

Leger

IN COLLABORATION WITH



POSTMEDIA-LEGER POLL

Report

Chinese Government Interference
in Canadian Politics:
Opinion of Chinese Canadians

March 2023

DATE 2023-03-29 PROJECT NUMBER 82823-009

Leger

We know Canadians



METHODOLOGY

Methodology



Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.



From March 15-22, 2023.



500 Canadian residents of Chinese descent, 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.



Using data from the 2021 Census, results were weighted according to region, age and gender within Canada, as well as by education and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population. **It should be noted that 80% of the sample for this survey reside in either Ontario or British Columbia, reflecting the distribution of Chinese Canadians across Canada.**



For comparison purposes, a probability sample of 500 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 4.4\%$, 19 times out of 20.

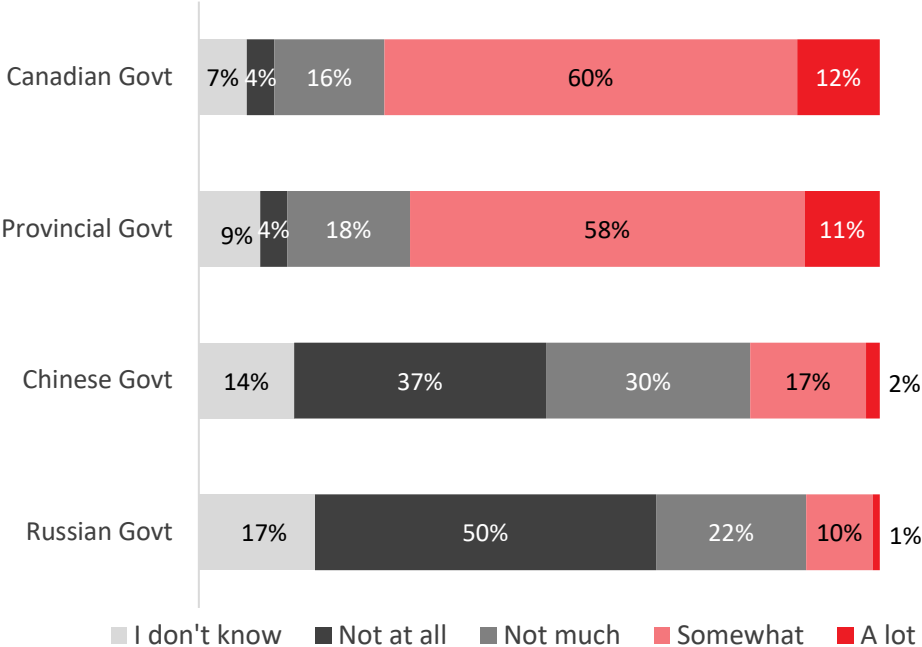
The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements. For additional information regarding this poll please contact Andrew Enns with Leger at aenns@leger360.com



DETAILED RESULTS

About 7 in 10 Chinese Canadians trust the Canadian government and their provincial government. While just 19% trust the Chinese government, this is higher than the 11% who trust the Russian government.

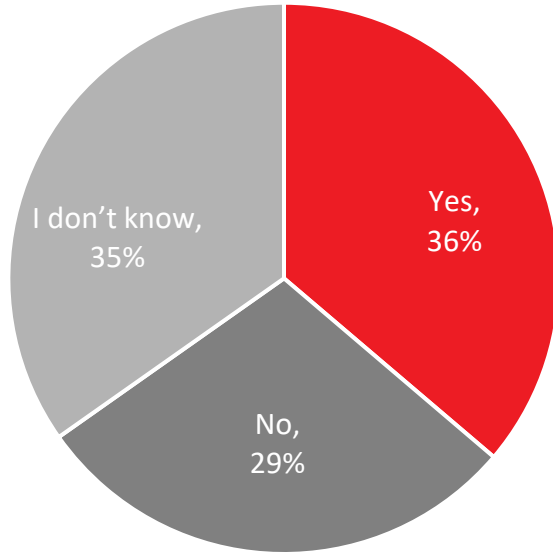
Q8-11. Typically, how much do you trust the following sources to provide you with accurate news or information?
Base: All respondents (n=500)



More than a third of Chinese Canadians believe there is truth to the allegations that China has been attempting to interfere in Canada's democracy to influence the outcome of elections. An equal number are unsure.

