Survey Report

Survey of Indigenous Peoples of Canada



Date: 23 / October / 2026
Project: 10019054

Methodology

How



An online survey.

Who



n=503 self-identified Indigenous Canadians, 18+.

When



Completed between October 8th and October 16th, 2026, using Leger's online panel.

Other



No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (i.e. a web panel in this case).
For comparative purposes, though, a probability sample of n=503 respondents would have a margin of error of ±4.4%, 19 times out of 20. The final data collected was weighted to reflect the Canadian Indigenous population distribution based on gender, age and region.

Leger's online panel

Leger's online panel has more than 400,000 members nationally and has a retention rate of 90%.

Quality control

Stringent quality assurance measures allow Leger to achieve the high-quality standards set by the company. As a result, its methods of data collection and storage outperform the norms set by WAPOR (The World Association for Public Opinion Research). These measures are applied at every stage of the project: from data collection to processing, through to analysis. We aim to answer our clients' needs with honesty, total confidentiality, and integrity.

Leger is the largest Canadian-owned market research and analytics company, with more than 600 employees in eight Canadian and US offices. Leger has been working with prestigious clients since 1986.

Key Findings

Perceptions of Government & Political Leadership

- Views of the federal government under Prime Minister Mark Carney lean positive, although support is moderate; just over half of Indigenous Canadians surveyed (54%) are satisfied, but of that, only 19% are very satisfied, while nearly four-in-ten (38%) are dissatisfied.
- Carney holds a clear relative advantage on protecting and promoting Indigenous rights. Nearly half (48%) trust him to do so, compared with one-quarter who trust Pierre Poilievre or Justin Trudeau (25% each). AFN leader Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak and NDP leader Avi Lewis are well trusted but largely unknown among the Indigenous population.

Indigenous Representation & Government Accountability

- More than half (55%) believe matters effecting day-to-day lives are getting better, but most describe the improvement as modest, with 45% saying things are only a little better compared to 10% saying things are much better. More than a quarter (27%) feel conditions are worsening.
- Indigenous organizations are viewed as considerably more effective representatives than governments. Provincial First Nation or Métis organizations receive the strongest overall rating (64%), followed by the Assembly of First Nations (57%), Local Bands or Councils (55%), and the Native Women's Association of Canada (53%). By comparison, fewer than four-in-ten believe the federal (38%) or provincial (36%) governments do a good job representing Indigenous interests.
- Views of government spending are mixed and lack strong conviction; four-in-ten (42%) believe the approximately $39 billion spent annually on Indigenous services provides good value, while 36% perceive this spending is generating poor value. Two in 10 respondents (21%) are uncertain.

Truth and Reconciliation Measures

- Most Indigenous Canadians believe reconciliation has advanced since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report was finalized, although progress is viewed as incremental rather than transformative. More than half (54%) perceive a moderate amount of progress, while only 17% believe a great deal has been achieved and 22% see little progress.
- Among Indigenous Canadians there are mixed opinions on the value of Land Acknowledgments . Nearly half (47%) believe they continue to help move truth and reconciliation forward, while 41% feel they have become overused and lost their meaning.
- Indigenous Canadians are similarly divided on whether ancestry and background should be considered in criminal sentencing with slightly more supporting the practice than opposing it (45% vs. 41%).

Key Findings

Natural Resource Development, Indigenous Participation & Economic Benefits

- Indigenous Canadians are broadly supportive of increasing natural resource development in Canada. Nearly two-thirds (63%) support Prime Minister Mark Carney's current development plan, including 30% who strongly support it, compared to only 22% who oppose.
- Confidence that Indigenous voices will meaningfully influence major project approvals is more measured, however. Half (51%) believe Indigenous perspectives and concerns will be considered under the Building Canada Strong Act, but of that, only 14% are very confident . Almost 4 in 10 of those surveyed (38%) say they are not confident Indigenous Peoples' views will be taken into account.
- Indigenous ownership could strengthen acceptance of major resource projects, although its impact is not universal. Nearly half (45%) say some Indigenous ownership would make them more likely to support a project, while 42% say it would make no difference.
- Direct and tangible benefits are preferred when communities support major developments. Nearly half (45%) favour monetary payments to individual community members, compared with 34% who prefer dedicated employment opportunities. Twenty-one percent favour payments to the local band, council, or governing organization.

Region-Specific Questions (Alberta & BC)

- Most Indigenous Albertans will be pleased with the Alberta referendum results. Our poll, conducted before the final vote, found strong support for remaining within Canada. More than three-quarters (77%) believe they would be better off if Alberta remained a province of Canada, compared with 13% who believe they would be better off in an independent Alberta and 9% who are unsure.
- Indigenous residents of British Columbia were asked their views regarding the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). A plurality (40%) believe it is good for the province overall, compared with 28% who feel the uncertainty UNDRIP has created is doing more harm than good. Nearly one-third (31%) remain unsure, indicating that the implications of the legislation is not clear to many Indigenous Peoples in BC.

1

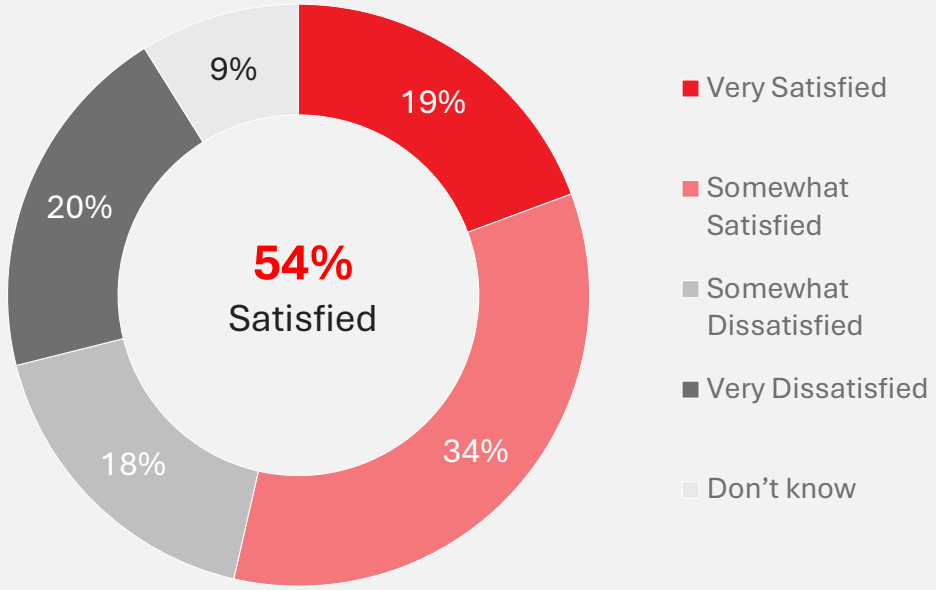
Perceptions of Government & Political Leadership



Half of Indigenous Canadians (54%) are satisfied with the Canadian government led by Prime Minister Mark Carney.

