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Abortion Rights in Canada

DATE 2024-05-14

Methodology

Method

Online survey
among respondents 18 years of age or older.
(Canadian sample: n= 1,545).
Respondents had the option of completing the survey in English or in French and were randomly recruited using LEO's online panel.

When

May 10 to
May 12, 2024

Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size yields a margin of error no greater than ±2.5%, (19 times out of 20) for the Canadian sample.

Weighting

Results were weighted according to **age, gender, mother tongue, region, education and presence of children in the household** in order to ensure a representative sample of the Canadian population.

Methodology

Significant differences

Data in bold **red** characters indicate a significantly lower proportion than that of other respondents. Conversely, data in bold **green** characters indicate a significantly higher proportion than that of other respondents.

Rounded data

The numbers presented have been rounded up. However, the numbers before rounding were used to calculate the sums presented and might therefore not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.

Questions

Have questions about the data presented in this report? Please contact Christian Bourque, Executive Vice-President, Eastern Canada at the following e-mail addresses: cbourque@leger360.com

A more detailed methodology is presented in the Appendix.

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Methodology

Leger is the polling firm that has presented the most accurate election survey data, on average, over the last ten years in Canada. During the last federal election in 2021, Leger was once again **the most accurate** **firm in the country**. This accuracy is attributed to the quality of the LEO panel and rigorous application of methodological rules by Leger's 600 employees, including 200 professionals in Leger's eight offices across Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and in the United States (New York).

Poll aggregator 338Canada.com gave Leger the highest rating among all polling firms in Canada for the accuracy of its studies. See https://338canada.com/pollster-ratings.htm

2021 CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION	C	L	NDP	B	PPC	🌼
LEGER SURVEY Published in *Le Journal de Montréal and The National Post/Postmedia* September 18, 2021	33%	32%	19%	7%	6%	2%
OFFICIAL RESULTS 2021 **Canadian** Federal Election*	33.7%	32.6%	17.8%	7.7%	5.0%	2.3%

Key Highlights

From May 10 to May 12, 2024, we surveyed Canadians to find out their opinions and perceptions on abortion rights and how the situation in the United States could affect theirs in Canada.

Some of the key highlights of our survey on abortion rights include…

- A majority of Canadians (80%) are in favour of a woman's right to an abortion if she so chooses, while around one in ten (11%) are opposed, and 9% don't know where they stand on the matter. Women and Canadians 55 years of age or more are more likely to be in favour of the women's right to choose (respectively 84%).

- Half of Canadians (49%) think the situation in the United States with regards to the right to an abortion will have an impact here in Canada, while around three in ten Canadians (31%) think it will not. Men (35%), people 55 years of age or older (35%), and Quebecers (37%) are more likely to think the situation with regard to the right to abortion in the United States will not have an impact here in Canada.

- Roughly one in four Canadians (27%) think that Justin Trudeau's political party is the most committed to protecting abortion rights, while close to one in three (32%) think that Pierre Poilievre's party is the least committed to protecting those same rights.

- One in four Canadians (25%) would support their province using the "notwithstanding clause" to ban discussions about sexual orientation and gender identity in schools in their province. This represents a significant decrease of 12 percentage points compared to the results obtained in October 2023.

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Detailed Results

Support for Women's Right to Abortion (1/2)

Q1. Are you in favour or opposed to a woman's right to an abortion if she so chooses?
Base: All respondents (n=1,545)