Q1. There have been media reports and political debate over allegations that China has been attempting to interfere in Canada's democracy to influence the outcome of elections. Do you believe there is truth to the allegations?

Base: All respondents (n=500)



Those who immigrated in the past 10 years are somewhat more likely to believe the media reports (49%) compared to those born in Canada (37%) or immigrated 10 years ago or later (33%)

Those who **do not believe** the media reports are more likely to be:

- More trusting of the Chinese government (49%) vs. those less trusting (21%)



Chinese Canadians who do feel there is truth to the allegations of electoral interference feel there are a number of reasons for the actions. About two-thirds (64% of selections) believe this is part of China's plan for increased global dominance; about half say it is to gain access to technological/industrial secrets (54%); influence Canada's relations with its allies (52%) or to reduce criticism over China's human rights record (49%).

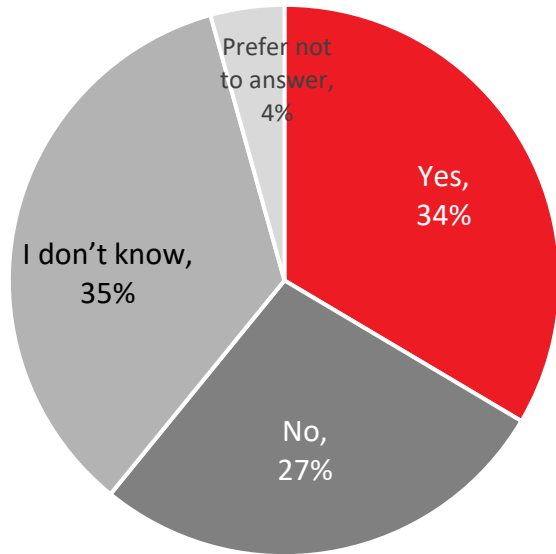
Q2. What do you believe the Chinese government hopes to achieve by interfering in Canadian elections?
OFFERED LIST MULTIPLE MENTIONS Base: *Those who believe the allegations are true (n=207)*



One-third of Chinese Canadians believe the allegations that the Chinese government has used pressure against some people in the Chinese-Canadian community to promote China's political objectives are true. An equal number are unsure.

Q4. There have been media reports and political debate over allegations that the Chinese government has used pressure against some people in the Chinese Canadian community to promote China's political objectives. These include allegations of China monitoring people and even harassing or threatening some people in the Chinese Canadian community. Do you believe these allegations are true?

Base: All respondents (n=500)



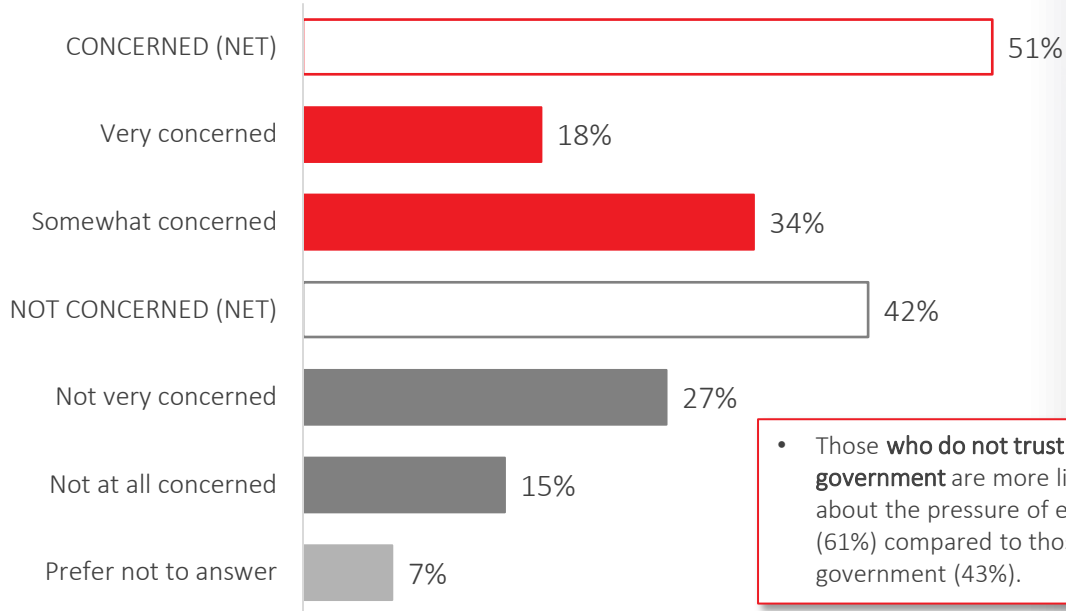
- Chinese Canadians who have immigrated to Canada less than ten years ago are almost **twice as likely to agree the allegations that China is monitoring, harassing, and/or threatening people in the Chinese Canadian community** (57%) vs. those who immigrated 10+ years ago (32%) or were born in Canada (30%).



