



# **Public Opinion Research Study on Electoral Matters— Wave 5**

Final Report

**Prepared for Elections Canada**

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**Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français**

This public opinion research report presents the results of the fifth wave of an online survey conducted by Léger Marketing Inc. on behalf of Elections Canada. The quantitative research study was conducted with 2,504 Canadians who are eligible electors residing in different regions of Canada between January 29 and February 5, 2025.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sous le titre : Étude d'opinion publique sur des questions électorales.

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## Executive Summary

Leger is pleased to present Elections Canada with this report on findings from the fifth wave of the tracking quantitative survey designed to learn about Canadians who are eligible electors residing in different regions in Canada. This report was prepared by Léger Marketing Inc. who were contracted by Elections Canada (contract number 05005-221079/001/CY awarded February 24, 2022).

## Background and objectives

As per its mandate, Elections Canada (EC) must always be ready to organize elections, even in exceptional circumstances such as in the event of a natural disaster or emergency.

In this context, Elections Canada wanted to gauge the general public's opinion on various electoral issues and topics at different points in time between elections.

This report presents the results of the fifth wave of the survey conducted on electoral matters between January 29 and February 5, 2025 with 2,504 Canadians who were eligible electors. The first wave of this study was conducted in April 2021<sup>1</sup> and serves as the baseline for measuring and identifying significant trends or changes in the opinions and attitudes of Canadian electors over time. The second wave was conducted in April 2022,<sup>2</sup> the third in March 2023,<sup>3</sup> and the fourth in March 2024.<sup>4</sup>

The project aims to improve understanding of Canadian electors':

- a) opinions on emerging issues that pertain to the administration of elections
- b) trust in electoral administration and other national institutions
- c) sources of information about elections and the electoral process

More specifically, EC wants to track any significant fluctuation in these measures over time. Other questions are asked to help the agency better understand what other internal or external factors may inform or impact electors' views on trust in electoral administration more generally.

### Intended use of the research

The information provided in these research reports will be used to inform EC's strategic communications and the development of EC's policies, programs, and services.

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<sup>1</sup> See [Public Opinion Research Study on Electoral Matters - Wave 1 – Elections Canada](#).

<sup>2</sup> See [Public Opinion Research Study on Electoral Matters - Wave 2 – Elections Canada](#).

<sup>3</sup> See [Public Opinion Research Study on Electoral Matters - Wave 3 – Elections Canada](#).

<sup>4</sup> See [Public Opinion Research Study on Electoral Matters - Wave 4 - Elections Canada](#).

## Methodology

This public opinion research was conducted via online surveys, using computer-aided web interviewing (CAWI) technology. Fieldwork for the wave five survey was carried out between January 29 and February 5, 2025. A total of 2,504 Canadian eligible electors (citizens at least 18 years of age at the time of the survey) with demographic characteristics reflective of the Canadian population were surveyed. The sample was drawn randomly from Leger's Leo panel and the overall response rate for the survey was 10.1 percent.

The questionnaire comprised questions posed in the wave four survey conducted in March 2024, plus one question that was restored from the second wave conducted in April 2022.

Using data from the most recent Canadian census, results were weighted within each region by gender and age to ensure the best possible representativeness of the sample within each region and overall. The weight of each region was adjusted to be equivalent to its actual weight in relation to the distribution of the Canadian population. The weighting factors are presented in detail in Appendix A of this report.

A pretest of 46 interviews was completed before launching data collection to validate the programming of the questionnaire in both English and French.

Leger adheres to the most stringent guidelines for quantitative research. This survey was conducted in accordance with the Standards of Conduct of Government of Canada Public Opinion Research for online surveys.

A complete methodological description is provided in the Appendices section of this document (please see Appendix A).

## Overview of the findings

- Canadians' main news sources remain unchanged from March 2024 to February 2025: television comes out first (30%), followed by online news websites or apps (26%) and social media posts by news organizations or journalists (17%).
- The proportion of Canadian electors who reported seeing news about Canadian politics very or somewhat often increased significantly to 86% in February 2025 from 80% in March 2024, as did the proportion who reported seeing news about U.S. politics (83% compared to 73% in March 2024). The proportion of those who see news about world politics very or somewhat often remains stable at 68%. Around one in five (21%) respondents said they rarely see news about politics from any origin, up from 19% in March 2024.
- Elections Canada remains second to the police in terms of electors' confidence in institutions, with 72% stating they have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in EC, close behind the police at 73%, although the difference is not statistically significant. Confidence in Elections Canada was up significantly compared with March 2024 (69%); confidence in the federal government also increased

significantly (49% compared to 45% in March 2024), as did confidence in social media platforms (23% compared to 21% in March 2024). Confidence in other institutions remained stable.

- A large majority (81%) of electors in February 2025 think that Elections Canada generally runs federal elections very or somewhat fairly; results remain stable since the previous survey in March 2024 (79%) but are down from 87% in April 2021.
- Among those who think Elections Canada runs elections unfairly, nearly two-thirds (63%) did not give a reason for thinking this, instead saying they had no particular reason (34%), did not know (15%), or preferred not to answer (14%). When respondents gave specific reasons for thinking Elections Canada runs elections unfairly, concerns about electoral integrity and security were mentioned most frequently (7%), followed by concerns about the fairness of the electoral system (6%, up significantly compared with 2% in March 2024).
- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of electors agreed that if Elections Canada proposes changes to how federal elections are run, it is probably to make voting easier or fairer for all Canadians; nearly two-thirds (66%) agreed that the government more generally would propose changes for the same reason. These results have remained stable since March 2024.
- In February 2025, the spread of false information online remains the type of electoral interference that the largest proportion of electors (80%) perceive could have a moderate or major impact on the outcome of the next federal election, with a significantly higher proportion of Canadian electors believing it can have a major impact (48% compared to 45% in March 2024). Concerns with various types of foreign interference have generally increased since April 2021, with the largest increase being the perceived impact of foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians (70% in February 2025 compared to 61% in April 2021).
- In February 2025, four in 10 (41%) respondents thought that voting by mail is safe and reliable, an increase from March 2024 (35%) but lower than in April 2021 (51%). The voting system in general is considered safe and reliable by two-thirds of Canadian electors (64%), similar to the previous wave in March 2024 (63%) but lower than the April 2021 baseline (74%).
- Perceptions of the frequency of types of voter fraud remain overall stable since March 2024, with one exception: a significantly higher proportion of Canadian electors believes that someone stealing or tampering with ballots after they have been cast happens often or sometimes (32% compared to 29% in March 2024).
- Two-thirds (68%) of respondents agreed that they do not think the government cares about what people like them think, around half (51%) agreed that politics and government seem so complicated that people like them cannot understand, and four in 10 (43%) agreed that all federal political parties are basically the same and do not really offer a choice. Agreement with all statements remained stable compared to 2024.
- A little less than half (45%) of electors do not feel polarized in how they relate to other Canadians, remaining stable since March 2024: they do not find it easier to relate to those they agree with politically and do not find it harder to relate to those with whom they disagree. On the other hand,

16% of electors feel strongly polarized (up significantly from 14% in March 2024), meaning they find it easier to relate to those they agree with politically to a moderate or large extent while also agreeing that it is harder for them to relate to those with whom they disagree. Around four in 10 (40%) feel somewhat polarized, falling in the middle of the two groups. Overall, respondents' feelings of being polarized were based more often on an affinity toward those they agreed with politically, rather than an aversion to those with whom they disagreed: 52% of respondents agreed to a moderate or large extent that they find it easier to relate to people if they agree with them politically, while 40% agreed that they find it harder to relate to people if they disagree with them politically.

- The proportions of respondents who accept various broad conspiracy theories about government as true in February 2025 slightly increased or remained stable since March 2024. The most accepted theory remained that certain significant events have been the result of the activity of a small group who secretly manipulate world events, with four in 10 (46%, up significantly from 42% in March 2024) accepting it as definitely or probably true. The proportion of those who believe the government is trying to cover up the link between vaccines and autism has also increased significantly (23% compared to 21% in March 2024). A third of Canadian electors believed experiments involving new drugs or technologies are routinely carried out on the public without their knowledge or consent (36%, stable since March 2024). Generally, belief in each of these conspiracy theories has gradually increased since April 2021.

## **Notes on interpretation of the research findings**

The views and observations expressed in this document do not reflect those of Elections Canada. This report was compiled by Leger based on the research conducted specifically for this project. This research is not probabilistic; the results cannot be inferred to the general population of Canada.

Since a sample drawn from an Internet panel is not probabilistic in nature, margins of sampling error cannot be calculated for this survey. Respondents for this survey were selected among those who have volunteered or registered to participate in online surveys. The results of such surveys cannot be described as statistically projectable to the target population. The data have been weighted to reflect the demographic composition of the target population.

The results of this survey cannot be compared with the results of other Elections Canada surveys of electors conducted during the federal general election held on April 28, 2025, due to differences in the research designs and methodologies.

In this report, all results are expressed as percentages unless otherwise noted. Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding or multiple mentions. Comparisons with results from the previous survey wave are presented when possible. For graphs, the reported bases represent the base of respondents from the most recent survey wave (i.e. wave five, denoted as "February 2025" for this report).

Subgroup differences are reported when they are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level and only for the most recent survey wave. When a subgroup is reported as being more or less likely to have given a particular response, this means the result for the subgroup was significantly different compared with the combined result for all other subgroups combined. For example, if respondents aged 18 to 24 were more likely to give a particular response, it is in comparison with the result for all other respondents aged 25 and older. Please note that the use of the words “significant” and “significantly” throughout the report refers to statistical significance, rather than magnitude. Finally, unless otherwise signalled, respondents to this survey will be referred to as “electors.”

## **Political neutrality statement and contact information**

Léger certifies that the final deliverables fully comply with the Government of Canada’s political neutrality requirements outlined in the Policy on Communications and Federal Identity and the Directive on the Management of Communications.

Specifically, the deliverables do not include information on electoral voting intentions, political party preferences, standings with the electorate, or ratings of the performance of a political party or its leaders.

Signed:



Sébastien Poitras

Vice-President, Public Affairs and Communications,

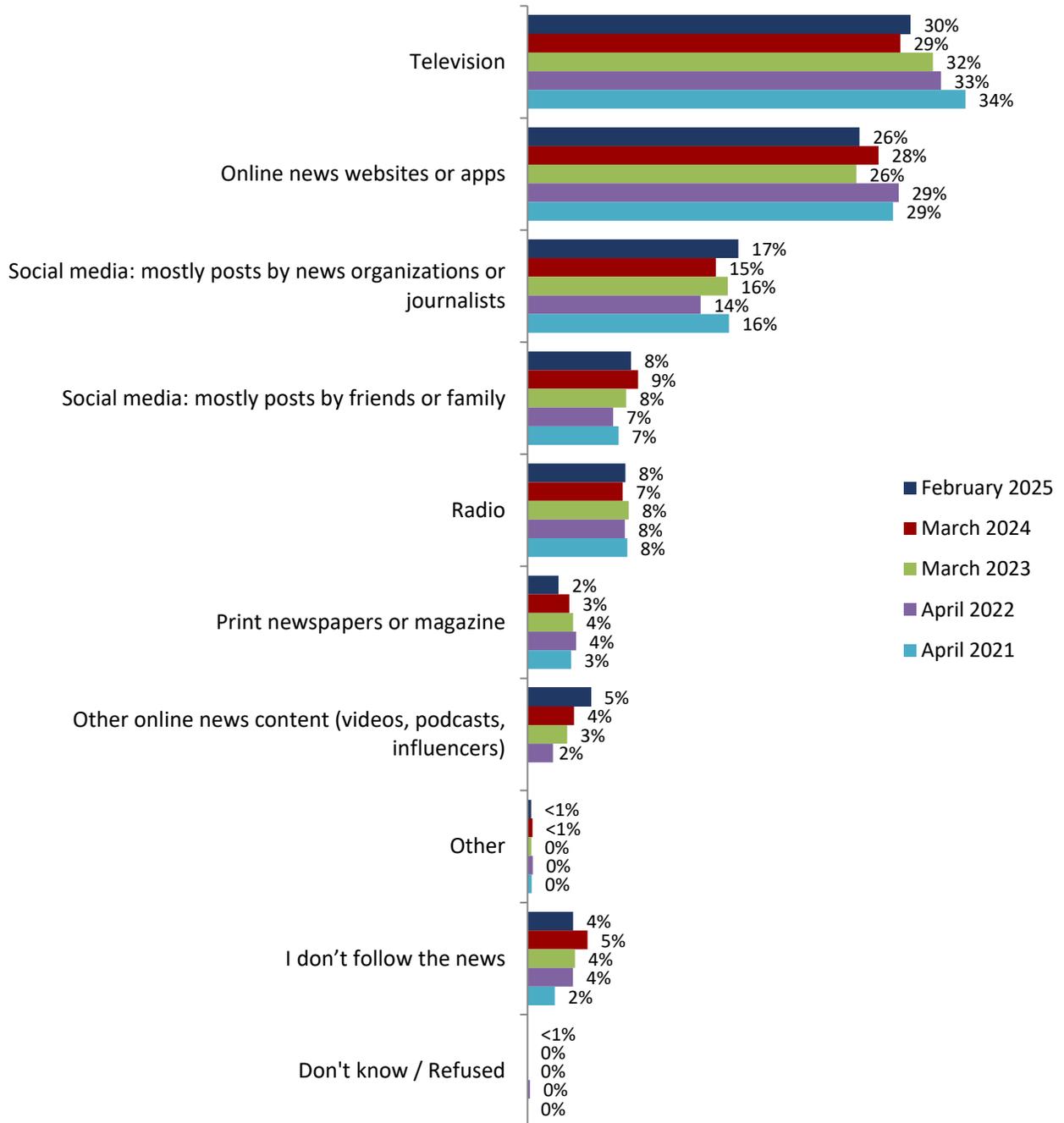
Léger

## **Detailed Results**

### **Main sources of news**

About three in 10 electors in February 2025 turned to television (30%) and just over a quarter turned to online news websites or apps (26%) as their main source of news. Posts by news organizations and journalists on social media were the third most popular source (17%). Less than one in 10 electors preferred posts by friends or family on social media (8%) or radio (8%), and a smaller proportion turned to other online news content (5%) or print newspapers or magazines (2%). Results remain stable since March 2024.

Figure 1: Main source of news



Q: In general, which of these would you say is your main source of news?

MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED \*Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Note: The answer option "Other online news content (videos, podcasts, influencers)" was added in April 2022, so no comparison to April 2021 is available.

Notable subgroup differences regarding February 2025 respondents' main source of news include the following:

- Men were more likely to turn to online news websites or apps (30% versus 23% among women), while women were more likely to turn to social media posts by friends or family (11% versus 6% among men). Women were also more likely to mention television (32%) as their main source of news.
- Young electors aged 18 to 34 were more likely to favour social media posts by friends or family (16% versus 3% among those aged 55 and older), as well as social media posts by news organizations and journalists (30% versus 7% among 55 years or older). Young electors were also more likely to favour other online news content (8% versus 3% among those over 55 years old) and to state that they do not follow the news (5% versus 2% among those over 55 years old). On the other hand, those aged 35–54 more often preferred online news websites or apps (32% versus 22% among those aged 18–34), while respondents aged 55 and older were more likely to turn to television (49% versus 11% among those aged 18–34 and 22% among those aged 35–54) and print newspapers or magazines (4% versus 1% among those aged 18–34 and those aged 35–54).
- Respondents from Quebec were more likely to turn to television (37% versus 27% among those from Ontario) or radio (11% versus 5% among those from British Columbia). Respondents from Manitoba and Saskatchewan were more likely to not follow the news (8%).
- Respondents from urban or suburban areas were more likely to prefer online news websites or apps (28% versus 23% among those from rural or small-town areas) and social media posts by news organizations and journalists (18% versus 13% among those from rural or small-town areas) as their main source of news. On the other hand, electors from rural or small-town areas were more likely to turn to social media posts by friends or family (10% versus 7% among those from urban or suburban areas).
- Electors with some amount of university education were more likely to prefer online news websites or apps (31% versus 17% among those with a high school education or less) and social media posts by news organizations and journalists (19%), while those with a high school education or less (13%) were less likely. On the other hand, those with a high school education or less (39%) were more likely to prefer television as their main source of news, compared to those with some amount of university education (25%). Those with a high school education or less were also more likely to not follow the news (6% versus 2% among those with some amount of university education). Respondents who had some amount of college or trade school education were more likely to prefer social media posts by friends or family (10% versus 7% among those with some amount of university education).
- Non-Indigenous electors were more likely to state that television (31% versus 17% among Indigenous electors) and online news websites or apps (27% versus 14% among Indigenous electors) were their main source of news. On the other hand, Indigenous electors were more likely to prefer social media posts by news organizations or journalists (31%) compared to non-Indigenous electors (16%).
- Canadians by birth (32%) were more likely to prefer television as their main source of news than naturalized Canadians (24%). On the other hand, naturalized Canadians were more likely to state social media posts by news organizations or journalists as their main source of news (21% versus 15% among Canadian-born electors).