However, a third (34%) are only somewhat satisfied while nearly four-in-ten are dissatisfied (38%). Demographically, satisfaction is higher among those aged 18-34 or 55+ (59% and 60% respectively vs 41% aged 35-54) and those in the Eastern provinces (60% vs 47% in the West).

Satisfaction with Canadian Government Led by Mark Carney

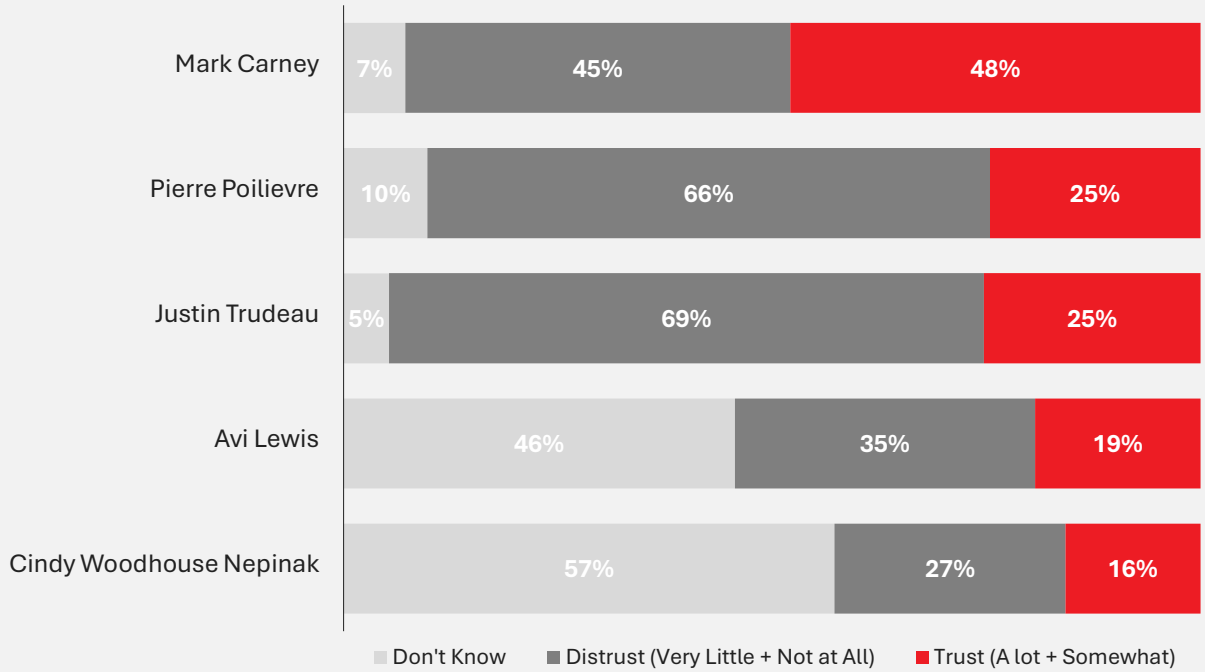


Q3. Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the Canadian government led by Prime Minister Mark Carney?
Base: All (n=503)

Significantly higher

Roughly half (48%) trust Mark Carney to protect and promote the rights of Indigenous People in Canada.

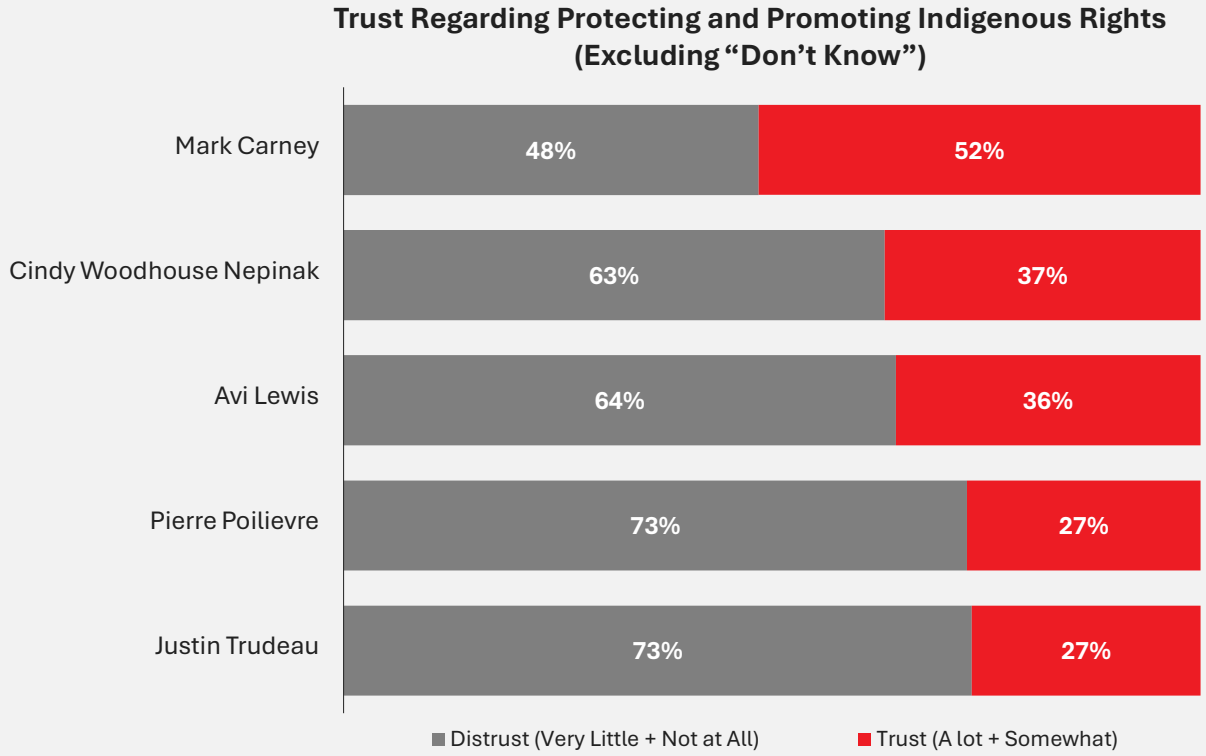
In contrast, only a quarter trust Pierre Poilievre and/or Justin Trudeau (25% each). Fewer than one-in-five trust Avi Lewis (19%) and Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak (16%), although this is largely driven by uncertainty regarding these leaders.



