

2019 DEMOCRACY 360: APPENDIX

Context (not in index)

Satisfaction with democracy

The percentage of Canadians reporting that they are “very” or “fairly” satisfied with the way democracy works in Canada.

National		
2014	2016	2019
65%	71%	75%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
72%	74%	78%	71%	70%	76%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Interest in politics

The percentage of Canadians reporting that they are “very” or “fairly” interested in politics.

National		
2014	2016	2019
N/A	64%	71.5%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
68%	66%	74%	69%	77%	74%

* Local politics (2019 only)

National
2019
66%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
68%	59%	69%	64%	70%	69%

* Provincial/Regional politics (2019 only)

National
2019
77%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
75%	72%	78%	74%	82%	78%

* National politics (2019 only)

National
2019
77%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
73%	70%	79%	76%	84%	79%

* International politics (2019 only)

National
2019
66%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
57%	62%	68%	62%	73%	69%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Impact of politics on daily life (2019 only)

How much Canadians think politics impacts their daily life (on a scale of one to ten, with 1 representing no impact whatsoever and 10 representing an extremely high impact).

National	
1	4%
2	4%
3	8%
4	8%
5	13%
6	17%
7	24%
8	15%
9	4%
10	4%

Regional						
	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	ManSask	Alberta	BC
1	6%	5%	3%	4%	2%	4%
2	7%	7%	2%	6%	3%	5%
3	9%	9%	6%	9%	6%	9%
4	9.5%	7%	10%	8%	8%	9%
5	16%	18%	11%	13%	10%	11%
6	16%	17%	17%	15%	19%	16%
7	19%	20%	26%	22%	26%	24%
8	11%	11%	16%	15%	18%	15%
9	5%	4%	4%	5.5%	3%	5%
10	2%	2%	5%	4%	4%	3%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Canadians think other Canadians care about politics

The percentage of Canadians who think that politics matters "a great deal" or "a fair amount" to other Canadians.

National		
2014	2016	2019
N/A	72%	67%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
73%	59%	67%	74%	74%	69%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Importance of living in a country governed democratically (2019 only)

National			
Very important	Rather important	Not very important	Not at all important
66%	29%	4%	1%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
91%	95%	94%	95%	94.5%	95%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Happy to have child go into politics

The percentage of Canadians who would be happy with their child spending part of their career as a politician. ("Don't know" answers included in totals).

National		
2014	2016	2019
N/A	30%	34%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	ManSask	Alberta	BC
36%	21%	39%	38%	34%	38%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Canada's democracy getting weaker or stronger (2019 only)

Canadians' responses after being asked if they would mostly describe Canada's democracy these days as getting weaker or stronger.

National		
Weaker	Stronger	Don't know
46%	30%	23%

Regional						
	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	ManSask	Alberta	BC
Weaker	44%	38%	47%	48%	62%	46%
Stronger	31%	32.5%	33%	29%	19%	29%
Don't know	25%	29%	20%	23%	19%	25%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

COMMUNICATION

Canadians discuss politics

The percentage of Canadians who reported having a discussion about politics in the previous 12 months in one of the following ways: via email or text message, via social media, face-to-face or on the phone, by reposting or commenting on political information, or by following a politician on social media.

National		
2014	2016	2019
61%*	68%	73%

**The 2014 score did not include rates of political discussion via social media, but a measure of how many Canadians had become a member of social media group devoted to political issues instead.*

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
67%	73%	73%	75%	76%	73%

* Discuss via email or text message

National		
2014	2016	2019
31%	34%	34%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
31%	29%	36%	35%	37%	36%

* Discuss face-to-face or on the phone

National		
2014	2016	2019
52%	54%	60%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
55%	57%	61%	61%	66%	60%

* Discuss on social media

National		
2014	2016	2019
N/A	39%	37%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
35%	30%	40%	43%	41%	38%

- * Follow a politician on social media

National		
2014	2016	2019
23%	34%	41%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
41%	43%	41%	39%	42%	38%

- * Circulate, repost or comment on political information

National		
2014	2016	2019
35%	33%	38%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
35%	35%	42%	40%	39%	35%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Canadians contact political leadership

The percentage of Canadians who reported having contacted an elected official in the last year.

National		
2014	2016	2019
31%	32%	42%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
47%	34%	47%	48%	44%	35%

- * Level of government contacted by Canadians (2019 only)

National		
Federal	Provincial	Municipal
29%	26%	33%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Political leaders contact Canadians

The percentage of Canadians who reported having been contacted by a party, candidate, or MP.

National		
2014	2016	2019
63%	63%	54%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
45%	48%	58%	55%	62%	48%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Members of Parliament send householders

The percentage of MPs who reported having spent money on at least one "householder" pamphlet

2014	2016	2018
98%	90%	96%

Source: House of Commons Records

Members of Parliament on social media

The average percentage of Members of Parliament using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or Instagram.

2015	2017	2019
85%	86%	85%

Facebook		
2015	2017	2019
89%	99.7%	100%

Twitter		
2015	2017	2019
84%	99%	99%

Instagram		
2015	2017	2019
N/A	56%	82%

YouTube		
2015	2017	2019
83%	88%	61%

Sources: 2015 and 2017 analysis by Full Duplex, 2019 by Samara Centre for Democracy volunteers

Members of Parliament on Twitter (2019 only)

- * Five MPs did not have Twitter accounts
- * 13 MPs had not tweeted within the previous six months, despite having an account
- * 11 MPs had tweeted fewer than 300 times altogether

<i>Of the MPs with active accounts...</i>			
	<i>Lowest</i>	<i>Highest</i>	<i>Average</i>
Tweets per day	0.09 (approx. one every 10 days)	33	3
Original content (proportion of original tweets, replies, and quoted tweets – i.e. not retweets)	1%	99.7% (all but one tweet)	52%
Interactive rating (proportion of replies and quoted tweets)	0%	62%	13%
Followers (excluding the Prime Minister's account)	1,004	308,000	11,400

Source: Samara Centre for Democracy

Members of Parliament Websites (2019 only)

Percentage of MP websites that provided:	
Links to social media	95%
Newsletter sign up option	86%
Constituency services info	74%
Volunteering info	70%
Recent blog or news update	61%
Future consultation info	10%
MPs with no websites	2% (6 MPs)

Source: Samara Centre for Democracy

PARTICIPATION

Voter turnout

The percentage of Canadians who voted in elections.

- * National turnout rates for past federal elections

2011	2015
61%	68%

- * Provincial turnout rates for past federal elections

Province	2011	2014
BC	56%	68%
AB	52%	65%
SK	60%	68%
MB	56%	66%
ON	58%	64%
QC	64%	67%
NL	53%	60%
NB	66%	73%
PEI	74%	80%
NS	61%	71%
YT	63%	74%
NT	47%	61%
NU	39%	53%

Source: Elections Canada

- * Federal voting rates over time

Year	Voting rate
1968	76%
1972	77%
1974	71%
1979	76%
1980	69%
1984	75%
1988	75%
1993	71%
1997	67%
2000	64%
2004	62%

2006	65%
2008	59%
2011	61%
2015	68%

Source: Elections Canada

- * Turnout rates for the last two provincial elections

	Last election	Second last election
BC	61%	57%
AB	57%	54%
SK	57%	67%
MB	57%	56%
ON	58%	51%
QC	66%	71%
NB	67%	65%
PEI	82%	77%
NS	53%	58%
NL	55%	58%
YT	76%	74%
NT	44%	48%
NU	65%	70%

Source: Provincial and territorial electoral agencies

- * Turnout rates in last municipal elections (select cities in each region)

Calgary	58%
St. John's	57%
Thunder Bay	51%*
Quebec City	51%
Victoria	44%
Winnipeg	42%
Montreal	42%
Toronto	41%
Saskatoon	40%
Vancouver	39%
Whitehorse	37%*
Edmonton	32%*
Halifax	30%
Regina	20%

Source: Municipal electoral agencies

*Turnout based on number of eligible voters

Old and young voters' gap

The gap between the cohort with the highest turnout (ages 65-74) and the lowest (ages 18-24).

Federal election	2011	2015
Voters' gap	36 percentage points	22 percentage points

Voter Turnout by Age*		
Age	2011 Federal	2015 Federal
18-24	39%	57%
25-34	45%	57%
35-44	55%	62%
45-54	65%	67%
55-64	72%	74%
65-74	75%	79%
75+	60%	67%
Average for all ages	58.5%	66%

Source: Elections Canada

*Turnout based on number of eligible voters

Rates of formal engagement

The percentage of Canadians who participated in at least one of the following formal political activities in the previous 12 months: were a member of a party, attended a political meeting, donated to a candidate or party, volunteered for a candidate or campaign, or gave a political speech in public.

National		
2014	2016	2019
36%	38%	42%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
39%	36%	46%	47%	42%	40.5%

* Member of a federal party

National		
2014	2016	2019
9%	8%	8%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
9%	7%	8%	11%	7%	6%

* Member of a provincial party (not in index)

National		
2014	2016	2019
N/A	N/A	9%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
9%	8%	9%	14%	10%	5%

* Attended a political meeting or speech

National		
2014	2016	2019
29%	30%	31%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
30%	26%	33%	36%	34%	32.5%

* Donated to a candidate or party

National		
2014	2016	2019
19%	19%	21%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
19%	16%	23%	24%	24%	20%

* Volunteered for candidate or campaign

National		
2014	2016	2019
17%	15%	19%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
17%	16%	22%	19%	16%	16%

* Gave a political speech in public

National		
2014	2016	2019
9%	9%	9%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
7%	9%	10%	8%	6%	7%

* Participated in a town hall or public consultation (not in index)

National		
2014	2016	2019
N/A	N/A	24%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
21%	22%	26%	26%	25%	22%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Rates of activism

The percentage of Canadians who participated in at least one of the following forms of activism in the previous 12 months: signed a petition, boy/boycotted, or protested/demonstrated.