- Respondents who were interested in politics were more likely to turn to online news websites or apps (29% versus 19% for those who were not) and television (32% versus 26% for those who were not). On the other hand, respondents who were not interested in politics were more likely to consult posts made by friends or family (15% versus 6% for those who were) or simply not follow the news (8% versus 2% for those who were).
- Habitual voters<sup>5</sup> were more likely to turn to television (34% versus 20% among infrequent voters) and online news websites or apps (28% versus 21%), while infrequent voters were more likely to prefer social media posts by friends or family (14% versus 6% among habitual voters), posts by news organizations or journalists (22% versus 15%) and other online news content (8% versus 4%).
- Respondents who held no conspiracy beliefs were more likely to turn to online news websites and apps (34%), while those who held mixed conspiracy beliefs were more likely to turn to television (32%). On the other hand, those who held strong conspiracy beliefs were more likely to prefer posts by news organizations or journalists (22%), posts by friends and family on social media (14%) and other online content (9%) as their main source of news.
- Respondents who often saw news about Canadian politics were more likely to state that television (33%) and online news websites or apps (28%) were their main sources of news, while those who rarely saw news about politics from any origin were more likely to turn to social media posts by friends and family (17%) as their main sources of news or state that they do not follow the news (14%). Those who often see news about U.S./world politics but rarely see news about Canadian politics were more likely to indicate social media posts by friends and family (21%) as their main source of news.
- Respondents who do not feel polarized were more likely to turn to television (33% versus 28% among respondents who feel somewhat polarized) as their main source of news. On the other hand, respondents who feel somewhat polarized were more likely to prefer posts by news organizations or journalists (20% versus 13% among those who do not feel polarized) as their main source of news. Respondents who feel strongly polarized were more likely to state other online content (8%) as their main source of news.

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<sup>5</sup> “Habitual voters” means those who reported that they have voted in all or most elections (municipal, provincial and federal) since they became eligible to vote, while “infrequent voters” voted in only some or none of them.

## News origin

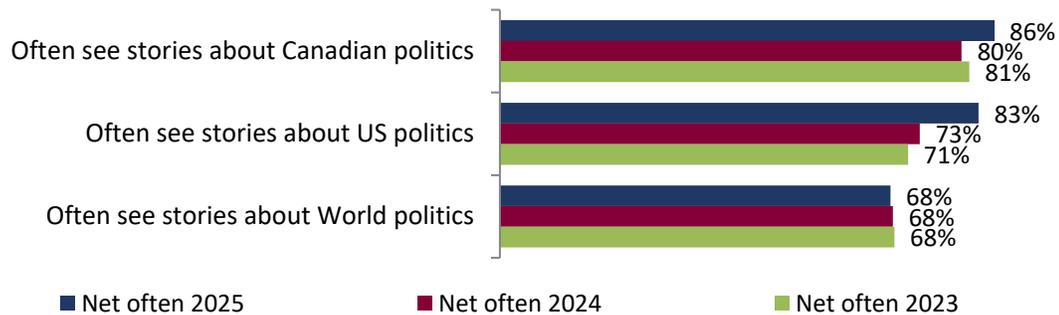
When thinking about their main source of news, 86% of respondents said they often see stories covering Canadian politics (a significant increase from 80% in March 2024), including 51% who said very often (versus 43% in March 2024). A similar proportion (83%, up significantly from 73% in March 2024) said they often see stories covering U.S. politics (50% very often versus 35% in March 2024), and 68% said they often see stories covering world politics (24% very often), stable since March 2024.

Among the 13% of respondents who rarely see news about Canadian politics, respondents were further grouped based on whether or not they often see news about politics of any origin, as follows:

- 4 percent said they often see news about U.S./world politics but rarely see news about Canadian politics (down significantly albeit slightly from 5% in March 2024).
- 9 percent said they rarely see news about politics from any origin (down significantly from 13% in March 2024).

The parallel increases in seeing news about Canadian and U.S. politics might have been driven by recent events occurring in each country (for example, the U.S. presidential inauguration, the Canadian prime minister’s resignation) but also by news covering Canada-U.S. relations, such as trade.

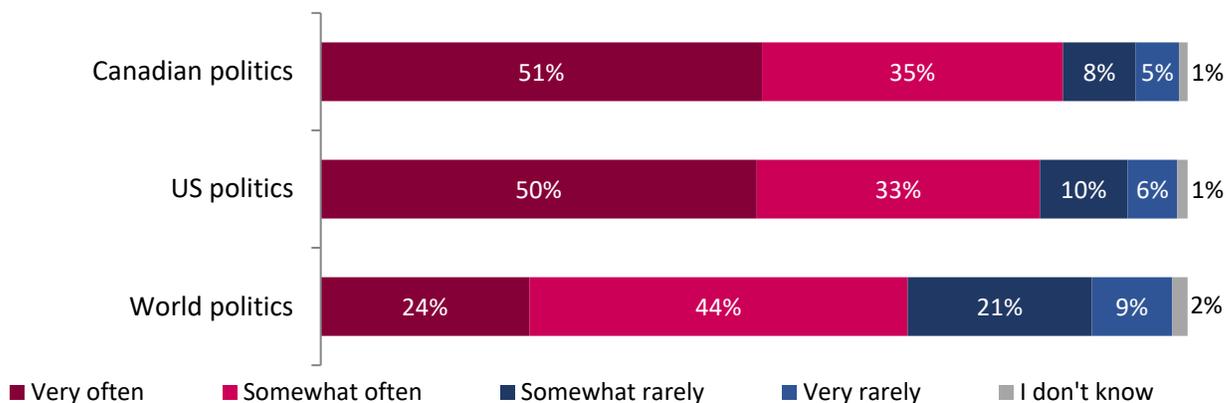
Figure 2: Frequency of exposure to news stories covering Canadian, U.S., and world politics—topline results



Q: Thinking about your main source of news, how often do you see stories covering Canadian politics, U.S. politics, or politics from the rest of the world? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Note: For analysis purposes, a Net Often (Very + Somewhat often) has been calculated. This question was added in March 2023.

Figure 3: Frequency of exposure to news stories covering Canadian, U.S., and world politics—detailed February 2025 results



Q: Thinking about your main source of news, how often do you see stories covering Canadian politics, U.S. politics, or politics from the rest of the world? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

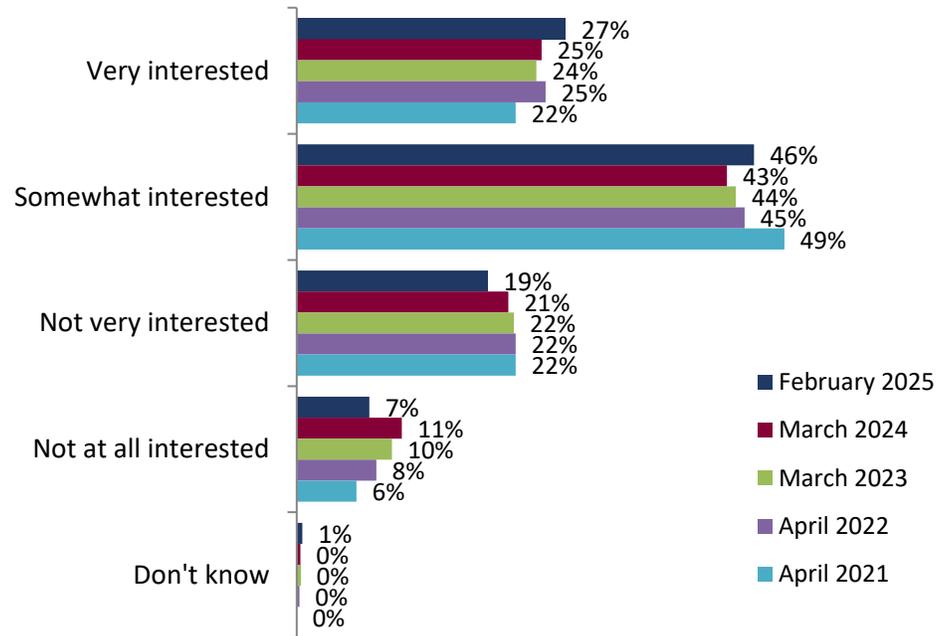
The likelihood of seeing stories covering Canadian politics varied across the following demographic groups:

- Men (89%) were more likely than women (83%) to see stories covering Canadian politics.
- Respondents over 55 years old (92%) were more likely, while those aged 18–34 (77%) were less likely.
- Respondents living in urban or suburban areas (88%) were more likely than those who live in rural or small-town areas (81%).
- Respondents with a university degree (89%) were more likely, while those with a high school or lower education level (78%) were less likely.
- Respondents who are interested in politics (95%) were more likely than those who are not (62%).
- Habitual voters (90%) were more likely than infrequent voters (75%).
- Respondents who know provincial and federal powers (90%) were more likely than those who do not (71%).
- Respondents who do not hold any conspiracy beliefs (91%) were more likely, while those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (82%) were less likely.
- Respondents who are generally trusting of people (91%) were more likely than those who tend to be distrustful (84%).
- Respondents who feel somewhat polarized or strongly polarized in how they relate to other Canadians politically (91% apiece) were more likely, while those who do not feel polarized were less likely (79%).

## Interest in politics

Most electors were interested in politics (73%, up significantly from 68% in March 2024), including one in four (27%) who were very interested and over four in 10 (46%) who were somewhat interested. On the other hand, around one in four (26%) were not interested in politics, including one in five (19%) who were not very interested, and less than one in 10 (7%) who were not at all interested.

Figure 4: Interest in politics



Q: In general, how interested are you in politics? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Interest in politics varied across the following groups:

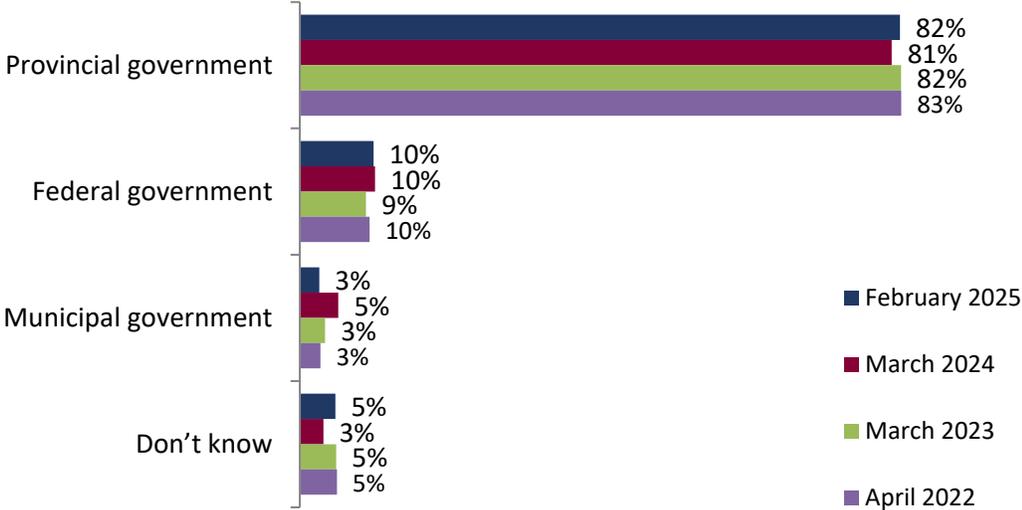
- Men (81%) were more likely to be interested in politics than women (65%).
- Electors 55 and older (77%) were more likely to be interested in politics, while electors aged 35–54 (70%) were less likely.
- Respondents with at least some university education (80%) were more likely to be interested in politics, whereas those with a high school or less education (59%) and those with at least some college or trade school (70%) were less likely.
- Respondents living in British Columbia (79%) and Ontario (76%) were more likely to be interested in politics, while those living in Quebec (64%) were less likely.
- Respondents living in urban or suburban areas (76%) were more likely to be interested in politics than those who live in rural or small-town areas (67%).
- Habitual voters (78%) were more likely to be interested than infrequent voters (60%).

- Those who voted in the 2021 federal general election (77%) were more likely to be interested in politics than those who were eligible but did not vote (66%).<sup>6</sup>
- Respondents who had knowledge of federal and provincial powers (77%) were more likely to be interested than those who did not (58%).
- Electors with no conspiracy beliefs (82%) were more likely to be interested in politics, while those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (67%) were less likely.
- Respondents who generally trust people (79%) were more likely to be interested in politics than those who do not (70%).
- Respondents who often see news about Canadian politics were more likely to be interested in politics (81%), while those who often see news about U.S./world politics but rarely about Canadian politics (50%) and those who rarely see news about politics from any origin (20%) were less likely.
- Respondents who feel somewhat (79%) or strongly (86%) polarized in how they relate to other Canadians politically were more likely to be interested in politics, while those who do not feel polarized (63%) were less likely.

### Knowledge of provincial powers

A vast majority of electors knew in February 2025 that the provincial level of government is primarily responsible for education (82%), while one in 10 attributed the responsibility to the federal government (10%). In lesser proportions, some respondents thought it was the municipal government’s responsibility (3%), and some others (5%) did not know the answer. These results remain stable since they were first measured in April 2022.

Figure 5: Knowledge of provincial powers



Q: To the best of your knowledge, which level of government has primary responsibility for education?  
 Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

<sup>6</sup> A federal general election was held on September 20, 2021, i.e., between the April 2021 and April 2022 survey waves.

Note: This question was added in April 2022.

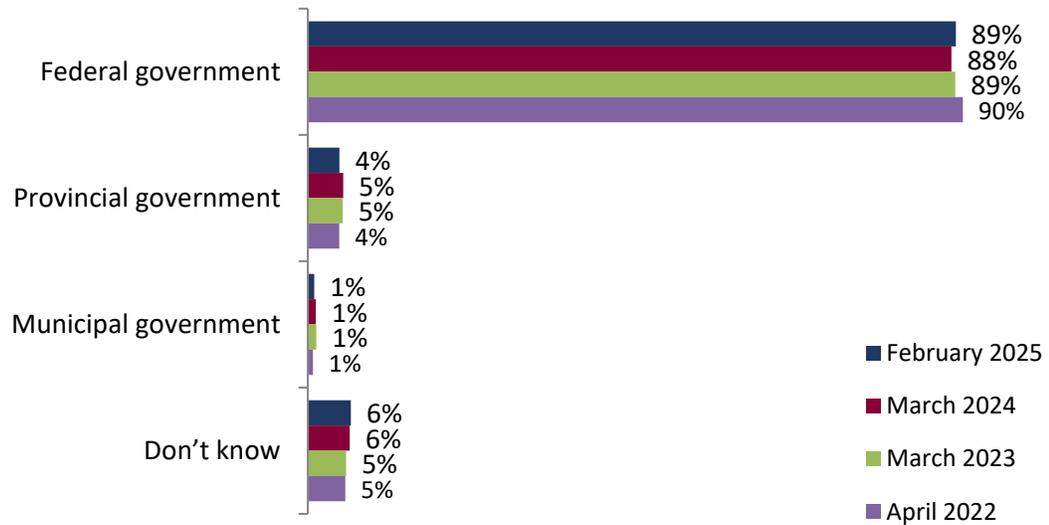
The following subgroups were more or less likely to attribute the responsibility for education to the provincial government:

- Men (84%) were more likely than women (80%).
- Electors 55 years old and over (89%) were more likely, while those aged 18–34 (72%) were less likely.
- Respondents from Quebec (85%) were more likely.
- Respondents from urban or suburban areas (84%) were more likely to attribute the responsibility for education to the provincial government.
- Respondents with some university-level education (86%) were more likely, whereas those with a high school or lower-level education were less likely (73%).
- Non-Indigenous respondents (83%) were more likely than Indigenous respondents (70%).
- Canadians by birth (84%) were more likely than naturalized Canadians (77%).
- Respondents without a disability (83%) were more likely than those with a disability (78%).
- Respondents interested in politics (86%) were more likely than those who are not interested (73%).
- Habitual voters (88%) were more likely than infrequent voters (67%).
- Those who voted in 2021 (87%) were more likely than those who were eligible but did not vote (72%).
- Respondents with no conspiracy beliefs (92%) were more likely, while those who have mixed (81%) or strong conspiracy beliefs (70%) were less likely.
- Respondents who often see news about Canadian politics (85%) were more likely, while those who only often see news about U.S./world politics (67%) and those who rarely see news about politics from any origin were also less likely (66%).

## **Knowledge of federal powers**

In February 2025, a vast majority of electors had knowledge of federal powers: nine in 10 knew the federal government is primarily responsible for defence (89%). Small proportions thought it was the provincial government (4%), the municipal government (1%), or did not know the answer (6%). These results have been stable since first measured in April 2022.

Figure 6: Knowledge of federal powers



Q: To the best of your knowledge, which level of government has primary responsibility for defence?

Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Note: As this question was added in April 2022, no comparison can be made with April 2021.

