

CANADIAN PRESS / LEGER MARKETING

Canadians and Government Corruption

Report



1.0 Study Highlights

- The Canadian political system is corrupt at every level of government according to Canadians.

Question: *Do you personally think that the Canadian political system is HIGHLY CORRUPT, SOMEWHAT CORRUPT, NOT VERY CORRUPT or NOT AT ALL CORRUPT at... ?*

n=1500	Highly or somewhat corrupt	Not very or not at all corrupt	Don't know
... the federal level	69%	26%	6%
... the provincial level	68%	26%	6%
... the municipal level	53%	40%	7%

- Politicians and their entourage are singled out as culprits.

Question: *In your opinion, do corruption and patronage mostly involve...? (Percentages correspond to positive responses)*

n=1500	... politicians	... the entourage of politicians	... senior public servants	... the public service	None	Don't know/Refusal
Canada	46%	30%	26%	18%	1%	12%

- Eight Canadians out of ten would like to see a major reform of the rules of conduct regulating how government contracts are awarded.

Question: *In your opinion, should there be a major reform of the rules of conduct regulating how government contracts are awarded?*

n=1500	YES	NO	Don't know
Canada	80%	10%	10%

- One-fifth of the population feels that our political system is not democratic.

Question: *You personally, do you think that the Canadian political system is VERY DEMOCRATIC, SOMEWHAT DEMOCRATIC, NOT VERY DEMOCRATIC or NOT AT ALL DEMOCRATIC at...? (Percentages correspond to those who said "not very democratic" or "not at all democratic")*

n=1500	... at the federal level	... at the provincial level	... at the municipal level
Canada	24%	23%	19%

2. Results

2.1 The Canadian Political System is Corrupt at Every Level of Government According to Canadians

Canadians believe that the political system is corrupt at the federal level, the provincial level and the municipal level.

Hence, 69% of the population mentioned that they believe corruption exists at the federal level, 68% that it exists at the provincial level and 53% at the municipal level. In terms of those who believe that the system is not very or not at all corrupt, we find 26% who believe this is the case at the federal level, 26% at the provincial level and 40% at the municipal level.

74% of women versus 63% of men are convinced that there is corruption at the federal level. Other than this difference between men and women, no significant differences were observed among other groups in society.

We note, however, that 52% of Allophones and 64% of Ontarians are less likely to think that there is corruption at the federal level.

In terms of the provincial level of government, 73% of women and 73% of those 45-54 years old are more likely to believe there is corruption at this level, while 58% of those 65 years old and over, 54% of Allophones and 63% of Ontarians are not as convinced of this fact.

Question: *Do you personally think that the Canadian political system is HIGHLY CORRUPT, SOMEWHAT CORRUPT, NOT VERY CORRUPT or NOT AT ALL CORRUPT at...?*

n=1500	Highly or somewhat corrupt	Not very or not at all corrupt	Don't know
... the federal level	69%	26%	6%
... the provincial level	68%	26%	6%
... the municipal level	53%	40%	7%

2.2 Politicians and their Entourage Singled Out at Culprits

According to 46% of Canadians, corruption and patronage mostly involve politicians, while 30% believe the entourage of the latter is to blame, 26% think it mostly involves senior public servants and 18% the public service. Only 1% do not accuse anyone.

39% of Francophones, 37% of Quebeckers, 35% of professionals and 37% of university graduates are more likely to accuse the entourage of politicians, while 29% of Francophones and 28% of Quebeckers believe senior public servants are more to blame in this respect. Senior public servants are less of a target for residents of the Prairie provinces and British Columbia since only 20% and 16% of citizens respectively accuse this group.

