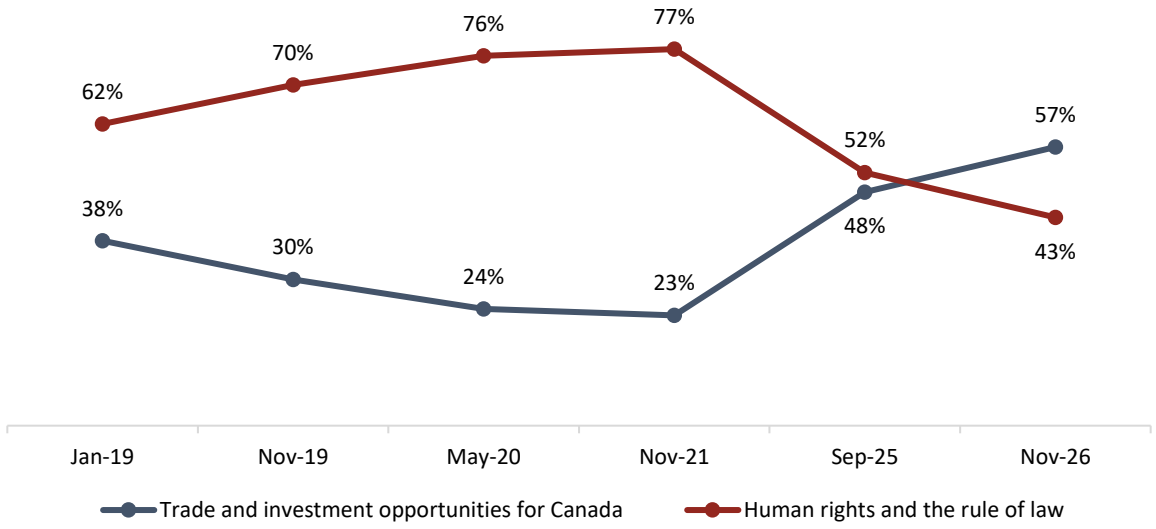


Canadians desire trade from China, but more guarded when it comes to investment

Even with many expressing reservations, there is still a shifting attitude towards China when it comes to trade. In 2021, three-quarters (77%) of Canadians said Canada should be prioritizing “human rights and the rule of law” in its relationship with China. Now only 43 per cent say the same. More, 57 per cent, believe Canada should be looking for trade and investment opportunities.

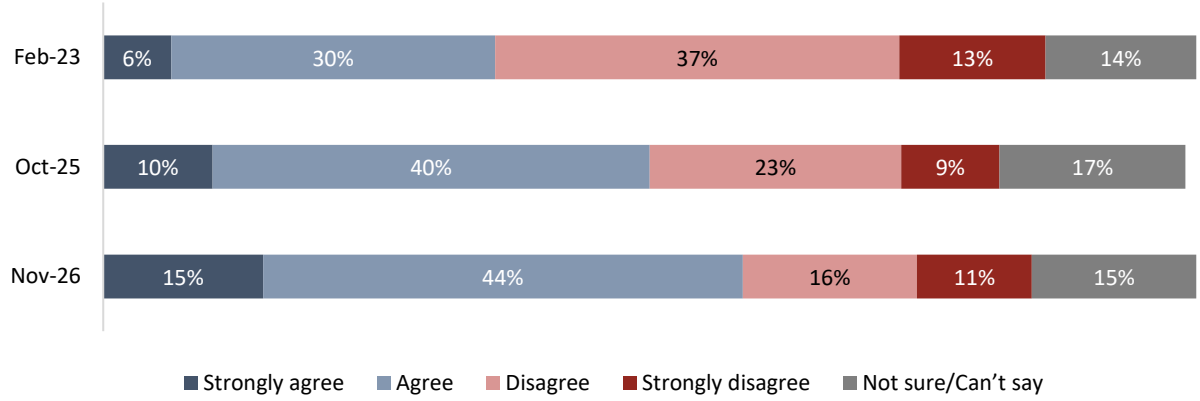
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Thinking about Canada's overall relationship with China, what should be more important to Canada?