The following subgroups were more or less likely to attribute the responsibility for defence to the federal government:

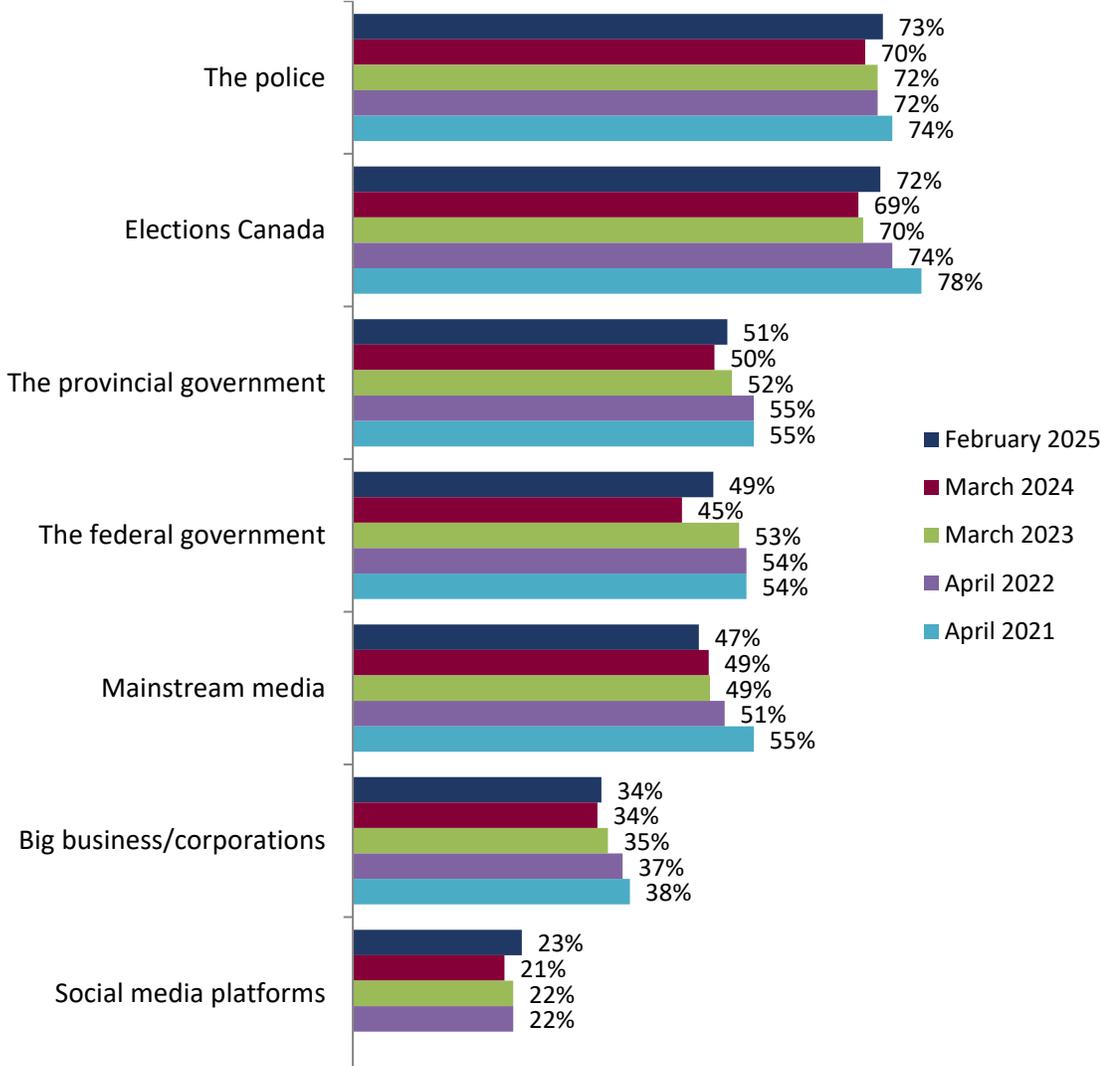
- Men (90%) were more likely than women (87%).
- Electors 55 years old and over (95%) were more likely, while those aged 18–34 (77%) were less likely to do so.
- Respondents living in urban or suburban areas (91%) were more likely to do so than those who lived in rural or small-town areas (86%).
- Non-Indigenous respondents (90%) were more likely compared to Indigenous respondents (80%).
- Respondents with at least some university-level education (92%) were more likely, while those with a high school or lower-level education were less likely (80%).
- Respondents who are interested in politics (93%) were more likely than those who are not interested (80%).
- Habitual voters (94%) were more likely than infrequent voters (74%).
- 2021 voters (94%) were more likely than 2021 non-voters (77%).
- Respondents with no conspiracy beliefs (97%) were more likely, while those who have mixed (85%) or strong conspiracy beliefs (86%) were less likely.
- Respondents who generally trust people (95%) were more likely than those who do not (87%).
- Respondents who often see news about Canadian politics (92%) were more likely, while those who only often see news about U.S./world politics (79%) and those who rarely see news about politics from any origin (71%) were less likely.

# Confidence in institutions in Canada

Respondents were asked to rate their confidence in seven institutions in Canada, presented at random. The largest proportion (73%) of respondents said they have a great deal or fair amount of confidence in the police, with nearly the same proportion (72%) having confidence in Elections Canada, although the difference is not statistically significant. Around half expressed confidence in the provincial government (51%) as well as the federal government (49% versus 45% in March 2024) and the mainstream media (47%). Around a third (34%) had confidence in big businesses and corporations, and a little over one in five (23% versus 21% in March 2024) had confidence in social media platforms.

In February 2025, a slightly higher proportion of respondents expressed confidence in EC than in March 2024 (69%), but remained down compared with the April 2021 baseline, when 78% expressed confidence in EC.

Figure 7: Confidence in Canadian institutions—tracking comparison



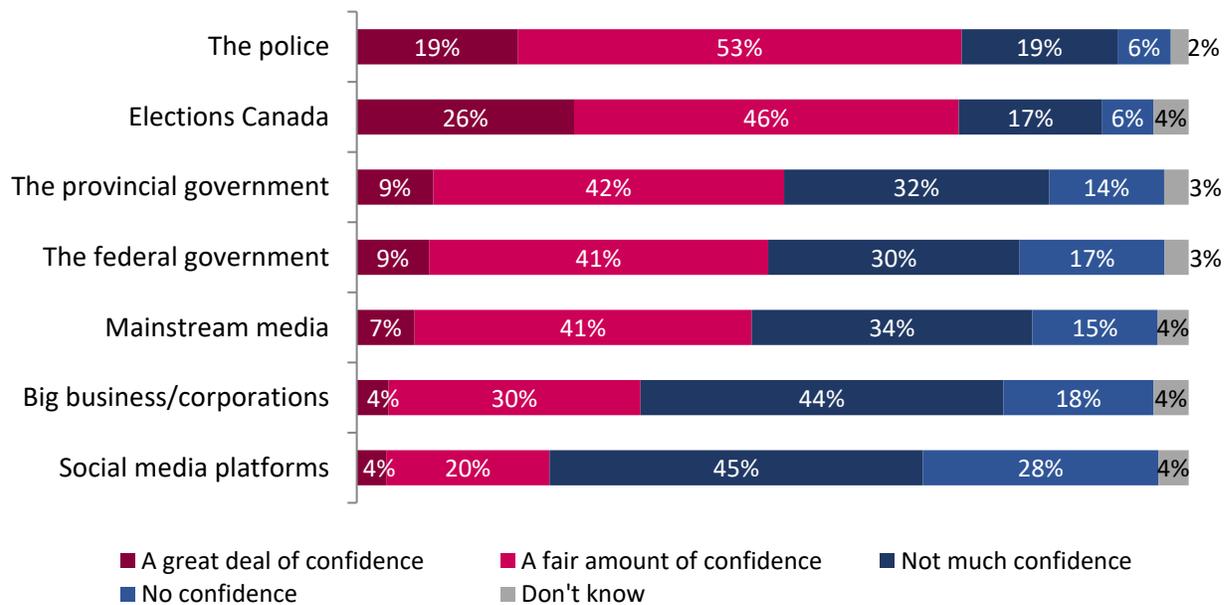
Q: How much confidence, if any, do you have in the following institutions in Canada? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Note 1: For comparison purposes, a Net confidence (A great deal of confidence + A fair amount of confidence) has been calculated.

Note 2: As the “social media platforms” statement was added in April 2022, no comparison can be made to April 2021.

The detailed results show that in February 2025, Elections Canada had the highest proportion (26%) of electors stating that they have a great deal of confidence in the institution, compared to the police (19%), the federal and provincial governments (9% apiece), mainstream media (7%) and big business/corporations and social media platforms (4% apiece). This pattern has been observed across all previous waves of the survey.

Figure 8: Confidence in Canadian institutions—detailed February 2025 results



Q: How much confidence, if any, do you have in the following institutions in Canada? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to have a great deal or fair amount of confidence in EC:<sup>7</sup>

- Electors 55 and older (79%) were more likely to have confidence in EC, while electors aged 18–34 (63%) were less likely.
- Respondents from urban or suburban areas (76%) were more likely to have confidence in EC than those who live in rural or small-town areas (66%).
- Respondents with at least some university education (81%) were more likely to have confidence in EC, while those with some amount of college or trade school education (68%) or a high school or less education were less likely (60%).

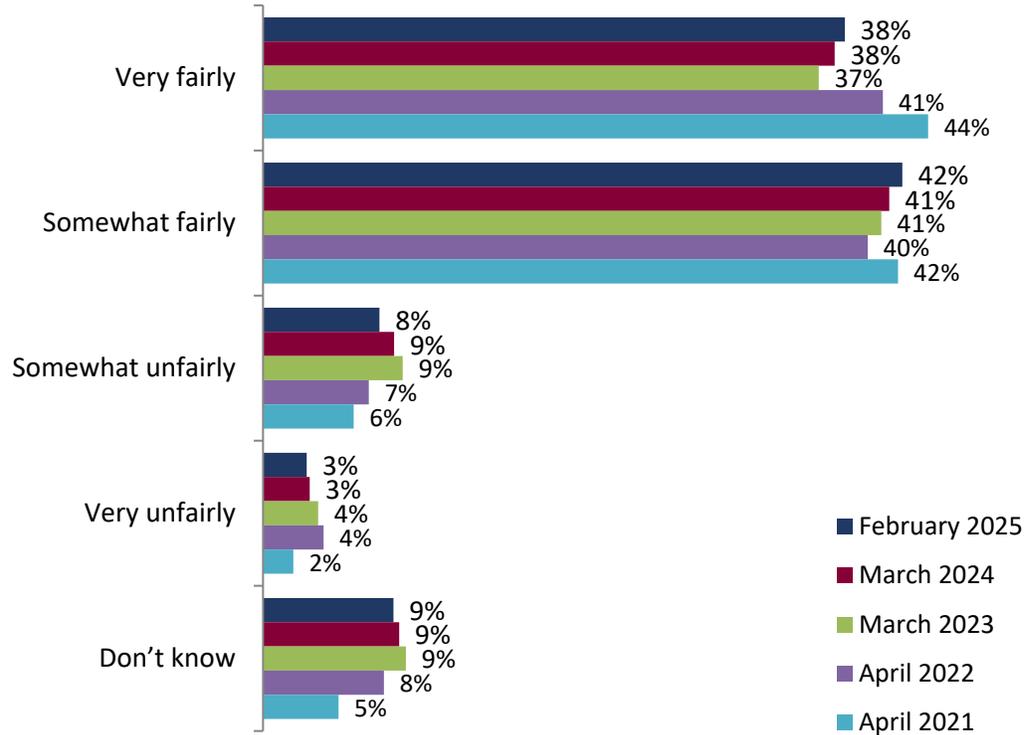
<sup>7</sup> Details of subgroup differences in trust in other institutions are available in the banner tables published with this report.

- Non-Indigenous respondents (73%) were more likely than Indigenous respondents (58%).
- Immigrant respondents (79%) were more likely to have confidence in EC than non-immigrants (72%).
- Respondents without a disability (74%) were more likely than respondents who have a disability (64%).
- Respondents who are interested in politics (80%) were more likely to have confidence in EC than those who are not interested (53%).
- Habitual voters (78%) were more likely to have confidence in EC than infrequent voters (57%).
- 2021 voters (78%) were more likely to have confidence in EC than non-voters (64%).
- Respondents who have knowledge of federal and provincial powers (78%) were more likely to have confidence in EC than those who do not (54%).
- Electors who do not hold conspiracy beliefs (92%) were more likely to have confidence in EC, whereas those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (67%) or strong conspiracy beliefs (54%) were less likely.
- Respondents who tend to trust people (88%) were more likely to have confidence in EC than those who do not (65%).
- People who often see news about Canadian politics (77%) were more likely to have confidence in EC, while those who only often see news about U.S./world politics (53%) and those who rarely see news about politics from any origin were less likely (43%).
- Those who feel strongly (80%) or somewhat (76%) polarized were more likely to have confidence in EC, while those who do not feel polarized were less likely (66%).

## **Opinion on the fairness of federal elections**

Overall, a majority (81%) of electors in February 2025 thought that Elections Canada runs federal elections fairly, with almost half of these (38%) thinking EC runs elections very fairly, and another half (42%) saying somewhat fairly. On the other hand, 11% believed Elections Canada runs elections unfairly (8% somewhat unfairly, 3% very unfairly). These results are stable since March 2024.

Figure 9: Fairness of Elections Canada in running federal elections



Q: Thinking about federal elections in general, how fairly would you say Elections Canada runs the elections? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that Elections Canada runs federal elections fairly in general:

- Men (83%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly than women (79%).
- Electors 55 and older (87%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly, whereas electors aged 18–34 (72%) were less likely.
- Respondents living in urban or suburban areas (84%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly than those living in rural or small-town areas (76%).
- Respondents with at least some university education (87%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly, while those with a high school or less education (70%) were less likely.
- Non-Indigenous respondents were more likely (82%) than Indigenous respondents (69%).
- Immigrant respondents (87%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly than non-immigrants (81%)
- Respondents who are interested in politics (87%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly than those who are not interested (65%).
- Habitual voters (86%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly than infrequent voters (67%).
- 2021 voters (86%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly than non-voters (70%).

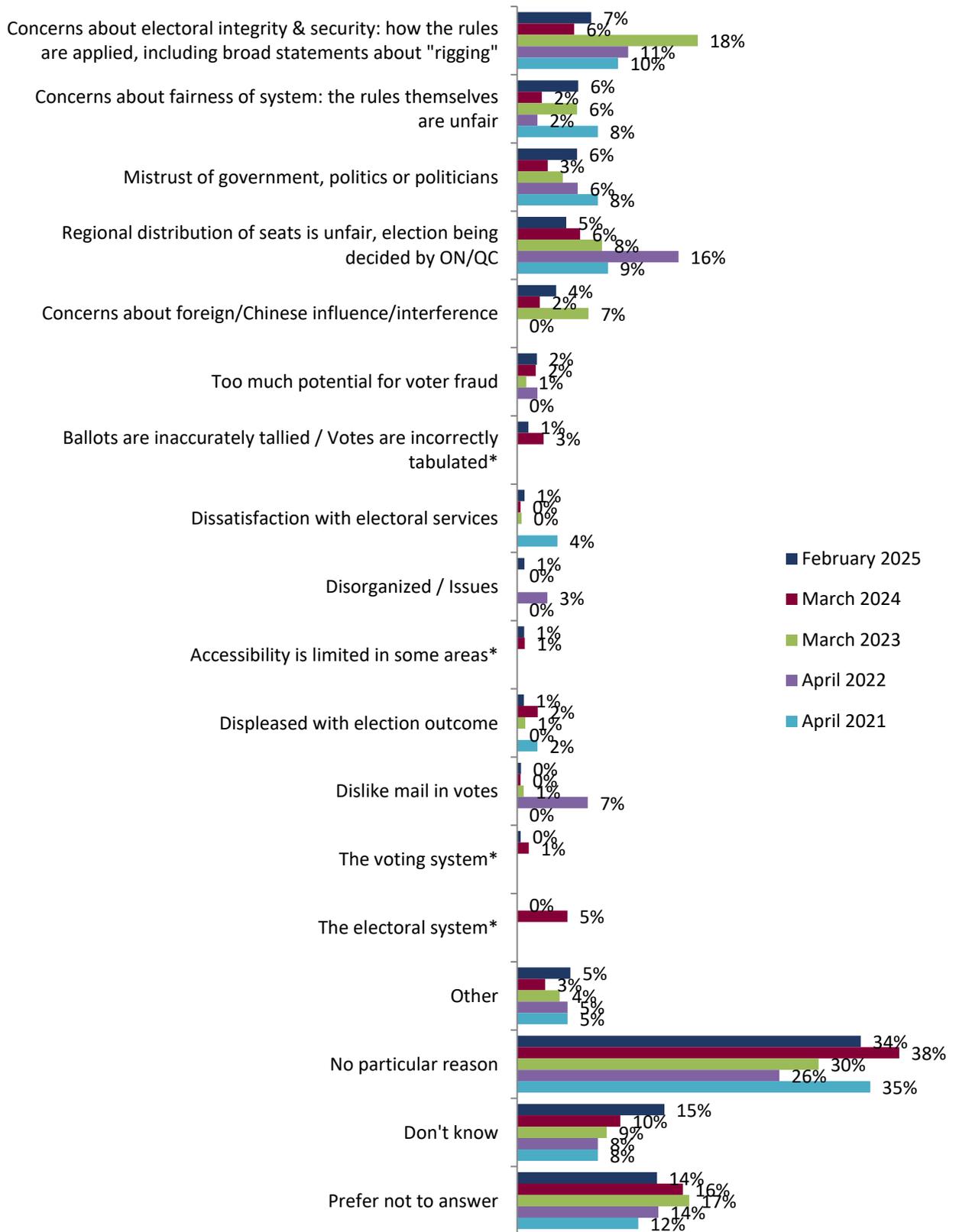
- Respondents who know federal and provincial powers (85%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly than those who do not (65%).
- Electors who do not hold conspiracy beliefs (94%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly, while those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (77%) and those with strong conspiracy beliefs (69%) were less likely.
- Those who are generally trusting of people (92%) were more likely to say that EC runs elections fairly than those who are not (76%).
- Respondents who often see news about Canadian politics (85%) were more likely to think EC runs elections fairly, while those who only often see news about U.S./world politics (68%) and those who rarely see news about politics from any origin were less likely (54%).
- Respondents who feel somewhat polarized politically (85%) were more likely to think EC runs elections fairly, while those who do not feel polarized were less likely (76%).

## **Reasons for thinking Elections Canada runs elections unfairly**

Among the 11% of respondents in February 2025 who thought that Elections Canada runs elections unfairly, more than a third (37%) provided a reason for this opinion. The other two-thirds (63%) did not have any particular reason (34%), did not know (15%) or preferred not to answer (14%).

The most common specific reasons for thinking Elections Canada runs elections unfairly were concerns about electoral integrity and security or thinking elections are “rigged” (7%), concerns about the fairness of the system (6%, up from 2% in March 2024), a general mistrust of government and politicians (6%), the regional distribution of seats being unfair or allowing elections to be decided by Ontario and Quebec (5%), and concerns regarding foreign/Chinese influence or interference (4%). Other reasons were mentioned to a lesser extent.