Strongly in favour	63%
Somewhat in favour	17%

Total In Favour: 80%

Somewhat opposed	5%
Strongly opposed	6%

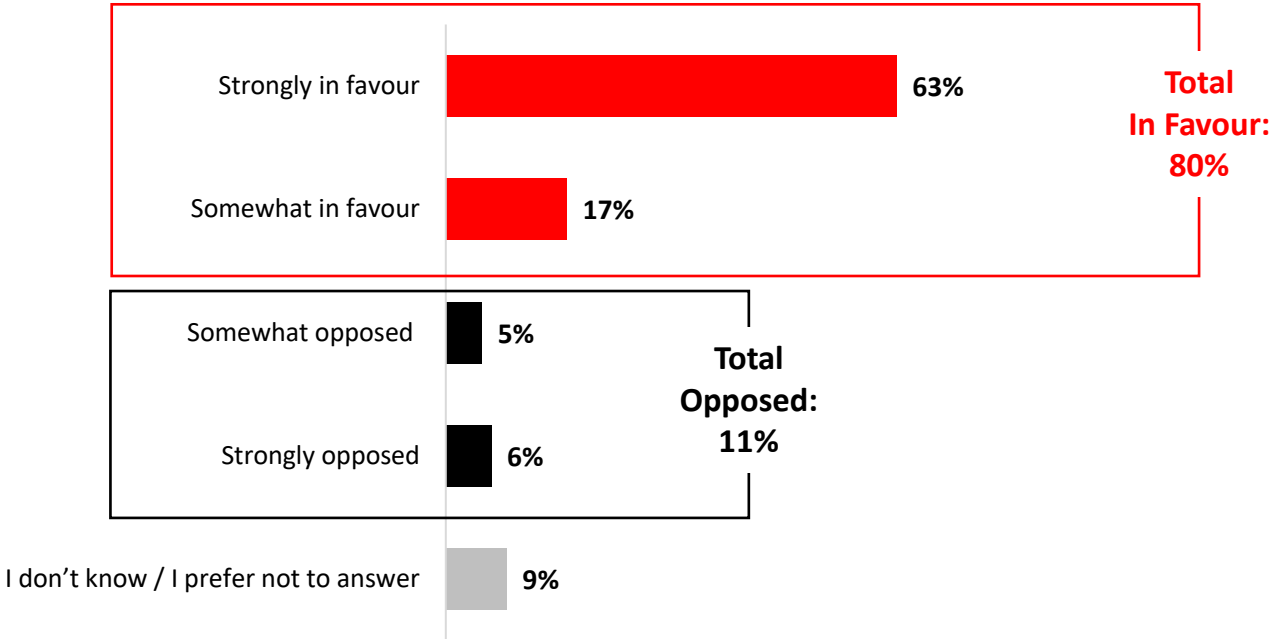**Total Opposed: 11%**

I don't know / I prefer not to answer — 9%

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Support for Women's Right to Abortion (2/2)

Q1. Are you in favour or opposed to a woman's right to an abortion if she so chooses?
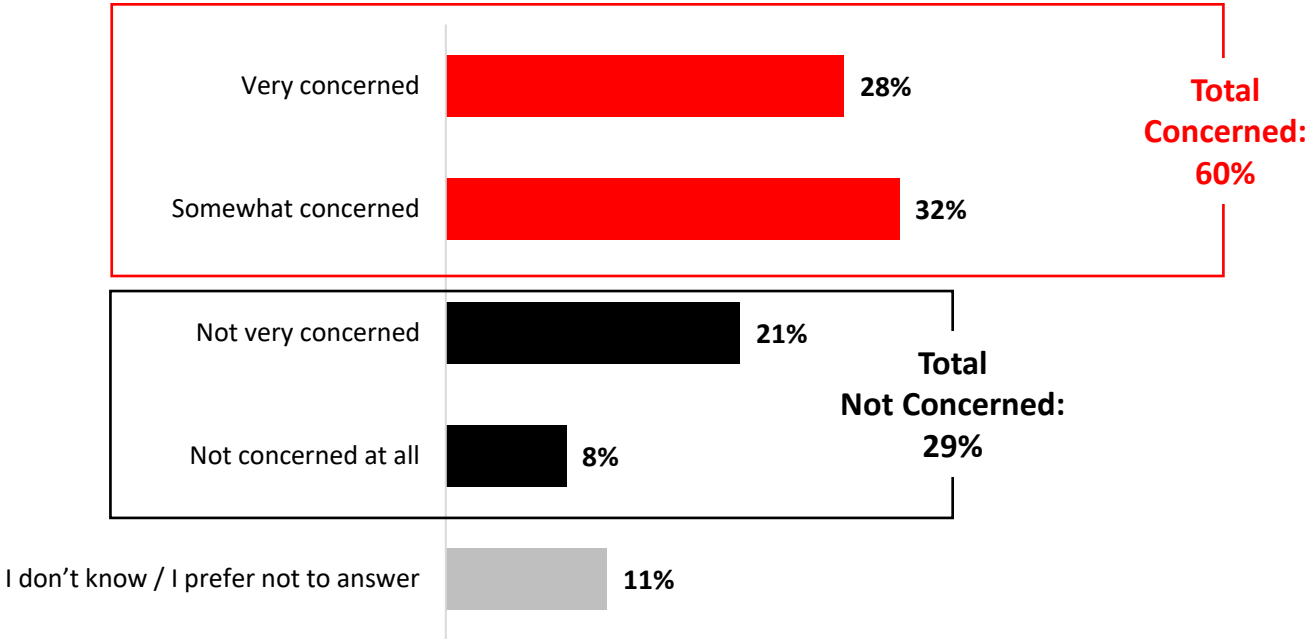Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural	Total May 2022	Gap
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	427	604	125	137	152	753	792	365	552	628	694	565	278	1,534	
Total In Favour	**80%**	77%	89%	80%	68%	76%	76%	76%	84%	76%	78%	84%	80%	83%	76%	**79%**	+1
Strongly in favour	63%	59%	71%	62%	49%	63%	63%	57%	69%	58%	61%	68%	61%	66%	63%	62%	+1
Somewhat in favour	17%	18%	18%	18%	19%	13%	13%	20%	14%	18%	17%	16%	19%	17%	13%	17%	-
Total Opposed	**11%**	15%	6%	11%	21%	11%	15%	13%	10%	15%	12%	9%	11%	10%	15%	**14%**	-3
Somewhat opposed	5%	8%	3%	5%	8%	5%	5%	6%	4%	7%	5%	4%	5%	4%	6%	6%	-1
Strongly opposed	6%	8%	3%	6%	13%	6%	10%	7%	6%	8%	7%	5%	5%	6%	9%	8%	-2
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	9%	8%	4%	9%	11%	13%	9%	11%	7%	9%	10%	7%	9%	6%	9%	7%	+2