Q4. Please indicate the level of trust you have with each of the individuals listed below when it comes to protecting and promoting the rights of Indigenous People in Canada.
Base: All (n=503)

Among those with an opinion, half trust Mark Carney (52%) while trust of Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak and Avi Lewis surpasses a third (37% and 36%, respectively).

Demographically, men are twice as likely to trust Poilievre (41% vs 18% of women), those aged 18-34 or 55+ are more trusting of Avi Lewis (43% and 41% respectively vs just 22% aged 35-54), and those in the East are more likely to trust Mark Carney (58% vs 45% in the West).



Q4. Please indicate the level of trust you have with each of the individuals listed below when it comes to protecting and promoting the rights of Indigenous People in Canada.
Base: Excludes "Don't know" for each leader (base sizes vary)

Significantly higher

2

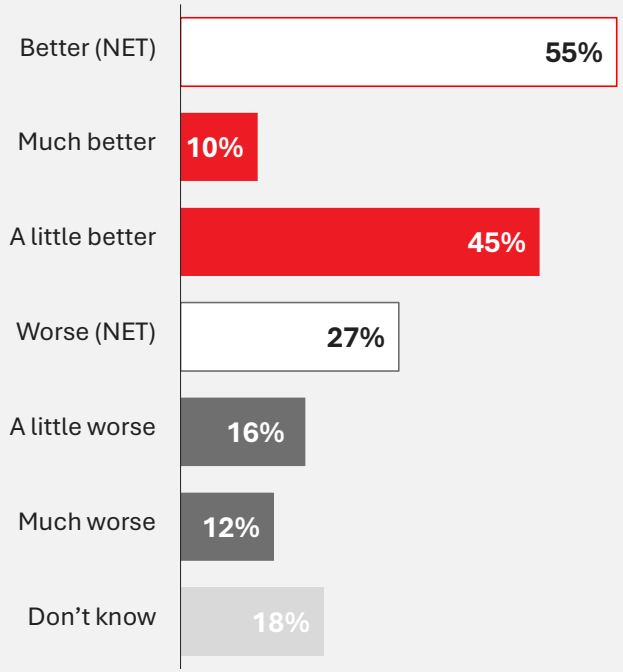
Indigenous Representation & Government Accountability



Half of Indigenous Canadians (55%) believe matters affecting day to day lives of Indigenous People in Canada are getting better.

Improvements are viewed primarily as minor with 45% indicating they are a little better while a quarter (27%) believe they are getting worse. Those in Eastern Canada are more likely to feel things are generally getting better (63% in the East vs. 47% in the West) while those in the West are nearly twice as likely to believe they are worsening (35% vs 18% in the East).

Matters Affecting Day to Day Life of Indigenous People in Canada

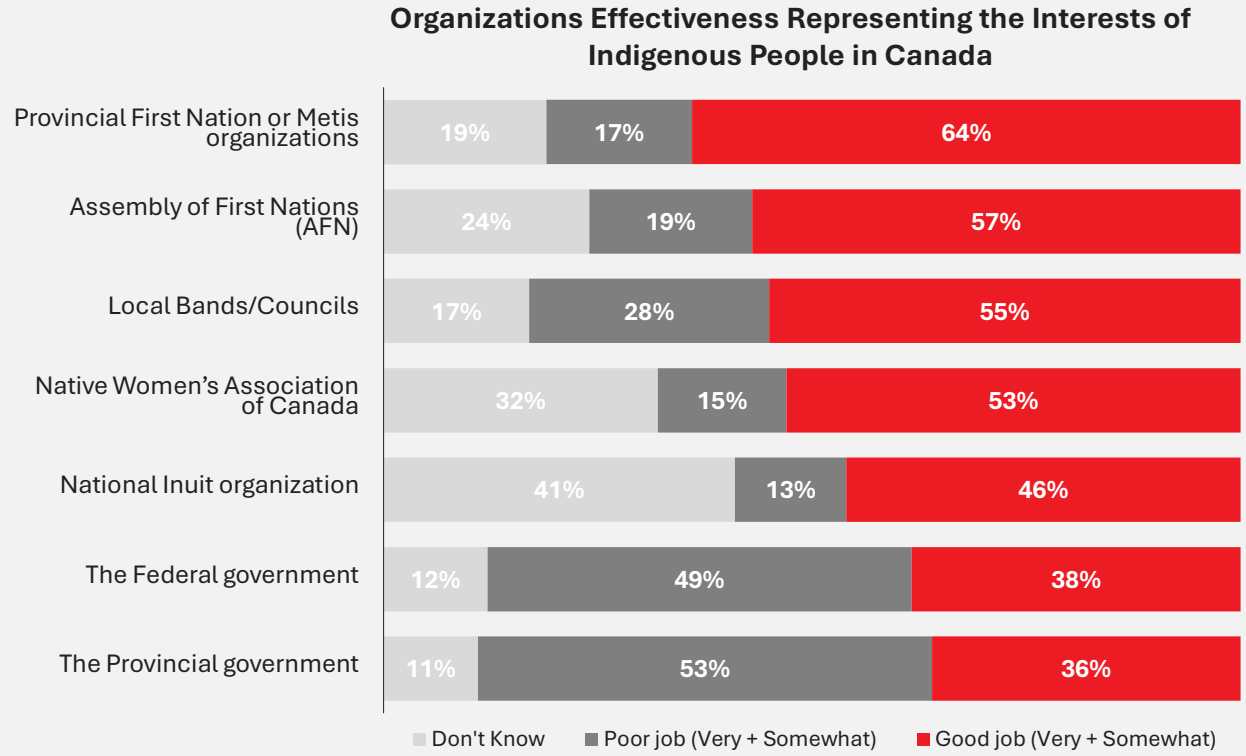


Q5. The combined budget for the departments of Indigenous Services and Crown-Indigenous Relations has increased from approximately $8 billion in 2015 to about $39 billion in 2026, more than quadrupling. When it comes to matters affecting the day to day lives of Indigenous People in Canada do you feel things are generally getting better or worse? Base: All (n=503)

Significantly higher

Two thirds (64%) believe provincial First Nation or Metis organizations do a good job representing the interests of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

More than half also believe AFN, Local Bands/Councils, and the Native Women's Association of Canada also do a good job while fewer, but still a third, believe the federal and provincial government do a good job, particularly men (48% vs 34% and 45% vs 30%, respectively, of women).