Half of Chinese Canadians are concerned about pressure from the Chinese government influencing or impacting the political activities, including votes, of people in the Chinese Canadian community. About 4 in 10 (42%) say they are not concerned.

Q5. How concerned are you about pressure from the Chinese government influencing or impacting the political activities, including votes, of people in the Chinese Canadian community?

Base: All respondents (n=500)

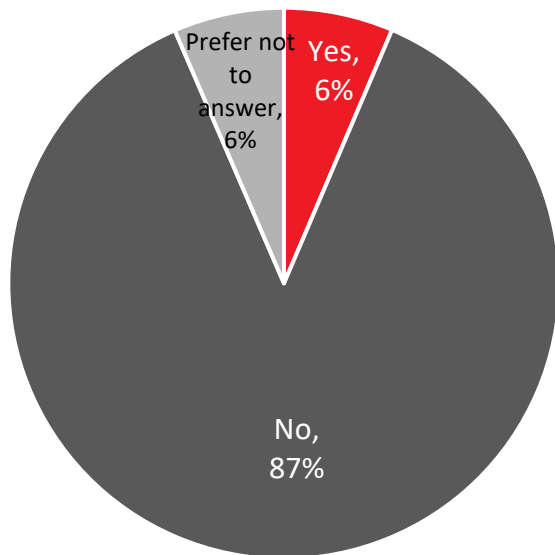


The vast majority of survey respondents have not experienced any form of intimidation or pressure from anyone representing Chinese government interests to support certain candidates/political views in Canadian elections.

6% of respondents state that they have experienced such pressure.

Q6. Have you personally experienced any form of intimidation or pressure from people you believe were representing Chinese government interests to support certain candidates or political views in Canadian elections?

Base: All respondents (n=500)



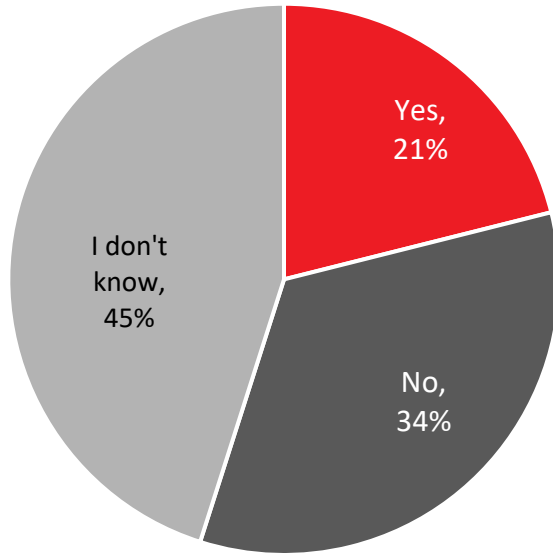
Those who state they have been victims of intimidation or pressure from people they believe were representing Chinese government interests to support certain candidates or political views in Canadian elections are significantly more likely to be:

- Chinese Canadians who immigrated to Canada less than 10 years ago (20% vs. 4% who immigrated 10+ years ago), and
- Those who are concerned that the Chinese government is influencing or impacting the political activities, including votes, of people in the Chinese-Canadian community (12% vs. <1% unconcerned).