Concerns About Access to Abortion Services in Canada (1/2)

Q2. How concerned are you about women's right to access abortion services in Canada?
Base: All respondents (n=1,545)

Very concerned — 28%

Somewhat concerned — 32%

Total Concerned: 60%

Not very concerned — 21%

Not concerned at all — 8%

Total Not Concerned: 29%

I don't know / I prefer not to answer — 11%

Concerns About Access to Abortion Services in Canada (2/2)

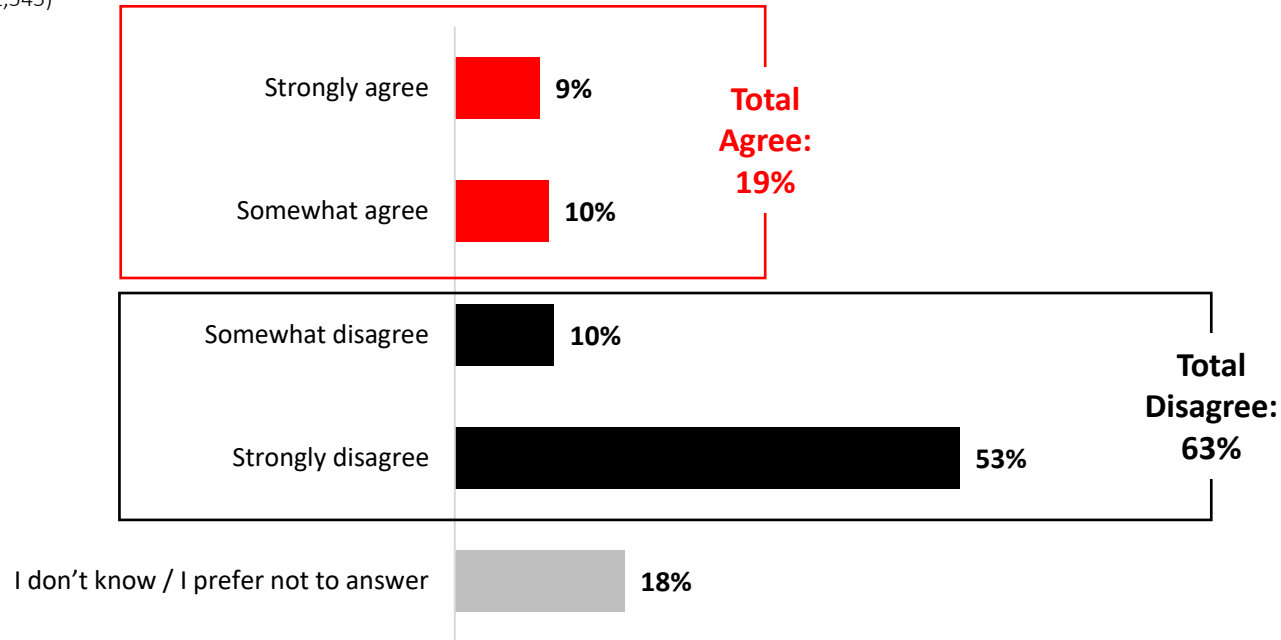**Q2.** How concerned are you about women's right to access abortion services in Canada?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	427	604	125	137	152	753	792	365	552	628	694	565	278
Total Concerned	**60%**	**70%**	61%	62%	53%	59%	**49%**	**54%**	**65%**	60%	56%	62%	60%	59%	62%
Very concerned	**28%**	29%	31%	29%	27%	21%	25%	**22%**	**33%**	26%	27%	30%	29%	26%	29%
Somewhat concerned	**32%**	40%	31%	33%	27%	37%	**23%**	32%	32%	35%	29%	32%	31%	32%	33%
Total Not Concerned	**29%**	23%	32%	**26%**	35%	23%	**39%**	**35%**	**24%**	27%	33%	28%	28%	32%	26%
Not very concerned	**21%**	**12%**	24%	18%	26%	**14%**	28%	**23%**	**18%**	20%	23%	19%	21%	24%	**15%**
Not concerned at all	**8%**	11%	8%	7%	10%	9%	11%	**11%**	**6%**	7%	9%	9%	8%	8%	11%
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	**11%**	7%	**7%**	12%	11%	**19%**	12%	12%	11%	13%	12%	10%	11%	10%	12%