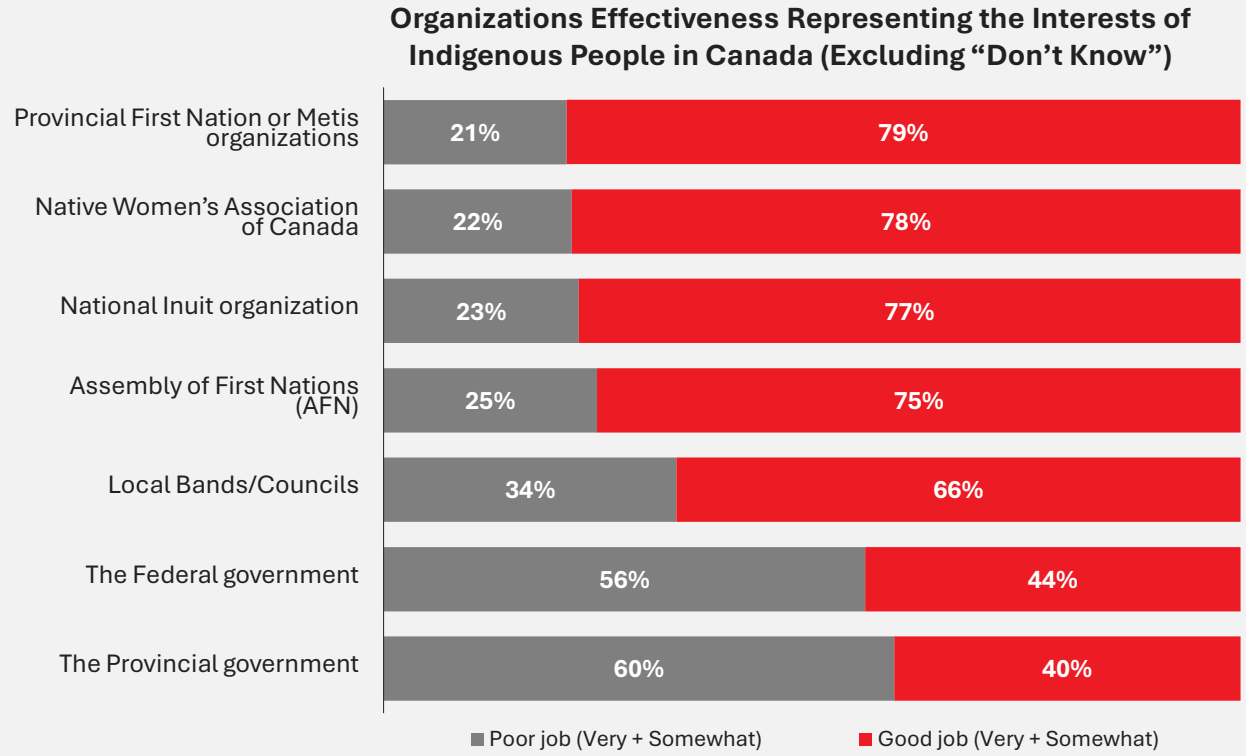


Q8. How good of a job do the organizations listed in the table below do in terms of representing the interests of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.
Base: All (n=503)

Significantly higher

Among those with an opinion, at least two thirds believe each non-government organization listed does a good job representing the interests of Indigenous People in Canada.

Four-in-ten said the same of federal (44%) and provincial governments (40%). Demographically, women are more likely to believe the Native Women's Association of Canada is doing a good job (84% vs 71% of men) while those aged 18-44 are more likely to say Local Bands/Councils are doing a good job (71% vs 60% aged 45+).



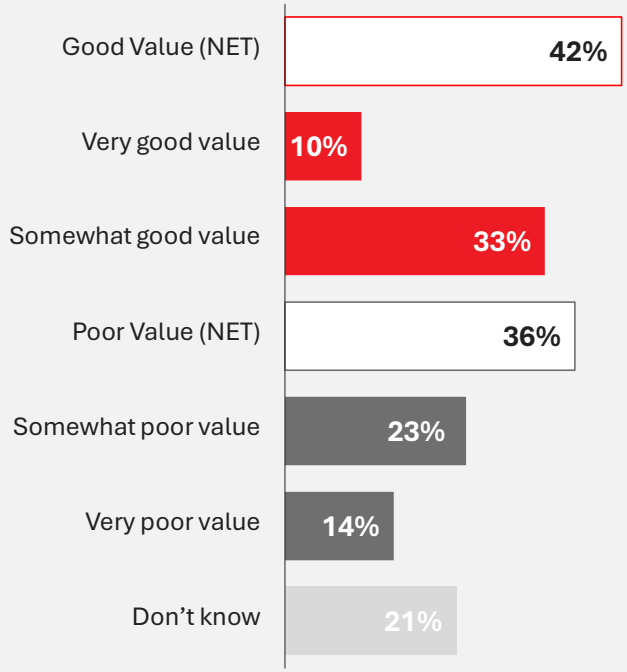
Q8. How good of a job do the organizations listed in the table below do in terms of representing the interests of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.
Base: Excludes "Don't know" for each leader (base sizes vary)

Significantly higher

Four-in-ten (42%) feel they get good value for the money the Federal government spends on Indigenous services.

However, a third believe it is only somewhat good value (33%) or poor value (36%). Younger individuals aged 18-34 (59% vs 33% aged 35+) and First Nations (48% vs 37% of Metis) are more likely to feel they get good value for the money spent by the government.

Value of Money Spent By Government on Indigenous Services



Q14. The Federal government spends approximately $39 billion on Indigenous services annually. This includes on and off reserve supports as well as the payment of claims and other programs. Do you feel you get good value for the money spent by the government?

Base: All (n=503)

Significantly higher

3

Truth, Reconciliation & Indigenous Rights



Half of Indigenous Canadians (54%) believe a moderate amount of progress has been made regarding reconciliation since the Truth and Reconciliation report was finalized.

One-in-five (22%) feel there has been only a small amount of progress while 17% believe there has been a great deal of progress, particularly men (26% vs 12% of women). Additionally, those aged 35+ are more likely to believe that only a small amount of progress has been made (26% vs 15% aged 18-34).