Just one-in-five think the Canadian government has done enough to protect Chinese Canadians from foreign interference in Canadian elections.

Q7. Do you think the Canadian government has done enough to protect Chinese Canadians from foreign interference in Canadian elections?

Base: All respondents (n=500)



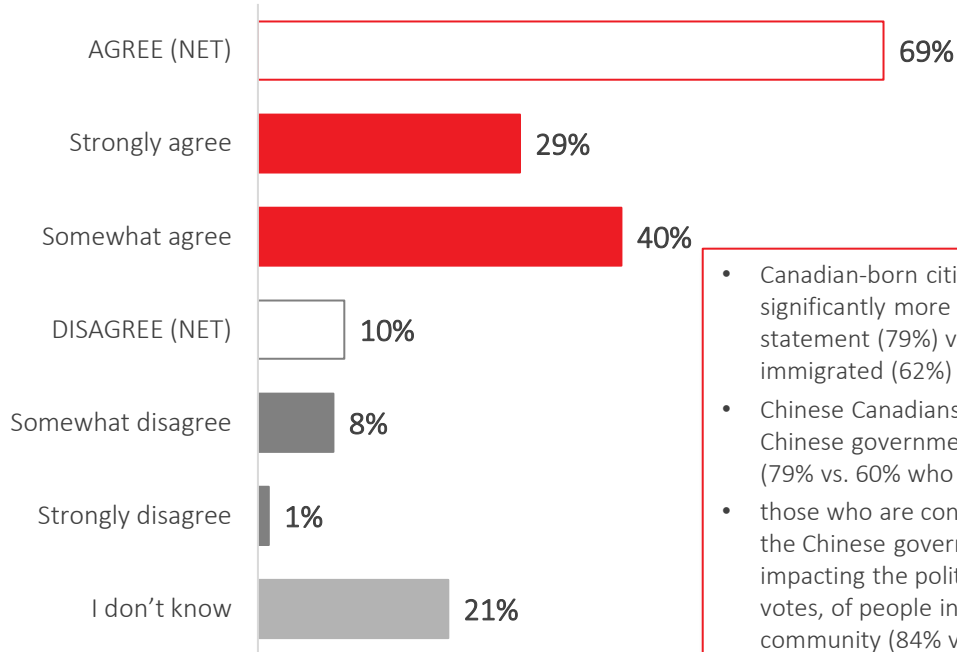
Chinese Canadians who believe the Canadian government has not provided enough protection from foreign interference in Canadian elections are somewhat more likely to be:

- those who are concerned that the Chinese government is influencing or impacting the political activities of people in the Chinese-Canadian community (49% vs. 20% not concerned)
- those who don't trust the Chinese government (42% vs. 29% among those who trust)
- those who don't trust the Canadian government (51%) compared to 32% among those who trust

Most Chinese Canadians in our survey agree that disinformation undermines our election process.

Q12. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement, disinformation undermines our election process?

Base: All respondents (n=500)



