

Canada

ISSP 1996 - Role of Government III

- english -



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We hope very much that you will agree to participate in this important study - the twelfth in an annual series of surveys. The questions are also being asked in twenty-four other countries, as part of an international survey of social attitudes.

Completing the questionnaire

It is imperative for sampling reasons that within each home only the person selected by the interviewer answer the questionnaire. Otherwise, the sample will be skewed.

The questions inside cover a wide range of subjects, but each one can be answered simply by placing a tick or check (✓) in one or more of the boxes provided. No special knowledge is required: we are confident that everyone will be able to offer an opinion on all questions. And we want all people to take part, not just those with strong views or particular viewpoints. The questionnaire should not take very long to complete (approximately 20 minutes), and we hope you will find it interesting and enjoyable. It should be completed by the person selected by the interviewer at your address. Your participation will be treated as confidential and anonymous.

Returning the questionnaire

Your interviewer will arrange with you the most convenient way of returning the questionnaire. If the interviewer has arranged to call back for it, please complete it and keep it safely until then.

Thank you for your help.

1. First of all, thinking about the law, would you say that people should obey the law without exception, or are there exceptional occasions on which people should follow their consciences even if it means breaking the law?

Obey the law without exception	
Follow conscience on occasion	
Can't choose	

2. There are many ways for people to protest against a government action which they strongly oppose. Do you think people or organisations should definitely, probably, probably not, or definitely not be allowed the following...

	Definitely	Probably	Probably not	Definitely not	Can't choose
a. Organise public meetings to protest against the government					
b. Organise protest marches and demonstrations					
c. Organise a nationwide strike of all workers against the government					

3. Would you do any of the following to protest against a government action you strongly opposed? Would you, definitely, probably....

	Definitely would	Probably would	Probably would not	Definitely would not	Can't choose
a. Attend a public meeting organised to protest against the government					
b. Go to a protest march or demonstration					

4. And in the past five years have you never, once, or more than once done each of the following to protest against a government action you strongly oppose? [LIST CATEGORIES]

	Never	Once	More than once
a. Attended a public meeting organised to protest against the government			
b. Gone on a protest march or demonstration			

5. There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority. Consider people who want to overthrow the government by revolution. Do you think such people should definitely, probably, probably not, or definitely not be allowed to ...

	Definitely	Probably	Probably not	Definitely not	Can't choose
a. ...hold meetings to express their views?					
and what about					
b. ... publish books expressing their views?					

Now...

6. All systems of justice make mistakes, but which do you think is worse...

- ... to convict an innocent person,
- OR ... to let a guilty person go free?
- Can't choose

7. The government has a lot of different pieces of information about people which computers can bring together very quickly. In terms of threat to individual privacy, is this...

- ... a very serious threat
- A fairly serious threat,
- Not a serious threat,
- OR Not a threat at all
- Can't choose

8. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

"It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes."

Do you...

- Agree strongly
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- OR Disagree with the statement
- Can't choose

9. Here are some things the government might do for the economy. Tell me which actions you are strongly in favour of, in favour of, neither in favour of nor against, against, or strongly against...

	Strongly in favour of	In favour of	Neither in favour of nor against	Against	Strongly Against
a. Control of wages by law					
b. Control of prices by law					
c. Cuts in government spending					
d. Government financing of projects to create new jobs					
e. Less government regulation of business					
f. Support for industry to develop new products and technology					
g. Support for declining industries to protect jobs					
h. Reducing the working week to create more jobs					

10. Thinking about some areas of government spending, could you tell me whether you would like the government to spend much more, spend more, spend the same as now, spend less, or spend much less in each of the following areas.

Remember that if you say "much more", it might require a tax increase to pay for it.

	Spend much more	Spend more	Spend the same as now	Spend less	Spend much less	Can't choose
a. The environment						
b. Health						
c. The police and law enforcement						
d. Education						
e. The military and defence						
f. Old age pensions						
g. Unemployment benefits						
h. Culture and the arts						

Now a couple of questions about the amount of power some groups have in society.

11. Do you think that trade unions in this country have...

- Far too much power
- Too much power
- About the right amount of power
- Too little power
- OR** Far too little power
- Can't choose

11b. How about business and industry? Do they have...

- Far too much power
- Too much power
- About the right amount of power
- Too little power
- OR** Far too little power
- Can't choose*

11c. And what about the government? Does it have...

- Far too much power
- Too much power
- About the right amount of power
- Too little power
- OR** Far too little power
- Can't choose*

People also have different opinions on the responsibilities of governments.

12. On the whole, do you think it definitely should be, probably should be, probably should not be, or definitely should not be the government's responsibility to...