Progress Made Regarding Indigenous Reconciliation Since Truth and Reconciliation Report



SMALL AMOUNT OF PROGRESS – NET 1-3

22%

MODERATE AMOUNT OF PROGRESS - NET 4-7

54%

GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS - NET 8–10

17%

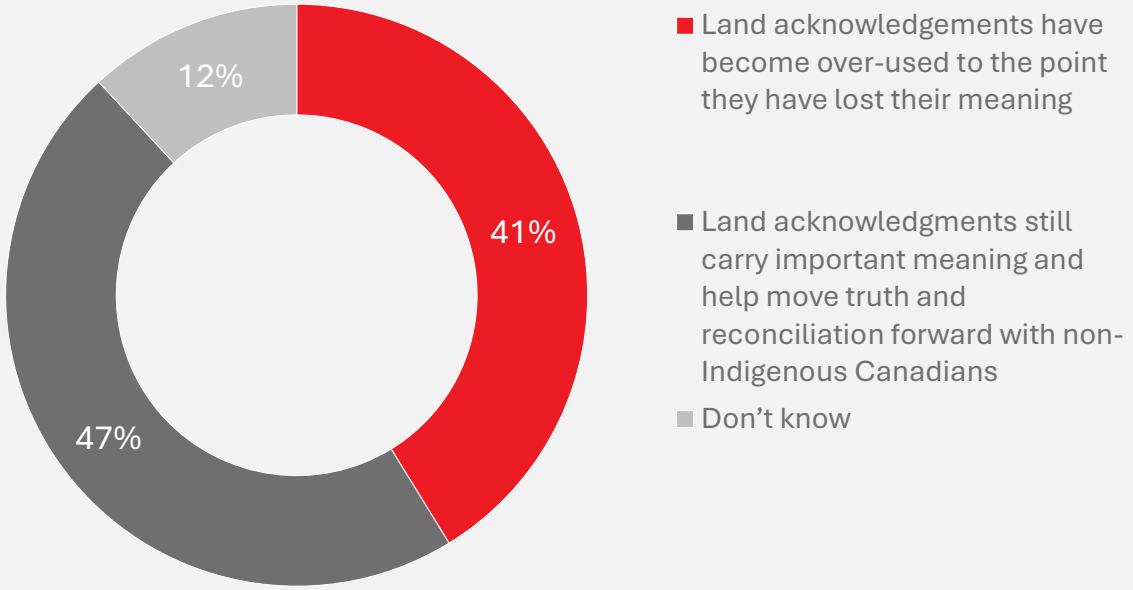
Don't Know: 7%

Q6. It has been over 10 years since the Truth and Reconciliation report was finalized and presented to the Canadian government. The report contained 94 recommendations to establish and maintain a mutually respectful relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous People in Canada. In the years since the report was presented, how much progress do you feel has been made regarding reconciliation between Canada's Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples? Base: All (n=503)

Indigenous Canadians are divided regarding whether land acknowledgements are over-used (41%) or are important in moving truth and reconciliation forward (47%).

Demographically, those aged 18-44 are more likely to believe land acknowledgments have been overused and lost meaning (46% vs 35% aged 45+); those in Alberta or Ontario are also more likely than those in Quebec to feel this way (48% and 51% vs 30%, respectively).

Opinion on Land Acknowledgements



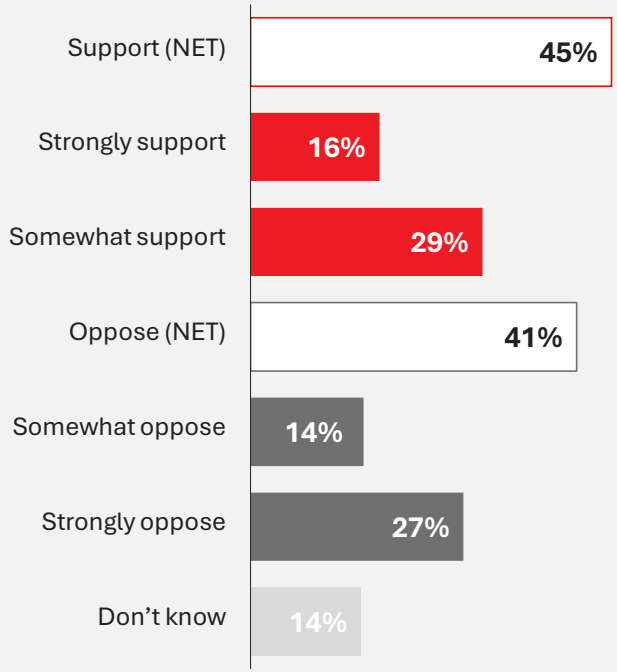
Q7. As an Indigenous person do you feel land acknowledgements have become over-used to the point that they have lost their meaning OR do you feel land acknowledgments still carry important meaning and help move truth and reconciliation forward with non-Indigenous Canadians? Base: All (n=503)

Significantly higher

Less than half of Indigenous Canadians (45%) support taking a person's Indigenous ancestry into account during sentencing for crimes.

In contrast, four-in-ten (41%) oppose taking it into account with a quarter strongly opposing (27%). Those aged 35+ are more likely to oppose (47% vs 29% aged 18-34) while those in BC and Ontario are more likely than those in Manitoba and Saskatchewan to support (49% and 56% vs 31%, respectively).

Accounting for Indigenous Ancestry when Determining Sentences for Crimes



Q9. Do you support or oppose taking a person's Indigenous ancestry and background into account when determining an appropriate sentence when convicted of a crime? Base: All (n=503)