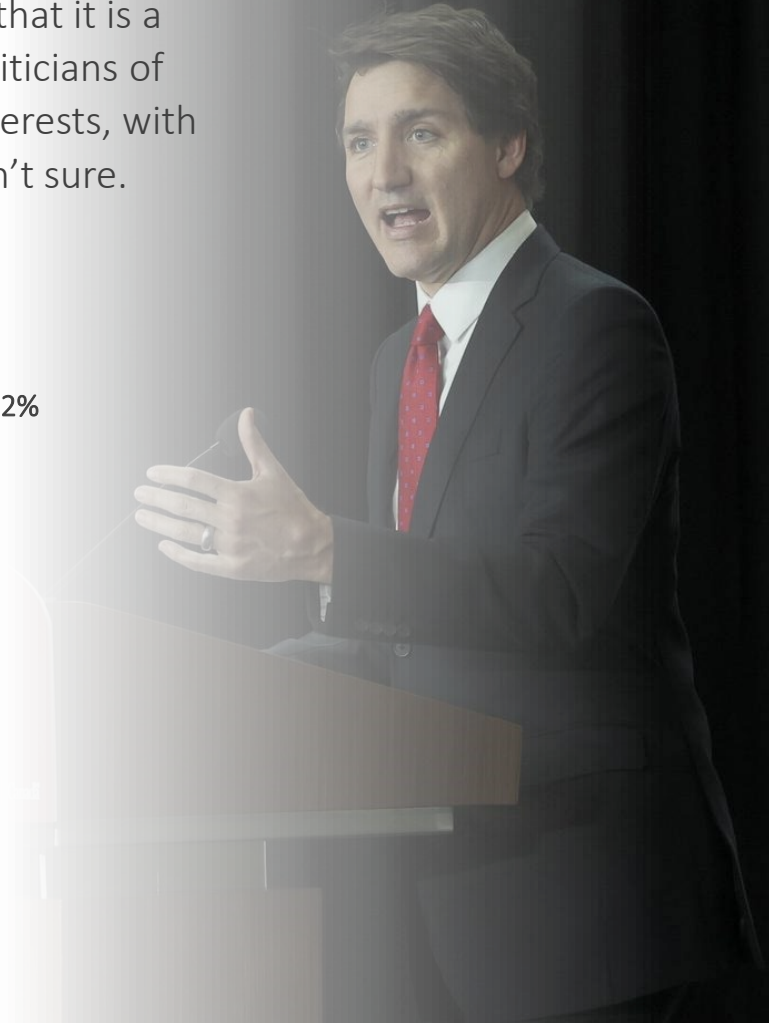
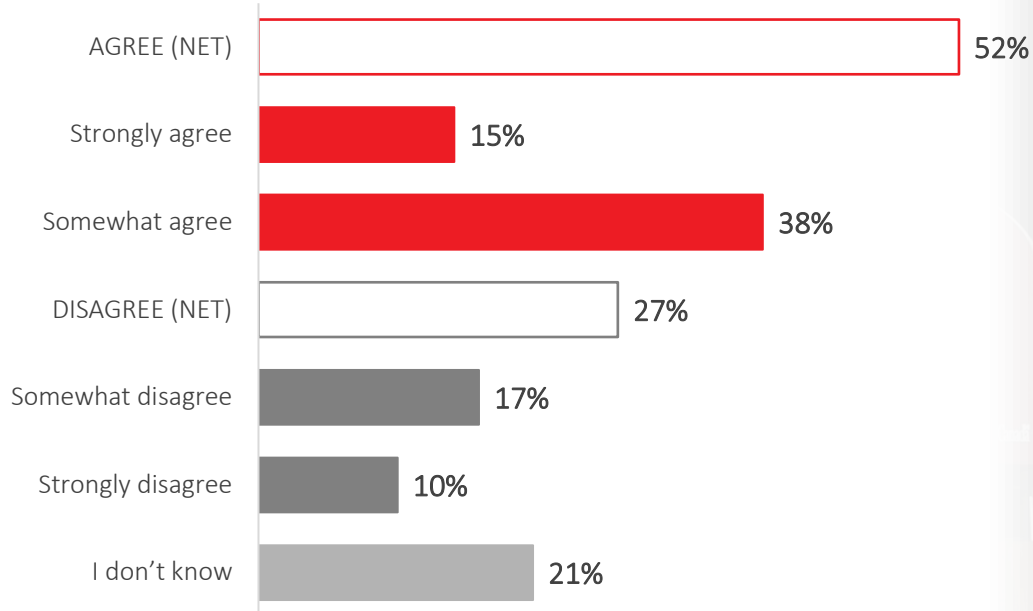
- Canadian-born citizens of Chinese descent are significantly more likely to agree with this statement (79%) vs. those who have immigrated (62%) to Canada.
- Chinese Canadians who do not trust the Chinese government are more likely to agree (79% vs. 60% who trust them)
- those who are concerned about pressure from the Chinese government influencing or impacting the political activities, including votes, of people in the Chinese Canadian community (84% vs. 58% who are not concerned).



Just over half (52%) agree with PM Justin Trudeau's statement that it is a form of 'anti-Asian racism' to suggest that certain Canadian politicians of Chinese descent may be influenced by Chinese government interests, with 15% strongly in agreement. While 27% disagree here, 21% aren't sure.