Similarly, more Canadians agree that Canada should be focusing more on the country's economic relationship with China (59%) than said so in February 2023 (36%) and even last year (50%):

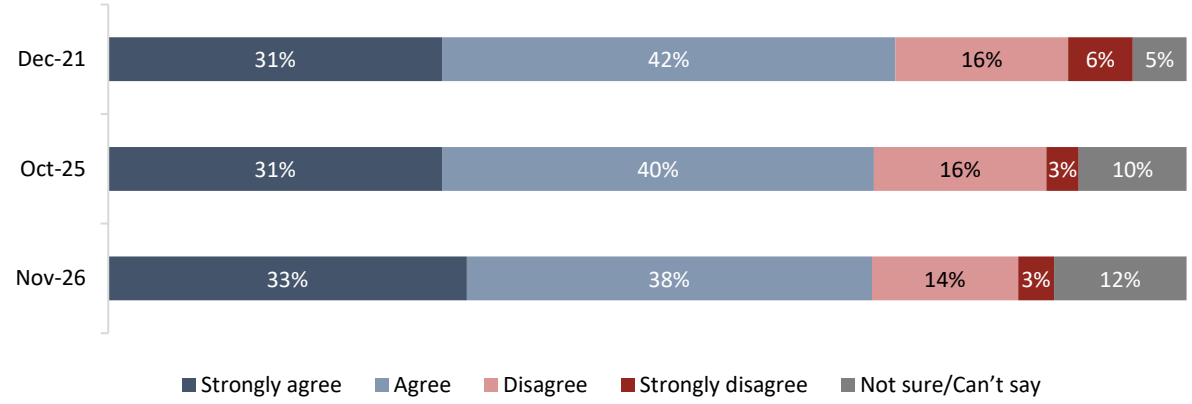
Agree vs. disagree -
"We need to focus more on our economic relationship with China"



Canadians' nuanced views of their country's relationship with China are evident. There is a growing sense Canada should be looking to develop economic ties but paired with a wariness to embrace China when it comes to security and lingering concerns over political interference. There is also a persistent sense from Canadians that Canada is powerless to affect the behaviour of Beijing. More than seven-in-ten (71%) believe it's unrealistic that Canada can do anything to change the government of China's behaviour, a similar number who said so in 2021.

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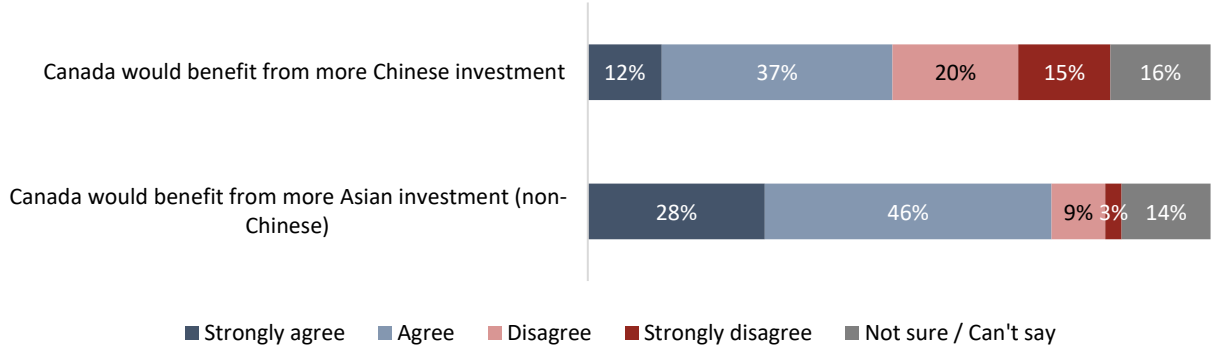
Agree vs. disagree - "It's unrealistic that anything Canada does will change the government of China's behaviour"



Canadians more welcoming of Asian investment from economies other than China

Taken altogether, Canadians are more likely to believe Canada would benefit from more investment from Asian economies other than China (74%) than to believe their country would benefit from more Chinese investment (49%). Still, there are more Canadians who agree Canada could benefit from increased Chinese investment in their country than disagree (35%):

Agree vs. disagree
(All respondents, n=1,609)