Figure 10: Reasons for thinking that elections are not conducted fairly by Elections Canada



Q: Is there a specific reason you think Elections Canada runs elections unfairly? SPONTANEOUS MENTIONS\*\*

Base: respondents who said Elections Canada runs the election somewhat unfairly or very unfairly (n=254).

\*New mentions added in 2024.

\*\* Because respondents were able to give multiple answers, total mentions may exceed 100%.

Notable subgroup differences regarding respondents' main reasons to think that Elections Canada runs elections unfairly include the following:

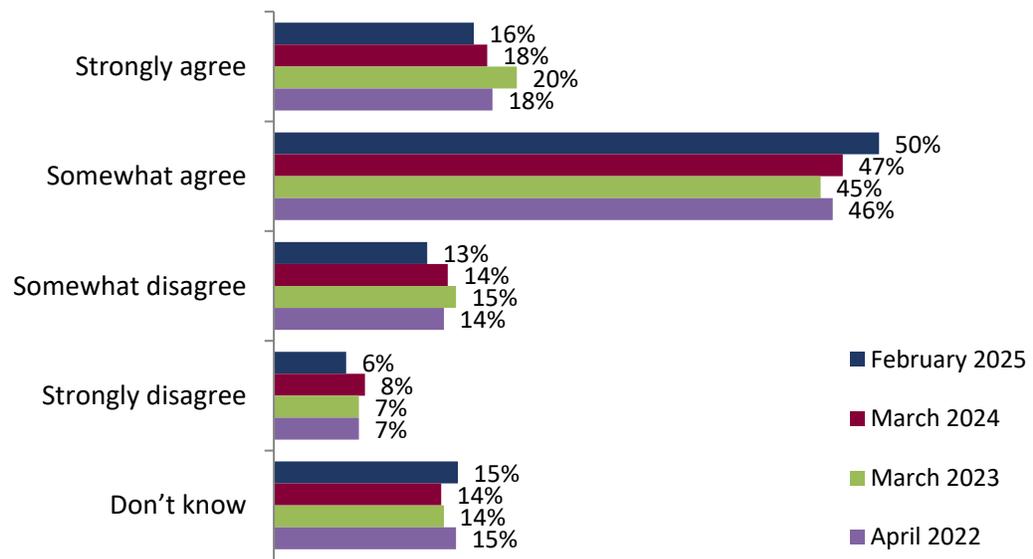
- No particular reason was more likely to be mentioned by women (45%) than by men (23%). Respondents aged 35–54 (43% versus 23% among those aged 55 and older), those who do not know federal and provincial powers (43% versus 29% among those who do), and respondents who are generally distrustful of people (38%) were also more likely to mention no particular reason.
- Mentions of concerns about electoral integrity and security regarding the application of rules, including broad mentions of rigging, were more frequently made by respondents aged 18–34 (13% versus 3% among those aged 35–54), electors from British Columbia (20%), and respondents who hold strong conspiracy beliefs (13%).
- Concerns about the fairness of the system and the rules themselves being unfair were more likely to be mentioned by respondents from urban and suburban areas (8%), as well as those interested in politics (9% versus 2% among those not interested).
- Mistrust of government, politics and politicians was more likely to be mentioned by respondents who know provincial and federal powers (8% versus 2% among those who do not know the powers).
- The regional distribution of seats being unfair and elections being decided by Ontario/Quebec were more likely to be mentioned by habitual voters (7% versus 1% among infrequent voters) and by those who often see news about Canadian politics (6% versus 0% for those who only often see news about U.S./world politics).
- Concerns about foreign influence and interference were more frequently mentioned by men (7% versus 1% among women), by respondents aged 55 and older (11%), by those who know provincial and federal powers (6% versus 1% among those who do not) and by people who often see news about Canadian politics (6% versus 0% among those who don't).

## Trust in election changes

A split-sample experiment was conducted to explore whether electors have general trust in the government to propose changes to how federal elections are run and if they specifically trust Elections Canada to propose changes.

In one half of the split sample, two-thirds (66%) of respondents agreed that if the government proposes changes to how federal elections are run, they are probably trying to make voting easier or fairer for all Canadians: 16% strongly agreed, and 50% somewhat agreed. Conversely, one-fifth (19% versus 22% in March 2024) of respondents disagreed: 13% somewhat disagreed and 6% strongly disagreed; 15% said they did not know. Overall, results for both versions of the statement remain stable since March 2024.

Figure 11: Trust in election changes—government



Q: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

If the government proposes changes to how federal elections are run, they are probably trying to make voting easier or fairer for all Canadians.

Base: half of the respondents (n=1,252).

Note: Question added in April 2022.

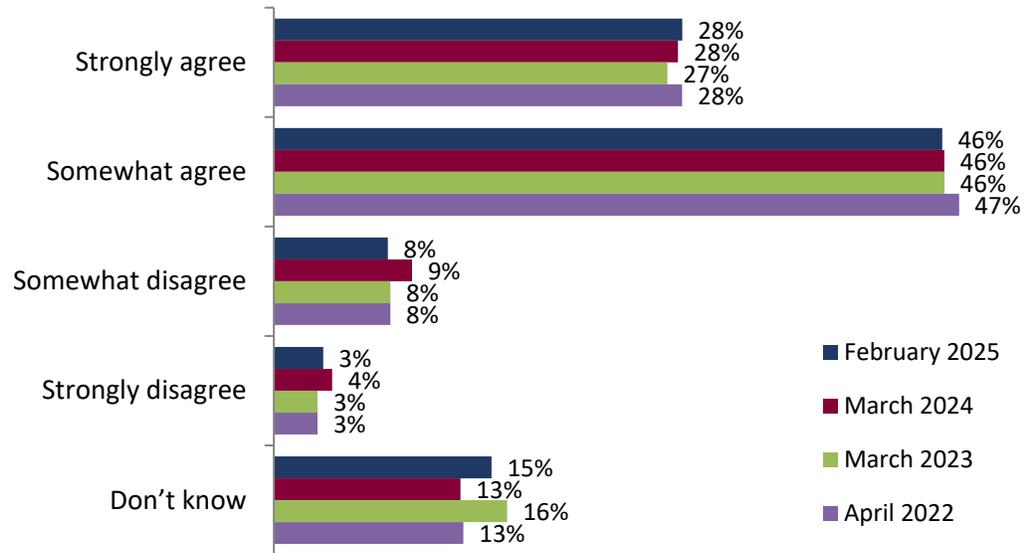
The following subgroups were more or less likely to agree that the government proposes changes to how federal elections are run in order to make voting easier or fairer for all Canadians:

- Electors from urban or suburban areas (69%) were more likely to agree, while those from rural or small-town areas (62%) were less likely to agree.
- Respondents with at least some university education (70%) were more likely to agree.
- Respondents without a disability were more likely to agree (68% versus 56% among those with a disability).
- Naturalized Canadians were more likely to agree (77% versus 65% among Canadian-born respondents).
- Respondents interested in politics (70%) were more likely to agree than those who are not (56%).
- Respondents who hold no conspiracy beliefs (77%) were more likely to agree, whereas those who hold mixed conspiracy beliefs (62%) were less likely.
- Respondents who are generally trusting of people (75%) were more likely to agree than those who are not (63%).
- Respondents who often see news about Canadian politics were more likely to agree (69%), while those who rarely see news about politics from any origin were less likely (56%).
- Respondents who feel somewhat polarized in how they relate to other Canadians politically were more likely to agree (72%), while those who do not feel polarized were less likely (61%).

In the other half of the split sample, a higher proportion (74%) of respondents agreed that if Elections Canada proposes changes to how federal elections are run, they are probably trying to make voting easier or fairer for all Canadians: 28% strongly agreed and 46% somewhat agreed. Conversely, 8%

somewhat disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed, while 15% said they did not know. Results have remained stable since they were first measured in April 2022.

Figure 12: Trust in election changes—Elections Canada



Q: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

If Elections Canada proposes changes to how federal elections are run, they are probably trying to make voting easier or fairer for all Canadians.

Base: half of the respondents (n=1,252).

Note: question added in April 2022.

The following subgroups were more or less likely to agree that Elections Canada proposes changes to how federal elections are run in order to make voting easier or fairer for all Canadians:

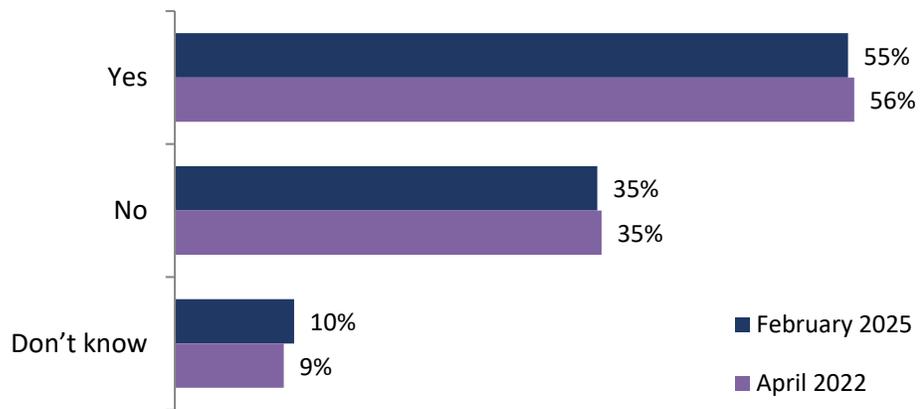
- Electors 55 and older (79%) were more likely to agree, whereas electors aged 35–54 (70%) were less likely.
- Electors from urban or suburban areas were more likely to agree (77%).
- Respondents with a university degree or higher were more likely to agree (82%), while those with some high school or less education (61%) were less likely.
- Naturalized Canadians were more likely to agree (80%).
- Non-Indigenous respondents were more likely to agree (75%) than Indigenous respondents (49%).
- Respondents who are interested in politics (79%) were more likely to agree than those who are not (61%).
- Habitual voters were more likely to agree (77%) than infrequent voters (65%).
- 2021 voters (78%) were more likely to agree.
- Respondents who know provincial and federal powers were more likely to agree (76%) than those who do not (66%).
- Respondents who hold no conspiracy beliefs (87%) were more likely to agree, whereas those who hold mixed conspiracy beliefs (68%) or strong conspiracy beliefs (67%) were less likely.

- Respondents who are generally trusting of people (84%) were more likely to agree than those who are not (71%).
- Respondents who often see news about Canadian politics (77%) were more likely to agree, while those who rarely see news about politics from any origin were less likely (48%).
- Respondents who feel strongly or somewhat polarized politically (80% respectively) were more likely to agree, while those who do not feel polarized were less likely (66%).

## Electronic voter information card

When there is a federal election, Elections Canada mails every registered elector a voter information card (VIC) telling them where and when to vote. A majority (55%) of electors in February 2025 said that if they had the option, they would choose to receive their voter information card electronically instead of in the mail, while around a third (35%) prefer to get it in the mail and one in 10 (10%) did not know. Overall, the results have remained stable since this question was last measured in April 2022.

Figure 13: Preference for an electronic voter information card



Q: When there is a federal election, Elections Canada mails every registered elector a voter information card telling them where and when to vote. But you may be used to receiving documents such as bank statements electronically by email or through a website.

If you had the option, would you choose to receive your voter information card electronically, instead of getting it in the mail? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to choose to receive their voter information card electronically instead of getting it in the mail:

- Women were more likely to choose an electronic VIC (57%).
- Respondents in urban or suburban areas (59%) were more likely to choose an electronic VIC than those who live in rural or small-town areas (49%).
- Respondents aged 18–34 (62%) were more likely to choose an electronic VIC, while those over 55 years old (49%) were less likely.
- Respondents with at least some university education (61%) were more likely to choose an electronic VIC, while those with a high school education or less (44%) were less likely.

- Naturalized Canadians (65%) were more likely to choose an electronic VIC than those who were Canadian by birth (54%).
- Respondents who are interested in politics (57%) were more likely to choose an electronic VIC than those who are not (52%).
- 2021 non-voters (62%) were more likely than 2021 voters (54%).
- Respondents who do not hold any conspiracy beliefs (63%) were more likely to choose an electronic VIC, while those who hold mixed conspiracy beliefs (50%) were less likely to do so.

## **Electoral interference**

Respondents were asked if they thought different types of electoral interference could have any impact on the outcome of the next federal election in Canada.

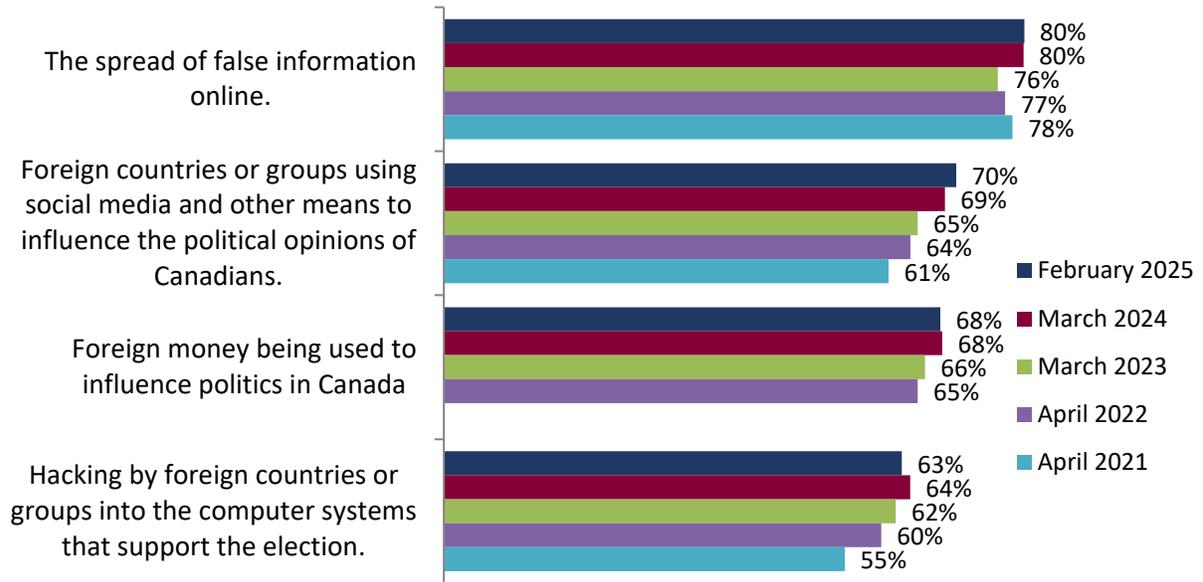
The largest proportion (80%) of electors in February 2025 thought that the spread of false information online could have a moderate or major impact on the outcome of the next federal elections (48% a major impact, versus 45% in March 2024).

The second-largest proportion (70%) thought that foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians could have an impact (34% a major impact, versus 30% in March 2024), closely followed by 68% who believed that foreign money being used to influence Canadian politics could have an impact (33% a major impact, versus 30% in March 2024).

Finally, six in 10 (63%) electors thought that hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election could have an impact on the election (33% a major impact).

Overall, results remain stable since March 2024. That said, aside from concerns about the spread of false information, concerns about other types of electoral interference have generally increased since April 2021.

Figure 14: Perceived impact of interference on the outcome of the next federal election - Tracking

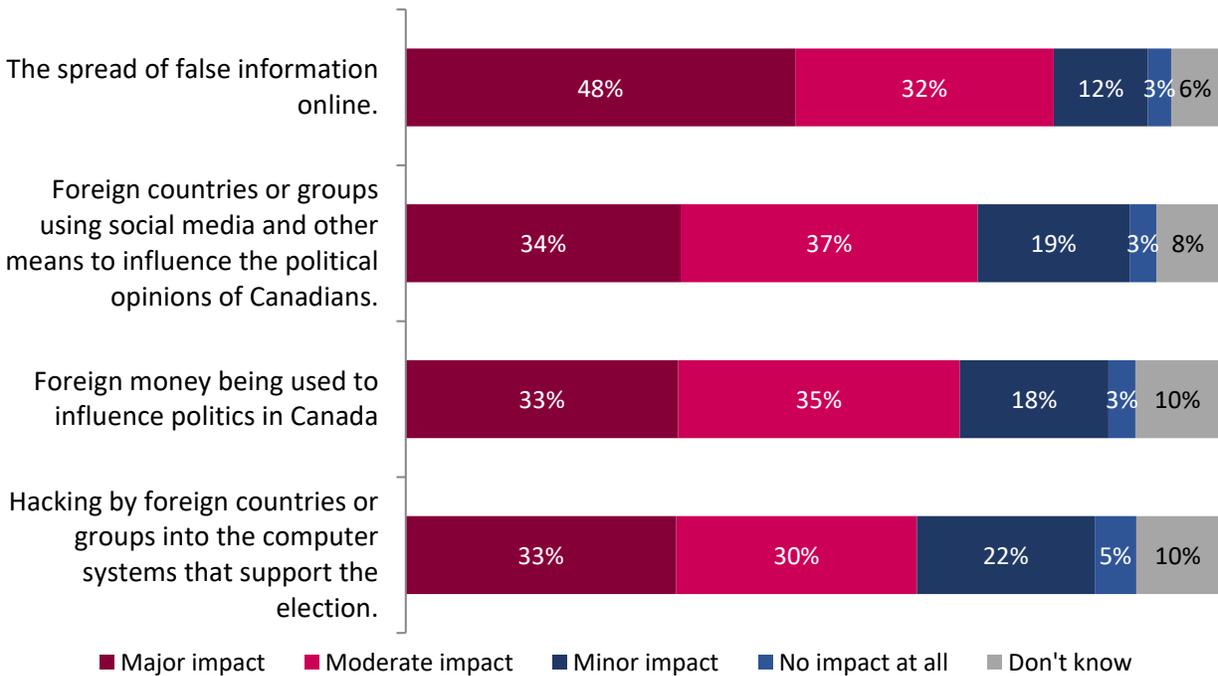


Q: Based on what you have seen or heard recently, what impact, if any, do you think the following could have on the outcome of the next federal election in Canada? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Note 1: For comparison purposes, a Net Impact (Major + Moderate Impact) has been calculated.