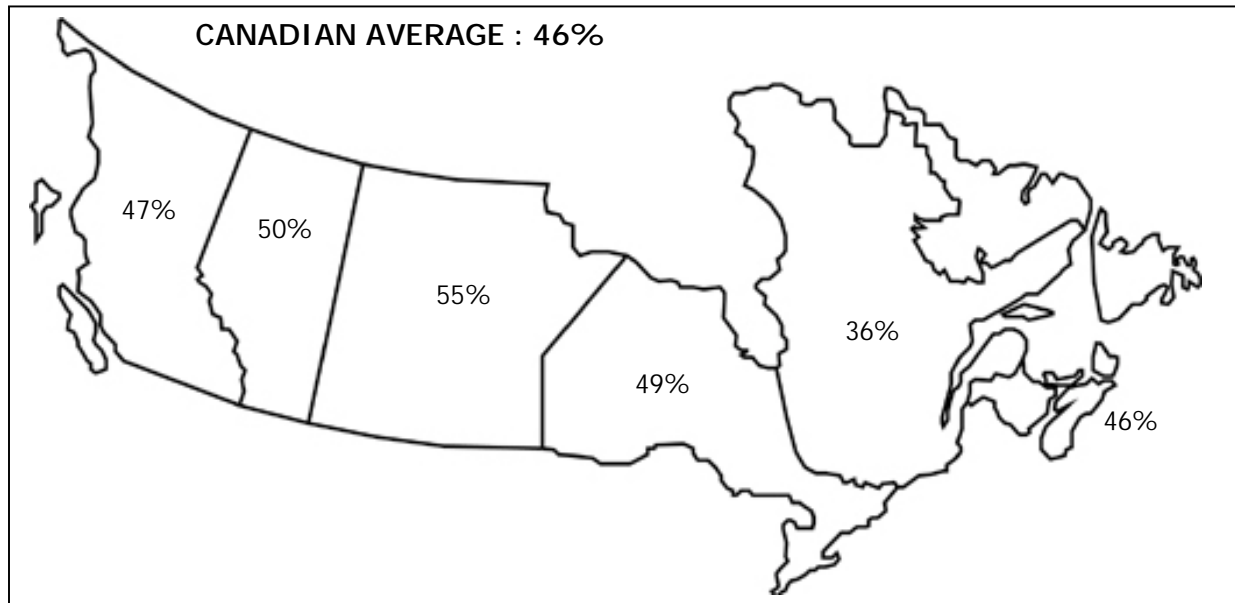
Moreover, 35% of Canadians accuse politicians, 19% the entourage of politicians, 15% senior public servants, 7% the public service and, spontaneously, 11% of Canadians accuse them all.

Question: *In your opinion, do corruption and patronage mostly involve...?* (Percentages correspond to positive responses; many positive responses being possible, the total on the horizontal line may exceed 100%.)

n=1500	... politicians	... the entourage of politicians	... senior public servants	... public service	None*	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic provinces	46%	22%	27%	17%	1%	11%
Quebec	36%	37%	28%	14%	1%	8%
Ontario	49%	29%	28%	22%	1%	13%
Prairies	55%	29%	20%	22%	2%	16%
Alberta	50%	26%	24%	18%	0%	13%
British Columbia	47%	32%	16%	14%	0%	18%
Canada	46%	30%	26%	18%	1%	12%

* ALL and NONE were not choices given to respondents and therefore represent responses that were spontaneously given.

Proportion of Canadians who believe that it is mostly politicians who are involved in corruption



2.3 Eight Canadians out of Ten Would Like to See a Major Reform of the Rules of Conduct Regulating How Government Contracts are Awarded

Exactly 80% of Canadians would like to see major reforms of the rules regulating how government contracts are awarded, while 10% do not see why this is necessary.

Among those most in favour of a sweeping reform, we find 85% of those 45-54 years old, 88% of Francophones and 85% of Quebeckers.

However, 13% of men, 13% of those in the higher income brackets and 14% of university graduates do not see the need for this type of reform.

Question: *In your opinion, should there be a major reform of the rules of conduct regulating how government contracts are awarded?*

n=1500	YES	NO	Don't know / Refusal
Mother tongue: French	88%	8%	4%
Mother tongue: English	79%	11%	10%
Mother tongue: Other	74%	10%	16%
Canada	80%	10%	10%

2.4 One-Fifth of the Population Feels that our Political System is not Democratic

Canadians feel that our political system is not very or not at all democratic in a proportion of 24% when it comes to the federal level, 23% for the provincial level and 19% for the municipal level.

Regardless of the level of government, Francophones are the most critical of the democratic nature of our political system.

The following table presents the differences based on language and province of residence.

Question: *According to you personally, is the Canadian political system VERY DEMOCRATIC, SOMEWHAT DEMOCRATIC, NOT VERY DEMOCRATIC or NOT AT ALL DEMOCRATIC at...?* (Percentages correspond to those who answered “not very democratic” or “not at all democratic”)

n=1500	... at the federal level	...at the provincial level	...at the municipal level
Mother tongue: French	32%	31%	30%
Mother tongue: English	22%	21%	16%
Mother tongue: Other	22%	20%	18%
Atlantic provinces	18%	15%	14%
Quebec	29%	31%	29%
Ontario	18%	20%	16%
Prairies	27%	15%	17%
Alberta	25%	24%	17%
British Columbia	32%	28%	18%
Canada	24%	23%	19%

3.0 Methodology

This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1500 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal and Winnipeg call centres between April 2 and April 7, 2002. Up to ten call-backs were made in the case of non-response.

Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to geographic location, gender and language spoken at home to ensure a sample representative of the entire Canadian adult population. In the end, the maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1500 respondents is of $\pm 2.6\%$, 19 times out of 20.