

Leger

IN COLLABORATION WITH

 **POSTMEDIA**

POSTMEDIA-LEGER POLL:

Canadians' Views toward Equalization

METHODOLOGY

Methodology

Study Population

- Canada residents, aged 18 and older.

Data Collection

- A total of n of 1554 online surveys were conducted via Leger's online panel, LEO.
- Interviews were conducted from October 29 to November 1, 2021.

Statistical Analysis

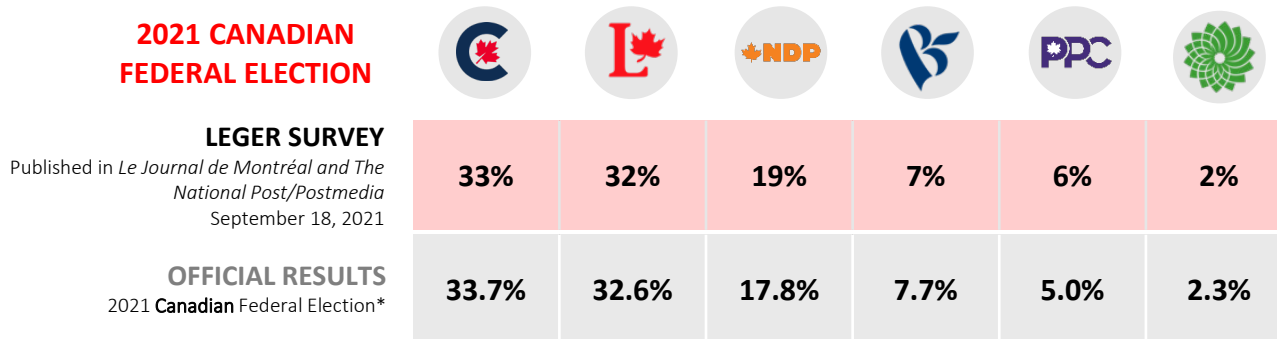
- As a non-probability internet survey, a margin of error is technically not to be reported.
- If the data were collected through a random sample, the margin of error would be $n \sim 1500 \pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.
- Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to age, gender and region in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.
- The numbers presented have been rounded to the nearest whole number. However, raw values were used to calculate the sums presented and therefore may not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.
- Through out the report, proportions highlighted **green** are significantly larger than those highlighted in **red** at 95% confidence interval

For additional information or questions regarding this poll please contact Andrew Enns (aenns@leger360.com)

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Leger is the polling firm that has presented the most accurate 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 (Philadelphia).

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>



*The official results were obtained from Elections Canada on September 24, 2021, at 9:45 a.m. EDT.

Detailed Results: How We Identify

Almost 7 in 10 identify first as Canadian. Quebec residents most likely to identify with their province, while Atlantic Canadians stand-out somewhat as identifying regionally

How Canadians Identify		TOTAL CANADA	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	ATL	West	East	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
	Weighted n =	1,554	211	174	101	596	365	107	487	1067	424	530	600	755	799
	I see myself as a Canadian	68%	62%	74%	81%	75%	56%	64%	70%	67%	62%	68%	73%	66%	71%
	I see myself as a resident of my province	16%	18%	11%	11%	8%	32%	14%	14%	16%	14%	14%	18%	15%	16%
	I see myself as a resident of my region	3%	1%	4%	2%	1%	3%	14%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	2%
	I see myself through my ethnic, cultural heritage	7%	9%	9%	3%	8%	4%	5%	8%	7%	11%	8%	3%	8%	6%
	Other	3%	3%	0%	3%	5%	3%	1%	2%	4%	5%	3%	2%	3%	3%
	Don't know	3%	6%	2%	0%	3%	2%	2%	4%	3%	6%	3%	1%	3%	3%

CEO1: When you think about and describe yourself, which of the following is your top of mind spontaneous description? Base: Canadians (n=1554)

Three-quarter of Canadians say their province is better off being part of Canada. This feeling is strongest in Ontario, followed by Atlantic Canada

CEO2: Considering all the services and opportunities provided by your province and what is provided by the national government, is your province better off being part of Canada or would it be better off on its own?