Note 2: The statement “Foreign money being used to influence politics in Canada” was added in wave 2 (April 2022).

Figure 15: Perceived impact of interference on the outcome of the next federal election—February 2025 results



Q: Based on what you have seen or heard recently, what impact, if any, do you think the following could have on the outcome of the next federal election in Canada? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that “the spread of false information online” could have a moderate or major impact on the outcome of the next federal election:

- Electors from urban or suburban areas (83%) were more likely to think that “the spread of false information online” could have a moderate or major impact on the outcome of the next federal election, compared to respondents from rural or small-town areas (75%).
- Electors from B.C. were less likely (75%) to be concerned than those from the rest of Canada.
- Electors with a university degree or higher (83%) were more likely to be concerned, while those with a high school degree or less were less likely (73%).
- Respondents who are interested in politics (83%) were more likely than those who are not (72%).
- Habitual voters (83%) were more likely than infrequent voters (70%).
- Those who voted in the 2021 GE were more likely (82%).
- Electors who know federal and provincial powers (83%) were more likely than those who do not (68%).
- Electors with no conspiracy beliefs (85%) were more likely, while those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (76%) were less likely.
- Respondents who are generally trusting of people (84%) were more likely.
- People who often see news about Canadian politics (82%) were more likely, while those who rarely see news about politics from any origin were less likely to think so (62%).

- Respondents who feel somewhat (83%) or strongly (91%) polarized politically were more likely, while those who do not feel polarized were less likely (73%).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that “foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians” could have a moderate or major impact on the outcome of the next federal election:

- Electors from urban or suburban areas (73%) were more likely to think that foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence Canadians’ political opinions could have an impact, whereas electors from rural or small-town areas (66%) were less likely to think so.
- Electors with a university degree or higher (73%) were more likely, while those with a high school education or less (63%) were less likely.
- Respondents interested in politics (75%) were more likely to think that foreign influence efforts via social media and other means could have an impact than those who are not interested (57%).
- Habitual voters (73%) were more likely to think that foreign influence efforts via social media and other means could have an impact than infrequent voters (63%).
- Those who voted in the 2021 GE (73%) were more likely.
- Respondents who have knowledge of provincial and federal powers (73%) were more likely to think that foreign influence efforts could have an impact than those who do not (62%).
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (78%) were more likely to think that foreign influence efforts could have an impact, whereas those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (67%) were less likely to think so.
- People who often see news about Canadian politics were more likely to think that foreign influence efforts could have an impact (74%), while those who rarely see news about politics from any origin were less likely to think so (45%).
- Respondents who feel somewhat (74%) or strongly (81%) polarized politically were more likely to think foreign influence efforts could have an impact, while those who do not feel polarized were less likely (63%).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that “foreign money being used to influence politics in Canada” could have a moderate or major impact on the outcome of the next federal election:

- Electors with a university degree or higher (71%) were more likely, while those with a high school degree or less (60%) were less likely.
- Electors aged 18–34 were less likely (62%).
- Respondents who are interested in politics (73%) were more likely to think that foreign money could have an impact, while those who are not interested were less likely (56%).
- Habitual voters (71%) were more likely to think that foreign money could have an impact than infrequent voters (59%).
- 2021 voters (71%) were more likely, while non-voters were less likely (64%).
- Respondents who know provincial and federal powers (71%) were more likely to think that foreign money could have an impact than those who do not (56%).

- Respondents who hold strong conspiracy beliefs (81%) were more likely to think that foreign money could have an impact, whereas those with or mixed conspiracy beliefs (66%) or no conspiracy beliefs (65%) were less likely to think so.
- Respondents who are generally distrustful of people (71%) were more likely.
- People who often see news about Canadian politics (71%) were more likely to think that foreign money could have an impact, while those who rarely see news about politics from any origin (49%) were less likely.
- Respondents who feel strongly or somewhat polarized politically (73% apiece) were more likely, while those who do not feel polarized (62%) were less likely.

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that “hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election” could have a moderate or major impact on the outcome of the next federal election:

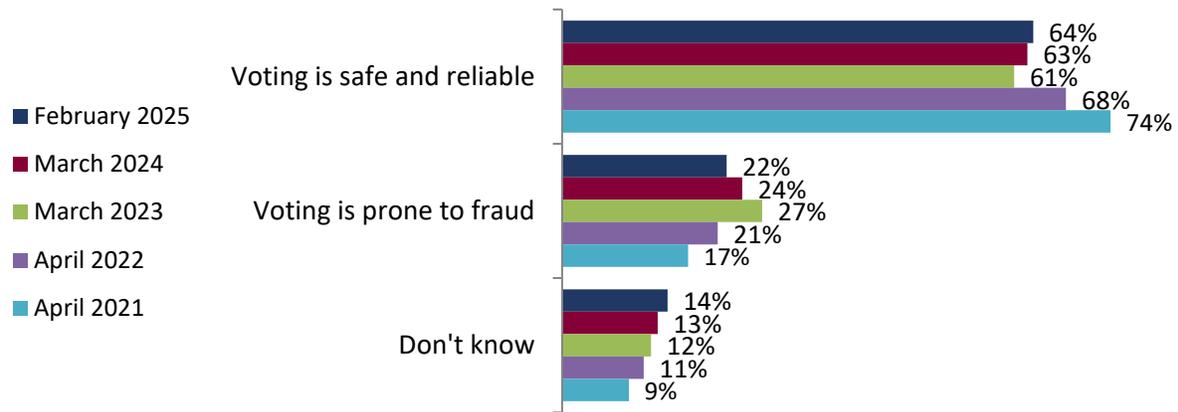
- Electors over 55 years old (66%) were more likely to think that hacking into election systems could have an impact on the outcome of the next election, while those aged 18–34 (59%) were less likely to think so.
- Quebec electors (69%) were more likely than those in other regions to believe that hacking could have an impact, while electors from British Columbia (56%) were less likely to think so.
- Respondents who are interested in politics (65%) were more likely to think that hacking could have an impact than those who are not (57%).
- Habitual voters (65%) were more likely to believe that hacking could have an impact than infrequent voters (57%).
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (80%) were more likely to think that hacking could have an impact, while those who do not hold conspiracy beliefs (53%) were less likely to think so.
- Respondents who are generally distrustful of people (67%) were more likely to think so.
- People who often see news about Canadian politics (65%) were more likely to think that hacking could have an impact, while those who rarely see news about politics from any origin (46%) were less likely to think so.
- Respondents who feel somewhat (66%) or strongly (68%) polarized politically were more likely to think hacking could have an impact, while those who do not feel polarized (58%) were less likely.

## **Opinions on the integrity of the voting system in Canada**

In February 2025, around six out of 10 respondents (64%) from a split sample of electors thought that the voting system in Canada is safe and reliable, fewer than one in four thought it is prone to fraud (22%), and more than one in 10 did not know (14%).

The proportion of respondents who thought that the voting system in Canada is safe and reliable remains similar to March 2024 (63%), but down from the 74% baseline measured in April 2021.

Figure 16: Opinion regarding the voting system in Canada



Q: Which statement is closest to your opinion about the voting system in Canada? Base: half of the respondents (n=1,252).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to believe that the voting system in Canada is safe and reliable:

- Men (67%) were more likely to think that the voting system is safe and reliable.
- Electors over 55 years old (70%) were more likely to think that the voting system is safe and reliable, while those aged 18–34 (56%) were less likely to think so.
- Respondents who live in urban or suburban areas (67%) were more likely to think the voting system is safe and reliable, while those who live in rural or small-town areas (57%) were less likely.
- Respondents with at least some university education (70%) were more likely to think the voting system is safe and reliable, while respondents with some amount of college or trade school (58%) and high school or less education (56%) were less likely.
- Immigrant respondents were more likely to think that the voting system is safe and reliable (70%) than non-immigrants (62%).
- Respondents who are interested in politics (67%) were more likely to think the voting system is safe and reliable than those who are not interested (54%).
- Habitual voters (68%) were more likely to think the voting system is safe and reliable than infrequent voters (50%).
- Those who voted in the 2021 election (68%) were more likely to think the voting system is safe and reliable than those who did not vote in 2021 (52%).
- Respondents who have knowledge of federal and provincial powers (68%) were more likely than those who do not (47%).
- Electors who do not hold conspiracy beliefs (86%) were more likely to think the voting system is safe and reliable, while those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (58%) and those with strong conspiracy beliefs (41%) were less likely.
- Electors who tend to be trusting toward people (78%) were more likely to think the voting system is safe and reliable, while those who are distrustful (56%) were less likely.

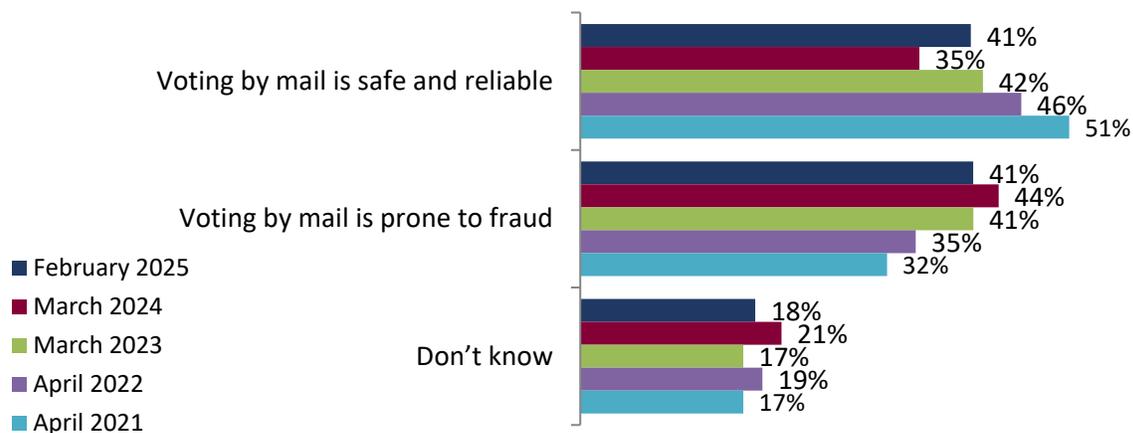
- Respondents who often see news about Canadian politics (67%) were more likely to think voting is safe and reliable, while those who rarely see news about politics from any origin (42%) were less likely.
- Respondents who do not feel polarized politically were less likely (60%).

## Opinions on the integrity of voting by mail in Canada

In February 2025, four in 10 (41%) from a split sample of respondents thought voting by mail is safe and reliable, and a similar proportion thought it is prone to fraud (41%). One in five (18%) did not know.

A significantly higher proportion of respondents agreed with the statement “Voting by mail is safe and reliable” in February 2025 (41%) compared to March 2024 (35%), which represents a positive shift from the negative trend observed across previous survey waves since April 2021. That said, the proportion of respondents who thought that voting by mail is safe and reliable remains lower than the level measured in April 2021 (51%).

Figure 17: Opinion regarding voting by mail



Q: Which statement is closest to your opinion about voting by mail in Canada? Base: half of the respondents (n=1,252).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to believe that voting by mail is safe and reliable:

- Men (44%) were more likely to believe that voting by mail is safe and reliable than women (37%).
- Respondents from British Columbia (51%) and Ontario (46%) were more likely to think voting by mail is safe and reliable, while respondents from Quebec (27%) were less likely.
- Electors living in urban or suburban areas were more likely to think voting by mail is safe and reliable (44%), while those in rural or small-town areas (35%) were less likely.
- Respondents with a university education (47%) were more likely to believe that voting by mail is safe and reliable, while respondents with high school or less education were less likely (30%).
- Non-Indigenous respondents (42%) were more likely to believe that voting by mail is safe and reliable than Indigenous respondents (19%).

- Respondents who are interested in politics (47%) were more likely to believe that voting by mail is safe and reliable, while those who are not interested (26%) were less likely.
- Habitual voters (43%) were more likely to think that voting by mail is safe and reliable than infrequent voters (35%).
- Those who voted in the 2021 election (44%) were more likely to think that voting by mail is safe and reliable.
- Respondents who have knowledge of federal and provincial powers (43%) were more likely than those who do not (31%).
- Electors who do not hold conspiracy beliefs (59%) were more likely to believe that voting by mail is safe and reliable, while those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (33%) and those with strong conspiracy beliefs (30%) were less likely.
- Respondents who are generally trusting of people (52%) were more likely to believe that voting by mail is safe and reliable than those who are distrustful (35%).
- Respondents who often see news about Canadian politics (42%) and respondents who only often see news about U.S./world politics (56%) were more likely to think voting by mail is safe and reliable, while those who rarely see news about politics from any origin (27%) were less likely.
- Respondents who feel somewhat (46%) and strongly (48%) polarized politically were more likely to consider that voting by mail is safe and reliable, while those who do not feel polarized (34%) were less likely.

## **Types of voter fraud**

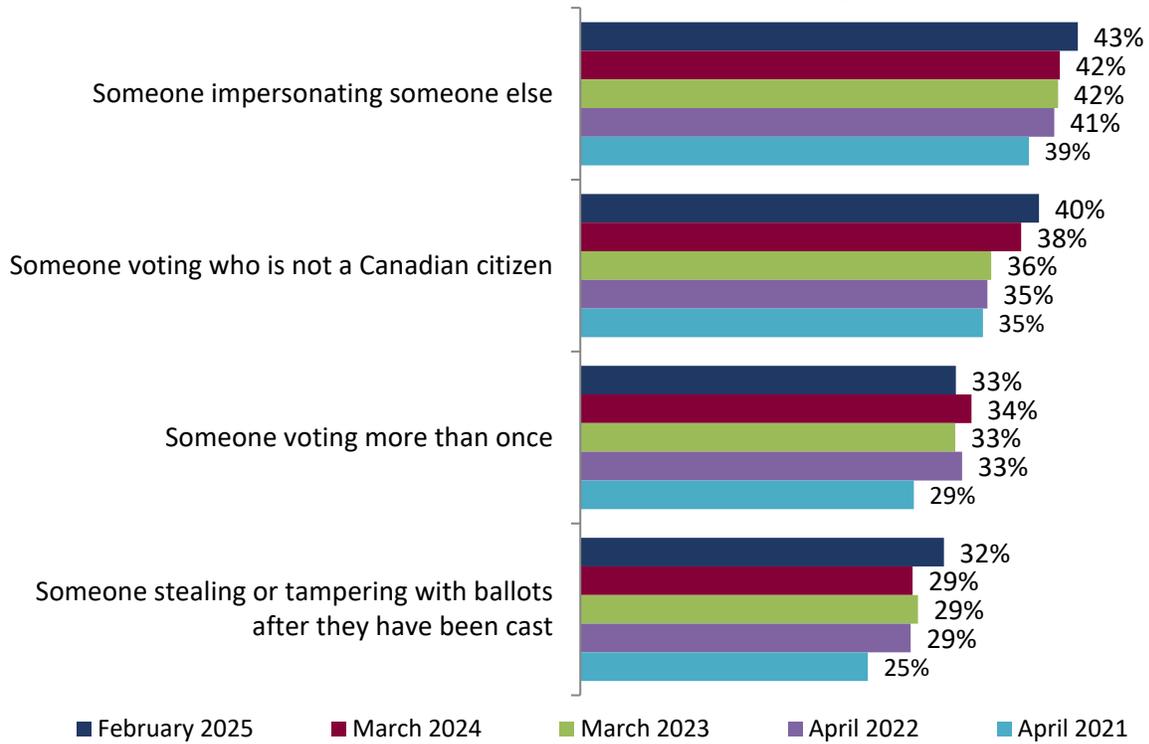
Electors were asked how often they think different types of voter fraud happen in Canadian federal elections.

Similar to March 2024, two in five (43%) electors in February 2025 think that someone impersonating someone else is a type of voter fraud that happens in Canadian federal elections, with one in 10 (11%) thinking it happens often, and one in three (32%) thinking it happens sometimes.

Two in five (40%) think that someone voting who is not a Canadian citizen happens often (11%) or sometimes (29%), a third (33%) think that someone voting more than once happens often (8%) or sometimes (25%), and a third again (32%) think that someone stealing or tampering with ballots after they have been cast happens often (9%) or sometimes (23%).

The proportions who think that various types of voter fraud happen often or sometimes remain stable compared with the previous wave, except for the 32% who think stealing or tampering with cast ballots happens often or sometimes, which increased from 29% in March 2024. However, the proportions for each type of voter fraud were significantly higher in February 2025 compared with April 2021 when they were first measured.