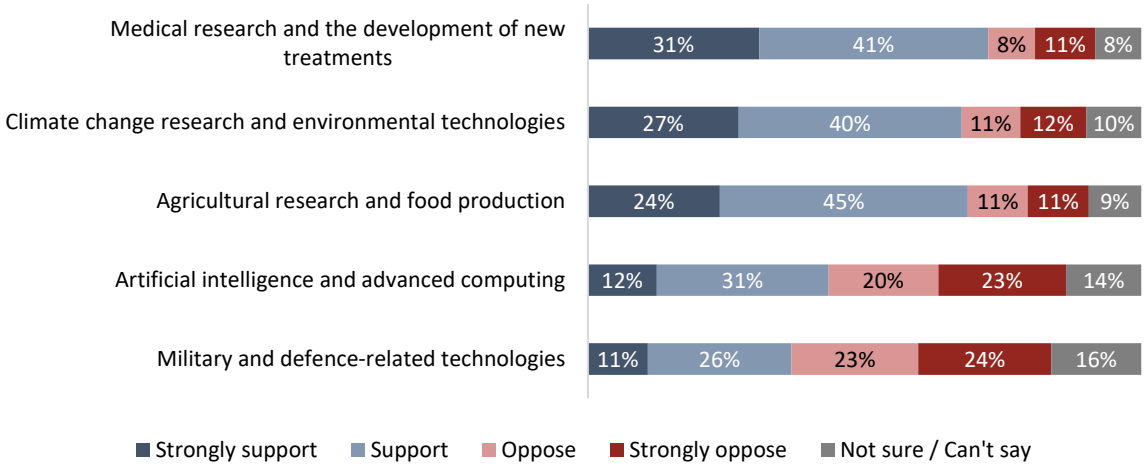


Support for Canada-China co-operation on health, climate, food; hesitation on AI, defence

Canadians are open to their country's co-operation with China on research – in certain areas. Majorities support Canadian institutions closely working with Chinese counterparts on medical research (72%), environmental technologies (67%), and agriculture (69%). The support shrinks when it comes to co-operation on artificial intelligence (43%) and defence-related technologies (31%).

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Would you support or oppose Canadian universities, businesses and research institutions working more closely with Chinese counterparts in each of the following areas?
(All respondents, n=1,609)



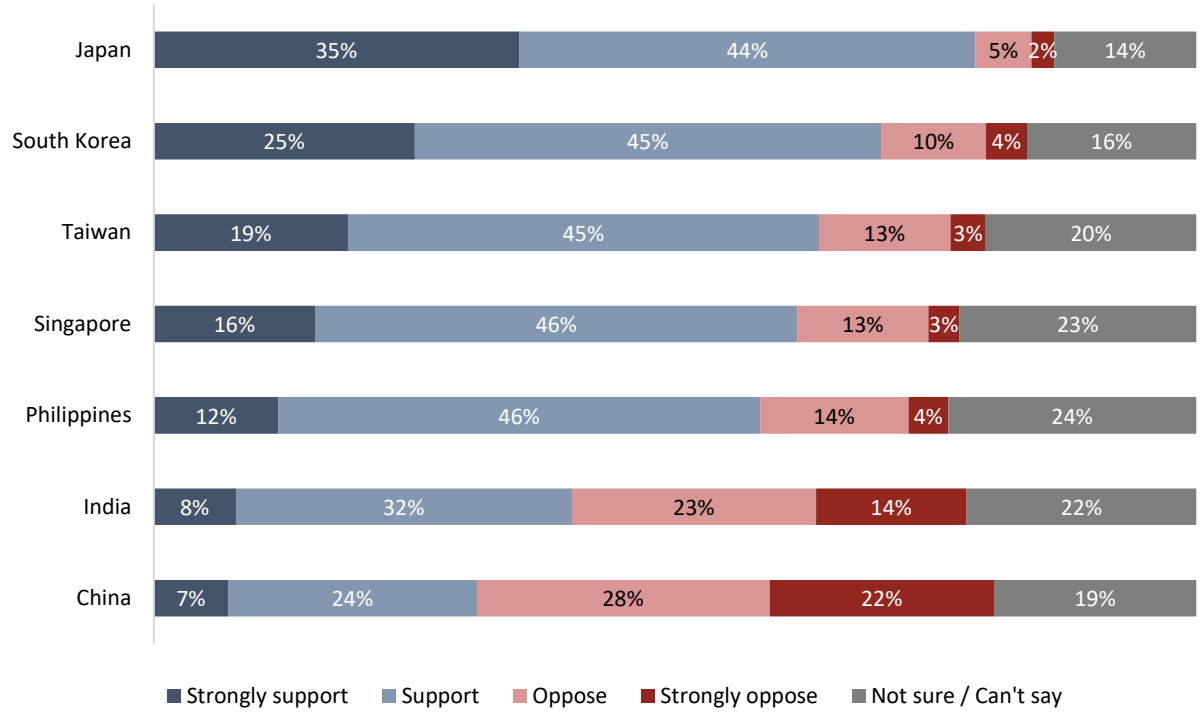
On defence, support for closer ties with Japan, South Korea; more opposition to China, India