■ Much better on own ■ Somewhat better on own ■ No difference ■ Somewhat better part of Canada ■ Much better part of Canada

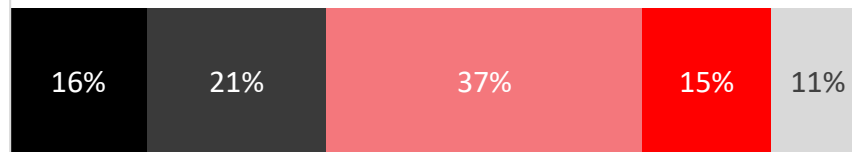
% Better Off In Canada

	TOTAL CANADA	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	ATL	West	East	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
Weighted n =	1,554	211	174	101	596	365	107	487	1067	424	530	600	755	799
Total Better off in Canada	75%	74%	69%	64%	85%	64%	83%	70%	77%	71%	75%	77%	72%	78%
Province better on Own	13%	12%	19%	16%	5%	22%	4%	16%	11%	12%	9%	15%	15%	9%

CEO2: Considering all the services and opportunities provided by and within your province and what is provided by the national government, do you think your province is better off being part of the larger country of Canada or would it be better off on its own? Base: Canadians (n=1554)

Half of Canadians feel their province's interests are well represented in Ottawa. However only about a third of Western Canadians feel this way.

CEO3: Do you agree or disagree with the statement: I believe the interests and concerns of my province are being well represented within the national government in Ottawa.



Strongly disagree
 Somewhat disagree
 Somewhat agree
 Strongly agree
 Don't know

% Agree/Disagree

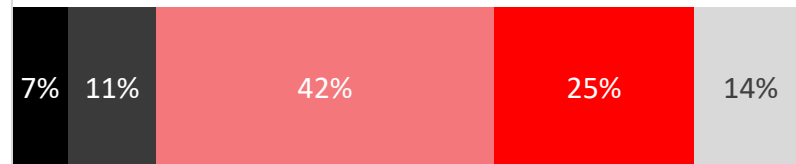
	TOTAL CANADA	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	ATL	West	East	18-34	35-54	55+	Male	Female
Weighted n =	1,554	211	174	101	596	365	107	487	1067	424	530	600	755	799
Agree interests of my province represented in Ottawa	52%	39%	32%	37%	61%	57%	48%	36%	58%	52%	49%	54%	55%	49%
Disagree interests of my province represented in Ottawa	37%	41%	61%	53%	27%	33%	43%	51%	31%	38%	35%	38%	38%	36%

CEO3: Do you agree or disagree with the statement: I believe the interests and concerns of my province are being well represented within the national government in Ottawa: Canadians (n=1554)

Detailed Results: Equalization

Two-thirds of Canadians are supportive of the Equalization program, with support highest in the East and among the beneficiaries of Equalization.

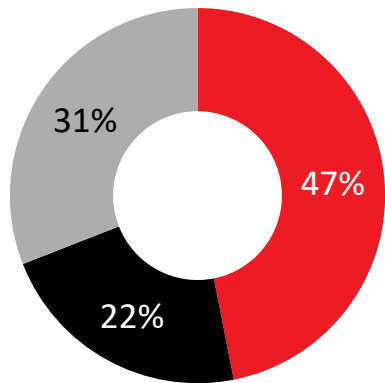
CEO4: [PREAMBLE] Based on what you just read, along with anything else you know; do you support or oppose Canada's system of equalization payments?



Strongly oppose
 Somewhat oppose
 Somewhat support
 Strongly support
 Don't know

% Support/Oppose	Weighted n =													
	TOTAL CANADA	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	ATL	West	East	Haves	Have Nots	18-34	35-54	55+
Support equalization	67%	61%	53%	53%	69%	77%	78%	56%	73%	62%	78%	64%	65%	72%
Oppose equalization	18%	26%	38%	28%	17%	8%	8%	31%	13%	24%	8%	17%	19%	19%

CEO4: Equalization is a formal system in Canada that distributes taxation revenue from wealthier provinces to provinces with lower taxation revenues. This system ensures all provinces can financially support a standard level of essential services, like delivering healthcare and education to its citizens. Based on what you just read, along with anything else you know; do you support or oppose Canada's system of equalization payments? Canadians (n=1554)

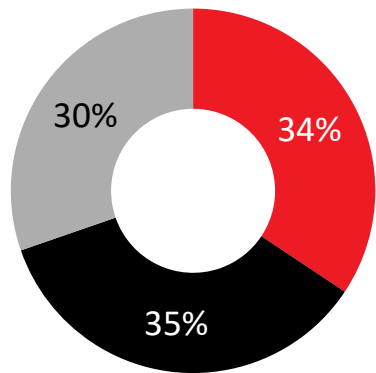


Just under half of Canadians say some provinces are relying too much on Equalization funding and not doing enough to promote their own economic growth. This number grows to just over 60% among Albertans.