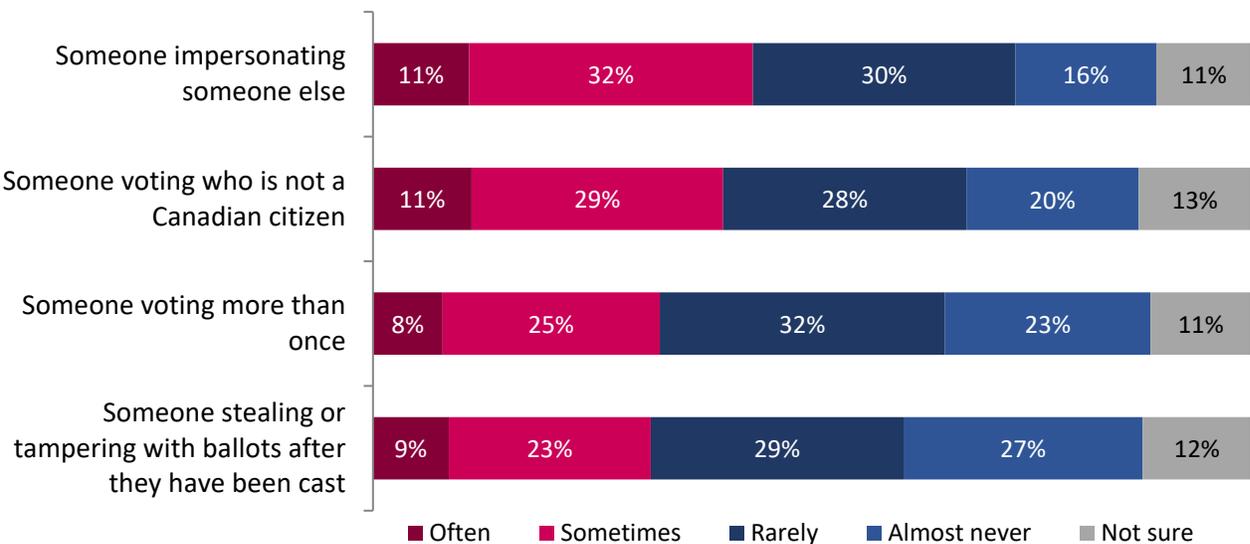
Figure 18: Perception of the frequency of certain types of fraud—tracking



Q: Overall, how often do you think the following types of voter fraud happen in Canadian federal elections? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Note: For analysis purposes, a Total Frequent (Often + Sometimes) has been calculated.

Figure 19: Perception of the frequency of certain types of fraud—detailed February 2025 results



Q: Overall, how often do you think the following types of voter fraud happen in Canadian federal elections? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that “someone impersonating someone else” is a kind of fraud that happens often or sometimes in Canadian federal elections:

- Electors aged 18–34 (47%) were more likely to think impersonation happens, while electors 55 and older (39%) were less likely.
- Electors living in Quebec (48%) were more likely to think impersonation happens.
- Respondents with some amount of college or trade school education (48%) were more likely to think impersonation happens, while those with at least some university education (40%) were less likely to think so.
- Infrequent voters (49%) were more likely, while habitual voters (41%) were less likely.
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (68%) were more likely to think impersonation happens, while those who do not hold conspiracy beliefs (28%) were less likely.
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (50%) were more likely to think impersonation happens than those who tend to be trusting (37%).
- Respondents who feel strongly polarized politically (48%) were more likely to think impersonation happens, while those who do not feel polarized (40%) were less likely.

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that “someone voting who is not a Canadian citizen” is a kind of fraud that happens often or sometimes in Canadian federal elections:

- Respondents living in rural or small-town areas (43%) were more likely to think someone voting who is not a Canadian citizen is a kind of fraud that happens often or sometimes.
- Respondents with some amount of college or trade school education (45%) were more likely to think non-citizen voting happens, while those with some university education (36%) were less likely.
- Infrequent voters (46%) were more likely to think non-citizen voting happens than habitual voters (38%).
- Those who did not vote in the 2021 election (46%) were more likely to think non-citizen voting happens.
- Respondents who have no knowledge of federal and provincial powers (44%) were more likely, while those who do (39%) were less likely.
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (72%) were more likely to think non-citizen voting happens, while those who do not hold conspiracy beliefs (23%) were less likely.
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (45%) were more likely to think non-citizen voting happens than those who tend to be trusting (34%).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that “someone voting more than once” is a kind of fraud that happens often or sometimes in Canadian federal elections:

- Electors aged 18–34 (37%) were more likely to think multiple voting happens, while electors 55 and older were less likely (29%).

- Respondents in rural or small towns (36%) were more likely to think multiple voting happens than those in urban or suburban areas (31%).
- Respondents with some amount of college or trade school education (37%) were more likely to think multiple voting happens, while those with at least some university education (29%) were less likely.
- Infrequent voters (39%) were more likely to think multiple voting happens than habitual voters (30%).
- 2021 non-voters (40%) were more likely to think multiple voting happens than 2021 voters (31%).
- Respondents who do not have knowledge of federal and provincial powers (38%) were more likely to think multiple voting happens than those who do (31%).
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (65%) were more likely to think multiple voting happens, while those who do not hold conspiracy beliefs (16%) were less likely.
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (38%) were more likely to think multiple voting happens than those who tend to be trusting (26%).
- Respondents who see news about Canadian politics (33%) were more likely to agree.
- Respondents who strongly feel strongly polarized politically (39%) were more likely to think multiple voting happens, while those who are not polarized (30%) were less likely.

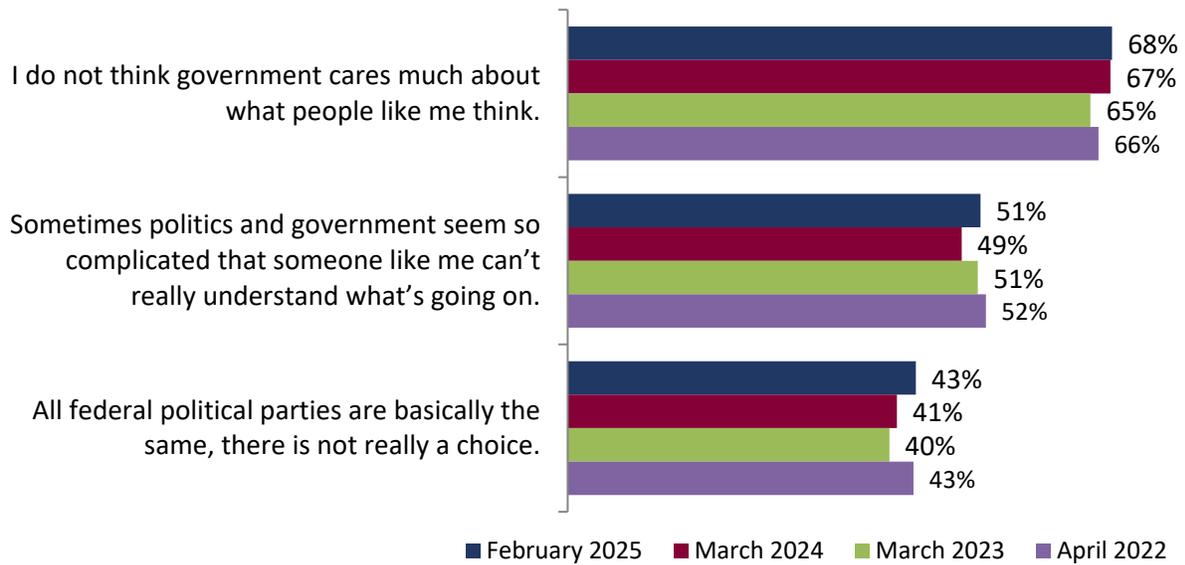
The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that “someone stealing or tampering with ballots after they have been cast” is a kind of fraud that happens often or sometimes in Canadian federal elections:

- Electors aged 18–34 (46%) were more likely to think ballot tampering happens, while electors 55 and older were less likely (21%).
- Respondents with some amount of college or trade school education (36%) were more likely to think ballot tampering happens, while those with some university education (27%) were less likely.
- Indigenous electors (46%) were more likely to think ballot tampering happens, while non-Indigenous electors (31%) were less likely.
- Infrequent voters (44%) were more likely to think ballot tampering happens than habitual voters (27%).
- 2021 non-voters (46%) were more likely to think ballot tampering happens than 2021 voters (27%).
- Respondents who do not have knowledge of provincial and federal powers (45%) were more likely to think ballot tampering happens than those who do (28%).
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (66%) were more likely to think ballot tampering happens, while those who do not hold conspiracy beliefs (13%) were less likely.
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (39%) were more likely to think ballot tampering happens than those who tend to be trusting (22%).
- Respondents who feel strongly polarized politically (36%) were more likely to think ballot tampering happens, while those who do not feel polarized (28%) were less likely.

## Political efficacy

In February 2025, two-thirds of electors (68%) said they do not think the government cares much what people like them think: 26% strongly agreed and 41% somewhat agreed. Half of Canadian electors (51%) agreed either strongly (12%) or somewhat (40%) that sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that someone like them can't understand it. Lastly, four in 10 (43%) agreed that all federal political parties are basically the same and do not really offer a choice, including 11% who strongly agreed and 32% who somewhat agreed.

Figure 20: Perceived political efficacy—tracking

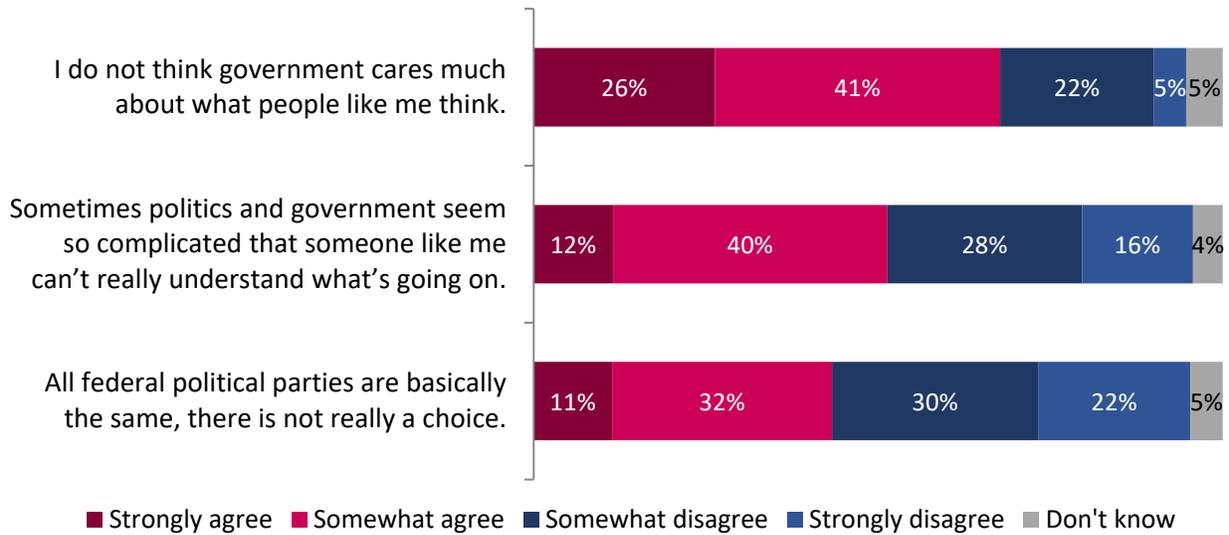


Q: Thinking about government and politics in Canada, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Note: For analysis purposes, a Total Agree (Strongly + Somewhat agree) has been calculated.

Note: question added in April 2022.

Figure 21: Perceived political efficacy—detailed February 2025 results



Q: Thinking about government and politics in Canada, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to agree with the statement “I do not think government cares much about what people like me think”:

- Respondents aged 35–54 (71%) were more likely to agree, while respondents aged 55 and older (65%) were less likely.
- Respondents living in Quebec (64%) were less likely to agree.
- Respondents from rural or small-town areas (71%) were more likely to agree.
- Respondents with some amount of college or trade school education and with a high school or less education (73% apiece) were more likely to agree, while those with university education (63%) were less likely.
- Canadian-born respondents (69%) were more likely to agree than immigrants (61%).
- Respondents who are not interested in politics (72%) were more likely to agree, while those who are interested (66%) were less likely.
- Respondents who did not vote in the 2021 GE (75%) were more likely to agree.
- Respondents who hold strong (87%) and mixed (70%) conspiracy beliefs were more likely to agree, while those who hold no conspiracy beliefs (53%) were less likely.
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (76%) were more likely to agree than those who tend to be trusting (58%).
- Respondents who see news about U.S./world politics but rarely see news about Canadian politics (79%) were more likely to agree.

The following subgroups were more or less likely to agree with the statement “Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that someone like me can't really understand what's going on”:

- Women (57%) were more likely to agree than men (45%).
- Respondents aged 18–34 (58%) were more likely to agree, while respondents aged 55 and older (47%) were less likely.
- Respondents with a high school education or less (62%) and those with some amount of college or trade school education (56%) were more likely to agree, while those with some university-level education (44%) were less likely.
- Respondents who are not interested in politics (69%) were more likely to agree than those who are interested (45%).
- Infrequent voters (62%) were more likely to agree than habitual voters (47%).
- 2021 non-voters (62%) were more likely to agree than 2021 voters (47%).
- Respondents with no knowledge of federal and provincial powers (64%) were more likely to agree than those who do have knowledge of them (48%).
- Respondents with strong (73%) or mixed (54%) conspiracy beliefs were more likely to agree, while those with no conspiracy beliefs (35%) were less likely.
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (56%) were more likely to agree than those who tend to be trusting (46%).
- Respondents who often see news about U.S./world politics but rarely see news about Canadian politics (67%) and those who rarely see news about politics from any origin (63%) were more likely to agree, while those who often see news about Canadian politics (50%) were less likely.
- Respondents who do not feel polarized politically were less likely to agree (48%).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to agree with the statement “All federal political parties are basically the same, there is not really a choice”:

- Women (45%) were more likely to agree than men (41%).
- Respondents aged 55 and older (40%) were less likely to agree than others.
- Respondents from Alberta (38%) were less likely to agree than others.
- Those with a high school or less education (54%) were more likely to agree, while those with some university education (38%) were less likely.
- Respondents who are not interested in politics (55%) were more likely to agree than those who are interested (39%).
- Infrequent voters (53%) were more likely to agree than habitual voters (40%).
- 2021 non-voters (55%) were more likely to agree than 2021 voters (39%).
- Respondents who do not know provincial and federal powers (56%) were more likely to agree than those who do (40%).
- Respondents with strong (73%) and mixed (46%) conspiracy beliefs were more likely to agree, while those with no conspiracy beliefs (23%) were less likely.
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (50%) were more likely to agree than those who are trusting (34%).
- Respondents who often see news about U.S./world politics but rarely see news about Canadian politics (55%) were more likely to agree, while those who often see news about Canadian politics (42%) were less likely.

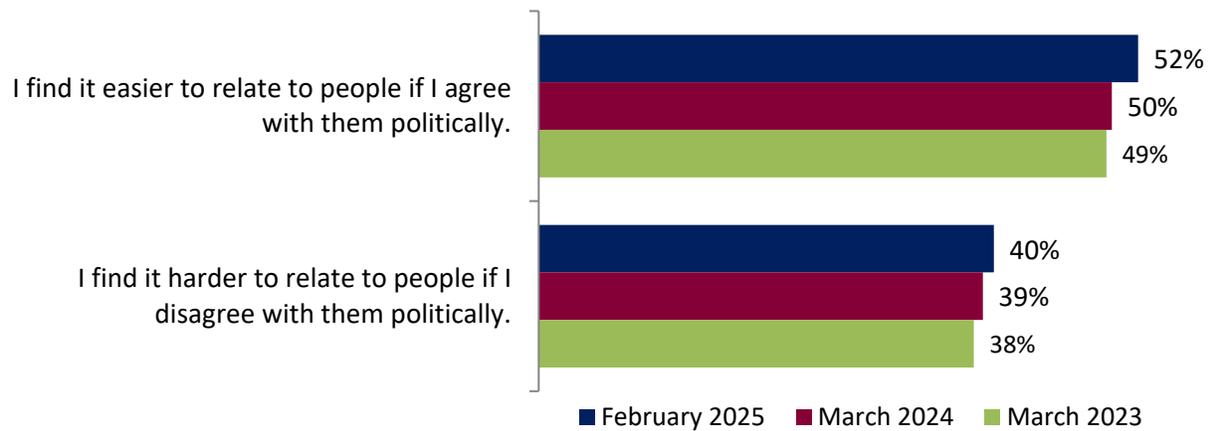
## Affective polarization

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with the following two statements:

- I find it easier to relate to people if I agree with them politically.
- I find it harder to relate to people if I disagree with them politically.

Respondents more often expressed feeling an affinity toward those they agreed with politically, rather than an aversion to those with whom they disagreed: half (52%) of respondents agreed to a large (15%) or moderate (37%) extent that they find it easier to relate to people if they agree with them politically, whereas 40% agreed that they find it harder to relate to people if they disagree with them politically, including 10% who agreed to a large extent (compared to 8% in March 2024) and 29% to a moderate extent.

Figure 22: Perceived ease/difficulty of relating to people based on political agreement/disagreement—detailed February 2025 results



Q: Thinking about Canadians you might agree or disagree with politically, to what extent do you agree with the following statements? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Note: For analysis purposes, a Total Agree (Large + Moderate extent) has been calculated.

Note: question added in March 2023.

The responses to both statements were added to develop a measure of affective political polarization, where a person is considered to feel more strongly polarized in how they relate to others politically the more they feel an affinity toward those they agree with politically while also feeling an aversion toward those with whom they disagree.<sup>8</sup>

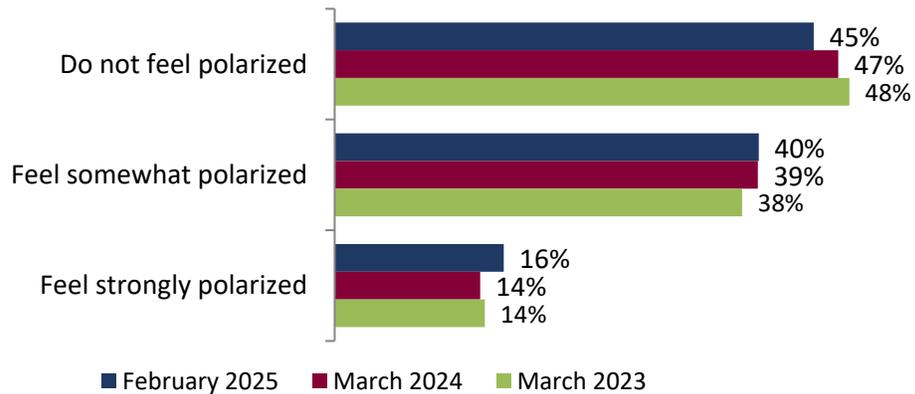
Based on this definition, around half (45%) of Canadian electors did not feel polarized in how they relate to other Canadians, in that they did not find it easier to relate to those they agreed with politically nor did they find it harder to relate to those with whom they disagreed. On the other hand, a minority of 16% felt strongly polarized, meaning they found it easier to relate to those they agreed with politically

<sup>8</sup> The responses to each statement were assigned a score ranging from 0 ("Not at all") to 3 ("To a large extent"), which were added to create a total affective polarization score with a range from 0 to 6. Scores of 5–6 were considered to indicate feeling strongly polarized, 3–4 feeling somewhat polarized, and 0–2 not feeling polarized.

to a large or moderate extent while also agreeing to a similar extent that it was harder for them to relate to those with whom they disagreed. This compares to 14% who felt strongly polarized in March 2024, a small but significant increase.