Q3. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said it is a form of "anti-Asian racism" to suggest that certain Canadian politicians who are of Chinese descent may be influenced by Chinese government interests. Do you agree or disagree the Prime Minister's statement?

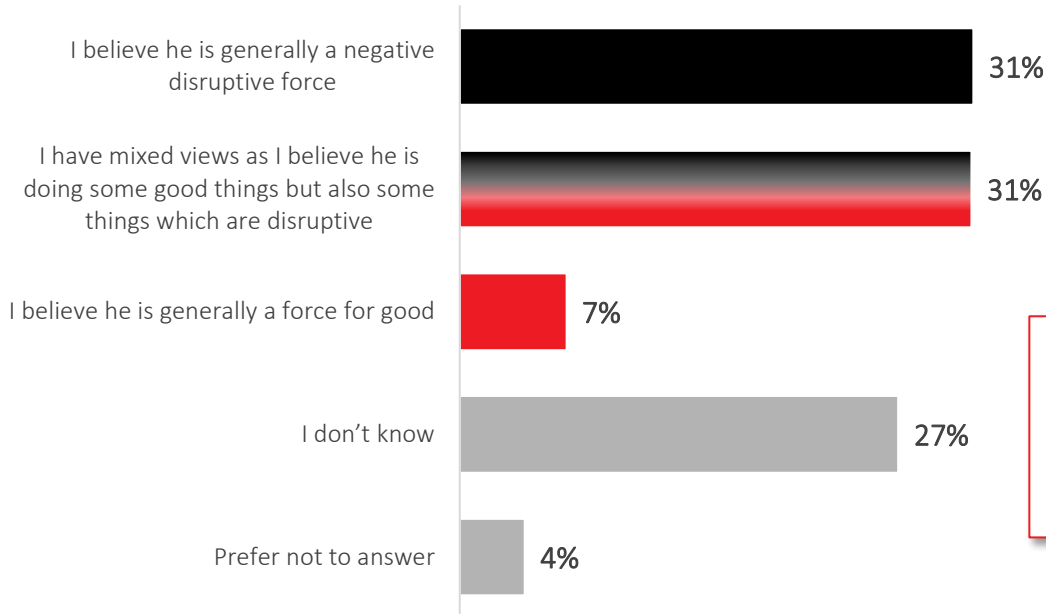
Base: All respondents (n=500)



The majority of Chinese Canadians believe President Xi Jinping is either a negative disruptive force or have mixed feelings about his Chinese national government. Very few believe he is generally a force for good. Three in ten don't know or prefer not to offer an opinion.

Q13. What are your feelings toward the current Chinese national government led by president Xi Jinping?

Base: All respondents (n=500)



- Those who trust the Chinese government are far more likely to believe Xi Jinping is a force for good (28% vs. 2% don't trust) or believe while he's done some disruptive things, he's done some good things (52% vs. 29% don't trust).



Detailed Methodology

Sampling Frame

Participants were randomly selected from LEO's online panel.

Leger owns and manages an Internet panel that includes more than 450,000 Canadians coast to coast. An online panel consists of Web users profiled according to different demographic variables. The majority of Leger's panel members (60%) were randomly recruited over the phone in the past ten years, which makes this panel very similar to the current Canadian population on a number of demographic characteristics. Moreover, 35% of panelists were recruited through affiliate programs and 5% through partner campaigns and programs.

To be eligible, respondents were required to be 18 years of age or older.

Detailed Methodology

Weighted and Unweighted Sample

The table below presents the distribution of respondents before weighting and after weighting.

REGION	Unweighted	Weighted
British Columbia	139	162
Alberta/SK/MB	57	58
Ontario	235	241
Quebec	66	32
Atlantic Canada	3	6
GENDER	Unweighted	Weighted
Male	287	229
Female	211	268
AGE	Unweighted	Weighted
Between 18 and 34	185	164
Between 35 and 55	184	158
55 or over	131	178
IMMIGRATION STATUS	Unweighted	Weighted
Born in Canada	228	219
Immigrated <10 years ago	54	51
Immigrated 10+ plus	216	228

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