The more unfavourable assessments of China and India by Canadians coincide with higher levels of opposition to Canada co-operating with those countries on matters of defence compared to other Asian nations. For China, half (50%) of Canadians oppose closer security ties, while three-in-ten (31%) support the idea. Canadians are split between support (40%) and opposition (37%) to defensive co-operation with India.

There is overwhelmingly support for military co-operation with Japan (79%) and South Korea (70%), while majorities back closer security ties with Taiwan (64%), Singapore (62%), and the Philippines (58%).

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Would you support or oppose Canada developing closer security and defence relationships with each of the following countries, including military co-operation, intelligence sharing and defence procurement? (All respondents, n=1,609)



Trade, investment viewed as more important to relationship with India than two years ago

Prime Minister Carney used the 2025 G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, to begin the process to rebuild the Canada-India relationship after a period of tension brought on by previous Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that the Indian government was involved in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh leader and Khalistani separatist. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service had also alleged the Indian government had tried to influence the 2019 and 2021 federal elections.

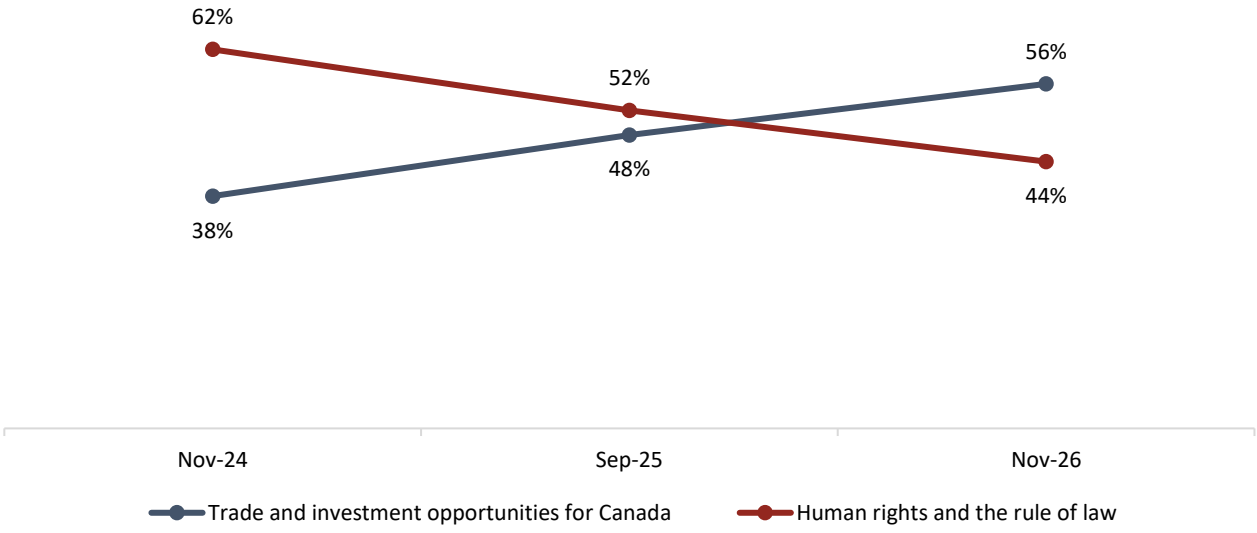
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The efforts by the two countries to mend the relationship has paved the way to greater economic co-operation, and an official visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi planned for December.

Canadians are much more likely to prioritize trade and investment in Canada's relationship with India than they were two years ago. At that time, three-in-five (62%) said "human rights and the rule of law" should be a greater priority. Now a majority (56%) believe Canada should instead focus on "trade and investment opportunities."

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Thinking about Canada's overall relationship with India, what should be more important to Canada?



For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, click here.

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