Four out of 10 (40%) respondents felt somewhat polarized, falling in the middle of the two groups.

Figure 23: Affective polarization



Q: Thinking about Canadians you might agree or disagree with politically, to what extent do you agree with the following statements? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Note: question added in March 2023.

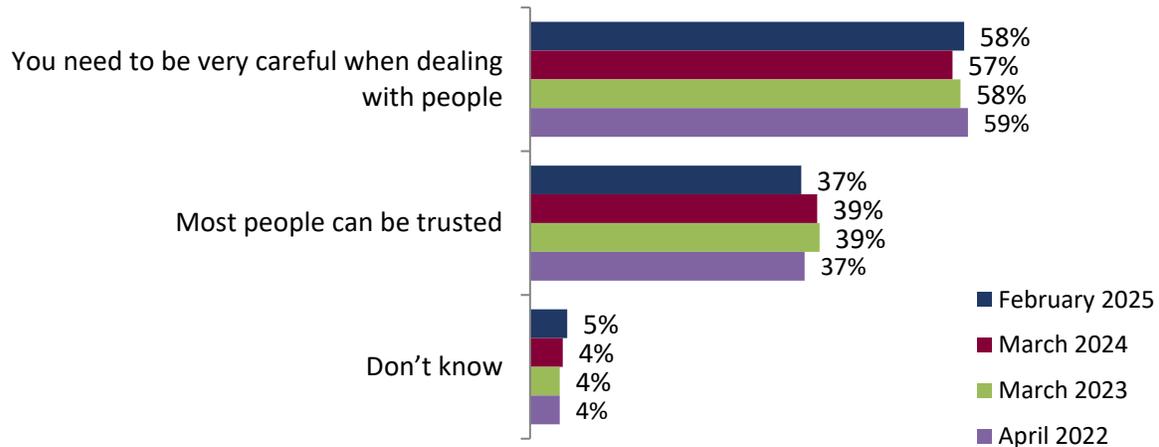
The following subgroups were more or less likely to feel strongly polarized in how they related to others politically:

- Respondents aged 18–34 were more likely to feel strongly polarized (23%), while those 55 years and older were less likely (12%)
- Respondents living in Atlantic provinces (9%) were less likely to feel polarized.
- Respondents living in urban or suburban areas (18%) were more likely to feel strongly polarized than those living in rural or small-town areas (11%).
- Respondents with a university degree were more likely to feel strongly polarized (18%).
- Indigenous respondents were more likely to feel strongly polarized (27%), while non-Indigenous respondents (15%) were less likely.
- Respondents who are interested in politics (19%) were more likely to feel strongly polarized than those who are not interested in politics (8%).
- Those with strong conspiracy beliefs (25%) were more likely to feel strongly polarized, while those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (13%) were less likely.
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (18%) were more likely to feel strongly polarized.
- Respondents who often see news about Canadian politics (17%) were more likely to feel strongly polarized, while those who rarely see news about politics from any origin were less likely to feel strongly polarized (7%).

## Trust in people

A majority (58%) of Canadians said that, generally speaking, they need to be careful when dealing with people, while almost four in 10 (37%) said that most people can be trusted. Results remain stable since they were first measured in April 2022.

Figure 24: Trust in people



Q: Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you need to be very careful when dealing with people? Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

Note: question added in April 2022.

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that most people can be trusted:

- Men (40%) were more likely to think that most people can be trusted than women (33%).
- Respondents aged 55 and older (44%) were more likely to say that most people can be trusted, while those aged 18–34 (28%) were less likely.
- Respondents with at least some university education (44%) were more likely to say that most people can be trusted, while those with some amount of college or trade school education (32%) or high school or less (27%) were less likely.
- Non-Indigenous respondents (38%) were more likely to say that most people can be trusted, while Indigenous respondents (19%) were less likely.
- Canadians by birth were likely to say that most people can be trusted (38%), while naturalized Canadians (33%) were less likely.
- Respondents who are interested in politics (40%) were more likely to say that most people can be trusted than those who are not interested (28%).
- Habitual voters (41%) were more likely to say that most people can be trusted than infrequent voters (25%).
- Respondents who voted in the 2021 GE (40%) were more likely to say that most people can be trusted than those who were eligible but did not vote (31%).
- Respondents with knowledge of provincial and federal powers (40%) were more likely to say that most people can be trusted than those without this knowledge (24%).

- Respondents with no conspiracy beliefs (55%) were more likely to say that most people can be trusted, while those with mixed (30%) or strong (23%) conspiracy beliefs were less likely to do so.
- Respondents who often see news about Canadian politics (39%) were more likely to say that most people can be trusted, while those who often see news about U.S. or world politics but rarely see news about Canadian politics (26%) and those who rarely see news about politics from any origin (22%) were less likely.

## Belief in government conspiracy theories

Belief in broad conspiracy theories about government increased slightly since March 2024, as two of the three conspiracy belief theories were considered more likely to be definitely or probably true in February 2025. The most accepted theory (46%, up significantly from 42% in March 2024) was that certain significant events have been the result of the activity of a small group who secretly manipulate world events, with 11% thinking it was definitely true and 35% probably true. More than one-third (36%—stable since March 2024) thought that experiments involving new drugs or technologies are routinely carried out on the public without their knowledge or consent (9% definitely true, 27% probably true). Less than a quarter of Canadian electors (23%) thought that the government is trying to cover up the link between vaccines and autism (7% definitely true, 16% probably true), marking a significant increase since last year’s result (21%).

Generally, belief in each of these conspiracy theories has trended higher over the course of each survey conducted since April 2021.

Figure 25: Belief in conspiracy theories—tracking

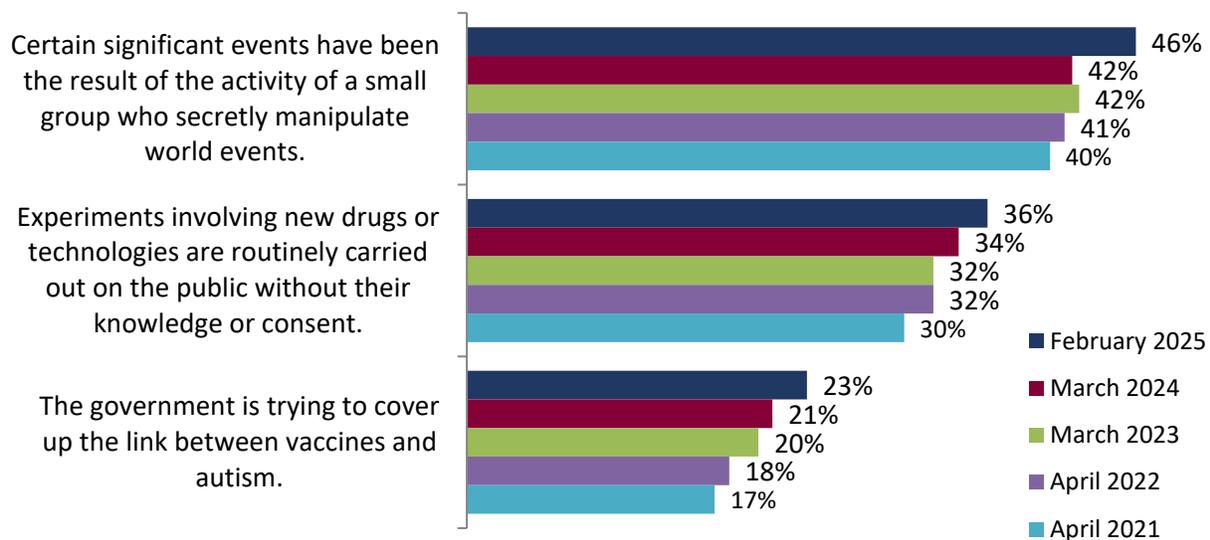
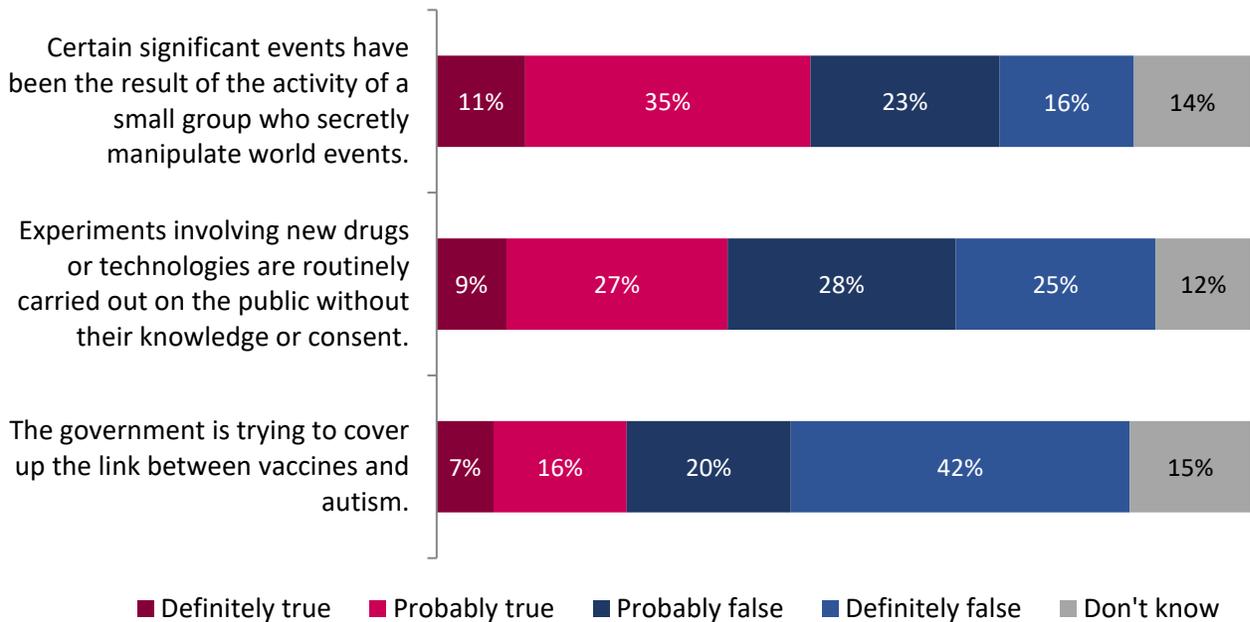


Figure 26: Belief in conspiracy theories—detailed February 2025 results



Q: There is often debate about whether or not the public is told the whole truth about various important issues. Please indicate the degree to which you believe each statement is true or false. Base: all respondents (n=2,504).

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that the statement “certain significant events have been the result of the activity of a small group who secretly manipulate world events” was definitely or probably true:

- Respondents with a college or trade school education (50%) were more likely to accept this as true, while those with university education (43%) were less likely to accept it.
- Naturalized Canadians (55%) were more likely to accept this as true than Canadians by birth (44%).
- Infrequent voters (51%) were more likely to accept this as true, while habitual voters (44%) were less likely.
- Respondents who did not vote in the 2021 GE (55%) were more likely to accept this as true, while those who voted were less likely (44%).
- Respondents who do not have knowledge of federal and provincial powers (52%) were more likely to accept this as true than those who do have this knowledge (44%).
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (54%) were more likely to accept this as true than those who tend to be trusting (37%).
- Respondents who often see news about U.S. or world politics but rarely see news about Canadian politics were more likely to accept this as true (58%) than those who rarely see news about politics from any origin (38%).
- Respondents who feel strongly polarized politically (54%) were more likely to accept this as true, while those who do not feel polarized (42%) were less likely.

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that the statement “experiments involving new drugs or technologies are routinely carried out on the public without their knowledge or consent” is definitely or probably true:

- Electors aged 18–34 (42%) and 35–54 (40%) were more likely to accept this as true, while electors aged 55 and older (28%) were less likely.
- Manitoba and Saskatchewan (43%) and Ontario respondents (39%) were more likely to accept this as true, while Quebec respondents (31%) were less likely.
- Respondents with a high school or less education (42%) and those with a college or trade school education (40%) were more likely to accept this as true, while those with a university education (31%) were less likely.
- Indigenous electors (54%) were more likely to accept this as true than non-Indigenous electors (35%).
- Naturalized Canadians (43%) were more likely to accept this as true than Canadians by birth (33%).
- Infrequent voters (46%) were more likely to accept this as true than habitual voters (32%).
- Respondents who did not vote in the 2021 GE (51%) were more likely to accept this as true, while those who voted (31%) were less likely.
- Respondents who do not have knowledge of federal and provincial powers (48%) were more likely to accept this as true than those who do have this knowledge (32%).
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (43%) were more likely to accept this as true than those who tend to be trusting (26%).
- People who often see news about U.S. or world politics but rarely see news about Canadian politics (52%) were more likely to accept this as true.
- Respondents who feel strongly polarized (41%) were more likely to accept this as true, while those who do not feel polarized (32%) were less likely.

The following subgroups were more or less likely to think that the statement “The government is trying to cover up the link between vaccines and autism” is definitely or probably true:

- Men (26%) were more likely to accept this as true, while women (21%) were less likely.
- Electors aged 18–34 (28%) and 35–54 (27%) were more likely to accept this as true, while electors 55 and older (17%) were less likely.
- Electors living in Ontario (27%) were more likely to accept this as true, while electors living in Quebec (18%) and the Atlantic provinces (17%) were less likely.
- Respondents living in rural or small-town areas (26%) were more likely to accept this as true than those living in urban or suburban areas (22%).
- Respondents with some college or trade school education (28%) were more likely to accept this as true, while those with at least some university education (19%) were less likely.
- Indigenous electors (40%) were more likely to accept this as true than non-Indigenous electors (22%).
- Naturalized Canadians (32%) were more likely to accept this as true than Canadians by birth (21%).
- Infrequent voters (34%) were more likely to accept this as true than habitual voters (20%).

- Respondents who did not vote in the 2021 GE (36%) were more likely to accept this as true, while those who voted (20%) were less likely.
- Respondents who do not know provincial and federal powers (37%) were more likely to accept this as true than those who do (20%).
- Respondents who tend to be distrustful of people (29%) were more likely to accept this as true than those who tend to be trusting (16%).
- Respondents who feel strongly polarized politically (32%) were more likely to accept this as true, while those who do not feel polarized (19%) were less likely.

Respondents were categorized as having strong, mixed, or no conspiracy beliefs, where those who accepted all statements as at least probably true or any two statements as definitely true were considered to have strong conspiracy beliefs, while those who rejected all of the statements as probably or definitely false were considered to have no conspiracy beliefs, and all others were considered to have mixed beliefs. Based on this definition, 17% of respondents in February 2025 were identified as having strong conspiracy beliefs, 53% had mixed beliefs, and 30% had no conspiracy beliefs (down significantly from 34% in March 2024).

# Appendix

## A.1 Quantitative methodology

Quantitative research was conducted through online surveys, using computer-aided web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

As a Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC) member, Leger adheres to the most stringent guidelines for quantitative research. The survey was conducted in accordance with Government of Canada requirements for quantitative research, including the Standards of the Conduct of Government of Canada Public Opinion Research—Series D—Quantitative Research.

Respondents were assured of the voluntary, confidential and anonymous nature of this research. As with all research conducted by Leger, all information that could allow for the identification of participants was removed from the data, in accordance with the *Privacy Act*.

The questionnaire is available in Appendix A2.

### A.1.1 Sampling procedure

Computer-aided web interviewing (CAWI)

Leger conducted a panel-based Internet survey with a sample of adult Canadians. A total of 2,504 respondents participated in the survey. The exact distribution is presented in the following section. Participant selection was done randomly from Leo's online panel.

Leger owns and operates an Internet panel of more than 400,000 Canadians from coast to coast. An Internet panel is made up of web users profiled on different sociodemographic variables. The majority of Leger's panel members (61%) have been recruited randomly over the phone over the past decade, making it highly similar to the actual Canadian population on many demographic characteristics.

### A.1.2 Data collection

Fieldwork for the survey was conducted from January 29 to February 5, 2025. The participation rate for the survey was 10.1%. A pretest of 46 interviews was completed on January 29, 2025.

To achieve data reliability in all subgroups, a total sample of 2,504 Canadians who are eligible voters were surveyed, in all regions of the country.

Since a sample drawn from an Internet panel is not probabilistic in nature, the margin of error cannot be calculated for this survey. Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have volunteered or registered to participate in online surveys. The results of such surveys cannot be described as statistically projectable to the target population. The data have been weighted to reflect the demographic composition of the target population. Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated.

Based on data from Statistics Canada's 2021 national census, Leger weighted the results of this survey by age and gender within each region of the country.

The following table details the regional distribution of respondents. The baseline sample attempted to replicate as closely as possible the actual distribution of the Canadian population.