	Definitely should be	Probably should be	Probably should not be	Definitely should not be	Can't choose
a. ...provide a job for everyone who wants one					
b. ...keep prices under control					
c. ...provide health care for the sick					
d. ...provide a decent standard of living for the old					
e. ...provide industry with the help it needs to grow					
f. ...provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed					
g. ...reduce income differences between the rich and the poor					
h. ...give financial help to university students from low-income families					
i. ...provide decent housing for those who can't afford it					
j. ...impose strict laws to make industry do less damage to the environment					

13. How interested would you say you personally are in politics?

Are you...

Very interested

Fairly interested

Somewhat interested

Not very interested

OR Not at all interested

Can't choose

14. Do you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Can't choose
a. People like me don't have any say about what the government does						
b. The average citizen has considerable influence on politics						
c. Even the best politician cannot have much impact because of the way government works						
d. I feel that I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing our country						
e. Elections are a good way of making governments pay attention to what the people think						
f. I think most people are better informed about politics and government than I am						
g. People we elect as Mps try to keep the promises they have made during the election						
h. Most civil servants can be trusted to do what is best for the country						

15. All in all, how well or badly do you think the system of democracy in Canada works these days?

- Does it work well and need no changes
- Does it work well but need some changes
- Does it not work well and need a lot of changes
- OR Does it not work well and need to be completely changed
- Can't choose

Now, moving on to some questions about taxes -- and by taxes we mean all taxes together, including wage deductions, income tax, tax on goods and services, and all the rest.

16. If the government had a choice between reducing taxes or spending more on social services, which do you think it should do?

Reduce taxes, even if this means spending less on social services

OR

Spend more on social services, even if this means higher taxes?

Can't choose

17. Generally, how would you describe taxes in Canada today? (Again, we mean all taxes together, including wage deductions, income tax, tax on goods and services, and all the rest.)

- a. First, for those with high incomes, are taxes...

... much too high

Too high

About right

Too low

OR Are they much too low?

Can't choose

- b. Next, for those with middle incomes, are taxes...

... much too high

Too high

About right

Too low

OR Are they much too low?

Can't choose

c. Lastly, for those with low incomes, are taxes...

- ... much too high
- Too high
- About right
- Too low
- OR** Are they much too low?
- Can't choose*

18. Finally, do you think each of the following should mainly be run by private organisations or companies, or by government?

What about...

	Mainly run by private organisations or companies	Mainly run by government	<i>Can't choose</i>
Electricity			
Hospitals			
Banks			

19. If the government had to choose between keeping down inflation or keeping down unemployment, to which do you think it should give highest priority?

- Keeping down inflation
- Keeping down unemployment
- Can't choose*

20. Suppose the level of taxation in Canada stays the same as it is now. ^{1d} Show the government...

... spend the same amount as now on social services, even if this means the national deficit or debt stays as it is

OR

... spend less than now on social services, so that the national deficit or debt can be reduced?

Can't choose

21. How close do you feel to ...

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Very close	Close	Not very close	Not close at all	Can't choose
a. your neighbourhood (or village)					
b. your town or city					
c. your province					
d. Canada					
e. North America					

22. Which of these statements comes closer to your own view?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

It is essential that Canada remain one country

OR

Parts of Canada should be allowed to become fully separate countries if they choose to

Can't choose

23. Canada has federal, provincial, municipal/local levels of government. Which level of government gives the best value for the tax money it receives?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Federal	
Provincial	
Municipal/Local	
<i>Can't choose</i>	

24. We would like to know your opinion about several constitutional options for Quebec. For each, please indicate how favourable you are to it.

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE

	Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neither favourable nor unfavourable	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable
a. No change					
b. Increased provincial powers					
c. Special status in Confederation					
d. Sovereignty with an economic association with Canada					
e. Independence					

25. On a scale of 1 to 10 where 10 is very powerful and 1 is not very powerful how would you rate the following groups?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER ON EACH LINE

Federal politicians	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Federal bureaucrats	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Provincial politicians	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Provincial bureaucrats	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

26.. On a scale of 1 to 10 where 10 is very trustworthy and 1 is not very trustworthy how would you rate the following groups?

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER ON EACH LINE

Federal politicians	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Federal bureaucrats	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Provincial politicians	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Provincial bureaucrats	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

NOW, JUST A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT YOURSELF TO HELP US ANALYSE THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE GIVEN US:

27. Are you: Male Female

28. What language do you normally speak at home?

English	
French	
English & French	
Other	

29. Please write down your exact age: _____

30. Are you:

Married	
Widowed	
Divorced	
Separated	
Single	

31. If not married (widowed, divorced, separated, single), do you have/live together with a partner?

Yes No

32. In total, how many years of schooling have you completed? # of years _____

33. How far did you go in school?

Grade school	
Some high school	
Finished high school	
Some college/university	
Finished college	
Some university	
Finished university	
Graduate school	