■ Yes ■ Not sure ■ Don't know

	TOTAL CANADA	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	ATL	West	East	Haves	Have Nots	18-34	35-54	55+
Weighted n =	1,554	211	174	101	596	365	107	487	1067	1051	503	424	530	600
Yes, relying too much	47%	50%	61%	50%	46%	41%	38%	54%	43%	49%	40%	47%	47%	46%
No, not relying too much	22%	15%	19%	22%	19%	31%	34%	18%	25%	18%	31%	21%	21%	25%

CEO5: Do you feel some provinces are relying too much on the funding received from equalization and as a result not doing enough as a province to promote their own economic growth? Canadians: (n=1554)



Canadians divided and unsure about whether provinces that receive Equalization funding are appreciative. A majority of Albertans feel ‘Have Not’ provinces take funding for granted.

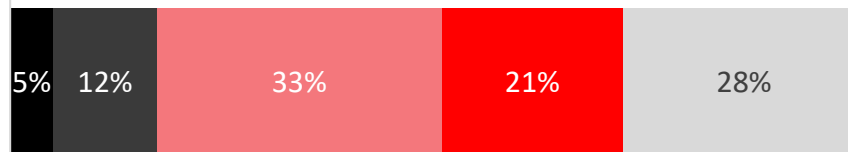
- Have Not provinces appreciate support
- Have Not provinces take support for granted
- Don't know

	TOTAL CANADA	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	ATL	West	East	Haves	Have Nots	18-34	35-54	55+
Weighted n =	1,554	211	174	101	596	365	107	487	1067	1051	503	424	530	600
‘Have Not’ provinces appreciate the support	34%	29%	32%	32%	26%	48%	49%	31%	36%	28%	48%	37%	35%	33%
‘Have Not’ provinces take funding for granted	35%	37%	52%	34%	35%	27%	35%	42%	32%	39%	28%	28%	34%	41%
Don't know	30%	34%	16%	34%	39%	25%	15%	28%	32%	33%	24%	35%	31%	26%

CEO7: Do you think the recipients of equalization funding—the "Have Not" provinces—appreciate the financial help they receive from the wealthier "Have" provinces, or, do you think the Have Not provinces take equalization for granted as an automatic payment they are entitled to, being a province in Canada?
 Canadians: (n=1554)

A majority of Canadians agree some provinces are taking unfair advantage of Equalization. This sentiment is strongest in Alberta and, interestingly, Atlantic Canada

CEO8: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I feel some provincial governments are taking unfair advantage of the equalization system when making decisions in their province.



Strongly disagree
 Somewhat disagree
 Somewhat agree
 Strongly agree
 Don't know

% Agree/Disagree	Weighted n =													
	TOTAL CANADA	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	ATL	West	East	Haves	Have Nots	18-34	35-54	55+
Agree some government are taking unfair advantage	54%	56%	72%	56%	53%	46%	66%	62%	52%	28%	48%	56%	55%	54%
Disagree some government are unfair taking advantage	17%	11%	14%	16%	15%	24%	16%	13%	18%	39%	28%	17%	16%	17%

CEO8: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I feel some provincial governments are taking unfair advantage of the equalization system when making decisions in their province: Canadians (n=1554)

A slim majority of Canadians feel the Federal government and all provinces should be a part of any discussion around changing Equalization. One quarter of residents in the ‘Have’ provinces support the discussion being between just them and the Federal government.

Who should be Involved when Changing Equalization		TOTAL CANADA	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	ATL	West	East	Haves	Have Nots	18-34	35-54	55+
		Weighted n =	1,554	211	174	101	596	365	107	487	1067	1051	503	424	530
Federal government only		8%	3%	6%	4%	8%	12%	7%	4%	9%	6%	10%	12%	8%	5%
The Federal government and the provinces that contribute to equalization		24%	27%	27%	29%	25%	18%	26%	27%	23%	26%	19%	26%	25%	23%
The Federal government and the provinces that contribute and receive equalization		51%	55%	51%	44%	47%	59%	54%	51%	51%	49%	57%	42%	48%	61%
Don't know		17%	15%	16%	22%	21%	12%	12%	17%	17%	18%	13%	20%	20%	12%

CEO6: The formula for equalization payments in Canada changes from time to time. Who should be involved in the decision to reform equalization funding in Canada? Canadians (n=1554)

RESPONDENT PROFILE

RESPONDENT PROFILE – *Canada*

	Unweighted	Weighted
n=	1554	1554
Gender	(%)	(%)
Male	56	49
Female	44	51
Age		
18 to 34	26	27
35 to 54	43	34
55 years of age or older	30	39
Region		
British Columbia	10	14
Alberta	9	11
MB/SK	8	7
Ontario	39	38
Quebec	27	23
Atlantic	6	7

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