Opinion on the Overturning of Roe v. Wade in the U.S. (1/2)

Q3. Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that recognized a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, was overturned in 2022. This change allows individual states to regulate or ban abortions, impacting women's access to abortion services depending on their state of residence. Do you agree or disagree with the decision to repeal Roe v. Wade in the United States?

Base: All respondents (n=1,545)

Strongly agree	9%
Somewhat agree	10%

Total Agree: 19%

Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	53%

Total Disagree: 63%

I don't know / I prefer not to answer	18%

Opinion on the Overturning of Roe v. Wade in the U.S. (2/2)

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Q3. Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that recognized a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, was overturned in 2022. This change allows individual states to regulate or ban abortions, impacting women's access to abortion services depending on their state of residence. Do you agree or disagree with the decision to repeal Roe v. Wade in the United States?
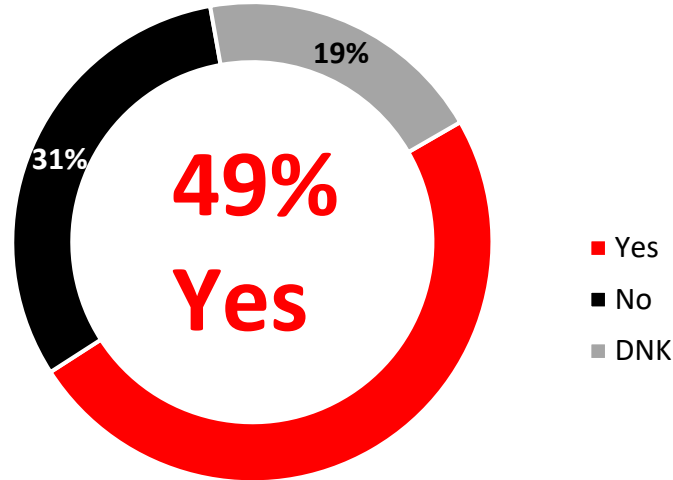
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	427	604	125	137	152	753	792	365	552	628	694	565	278
Total Agree	**19%**	26%	14%	17%	31%	23%	17%	24%	13%	26%	20%	13%	22%	16%	18%
Strongly agree	**9%**	13%	6%	8%	18%	9%	11%	11%	7%	10%	10%	8%	10%	7%	10%
Somewhat agree	**10%**	13%	8%	10%	14%	14%	6%	13%	6%	16%	10%	6%	11%	9%	8%
Total Disagree	**63%**	61%	71%	63%	59%	52%	63%	57%	69%	51%	61%	73%	60%	70%	62%
Somewhat disagree	**10%**	8%	10%	11%	13%	8%	11%	12%	8%	10%	12%	9%	10%	11%	10%
Strongly disagree	**53%**	53%	60%	53%	47%	44%	52%	45%	61%	41%	49%	64%	49%	59%	52%
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	**18%**	13%	15%	19%	9%	25%	20%	18%	17%	23%	19%	13%	19%	14%	20%