34. Are you:

Employed full time (3 5 hours+ weekly)	
Employed part time (15-35 hours weekly)	
Employed less than part time/temporarily out of work	
Help family member	
Unemployed	
Student/In vocational training	
Retired	
Housewife/Home duties	
Permanently disabled	
Other/Not in labour force	

35. If you work, how many hours do you normally work in a week? _____

36. If you work, what is your occupation? _____

37. Do you supervise, or are you responsible for, the work of other people?

Yes No

38. If you work, is your job in the public or private sector?

Work for government	
Work for publicly owned firm	
Work for private company	
Self-employed	

39. In your main job are you an employee or are you self-employed?

Self-employed Work for someone else

40. If self-employed, how many employees work for you? _____

41. Are you a member of a trade union?

Yes No

42. If you have a spouse or partner, what is her/his occupation?

Employed full time (3 5 hours+ weekly)	
Employed part time (15-35 hours weekly)	
Employed less than part time/temporarily out of work	
Help family member	
Unemployed	
Student/In vocational training	
Retired	
Housewife/Home duties	
Permanently disabled	
Other/Not in labour force	

43. If your spouse or partner works what is their occupation? _____

44. What is the total income of your household?

Under \$15,000.00	
\$15,000-\$24,999.00	
\$25,000-\$34,999.00	
\$35,000-\$44,999.00	
\$45,000-\$54,999.00	
\$55,000-\$64,999.00	
\$65,000-\$74,999.00	
\$75,000.00+	

45. And in what range would your own personal income fall?

Under \$15,000.00	
\$15,000-\$24,999.00	
\$25,000-\$34,999.00	
\$35,000-\$44,999.00	
\$45,000-\$54,999.00	
\$55,000-\$64,999.00	
\$65,000-\$74,999.00	
\$75,000.00+	

46. How many people live in your household? _____

47. How would you describe the composition of your household?

Single	
One adult and one child	
One adult and two children	
One adult and three+ children	
Two adults	
Two adults and one child	
Two adults and two children	
Two adults and three+children	
Three adults	
Four adults	
Four adults with children	
Other	

48. Just as reference points, if you managed to vote in the last federal election, for which party did you vote?

PC	
Liberal	
NDP	
Bloc Quebecois	
Reform	
Libertarian	
Confederation of regions	
Communist	
Other party	
Did not vote	

If respondent **DID NOT** vote, please go to question 49.

If respondent **DID** vote, please go to question 50.

49. Which of the following reasons comes closest to explaining why you did not vote in the last federal election in October 1993. Please choose only one reason.

I was not eligible or was not enumerated	
I wanted to vote but was not able to get to the poll	
I didn't understand enough about politics	
I was not interested enough in the election	
I wanted to vote but forgot to	
I never vote for reasons of conscience	
I couldn't decide who to vote for	
There was no one I wanted to vote for	
Other reason _____	
Can't choose	

**ANSWER ONLY IF YOU
DID NOT VOTE**

50. In federal politics, do you normally think of yourself as...

PC	
Liberal	
NDP	
Bloc Quebecois	
Reform	
Libertarian	
Confederation of regions	
Communist	
Green Party	
Other party	
No regular affiliation	

**ANSWER ONLY IF YOU DID
VOTE**



51. And what about the provincial level: If you voted in the last provincial election which party did you vote for?

PC	
Liberal	
NDP	
Parti Quebecois	
Reform	
Libertarian	
Confederation of regions	
Communist	
Green Party	
Other party	
Did not vote	

52. To which ethnic or cultural groups did your ancestors belong? (NAME 2 IF APPLICABLE)

French		India	
English		Pakistan	
German		Bangladesh	
Scottish		North American Indian	
Italian		Metis	
Irish		Inuit/Eskimo	
Greek		Japan	
Ukrainian		Korean	
Chinese		Phillippines	
Dutch/Netherlands		Malaysia	
Polish		Laos	
Jewish		Cambodia	
African		Vietnam	
Caribbean		Other South East Asian	
Arabic		Latin America	
Egyptian		Other (please specify)	
Persian			

53. Could you tell us what, if any, church or religious group you belong to?

54. If you are a member of a church or religious group, how often do you attend religious services?

Once a week	
2 or 3 times a month	
Once a month	
Several times a year	
Less frequently	
Never	

55. Some people consider themselves to be members of a specific social class. Of the following groups, would you consider yourself a member of:

The lower class	
The working class	
Upper working class/lower middle class	
Middle class	
Upper middle class	
Upper class	
No class affiliation	

56. Would you say you live in a:

Completely rural area	
A village	
A town	
A city	

57. In what province do you reside?

Newfoundland		Ontario	
Nova Scotia		Manitoba	
P.E.I.		Saskatchewan	
New Brunswick		Alberta	
Quebec		B.C.	

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION