

SUPPORT FOR CURRENT ISIS MISSION BEGINNING TO SAG

DECLINING SUPPORT FOR EXTENSION WHICH IS NOW EVENLY SPLIT

[Ottawa – March 26, 2015] The ISIS mission continues to receive majority support, but this support is beginning to soften and is increasingly divided across partisan leanings and other key fault lines. This pattern of waning public support is familiar and was seen in the case of the Afghanistan mission.¹ The initial blend of moral outrage and emotional chauvinism linked to the serial barbaric atrocities of ISIS will be tempered by more rational appraisal of the pros and cons of the mission as time goes on.

More pointedly, the question of extension of the mission, both in duration and possibly to something beyond an air mission, is a far more controversial proposition. Support for the extension of the mission has dropped over the past two weeks as the debate has become more concrete. In a scrupulously neutral question, which we have repeated, the public are evenly divided on whether to extend the mission. There are very distinct groups such as women, Quebeckers, visible minorities, and non-Conservative supporters who are clearly offside with an extension of the mission. Given the trajectory of support for extending the mission, and historical patterns of eroding support for past missions, it is safe to say that we will probably see clear majority opposition to this pro forma extension in the near future.

The question of whether the mission should be expanded to include ground and combat roles is basically a non-starter with most Canadians and finds little favour with anyone other than Conservative supporters. Given the dubious boundaries between combat activities and the current role, and that many experts believe that real success would entail ground and combat roles, it is clear that most Canadians want no part of this.

How this will all play politically is hard to say. The boost that this has provided to Mr. Harper has been clear. With the ISIS mission, he has had a rare moment of accord with the Canadian public on a significant position not shared by opposition leaders. Yet as support for the mission has softened, so has Harper's rise which is now stalled and arguably falling backward. Given the more precarious nature of support for extension, it is unlikely that this extension will provide much fuel

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Support for ISIS mission:**
 - ▣ **52% Support**
 - ▣ **40% Oppose**
 - ▣ **8% Don't know/No response**
- **Support for extending ISIS mission by 6 months:**
 - ▣ **47% Support**
 - ▣ **46% Oppose**
 - ▣ **7% Don't know/No response**
- **Support for expanding mission to include ground combat:**
 - ▣ **40% Support**
 - ▣ **52% Oppose**
 - ▣ **8% Don't know/No response**

Please note that the methodology is provided at the end of this document.



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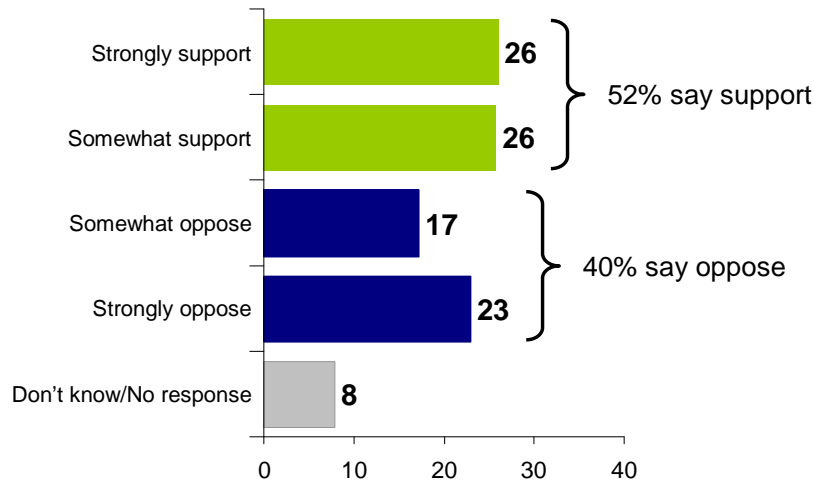
¹ EKOS Research Associates, "Political Landscape Frozen", April 8, 2015. Available online at: <http://goo.gl/FjbBWJ>

to Mr. Harper's aspirations for another mandate in October – quite possibly it will be a brake rather than a boon by then. Thomas Mulcair's NDP has been resurrected into a newly competitive position with a clear upward pattern quite plausibly linked to clear opposition to the mission and its extension (opposition to C-51 may also have been a factor here). Justin Trudeau has seen erosion of his position since the start of this mission, but his clear denouncement of extension may see him ending up on the right side of public judgement as this debate matures.

Detailed results:

Support for ISIS mission

Q. As you may have heard, Canada has sent aircraft and personnel to Iraq to join in coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State, or ISIS, but they will not be involved in ground combat. To what extent do you oppose or support this mission?

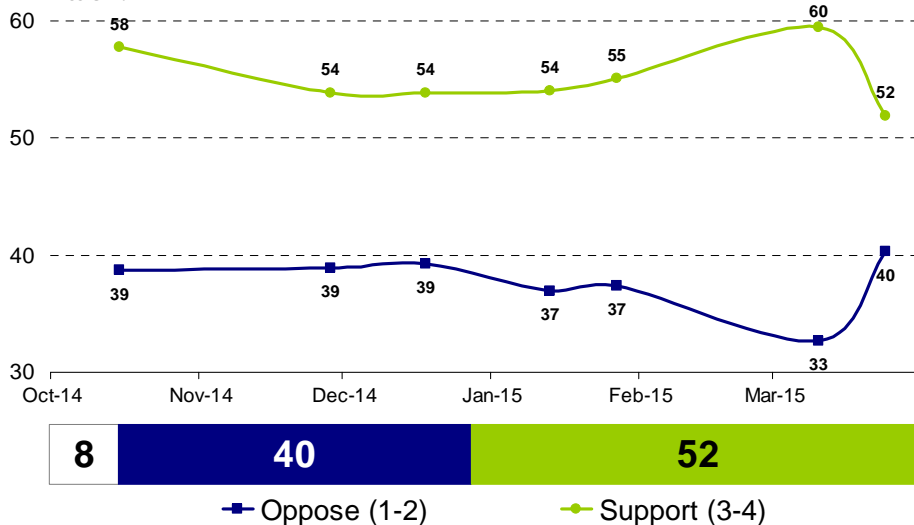


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BASE: Canadians (third-sample); March 18-25, 2015 (n=1,753), MOE +/- 2.3%, 19 times out of 20

Support for ISIS mission

Q. As you may have heard, Canada has sent aircraft and personnel to Iraq to join in coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State, or ISIS, but they will not be involved in ground combat. To what extent do you oppose or support this mission?

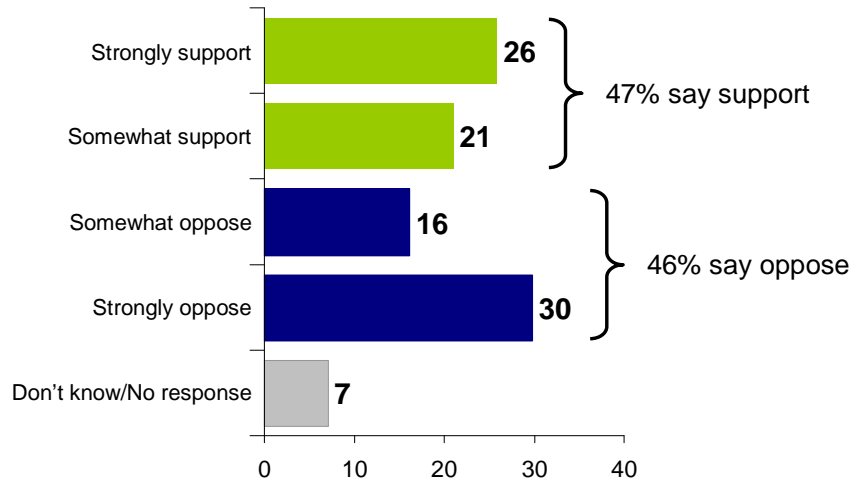


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BASE: Canadians (third-sample); March 18-25, 2015 (n=1,753), MOE +/- 2.3%, 19 times out of 20

Support for extending ISIS mission

Q. As you may have heard, Canada has sent aircraft and personnel to Iraq to join in coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State, or ISIS. The mission is scheduled to end in April. To what extent would you oppose or support **extending this mission by six months?**

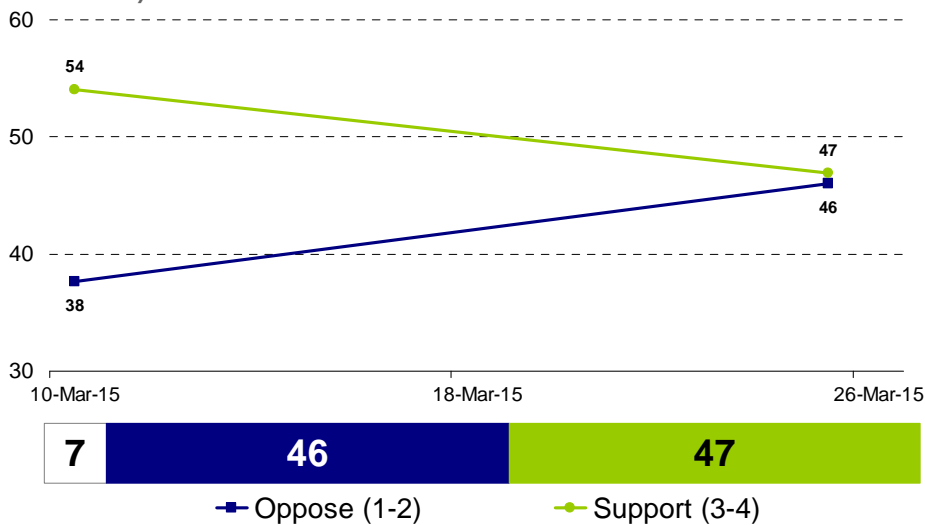


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BASE: Canadians (third-sample); March 18-25, 2015 (n=1,595), MOE +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20

Support for extending ISIS mission

Q. As you may have heard, Canada has sent aircraft and personnel to Iraq to join in coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State, or ISIS. The mission is scheduled to end in April. To what extent would you oppose or support **extending this mission by six months?**

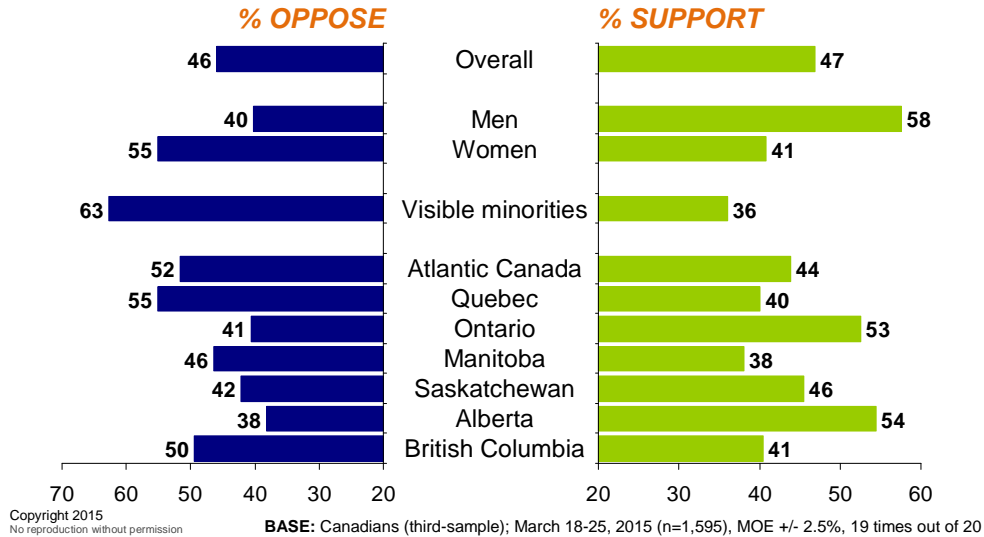


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BASE: Canadians (third-sample); March 18-25, 2015 (n=1,595), MOE +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20

Extending mission by demographics

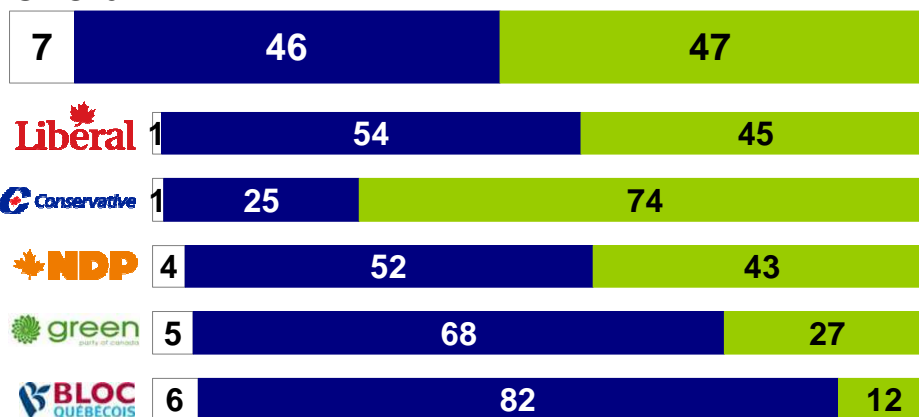
Q. As you may have heard, Canada has sent aircraft and personnel to Iraq to join in coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State, or ISIS. The mission is scheduled to end in April. To what extent would you **oppose or support extending this mission by six months?**



Extending mission by party support

Q. As you may have heard, Canada has sent aircraft and personnel to Iraq to join in coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State, or ISIS. The mission is scheduled to end in April. To what extent would you **oppose or support extending this mission by six months?**

Overall

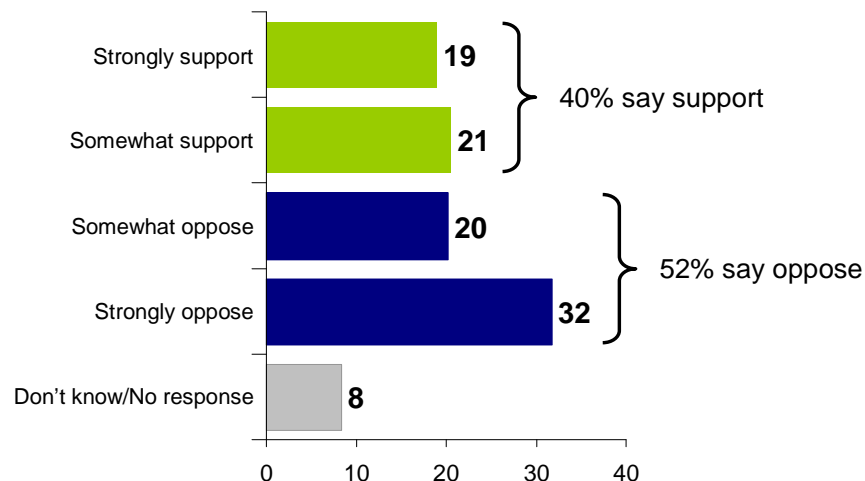


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BASE: Canadians (third-sample); March 18-25, 2015 (n=1,595), MOE +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20

Support for expanding ISIS mission

Q. As you may have heard, Canada has sent aircraft and personnel to Iraq to join in coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State, or ISIS. To what extent would you oppose or support **expanding** this mission to include **ground combat operations**?



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BASE: Canadians (third-sample); March 18-25, 2015 (n=1,594), MOE +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20

Detailed tables:

Support for ISIS Mission							
<i>Q. [Third-sample only] As you may have heard, Canada has sent aircraft and personnel to Iraq to join in coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State, or ISIS, but they will not be involved in ground combat. To what extent do you oppose or support this mission?</i>							
	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Somewhat support	Strongly support	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	23.0%	17.2%	25.8%	26.0%	7.9%	1753	2.3
REGION							
British Columbia	27.3%	16.9%	22.8%	24.4%	8.6%	298	5.7
Alberta	15.8%	10.8%	19.5%	39.0%	14.8%	209	6.8
Saskatchewan	14.9%	18.1%	28.0%	29.1%	9.9%	90	10.3
Manitoba	24.0%	17.5%	28.0%	20.6%	9.9%	87	10.5
Ontario	20.1%	15.7%	29.0%	28.6%	6.6%	635	3.9
Quebec	27.3%	22.8%	25.1%	18.8%	6.0%	284	5.8
Atlantic Canada	30.7%	18.1%	26.3%	18.5%	6.3%	141	8.3
GENDER							
Male	22.0%	13.8%	24.7%	36.1%	3.4%	820	3.4
Female	25.7%	21.8%	29.2%	18.7%	4.6%	843	3.4
AGE							
<35	28.3%	20.8%	24.8%	19.9%	6.2%	161	7.7
35-49	19.7%	20.0%	29.2%	27.1%	3.9%	321	5.5
50-64	24.9%	13.0%	28.5%	30.9%	2.8%	555	4.2
65+	21.8%	17.1%	25.0%	33.7%	2.4%	631	3.9
EDUCATION							
High school or less	26.3%	19.8%	21.4%	29.6%	2.9%	475	4.5
College or CEGEP	23.0%	17.2%	25.6%	30.1%	4.2%	496	4.4
University or higher	22.8%	17.9%	32.5%	22.8%	4.0%	676	3.8
COUNTRY OF BIRTH							
Not born in Canada	26.9%	15.6%	27.2%	25.4%	5.0%	306	5.6
Parents not born in Canada	20.4%	23.9%	27.3%	23.9%	4.4%	410	4.8
Both parents born in Canada	24.5%	16.3%	27.0%	29.1%	3.1%	945	3.2
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION							
Liberal Party	25.5%	24.2%	31.4%	17.2%	1.8%	426	4.8
Conservative Party	8.4%	7.3%	24.5%	56.5%	3.3%	490	4.4
NDP	35.8%	19.9%	25.7%	13.9%	4.7%	318	5.5
Green Party	37.0%	23.6%	20.0%	16.8%	2.7%	112	9.3
Bloc Québécois	36.3%	21.1%	19.5%	23.0%	0.0%	50	13.9

Support for Extending ISIS Mission

Q. [Half-sample only] As you may have heard, Canada has sent aircraft and personnel to Iraq to join in coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State, or ISIS. The mission is scheduled to end in April. To what extent would you oppose or support extending this mission by six months?

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Somewhat support	Strongly support	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	29.8%	16.2%	21.0%	25.9%	7.1%	1595	2.5
REGION							
British Columbia	33.1%	16.3%	16.1%	24.4%	10.0%	242	6.3
Alberta	25.0%	13.2%	20.6%	33.8%	7.4%	185	7.2
Saskatchewan	30.4%	11.8%	21.1%	24.5%	12.3%	89	10.4
Manitoba	21.3%	25.0%	11.7%	26.3%	15.6%	71	11.6
Ontario	23.9%	16.6%	22.5%	30.1%	7.0%	568	4.1
Quebec	38.3%	16.9%	22.6%	17.3%	4.8%	270	6.0
Atlantic Canada	37.3%	14.3%	19.8%	24.1%	4.6%	160	7.8
GENDER							
Male	28.7%	11.5%	22.0%	35.6%	2.3%	755	3.6
Female	33.2%	21.9%	21.9%	18.8%	4.2%	765	3.5
AGE							
<35	36.2%	20.0%	15.5%	23.3%	5.0%	133	8.5
35-49	27.4%	16.4%	26.1%	26.8%	3.2%	291	5.7
50-64	31.1%	15.0%	25.5%	26.3%	2.2%	538	4.2
65+	28.2%	14.9%	20.1%	34.3%	2.4%	556	4.2
EDUCATION							
High school or less	32.3%	13.9%	17.8%	33.1%	2.9%	407	4.9
College or CEGEP	29.2%	20.2%	24.9%	24.3%	1.3%	483	4.5
University or higher	31.5%	16.8%	22.8%	24.5%	4.4%	613	4.0
COUNTRY OF BIRTH							
Not born in Canada	31.7%	19.7%	17.8%	30.0%	0.8%	244	6.3
Parents not born in Canada	33.9%	16.9%	17.9%	28.8%	2.6%	394	4.9
Both parents born in Canada	29.6%	16.3%	24.5%	25.6%	4.0%	882	3.3
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION							
Liberal Party	35.6%	18.2%	25.3%	19.7%	1.2%	402	4.9
Conservative Party	15.1%	10.0%	20.8%	52.7%	1.4%	451	4.6
NDP	30.2%	22.2%	23.6%	19.8%	4.2%	274	5.9
Green Party	42.8%	25.4%	17.2%	9.3%	5.2%	96	10.0
Bloc Québécois	64.3%	17.9%	4.9%	7.0%	5.9%	39	15.7

Support for Expanding ISIS Mission

Q. [Third-sample only] As you may have heard, Canada has sent aircraft and personnel to Iraq to join in coalition airstrikes against the Islamic State, or ISIS. To what extent would you oppose or support expanding this mission to include ground combat operations?

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Somewhat support	Strongly support	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	31.7%	20.2%	20.6%	19.0%	8.4%	1594	2.5
REGION							
British Columbia	30.4%	19.8%	25.9%	14.8%	9.1%	240	6.3
Alberta	24.1%	18.5%	23.3%	22.4%	11.8%	180	7.3
Saskatchewan	26.6%	17.9%	15.7%	21.4%	18.3%	73	11.5
Manitoba	23.9%	21.0%	19.6%	21.7%	13.9%	82	10.8
Ontario	32.7%	20.4%	20.9%	18.1%	7.9%	596	4.0
Quebec	36.6%	19.6%	16.8%	21.9%	5.1%	277	5.9
Atlantic Canada	31.3%	24.3%	20.1%	13.9%	10.3%	134	8.5
GENDER							
Male	29.6%	19.5%	19.5%	28.8%	2.6%	738	3.6
Female	37.0%	22.7%	23.8%	11.9%	4.6%	761	3.6
AGE							
<35	36.1%	24.9%	16.4%	19.0%	3.7%	136	8.4
35-49	27.2%	21.9%	26.3%	20.0%	4.6%	244	6.3
50-64	32.3%	19.2%	23.0%	22.1%	3.3%	560	4.1
65+	38.3%	18.1%	22.0%	19.1%	2.5%	560	4.1
EDUCATION							
High school or less	30.8%	23.1%	19.4%	22.8%	3.9%	412	4.8
College or CEGEP	27.3%	22.1%	24.4%	23.3%	3.0%	506	4.4
University or higher	41.2%	19.1%	21.7%	14.3%	3.7%	572	4.1
COUNTRY OF BIRTH							
Not born in Canada	35.1%	25.5%	19.8%	17.0%	2.5%	238	6.4
Parents not born in Canada	38.7%	14.3%	21.3%	22.0%	3.7%	382	5.0
Both parents born in Canada	30.9%	22.9%	22.7%	20.1%	3.4%	876	3.3
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION							
Liberal Party	42.9%	23.6%	20.6%	11.7%	1.2%	374	5.1
Conservative Party	15.1%	14.4%	28.3%	40.0%	2.2%	478	4.5
NDP	43.6%	25.3%	20.0%	9.5%	1.7%	269	6.0
Green Party	43.2%	28.9%	14.8%	11.1%	2.0%	83	10.8
Bloc Québécois	44.2%	16.4%	17.0%	13.8%	8.6%	43	14.9

Methodology:

This study was conducted using High Definition Interactive Voice Response (HD-IVR™) technology, which allows respondents to enter their preferences by punching the keypad on their phone, rather than telling them to an operator. In an effort to reduce the coverage bias of landline only RDD, we created a dual landline/cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research. As a result, we are able to reach those with a landline and cell phone, as well as cell phone only households and landline only households.

The field dates for this survey are March 18-25, 2015. In total, a random sample of 4,942 Canadian adults aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-1.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as region, sex, age, education). All the data have been statistically weighted by **age, gender, region, and educational attainment** to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.