**Table A.1 Regional distribution of respondents**

Region	Number of respondents
Atlantic	168
Quebec	554
Ontario	974
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	177
Alberta	281
British Columbia and territories	350
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,504</b>

### A.1.3 Participation rate

The overall participation rate for this study is 10.1%.

Below is the calculation of the web survey's participation rate. The participation rate is calculated using the following formula: Participation rate / response rate =  $R \div (U + IS + R)$ . The table below provides details of the calculation.

**Table A.2 Participation rate calculation**

<b>Invalid cases</b>	<b>215</b>
Invitations mistakenly sent to people who did not qualify for the study	215
Incomplete or missing email addresses	-
<b>Unresolved (U)</b>	<b>22,871</b>
Email invitations bounce back	14
Email invitations unanswered	22,857
<b>In-scope non-responding units (IS)</b>	<b>92</b>
Non-response from eligible respondents	-
Respondent refusals	-
Language problem	-
Selected respondent not available (illness; leave of absence; vacation; other)	-
Early breakoffs	92
<b>Responding units (R)</b>	<b>2,586</b>
Surveys disqualified—quota filled	64
Completed surveys disqualified for other reasons	18
Completed interviews	2,504
<b>POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE (U+IS+R)</b>	<b>25,549</b>
<b>Participation rate</b>	<b>10.1%</b>

Typical participation rates for web surveys are between 20% and 30%. A response rate of 10.1% may seem a bit low, but given the limited amount of time for fieldwork, we had to spread the invitations more widely in the panel to achieve our objectives, which has an impact on the participation rate. The participation rate is similar to that of the last wave of the study that took place in 2024.

### A.1.4 Unweighted and weighted samples

A basic comparison of the unweighted and weighted sample sizes was conducted to identify any potential non-response bias that could have resulted from uneven response rates among specific demographic subgroups (see tables below).

The table below presents the geographic distribution of respondents, before and after weighting. The weighting adjusted for some minor discrepancies.

**Table A.3 Unweighted and weighted sample distribution by province**

Region	Unweighted	Weighted
Atlantic	168	165
Quebec	554	577
Ontario	974	968
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	177	161
Alberta	281	278
British Columbia and territories	350	355
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>2,504</b>

The following tables present the demographic distribution of respondents, according to gender and age.

First, regarding gender, we can see that weighting has adjusted only slightly the counts of men and women respondents. There is no reason to believe that the small differences observed in the unweighted samples indicate the presence of non-response bias based on gender.

**Table A.4 Unweighted and weighted sample distribution by gender**

Gender	Unweighted	Weighted
Men	1,234	1,215
Women	1,256	1,273
<b>Total*</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>2,504</b>

\* The totals also include responses of "other" and "refusal."

Regarding age distribution, the weighting process has corrected some minor discrepancies. The actual distribution of the sample generally follows the distribution of age groups in the actual population, but was adjusted mainly to increase representation of those aged between 18 and 34 years. This suggests the potential for non-response bias based on age at the expense of younger respondents, but given the size of the weights are within acceptable tolerances, the potential impact of any age-based non-response bias on the results is likely small.

**Table A.5 Unweighted and weighted sample distribution by age group**

Age	Unweighted	Weighted
Between 18 and 34	566	666
Between 35 and 54	823	807
55 and over	1,115	1,031
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>2,504</b>

Overall, the relatively small range of weight factors (see section below) across the intersections of weighting subgroups suggests that data quality was not affected by any noticeable non-response bias.

The following tables present the weighting factors applied to the database according to the different respondent profiles.

**Table A.6 Weight factors by profile**

Gender	Province	Age	Weight
Men	British Columbia and territories	18–24	0.7036
		25–34	1.2050
		35–44	1.1420
		45–54	1.0586
		55–64	1.1747
		65+	1.6115
	Alberta	18–24	0.6049
		25–34	1.0033
		35–44	1.0819
		45–54	0.9115
		55–64	0.8983
		65+	0.9914
	Manitoba/Saskatchewan	18–24	0.3823
		25–34	0.5589
		35–44	0.5456
		45–54	0.4782
		55–64	0.5303
		65+	0.6584
	Ontario	18–24	2.1192
		25–34	3.3074
		35–44	2.9929
		45–54	2.9760
		55–64	3.2772
		65+	4.0270
Quebec	18–24	1.0850	
	25–34	1.7944	
	35–44	1.8835	
	45–54	1.7539	
	55–64	2.0655	

		<b>65+</b>	2.6936
	<b>Atlantic region</b>	<b>18-24</b>	0.3232
		<b>25-34</b>	0.4643
		<b>35-44</b>	0.4638
		<b>45-54</b>	0.5166
		<b>55-64</b>	0.6304
		<b>65+</b>	0.8496
<b>Women</b>	<b>British Columbia and territories</b>	<b>18-24</b>	0.6627
		<b>25-34</b>	1.1949
		<b>35-44</b>	1.1755
		<b>45-54</b>	1.1361
		<b>55-64</b>	1.2613
		<b>65+</b>	1.8419
	<b>Alberta</b>	<b>18-24</b>	0.5662
		<b>25-34</b>	1.0078
		<b>35-44</b>	1.0900
		<b>45-54</b>	0.9042
		<b>55-64</b>	0.9135
		<b>65+</b>	1.1221
	<b>Manitoba/Saskatchewan</b>	<b>18-24</b>	0.3501
		<b>25-34</b>	0.5518
		<b>35-44</b>	0.5532
		<b>45-54</b>	0.4834
		<b>55-64</b>	0.5437
		<b>65+</b>	0.7759
	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>18-24</b>	1.9659
		<b>25-34</b>	3.2647
		<b>35-44</b>	3.1814
		<b>45-54</b>	3.1905
		<b>55-64</b>	3.4634
		<b>65+</b>	4.8329
	<b>Quebec</b>	<b>18-24</b>	1.0393
		<b>25-34</b>	1.7768
		<b>35-44</b>	1.8885
		<b>45-54</b>	1.7373
		<b>55-64</b>	2.1039
		<b>65+</b>	3.1964
<b>Atlantic region</b>	<b>18-24</b>	0.2995	
	<b>25-34</b>	0.4650	
	<b>35-44</b>	0.4964	
	<b>45-54</b>	0.5484	
	<b>55-64</b>	0.6678	
	<b>65+</b>	0.9837	

**Table A.7 Weight factors by province and territories**

<b>Label</b>	<b>Weight</b>
<b>British Columbia</b>	13.8783
<b>Alberta</b>	11.0950
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	2.9165
<b>Manitoba</b>	3.4955
<b>Ontario</b>	38.5984
<b>Quebec</b>	23.0182
<b>New Brunswick</b>	2.1532
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	2.6997
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	0.4218
<b>Newfoundland</b>	1.4340
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	0.1044
<b>Yukon and Nunavut</b>	0.1850

## A.2 Survey Questionnaire

### Tracking survey on electoral matters—W5

Please select the language in which you wish to complete the survey.

- English/Anglais
- French/Français

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this short survey being conducted on behalf of Elections Canada by Léger. The survey aims to understand your honest opinions about trust in elections and other institutions in Canada. The survey should take no more than 8 minutes to complete, is voluntary, and completely confidential.

Any personal information collected is subject to the federal *Privacy Act* and will be held in strict confidence. By taking part in this survey, you consent to the use of your answers for research and statistical purposes. None of your opinions will be attributed to you personally in any way. The anonymous database of all responses may be shared with external researchers under the strict condition that no personal information is ever distributed or made public.

Click [<here>](#) if you wish to contact Elections Canada to verify the authenticity of this survey.

To view Léger’s privacy policy, click [<here>](#).

#### 1. Citizen

Are you a Canadian citizen?

- 01. Yes
- 02. No [TERMINATE]

#### 2. YOB

In what year were you born?

Record year: [NUMBER]

99. Prefer not to say [TERMINATE]

[IF YOB >= 2008, terminate]

[Show if YOB=2007]

#### 3. Eighteen

Are you currently 18 years of age?

- 01. Yes
- 02. No [TERMINATE]

#### 4. ProvTerr

In which province or territory do you live?

- 01. Alberta
- 02. British Columbia
- 03. Manitoba
- 04. New Brunswick
- 05. Newfoundland and Labrador
- 06. Northwest Territories
- 07. Nova Scotia
- 08. Nunavut
- 09. Ontario
- 10. Prince Edward Island
- 11. Quebec
- 12. Saskatchewan
- 13. Yukon
- 14. I live outside Canada [TERMINATE]

#### 5. Gender

For the purposes of this survey, could you please provide your gender?

- 01. Female
- 02. Male
- 96. Or please specify. [TEXT]
- 99. Prefer not to say

#### 6. MainNews

In general, which of these would you say is your main source of news?

[RANDOMIZE 01-06]

- 01. Print newspapers or magazine
- 02. Online news websites or apps
- 03. Television
- 04. Radio
- 05. Social media: mostly posts by friends or family
- 06. Social media: mostly posts by news organizations or journalists

- 07. Other online news content (videos, podcasts, influencers)
- 96. Other. Please specify: [TEXT]
- 97. I don't follow the news
- 98. Don't know/refused

## 7. NewsOrigin

Thinking about your main source of news, how often do you see stories covering Canadian politics, U.S. politics, or politics from the rest of the world?

[Grid]

[Rows]

- a. Canadian politics
- b. U.S. politics
- c. World politics

[Columns]

- 01. Very often
- 02. Somewhat often
- 03. Somewhat rarely
- 04. Very rarely
- 98. Don't know

## 8. Polinterest

In general, how interested are you in politics?

- 01. Very interested
- 02. Somewhat interested
- 03. Not very interested
- 04. Not at all interested
- 98. Don't know

[Rotate KnowProvPowers and KnowFedPowers]

## 9. KnowProvPowers

To the best of your knowledge, which level of government has primary responsibility for education?

- 01. Federal government
- 02. Provincial government
- 03. Municipal government
- 98. Don't know

## 10. KnowFedPowers

To the best of your knowledge, which level of government has primary responsibility for defence?

- 01. Federal government
- 02. Provincial government
- 03. Municipal government
- 98. Don't know

## 11. Confidence

How much confidence, if any, do you have in the following institutions in Canada?

[GRID]

[ROWS; RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

- a. The provincial government
- b. The federal government
- c. The police
- d. Big business/corporations
- e. Elections Canada
- f. Mainstream media
- g. Social media platforms

[COLUMNS]

- 01. A great deal of confidence
- 02. A fair amount of confidence
- 03. Not much confidence
- 04. No confidence
- 98. Don't know

## 12. GEfairness

Thinking about federal elections in general, how fairly or unfairly would you say Elections Canada runs the elections?

- 01. Very fairly
- 02. Somewhat fairly
- 03. Somewhat unfairly
- 04. Very unfairly
- 98. Don't know

[IF GEfairness = 03, 04]

### 13. ReasonUnfair

Is there a specific reason you think Elections Canada runs elections unfairly?

[OPEN-ENDED]

- 97. No particular reason
- 98. Don't know
- 99. Prefer not to say

### 14. TrustElectionChanges

[Split sample A and B]

A. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

If the government proposes changes to how federal elections are run, they are probably trying to make voting easier or fairer for all Canadians.

- 01. Strongly agree
- 02. Somewhat agree
- 03. Somewhat disagree
- 04. Strongly disagree
- 98. Don't know

B. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

If Elections Canada proposes changes to how federal elections are run, they are probably trying to make voting easier or fairer for all Canadians.

- 01. Strongly agree
- 02. Somewhat agree
- 03. Somewhat disagree
- 04. Strongly disagree
- 98. Don't know

### 15. EVIC

When there is a federal election, Elections Canada mails every registered elector a voter information card telling them where and when to vote. But you may be used to receiving documents such as bank statements electronically by email or through a website.

If you had the option, would you choose to receive your voter information card electronically, instead of getting it in the mail?

- 01. Yes
- 02. No
- 98. Don't know

## 16. InterferenceImpact

Based on what you have seen or heard recently, what impact, if any, do you think the following could have on the outcome of the next federal election in Canada?

[GRID]

[ROWS; RANDOMIZE a to d]

- a. Hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election.
- b. Foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians.
- c. The spread of false information online.
- d. Foreign money being used to influence politics in Canada.

[COLUMNS]

01. Major impact
02. Moderate impact
03. Minor impact
04. No impact at all
98. Don't know

## 17. FraudPerception

[Split sample A and B]

A. Which statement is closest to your opinion about the voting system in Canada?

[ROTATE 01 and 02]

01. Voting is prone to fraud
02. Voting is safe and reliable
98. Don't know

B. Which statement is closest to your opinion about voting by mail in Canada?

[ROTATE 01 and 02]

01. Voting by mail is prone to fraud
02. Voting by mail is safe and reliable
98. Don't know

## 18. FraudFrequency

Overall, how often do you think the following types of voter fraud happen in Canadian federal elections?

[GRID]

[ROWS; ROTATE]

- a. Someone voting who is not a Canadian citizen
- b. Someone voting more than once
- c. Someone stealing or tampering with ballots after they have been cast
- d. Someone impersonating someone else

[COLUMNS]

- 01. Often
- 02. Sometimes
- 03. Rarely
- 04. Almost never
- 98. Not sure

### 19. Political Efficacy

Thinking about government and politics in Canada, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[Grid]

[Randomize rows]

- a. All federal political parties are basically the same, there is not really a choice.
- b. I do not think government cares much about what people like me think.
- c. Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that someone like me can't really understand what's going on.

[Columns]

- 01. Strongly agree
- 02. Somewhat agree
- 03. Somewhat disagree
- 04. Strongly disagree
- 98. Don't know

### 20. Affective Polarization

Thinking about Canadians you might agree or disagree with politically, to what extent do you agree with the following statements?

[Grid]

[Randomize rows]

- a. I find it easier to relate to people if I agree with them politically.
- b. I find it harder to relate to people if I disagree with them politically.

[Columns]

- 03. To a large extent
- 02. To a moderate extent
- 01. To a small extent
- 00. Not at all
- 98. Don't know

### **21. TrustPeople**

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you need to be very careful when dealing with people?

- 01. Most people can be trusted
- 02. You need to be very careful when dealing with people
- 98. Don't know

### **22. ConspiracyBeliefs**

There is often debate about whether or not the public is told the whole truth about various important issues. Please indicate the degree to which you believe each statement is true or false.

[GRID]

[ROWS; RANDOMIZE]

- a. Certain significant events have been the result of the activity of a small group who secretly manipulate world events.
- b. Experiments involving new drugs or technologies are routinely carried out on the public without their knowledge or consent.
- c. The government is trying to cover up the link between vaccines and autism.

[COLUMNS]

- 01. Definitely true
- 02. Probably true
- 03. Probably false
- 04. Definitely false
- 98. Don't know

### **23. Area**

Which of the following best describes the area where you live?

- 01. Urban or suburban area
- 02. Rural area or small town
- 99. Prefer not to answer

### **24. Education**

What is the highest level of education that you have reached?

01. Some elementary
02. Completed elementary
03. Some high school
04. Completed high school
05. Some college/vocational/trade school/commercial/CEGEP
06. Completed college/vocational/trade school/ commercial/CEGEP
07. Some university (no degree or diploma obtained)
08. Completed university (diploma or bachelor's degree)
09. Post-graduate university/professional school (master's, PhD, or any professional degree)
96. Other (specify)
98. Don't know
99. Prefer not to answer

## 25. Employment

What best describes your current employment status?

01. Working full-time (35 or more hours per week)
02. Working part-time (less than 35 hours per week)
03. Self-employed
04. DELETED ITEM
05. Unemployed, and looking for work
06. A student attending school
07. Training for a trade (e.g. apprenticeship)
08. Retired
09. A caregiver or homemaker
10. Not working due to illness/disability, or not looking for work
11. Temporarily not working (e.g. parental leave, seasonal worker, in the process of changing jobs)
96. Other, please specify: [TEXT]
99. Prefer not to answer

## 26. Indigenous

Are you First Nation, Métis, or Inuk (Inuit)?

01. No, not First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit)
02. Yes, First Nations
03. Yes, Métis
04. Yes, Inuit
99. Prefer not to answer

[Hide if Indigenous=02-04]

## **27. Immigrant**

Are you an immigrant to Canada?

- 01. No, I was born a Canadian citizen
- 02. Yes, I was born abroad and I became a citizen before 2016
- 03. Yes, I was born abroad and I became a citizen in or after 2016
- 99. Prefer not to answer

## **28. Disability**

Do you have a disability?

- 01. Yes
- 02. No
- 99. Prefer not to say

## **29. PastVoting**

In each election, many people don't or can't vote for a variety of reasons. Thinking about all elections (municipal, provincial and federal) since you have been eligible to vote, have you voted in none of them, some, most, or all of them?

- 01. None of them
- 02. Some of them
- 03. Most of them
- 04. All of them
- 98. Don't know/don't remember

[Hide if YOB>2003 or PastVoting=01]

## **30. VotedLastGE**

The most recent federal election was held on September 20, 2021. Which of the following statements describes you?

- 01. I did not vote in the 2021 federal election
- 02. I thought about voting this time but didn't vote
- 03. I usually vote but didn't this time
- 04. I am sure I voted in the 2021 federal election
- 98. Don't know/don't remember
- 99. I was not eligible to vote in September 2021

## **ONLINE CLOSING PAGE**

That concludes the survey. This survey was conducted on behalf of Elections Canada. Thank you very much for your thoughtful feedback. It is much appreciated.

If you have any questions about this survey, you can contact Elections Canada: [Contact Elections Canada](#)

If you have any reason to believe that your personal information is not being handled in accordance with the *Privacy Act*, you have a right to complain to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada:

Toll-free: 1-800-282-1376

TTY: (819) 994-6591

Web: Go to [www.priv.gc.ca](http://www.priv.gc.ca), "Report a concern"