Significantly higher

4

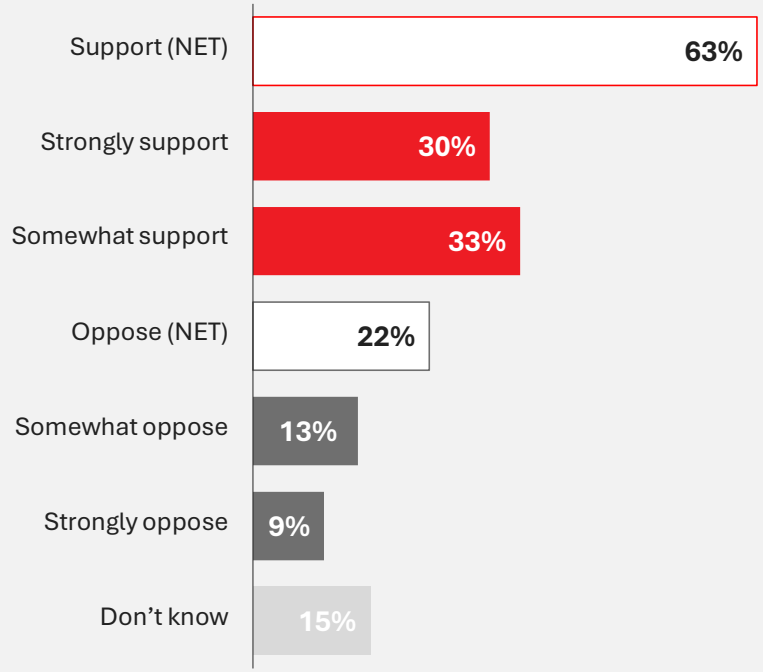
Natural Resource Development & Indigenous Participation



Six-in-ten (63%) support Mark Carney's plan to significantly increase the development of Canada's natural resources.

In fact, three-in-ten strongly support this plan (30%) while one-in-five oppose (22%). Men (74% vs 57% of women) are more likely to support the plan while women (26% vs 15% of men) and First Nation individuals (26% vs 17% of Metis) are more likely to oppose the plan.

Support for Carney's Plan to Significantly Increase the Development Of Canada's Natural Resources



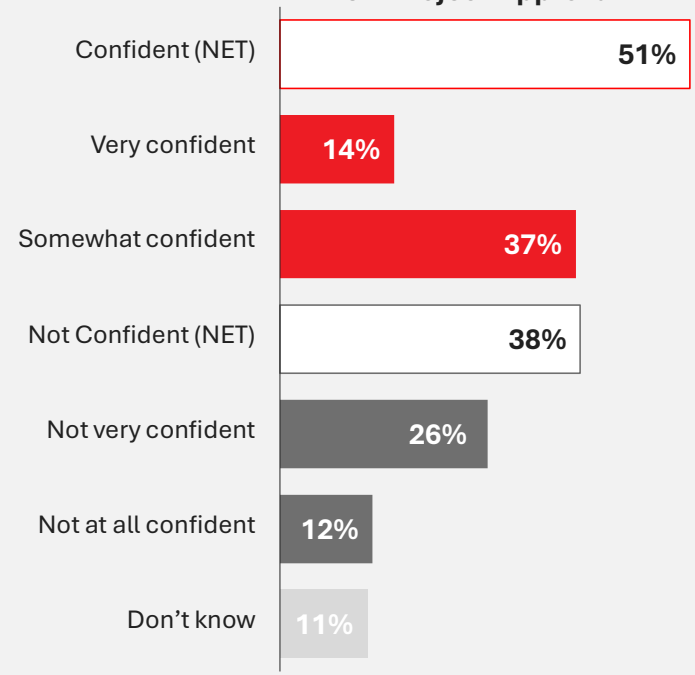
Q10. Prime Minister Carney has repeatedly stated the need for Canada to increase development of its natural resources and ensure they can get to international markets. He says this will strengthen Canada's economy and help manage our current trade challenges with the United States. Do you support or oppose Carney's plan to significantly increase the development of Canada's natural resources? Base: All (n=503)

Significantly higher

Half of Indigenous Canadians (51%) are confident that Indigenous perspectives will be considered when major new Building Canada Strong Act projects are undertaken.

However, only 14% are very confident while more than a third (38%) lack confidence. Demographically, men (65% vs 41% of women) are more likely to be confident Indigenous perspectives will be considered; in fact, men are twice as likely to be very confident (20% vs 10% of women). Furthermore, those aged 35+ are three times as likely to be not at all confident (15% vs 5% aged 18-34).

Confidence that Indigenous Perspectives Will be Considered During New Project Approval



Q11. Recently, the government of Canada introduced the Building Canada Strong Act which, among other things sets a one-year timeline to approve designated major projects. The Prime Minister has said he will ensure the rights and voices of Indigenous Peoples will continue play an important role in the approval of new resource projects. How confident are you that Indigenous perspectives and any concerns will be taken into account when major new projects are undertaken in the future? Base: All (n=503)

Significantly higher

5

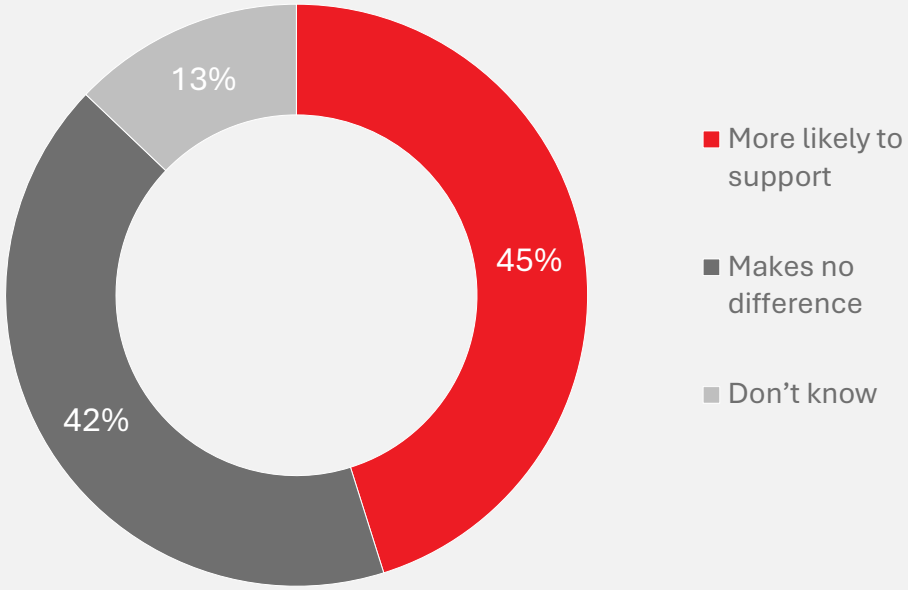
Indigenous Ownership & Economic Benefits



Nearly half (45%) would be more likely to support large resource projects that have some Indigenous ownership.

However, four-in-ten (42%) indicated Indigenous ownership would make no difference to them. Men (53% vs 40% of women) are more likely to say it would make them more likely to support the project while those aged 45+ (48% vs 36% aged 18-44) are more likely to indicate it would make no difference to them.

Impact of Indigenous Ownership of Large Resource Projects



Q12. If a large resource project, such as a mine or pipeline, has some Indigenous ownership, does it make you more likely to support the project or does it not make a difference to your level of support or opposition?

