CES Canadian Election Study
ÉÉC Étude Électorale Canadienne

Canadian Election Study

2011

This is the next component of the 2011 Canadian Election Study. We appreciate the assistance you have provided us in the study and hope you will complete this questionnaire as soon as possible.

All responses to this questionnaire will be kept *strictly confidential.* Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. No postage is required.

This questionnaire should only be completed by the *same person* who was interviewed over the telephone.

Section A

For each statement below, please indicate if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. Please write the number that best reflects your opinion in the space at the right of each statement.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
1	2	3	4	8

1. The problem with democracy is that most people don't really know what's best for them. ..... _____
2. Most people have enough sense to tell whether the government is doing a good job. ..... _____
3. Overall, free trade with the U.S. has been good for the Canadian economy..... _____
4. It is better to trust the down-to-earth thinking of ordinary people than the theories of experts ..... _____
5. All federal parties are basically the same; there isn't really a choice..... _____
6. People should stick with what they have, rather than trying new things ..... _____
7. Equality between men and women has been achieved in Canada ..... _____
8. Those elected to Parliament soon lose touch with the people ..... _____
9. The best way to protect women's interests is to have more women in Parliament ..... _____
10. People like me don't have any say about what the government does..... _____
11. If people start trying to change things, it usually makes them worse..... _____
12. We would probably solve most of our big problems if decisions could be brought back to the people at the grass roots..... _____
13. A party that gets 10% of the vote should get 10% of the seats ..... _____
14. The Senate should be abolished ..... _____

Section B

Please circle the number that BEST reflects your opinion. (*Please circle ONE answer only)*

1. Where did you get MOST of your information about the May 2 federal election?

   Television 1
   Radio 2
   Newspapers and online newspapers..... 3
   Other internet sources like blogs and facebook 4
   Family 5
   Friends 6
   Did not get information 7

2. Overall, how satisfied are you with the election result?

   Very satisfied 1
   Fairly satisfied..... 2
   Not very satisfied 3
   Not at all satisfied 4
   Not sure..... 8

3. The government should:

   See to it that everyone has a decent standard of living 1
   Leave people to get ahead on their own..... 2
   Not sure..... 8

4. Which is more important in a democratic society?

   Letting the majority decide 1
   Protecting the needs and rights of minorities 2
   Not sure..... 8

5. Which statement comes closest to your own view?

   If Aboriginal peoples tried harder, they could be as well off as other Canadians 1
   Social and economic conditions make it almost impossible for most Aboriginal peoples to overcome poverty..... 2
   Not sure..... 8

6. Do you think that people in the government:

   Waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes 1
   Waste some of it..... 2
   Don't waste very much of it..... 3
   Not sure..... 8

7. Some people say that we should do more to help minorities to keep their culture. Others say that the priority should be on Canadian culture and tradition. Should the federal government:

   Focus more on helping minorities to keep their culture. 1
   Focus more on Canadian culture and tradition 2
   Keep the balance as it is now..... 3
   Not sure..... 8

8. If a law conflicts with the Charter of Rights, who should have the final say?

Courts..... 1
Government..... 2
Not sure 8

9. Some countries have banned Muslim women from covering their faces in public. Should Canada do the same?

Yes 1
No 2
Not sure 8

Section C

For each statement below, please indicate if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. Please write the number that best reflects your opinion in the space at the right of each statement.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
1	2	3	4	8

1. We have gone too far in pushing equal rights in this country. ..... _____

2. The welfare state makes people less willing to look after themselves ..... _____

3. Discrimination makes it extremely difficult for women to get jobs equal to their abilities ..... _____

4. Immigrants make an important contribution to this country. ..... _____

5. Speaking English or French should be a requirement for immigration to Canada ..... _____

6. Newer lifestyles are contributing to the breakdown of society..... _____

7. The world is always changing and we should adapt our view of moral behaviour to these changes ..... _____

8. This country would have many fewer problems if there were more emphasis on traditional family values ..... _____

9. It is more difficult for non-whites to be successful in Canadian society than it is for whites. ..... _____

10. If people really want to work, they can find a job..... _____

11. We should look after Canadians born in this country first and others second..... _____

12. We have gone too far in pushing bilingualism in Canada..... _____

13. Minority groups need special rights..... _____

14. Protecting the environment is more important than creating jobs..... _____

Section D

1. What are the chances that you would EVER vote for each of these political parties? Please answer on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means there is no chance that you will ever vote for this party, and 10 means you are absolutely certain that you will vote for this party.

No chance I'll ever vote for this Party										Absolutely certain I would vote for this Party
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Federal Conservative Party ..... _____
Federal Liberal Party ..... _____
Federal New Democratic Party..... _____
Federal Green Party ..... _____
Bloc Québécois..... _____

2. Please indicate how much CONFIDENCE you have in the following institutions. Circle the number that best reflects your opinion.

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Not very much	None at all
Organized religion	1	2	3	4
The armed forces	1	2	3	4
Public schools	1	2	3	4
The courts	1	2	3	4
The civil service	1	2	3	4
Unions	1	2	3	4
The police	1	2	3	4
The federal government	1	2	3	4
Your provincial government	1	2	3	4
Big business	1	2	3	4
The media	1	2	3	4
Elections Canada	1	2	3	4

3. Please indicate whether you have been active in any of the following voluntary associations during the past FIVE years.

	Yes	No
Community service group	1	2
Business association	1	2
Professional association	1	2
Environmental group	1	2
Women's group	1	2
Labour union	1	2
Ethnic association	1	2
Sports association	1	2
Religious organization	1	2
Parents' groups	1	2
Farmers' association	1	2
Other (*please specify*) _____	1	2

4. Have you ever voted for these parties in past federal elections?

	Yes	No
Federal Conservative Party	1	2
Federal Liberal Party	1	2
Federal New Democratic Party	1	2
Federal Green Party	1	2
Bloc Québécois	1	2

Section E

1. Has the quality of health care in Canada over the past five years:

Become better 1
Become worse 2
Stayed about the same 3
Not sure 8

2. How many times did you visit a family doctor in the last TWO years?

I don't have a regular family doctor (*go to question 4*) . 1
Never (*go to question 4*) 2
Once or twice 3
Between three and six times 4
More than six times 5

3. For your last visit, how long did you have to wait to get an appointment with the family doctor?

Waited less than one day 1
Waited less than one week 2
Waited more than one week 3
Waited more than one month 4

4. How many times were you *or someone in your family* hospitalized overnight in the last TWO years?

Never 1
Once or twice 2
Three times or more 3

5. How many times did you visit a hospital emergency room in the last TWO years?

Never (*go to question 7*) 1
Once or twice 2
Three times or more 3

6. For your last visit, how long did you have to wait to see a doctor in the emergency room?

Waited less than two hours 1
Waited between two and four hours 2
Waited more than four hours 3

7. Overall, how satisfied are you with the health care you have received in the last two years?

Very satisfied 1
Somewhat satisfied 2
Somewhat dissatisfied 3
Very dissatisfied 4
Not sure 8
Have not received any health care 9

Section F

1. Thinking about people who are NOT family members or relatives, how many close friends do you have?

0 (*go to question 5*) 0
1 1
2 - 4 2
5 - 9 3
10 - 14 4
15 or more 5

2. In an average month, how often do you get together in person with your close friends?

Every day 1
A few times a week 2
A few times a month 3
Once a month or less 4

3. How many of these close friends ...

None	One	A few	Half	Most
1	2	3	4	5

Belong to a visibly different ethnicity than you .... _____
Tend to disagree with you about politics ..... _____
Have a graduate or professional degree ..... _____

4. How often do you discuss politics with your close friends?

Never 1
Sometimes 2
Often 3
All the time 4

5. [*If you do not work, please go to question 7*]
Now thinking about the people you work with.
How many of them...

None	One	A few	Half	Most
1	2	3	4	5

Belong to a visibly different ethnicity than you .... _____
Tend to disagree with you about politics ..... _____
Have a graduate or professional degree ..... _____

6. How often do you discuss politics with people at work?

Never 1
Sometimes 2
Often 3
All the time 4

7. Now thinking about all the people you socialize with, including close friends as well as others from work or elsewhere, are any of them ...

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Muslim	1	2	8
Gay or lesbian	1	2	8
Recent immigrants	1	2	8

Section G

1. How much do you identify with each of the following?

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Not very much	None at all
Your neighbourhood	1	2	3	4
Your city / town	1	2	3	4
Your province	1	2	3	4
Canada	1	2	3	4
The world	1	2	3	4

2. During the federal election campaign, did you talk to other people to persuade them to vote for a party or candidate?

Frequently 1
Occasionally 2
Rarely 3
Never 4

3. During the federal election campaign, did anyone in your household say they would vote differently than you?

Yes 1
No 2
Not sure 8

4. Did anyone else in your household vote in the election?

Yes 1
No 2
Not sure 8

5. Under our present system, a party can win a majority of seats without winning a majority of votes. Do you find this:

Acceptable 1
Unacceptable 2
Not sure 8

6. Which government has the most impact on your life?

The federal government 1
The provincial government 2
The local government 3
Not sure 8

7. Which statement comes closest to your own view:

Most people would take advantage of you if they got the chance 1
Most people would try to be fair 2
Not sure 8

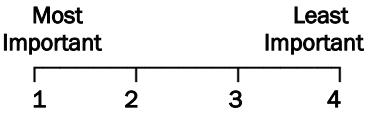
8. In your opinion, is the French language threatened in Quebec?

Yes 1
No 2
Not sure 8

9. What is the **BEST** way to deal with young offenders who commit violent crime?

Give them tougher sentences 1
Spend more on rehabilitating them 2
Not sure 8

10. Here's a list of FOUR goals. Please rank these goals according to their importance to you personally. Please write a 1 beside the most important, 2 beside the second most important, 3 beside the third most important, and 4 beside the least important.



Fighting crime ..... _____
Giving people more say in important government decisions ..... _____
Maintaining economic growth ..... _____
Protecting freedom of speech ..... _____

Section H

Now some questions about Canada's social programs and people.

1. If someone is working full-time and has to take care of a seriously ill relative, how many weeks of compassionate care benefits are paid by the federal government?

2 weeks 1
6 weeks 2
12 weeks 3
20 weeks 4
Not sure 8

2. If someone had to go to court and could not afford a lawyer, where would be the BEST place to go for help?

Bar Association 1
Human rights commission 2
Legal Aid 3
Ombudsman 4
Not sure 8

3. Can people with low incomes receive a GST tax credit from the Canada Revenue Agency?

Yes 1
No 2
Not sure 8

4. Can people who QUIT their job because they don't enjoy it receive employment insurance benefits?

Yes 1
No 2
Not sure 8

5. Which group uses a rainbow flag as their symbol?

Aboriginal groups..... 1
Environmental groups 2
Gay and lesbian groups 3
Women's groups 4
Not sure 8

6. Who is the founder of WikiLeaks?

Julian Assange..... 1
David Cameron 2
Arianna Huffington 3
Mark Zuckerberg..... 4
Not sure 8

7. In which of these provinces are the tar sands located?

British Columbia..... 1
Alberta..... 2
Manitoba 3
Nova Scotia 4
Not sure 8

8. Sierra Club Canada is an organization devoted to which cause?

Protecting the environment..... 1
Protecting the rights of consumers 2
Protecting women's abortion rights..... 3
Supporting low wage workers in the third world..... 4
Not sure 8

Section I

For each statement below, please indicate if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. Please write the number that best reflects your opinion in the space at the right of each statement.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
1	2	3	4	8

1. Canada should participate in peacekeeping operations abroad even if it means putting the lives of Canadian soldiers at risk ..... _____

2. International trade creates more jobs in Canada than it destroys ..... _____

3. Too many recent immigrants just don't want to fit into Canadian society ..... _____

4. Only people who are legally married should be having children ..... _____

5. We must crack down on crime, even if that means that criminals lose their rights..... _____

6. Recent immigrants should set aside their cultural background and blend into Canadian society. ..... _____

7. Federal government services should be provided in only one language, French in Quebec and English in the rest of Canada..... _____

8. Small political parties are treated unfairly in Canada..... _____

9. We should be more tolerant of people who choose to live according to their own standards, even if they are very different from our own. ..... _____

10. Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on ..... _____

11. Anglophones in Quebec are treated better than francophones in the rest of Canada..... _____

12. The government should be able to crack down on suspected terrorists even if that means interfering with the rights of ordinary people ..... _____

13. Most politicians are corrupt ..... _____

14. Over the next ten years or so, my family and I have a good chance of improving our standard of living. ..... _____

Section J

1. Thinking about this last federal election in Canada, would you say that Elections Canada ran the election …

Very fairly 1
Somewhat fairly..... 2
Somewhat unfairly..... 3
Very unfairly 4
Not sure..... 8

2. Is the following statement true or false? Only individuals can make political donations at the federal level.

True..... 1
False..... 2
Not sure..... 8

3. Is the following statement true or false? There is no limit on the amount of political donations individuals can make at the federal level.

True..... 1
False..... 2
Not sure..... 8

For each statement below, please indicate if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. Please write the number that best reflects your opinion in the space at the right of each statement.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
1	2	3	4	8

4. It is important that people vote in elections ..... _____

5. Low voter turnout weakens Canadian democracy ..... _____

6. It should be mandatory to vote in Canadian federal elections. ..... _____

7. Schools are doing a good job teaching young people about democracy ..... _____

8. The public has a right to know where political parties and candidates get their money..... _____

9. Canadians should have the option to vote over the Internet in federal elections ..... _____

10. If you could vote over the Internet, would you be very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely to do so?

Very likely 1
Somewhat likely..... 2
Not very likely..... 3
Not at all likely 4
Not sure 8

11. If you could register to vote over the Internet, would you be very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely to do so?

Very likely 1
Somewhat likely..... 2
Not very likely..... 3
Not at all likely 4
Not sure 8

12. Which statement comes closest to your own view?

Voting on the Internet is risky..... 1
Voting on the Internet is safe 2
Not sure 8

13. Which statement comes closest to your own view?

Registering to vote on the Internet is risky..... 1
Registering to vote on the Internet is safe 2
Not sure 8

14. About 40% of Canadians 18 to 24 years old voted in recent federal elections. Is this ...

A very serious problem..... 1
A somewhat serious problem 2
Not a very serious problem..... 3
Not at all a problem 4
Not sure..... 8

15. Which would be the BEST way to get more young people to vote?

Educate young people that politics is important..... 1
Make politics more relevant to young people 2
Not sure..... 8

16. Who do you think should be MOST responsible for encouraging young people to vote?

Schools..... 1
Parents..... 2
Elections Canada 3
Political parties..... 4
Youth organizations 5
Not sure..... 8

17. Who do you think should be MOST responsible for encouraging young people to learn about elections?

Schools..... 1
Parents..... 2
Elections Canada 3
Political parties..... 4
Youth organizations 5
Not sure..... 8

Section K

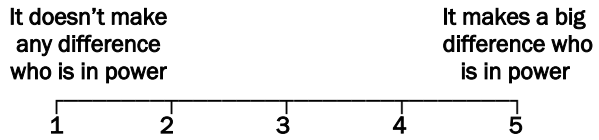
1. For the next questions, please say whether you would like to see more or less government spending in each of the following areas. Remember if you say "more" it could require a tax increase, and if you say "less" it could require a reduction in those government services. Do you think the government should spend much more, more, the same as now, less, or much less on ...

Spend much more	Spend more	About the same as now	Spend less	Spend much less
1	2	3	4	5

Health ..... _____
Education ..... _____
Support for the unemployed..... _____
Defence ..... _____
Old-age pensions ..... _____
Supporting business and industry ..... _____

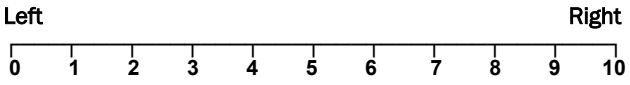
2. Please place yourself on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means you strongly believe that the government SHOULD ACT to reduce differences in income and wealth, and 10 means that you strongly believe that the government SHOULD NOT ACT to reduce differences in income and wealth. Please circle the number that best reflects your opinion.

3. Some people say that it doesn't make any difference who is in power. Others say that it makes a big difference who is in power. Please circle the number that best reflects your opinion.

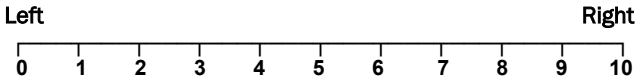


4. Some people say that no matter who people vote for, it won't make any difference to what happens. Others say that who people vote for can make a big difference to what happens. Please circle the number that best reflects your opinion.

5. In politics people sometimes talk of left and right. Where would you place yourself on the scale below?



6. Using the same scale, where would you place the political parties?



Federal Conservative Party ..... _____
Federal Liberal Party..... _____
Federal NDP ..... _____
Bloc Québécois..... _____
Federal Green Party..... _____

7. Do you usually think of yourself as close to any particular federal political party?

Yes *(go to question 9)* 1
No *(go to question 8)* 2

8. Do you feel a little closer to one of the federal political parties than the others?

Yes *(go to question 9)* 1
No *(go to question 11)* 2

9. Which party do you feel closest to?

Conservative Party 1
Liberal Party.....2
NDP 3
Bloc Québécois 4
Green Party 5
Other (*specify*) _____ 6

10. How close do you feel to this party?

Very close 1
Somewhat close.....2
Not very close.....3

11. During the election campaign, did a party, candidate or political organization contact you about voting for a particular party or candidate?

Yes 1
No *(go to question 12)* 2

11a. Did they contact you in person?

Yes 1
No 2

11b. Did they contact you by mail or phone?

Yes 1
No 2

11c. Did they contact you by text message, email, or the Internet?

Yes 1
No 2

12. During the campaign, did a friend, family member, neighbour, work colleague or other acquaintance contact you about voting for a particular party or candidate?

Yes 1
No *(go to question 13)* 2

12a. Did they contact you in person, by mail, or by phone?

Yes 1
No 2

12b. Did they contact you by text message, email, or the Internet?

Yes 1
No 2

13. During the campaign, did you SIGN UP to receive online information or alerts from a party or candidate – for example, by text message, email, RSS news or blog feed, Twitter, Facebook, or other means online?

Yes 1
No 2

14. Who was the federal Finance Minister before the election on May 2nd?

John Baird 1
Lawrence Cannon 2
Jim Flaherty 3
Peter MacKay 4
Not sure..... 8

15. What is the longest time allowed between one federal election and the next?

3 years 1
4 years 2
5 years 3
6 years 4
Not sure..... 8

16. Which party came in second in the election on May 2nd?

Bloc Québécois 1
Conservative Party..... 2
Liberal Party..... 3
New Democratic Party 4
Not sure..... 8

17. Who was the first president of South Africa after *apartheid* ended?

Rupiah Banda..... 1
Nelson Mandela 2
Robert Mugabe 3
Desmond Tutu 4
Not sure..... 8

18. Do you or a member of your household own ...

		Yes	No
a.	a residence – for example, a home or an apartment	1	2
b.	a business, a piece of property, a farm, or livestock	1	2
c.	stocks or bonds	1	2
d.	chequing or savings account	1	2

Section L

1. In what year were you born? 19____ ____

2. What is your gender?

Male 1
Female 2

3. Where did you spend the most time while you were growing up?

Newfoundland 01
Prince Edward Island 02
Nova Scotia 03
New Brunswick 04
Québec 05
Ontario 06
Manitoba..... 07
Saskatchewan..... 08
Alberta 09
British Columbia 10
Yukon..... 11
Northwest Territory 12
Nunavut..... 13
Did not grow up in Canada 14

We are very interested in any further comments you may wish to make about these or related issues.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you very much for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.
Please return the questionnaire in the envelope provided.
No postage is required.

Institute for Social Research
York University