Impact of U.S. Abortion Rights Changes on Canada

Q4. Do you think the situation in the United States with regards to the right to an abortion may have an impact here in Canada?
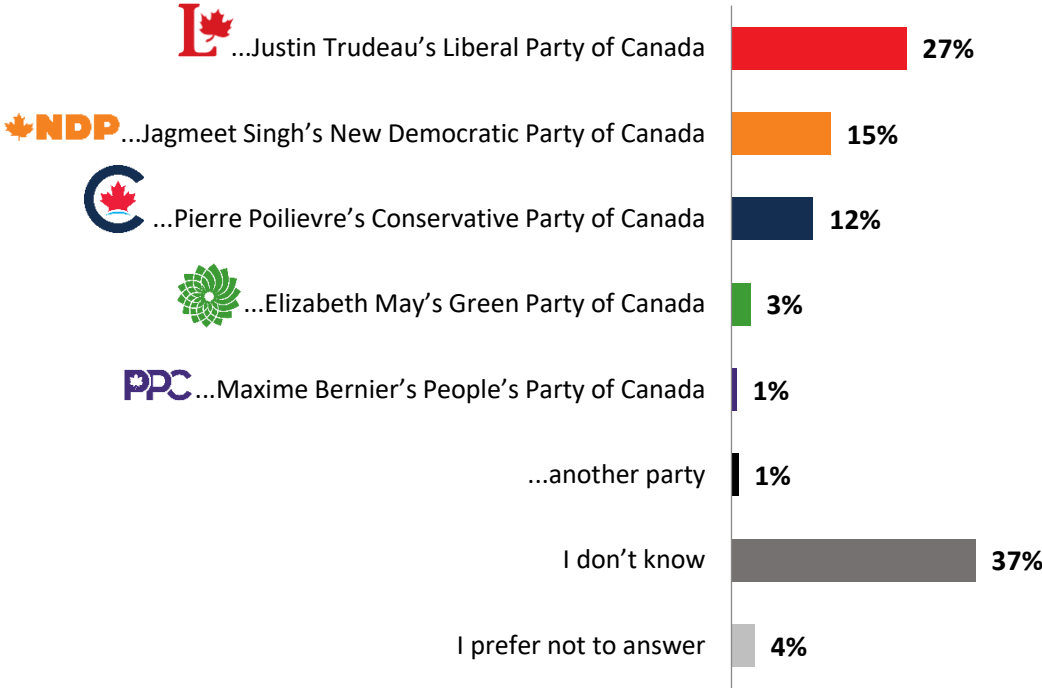Base: All respondents (n=1,545)

49% Yes

- Yes
- No
- DNK

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural	Total May 2022	Gap
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	427	604	125	137	152	753	792	365	552	628	694	565	278	1,534	
Yes	**49%**	53%	46%	48%	53%	49%	55%	48%	51%	**55%**	48%	47%	50%	49%	48%	**46%**	+3
No	**31%**	26%	**37%**	31%	28%	29%	29%	**35%**	**28%**	**26%**	31%	**35%**	29%	34%	31%	**35%**	-4
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	**19%**	20%	17%	21%	19%	23%	16%	17%	22%	19%	21%	19%	20%	**16%**	21%	**19%**	-

Federal Party Most Likely to Protect Abortion Rights (1/2)

Q5. Which Canadian political party do you believe is <u>most</u> committed to protecting abortion rights?