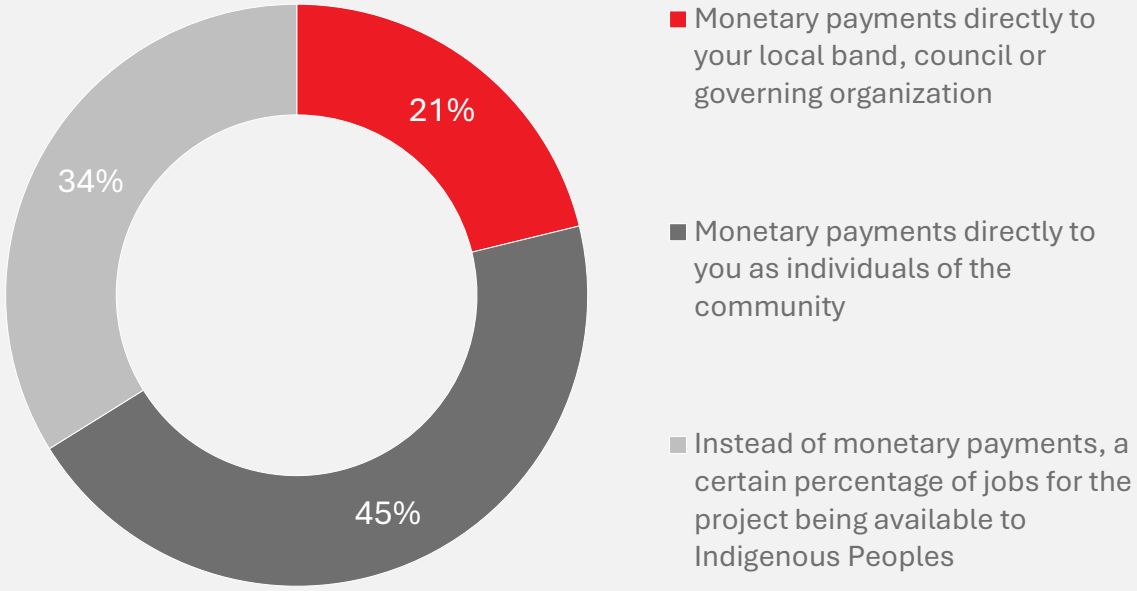
Base: All (n=503)

Significantly higher

Nearly half (45%) would prefer any benefits from Indigenous support of major resource development projects be directed as monetary payments to individuals of the community.

One-in-five would prefer monetary payments made directly to the local band, council, or governing organization (21%) while a third would prefer a percentage of project jobs be made available to Indigenous Peoples. Men (25% vs 15% of women) and those aged 18-34 (35% vs 13% aged 35+) are more likely to prefer payments made to the local band, council or governing organization while those aged 35+ (42% vs 26% aged 18-34) are more likely to prefer jobs to be made available.

Delivery of Benefits from Indigenous Support of Major Projects



Q13. If there are to be benefits from Indigenous support of major natural resource development projects (for example ownership) how would you like to see those benefits delivered?
Base: All (n=503)

Significantly higher

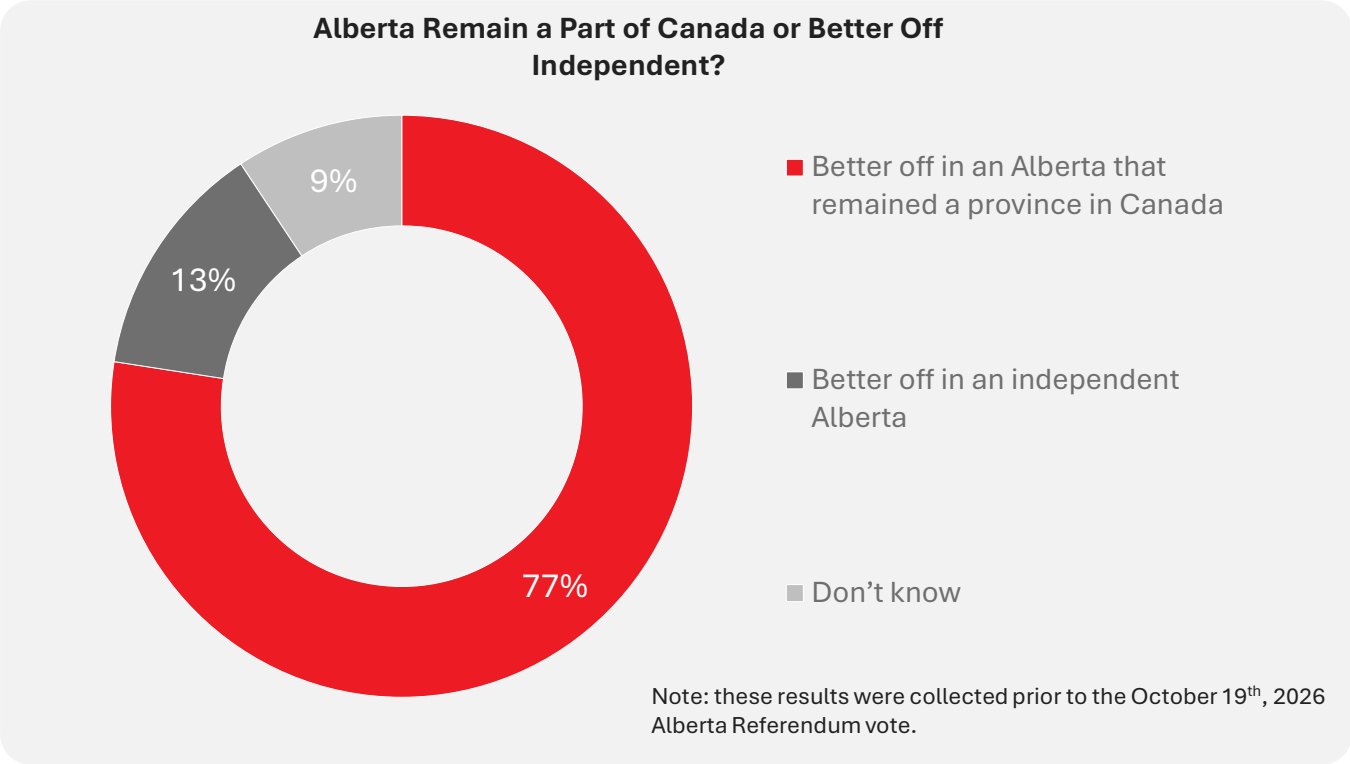
6

Region Specific Questions



Three-quarters of Indigenous Albertans (77%) feel they would be better off if Alberta remained a province of Canada.

One-in-ten believe they would be better off in an independent Alberta (13%) or are unsure (9%).



Note: these results were collected prior to the October 19th, 2026 Alberta Referendum vote.

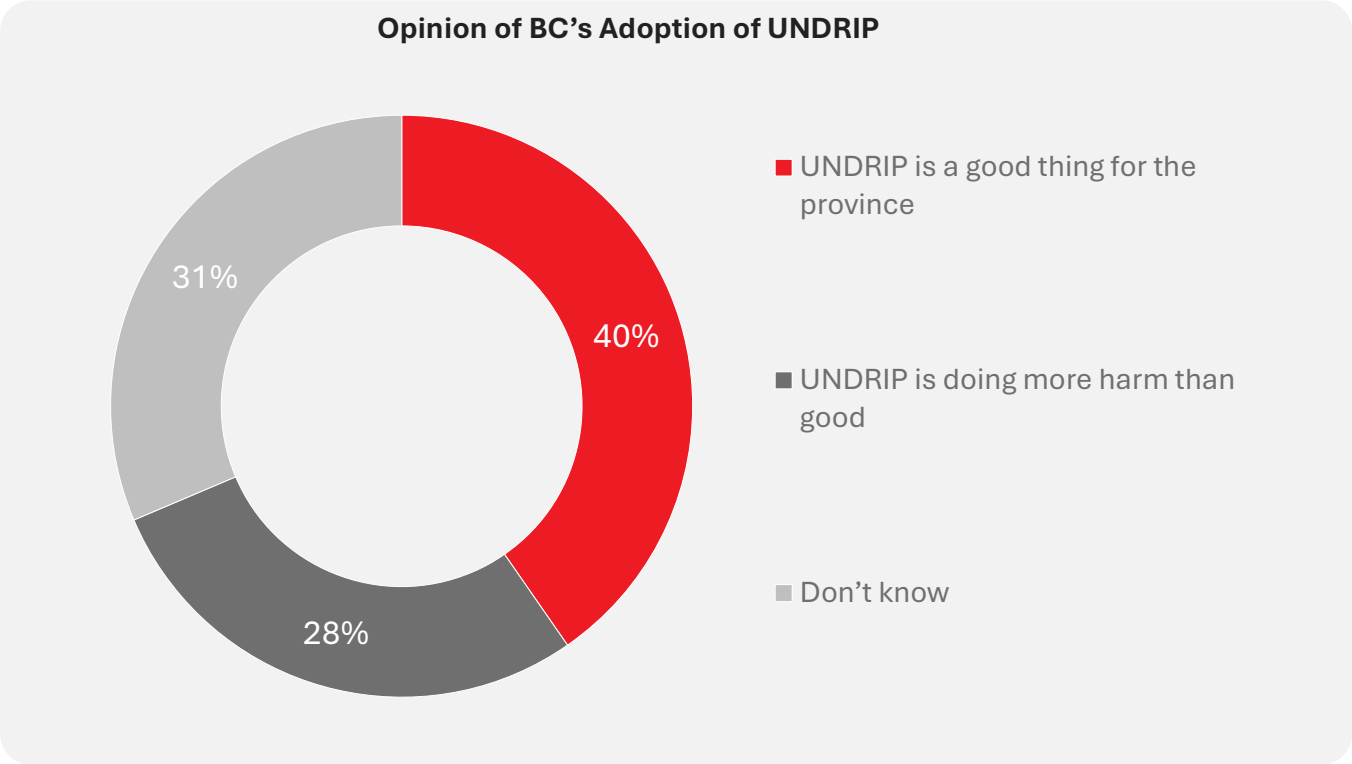
Q15. As an Indigenous person living in Alberta, do you feel you would be better off if Alberta remained a part of Canada or do you feel you would be better off in an Independent Alberta?

Base: Alberta Residents Only (n=60)

Significantly higher

Four-in-ten Indigenous BC residents (40%) believe UNDRIP is a good thing for the province.

In contrast, a quarter believe the uncertainty UNDRIP has added is doing more harm than good while nearly a third (31%) are unsure.



Q16. Do you think that B.C.'s adoption of UNDRIP into law is a good thing for the province, or do you think the uncertainty it has added is causing more harm than good?
Base: BC Residents Only (n=77)

Significantly higher

7

Respondent Profile



Respondent profiles

Base n=503

Gender



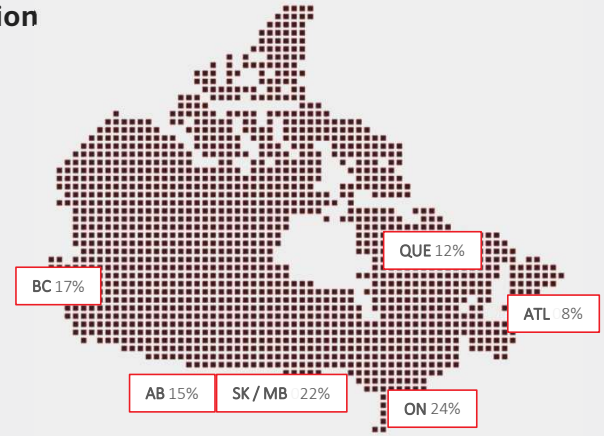
Age

18-24	6%
25-34	29%
35-44	17%
45-54	17%
55-64	16%
65-74	11%
75+	3%

Indigenous Identity

First Nation	54%
Metis	46%
Inuit	2%
Other	1%
Prefer not to say	1%

Region



Area

Urban, major city	46%
Suburban	26%
Rural, small town	25%
Remote, North	3%

8

Our Team



Our team

The Central Canada Public Affairs Team:



Andrew Enns
Executive Vice President

aenns@leger360.com
431-808-0212



Caleb Chong
Senior Research Analyst

cchong@leger360.com
416-964-9222

Our services

Leger
Marketing research and polling

Customer Experience (CX)
Strategic and operational customer experience consulting services

Leger Analytics (LEA)
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)

600
employees

185
consultants

8
offices

MONTRÉAL | QUÉBEC |
TORONTO | WINNIPEG
EDMONTON | CALGARY |
VANCOUVER | NEW YORK

The Science of People.

leger360.com

Images credits : Shutterstock.com / Adobe Stock