Base: All respondents (n=1,545)

...Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party of Canada	27%
...Jagmeet Singh's New Democratic Party of Canada	15%
...Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party of Canada	12%
...Elizabeth May's Green Party of Canada	3%
...Maxime Bernier's People's Party of Canada	1%
...another party	1%
I don't know	37%
I prefer not to answer	4%

Federal Party Most Likely to Protect Abortion Rights (2/2)

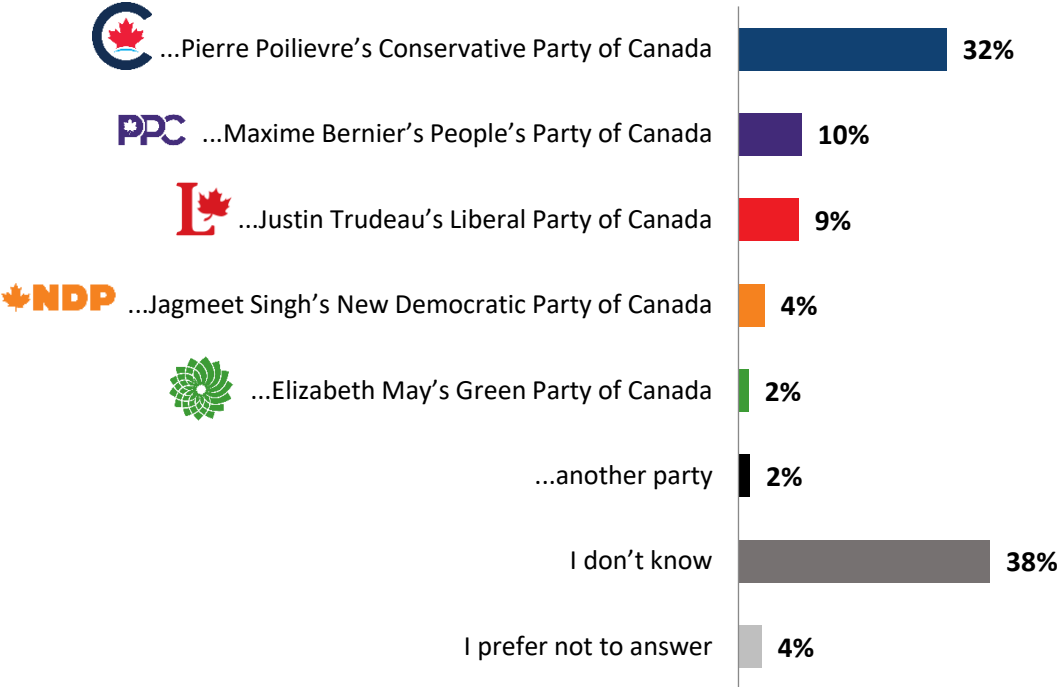**Q5.** Which Canadian political party do you believe is <u>most</u> committed to protecting abortion rights?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	427	604	125	137	152	753	792	365	552	628	694	565	278
...Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party of Canada	**27%**	24%	34%	25%	21%	15%	31%	29%	24%	21%	25%	32%	26%	30%	23%
...Jagmeet Singh's New Democratic Party of Canada	**15%**	18%	11%	17%	13%	14%	17%	17%	14%	25%	15%	9%	18%	15%	9%
...Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party of Canada	**12%**	8%	11%	13%	15%	17%	9%	15%	10%	12%	11%	14%	12%	12%	13%
...Elizabeth May's Green Party of Canada	**3%**	3%	1%	3%	4%	1%	6%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%
...Maxime Bernier's People's Party of Canada	**1%**	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
...another party	**1%**	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
I don't know	**37%**	39%	33%	36%	43%	50%	36%	30%	44%	34%	42%	35%	36%	34%	45%
I prefer not to answer	**4%**	7%	4%	4%	3%	2%	0%	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%

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Federal Party Least Likely to Protect Abortion Rights (1/2)

Q6. Which Canadian political party do you believe is <u>least</u> committed to protecting abortion rights?
Base: All respondents (n=1,545)

Party	%
...Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party of Canada	32%
...Maxime Bernier's People's Party of Canada	10%
...Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party of Canada	9%
...Jagmeet Singh's New Democratic Party of Canada	4%
...Elizabeth May's Green Party of Canada	2%
...another party	2%
I don't know	38%
I prefer not to answer	4%

Federal Party Least Likely to Protect Abortion Rights (2/2)

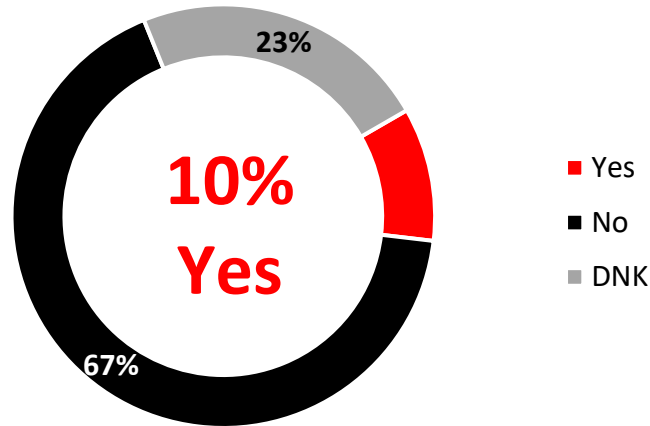**Q6.** Which Canadian political party do you believe is <u>least</u> committed to protecting abortion rights?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	427	604	125	137	152	753	792	365	552	628	694	565	278
...Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party of Canada	**32%**	27%	**42%**	**28%**	24%	**22%**	**41%**	34%	29%	29%	29%	**36%**	34%	32%	**26%**
...Maxime Bernier's People's Party of Canada	**10%**	7%	10%	10%	10%	11%	8%	**13%**	**6%**	12%	10%	8%	10%	11%	**6%**
...Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party of Canada	**9%**	9%	**6%**	9%	15%	15%	6%	10%	9%	**13%**	9%	**7%**	8%	10%	11%
...Jagmeet Singh's New Democratic Party of Canada	**4%**	**1%**	3%	**6%**	3%	3%	3%	5%	3%	5%	4%	4%	4%	5%	**2%**
...Elizabeth May's Green Party of Canada	**2%**	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	**1%**	2%	2%	1%
...another party	**2%**	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%
I don't know	**38%**	46%	**33%**	40%	39%	44%	36%	**32%**	**45%**	**33%**	41%	40%	37%	36%	**47%**
I prefer not to answer	**4%**	8%	3%	5%	5%	1%	**1%**	**2%**	**5%**	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%

Opinion on Using the Notwithstanding Clause for Abortion Restrictions

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Q7. The notwithstanding clause in Canada allows federal or provincial legislatures to override certain sections of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This power enables legislatures to enact legislation that may contravene specific rights and freedoms related to fundamental, legal, and equality rights for a renewable period of up to five years. In your opinion, should the federal government use the notwithstanding clause to restrict access to abortion?
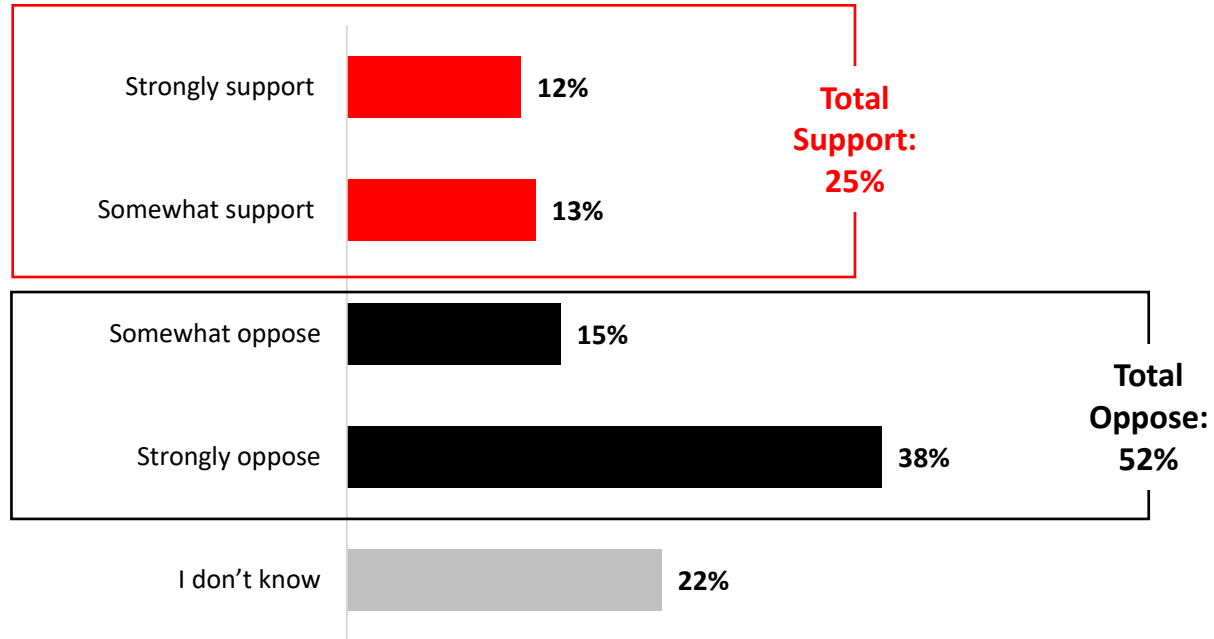Base: All respondents (n=1,545)

23%

**10%
Yes**

67%

■ Yes
■ No
■ DNK

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	427	604	125	137	152	753	792	365	552	628	694	565	278
Yes	**10%**	10%	7%	11%	10%	13%	11%	13%	7%	17%	12%	5%	13%	9%	6%
No	**67%**	68%	73%	66%	64%	62%	66%	65%	68%	57%	64%	75%	64%	71%	67%
I don't know/I prefer not to answer	**23%**	22%	19%	24%	27%	26%	23%	21%	24%	26%	24%	20%	23%	20%	26%

Support for the Use of the Notwithstanding Clause to Ban Discussions Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Schools (1/2)

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Q8. How much would you support or oppose your province using the "notwithstanding clause" in the Constitution to ban discussions about sexual orientation and gender identity in schools in your province?
Base: All respondents (n=1,545)

Category	Percentage
Strongly support	12%
Somewhat support	13%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	38%
I don't know	22%

Total Support: 25%

Total Oppose: 52%

Support for the Use of the Notwithstanding Clause to Ban Discussions Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Schools (2/2)

Q8. How much would you support or oppose your province using the "notwithstanding clause" in the Constitution to ban discussions about sexual orientation and gender identity in schools in your province?
Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural	Total Oct. 2023	Gap
Unweighted n=	1,545	100	427	604	125	137	152	753	792	365	552	628	694	565	278	*1,518*	
Total Support	**25%**	**14%**	24%	26%	26%	31%	28%	**31%**	**20%**	27%	28%	**22%**	27%	25%	24%	**37%**	-12
Strongly support	**12%**	7%	10%	13%	12%	13%	16%	**15%**	**10%**	11%	**16%**	**10%**	12%	11%	16%	**18%**	-6
Somewhat support	**13%**	**7%**	14%	13%	14%	18%	11%	**16%**	**11%**	16%	13%	12%	15%	14%	**7%**	**19%**	-6
Total Oppose	**52%**	**66%**	54%	51%	52%	45%	54%	51%	54%	51%	**45%**	**59%**	50%	56%	53%	**40%**	+12
Somewhat oppose	**15%**	13%	16%	15%	11%	12%	18%	17%	13%	17%	13%	15%	14%	17%	15%	**13%**	+2
Strongly opposed	**38%**	**52%**	39%	35%	41%	33%	36%	**34%**	**41%**	33%	**32%**	**44%**	37%	39%	38%	**27%**	+11
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	**22%**	21%	22%	23%	22%	25%	18%	**19%**	**25%**	22%	**26%**	**18%**	23%	20%	23%	**24%**	-2

REPORT

Detailed Methodology

Weighted and Unweighted Sample (1/2)

The table below presents the Canadian geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Province	**1,545**	**1,545**
British Columbia	152	215
Alberta	137	172
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	125	99
Ontario	604	598
Quebec	427	357
Atlantic	100	104

Weighted and Unweighted Sample (2/2)

The following tables present the demographic distribution of respondents according to gender, age and language (mother tongue) for Canada.

The table below presents the Canadian geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Gender	**1,545**	**1,545**
Male	753	753
Female	792	792
Age	**1,545**	**1,545**
18 to 34	365	412
35 to 54	552	497
55+	628	636
Language (Mother tongue)	**1,545**	**1,545**
English	953	1036
French	394	305
Other	197	203

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  Data modelling and analysis

- **Leger Opinion (LEO)**
  Panel management

- **Leger Communities**
  Online community management

- **Leger Digital**
  Digital strategy and user experience

- **International Research**
  Worldwide Independent Network (WIN)

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