National		
2014	2016	2019
69%	68%	67%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
59%	70%	67%	68.5%	69%	67%

* Signed a petition

National		
2014	2016	2019
64%	59%	57%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
51%	58%	57%	53%	57%	57%

* Boycotted or Buycotted

National		
2014	2016	2019
37%	40%	47%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
39%	50%	47%	46%	50%	47%

* Protested or demonstrated

National		
2014	2016	2019
22%	21%	16%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
15%	17%	17%	17%	16%	14%

* Spray-painted slogans, blocked traffic or occupied building (not in index)

National		
2014	2016	2019
N/A	N/A	6%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
5%	6%	7%	7%	5%	5%

Source: 2016 Samara Citizens' Survey

Rates of civic engagement

The percentage of Canadians who participated in at least one of the following civic engagement activities in the previous 12 months: donated to a charity, volunteered for a charitable cause, or worked with others to solve a community problem.

National		
2014	2016	2019
82%	87%	77%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
78%	74%	79%	78%	83%	74%

* Donated to a charity

National		
2014	2016	2019
78%	84%	70%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
71%	67%	71%	70%	74%	67%

* Volunteered for a charitable cause

National		
2014	2016	2019
53%	59%	45%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
42%	37%	48%	48%	51%	45%

* Been active in a group or organization (not in index)

National		
2014	2016	2019
38%	41%	25%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
25%	18%	25%	29%	31%	27%

* Worked with others to solve a problem in the community

National		
2014	2016	2019
40%	46%	37%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
38%	32%	39%	42%	38%	36%

* Belonged to a group involved in political/social issues or working to advance a cause (not in index)

National		
2014	2016	2019
N/A	N/A	13%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
12%	12%	14%	18%	12%	11%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

LEADERSHIP

Trust in and satisfaction with political leaders

TRUST

“A great deal” or “a fair amount” to do what’s right

* Trust in MPs

National		
2014	2016	2019
40%	47%	51%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
48%	59%	51%	45%	44%	46%

* Trust in parties

National		
2014	2016	2019
42%	47%	45%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
45%	62%	42%	40%	32%	41%

SATISFACTION

“Very” or “fairly” satisfied with how they are doing their jobs

* Satisfaction with MPs

National		
2014	2016	2019
46%	53%	53%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
54%	57%	54%	54%	44%	52%

* Satisfaction with political parties

National		
2014	2016	2019
42%	50%	48%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
51%	53%	50%	43%	39%	46%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Members of Parliament are influential

Percentage of Canadians who "agree" or "strongly agree" that the work and decisions of Members of Parliament influence the direction of the country.

National		
2014	2016	2019
54%	54%	62%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
62%	68%	61%	61%	58%	57%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Parties only want votes

Percentage of Canadians who answered "agree" or "strongly agree" that candidates and parties only want their vote.

National		
2014	2016	2019
62%	59%	59%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
60%	58%	60%	60%	61%	56%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Members of Parliament's job performance reviews

Average percentage grade for MPs on six core jobs that focus on representation, accountability and legislation.

National		
2014	2016	2019
47%	54%	56%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
54%	56%	57%	54%	52%	53%

REPRESENTATION

- * Representing the views of people in their riding

National		
2014	2016	2019
45%	53%	54%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
53%	55%	57%	54%	50%	52%

- * Representing the views of their political party

National		
2014	2016	2019
57%	63%	63%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
61%	63%	65%	61%	62%	62%

- * Helping people in their ridings

National		
2014	2016	2019
46%	53%	55%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
54%	55%	57%	54%	51%	52%

ACCOUNTABILITY

- * Holding the government to account and watching how the government spends money

National		
2014	2016	2019
42%	50%	51%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
50%	52%	53%	50%	46%	49%

LEGISLATION

- * Debating and voting on issues in the House of Commons

National		
2014	2016	2019
48%	56%	57%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
54%	59%	59%	55%	54%	55%

- * Explaining the decisions being made in Parliament:

National		
2014	2016	2019
43%	50%	52%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
51%	53%	54%	50%	48%	50%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Political parties' job performance reviews

Average percentage grade for political parties on six core jobs that focus on elections, engagement and policy development.

National		
2014	2016	2019
48%	57%	56%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
55%	58%	58%	55%	52%	55%

ELECTIONS

- * Recruiting candidates and competing in elections

National		
2014	2016	2019
50%	57%	59%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
57%	61%	60%	57%	55%	56%

- * Encouraging people to vote

National		
2014	2016	2019
55%	66%	64%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
64%	64%	65%	63%	62%	65%

ENGAGEMENT

- * Hearing ideas from party members

National		
2014	2016	2019
47%	55%	54%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
53%	56%	56%	53%	49%	53%

- * Reaching out to Canadians so their views can be represented

National		
2014	2016	2019
42%	53%	52%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
51%	52%	54%	51%	46%	50%

POLICY

- * Coming up with new policy ideas and solutions

National		
2014	2016	2019
44%	53%	53%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
52%	55%	54%	52%	49%	52%

- * Explaining what the party stands for

National		
2014	2016	2019
48%	57%	57%

Regional					
Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	BC
54%	59%	58%	55%	53%	54%

Source: 2019 Samara Citizens' Survey

Diversity in the House of Commons

A score out of 100 that reflects the average of how well five different Canadian demographic groups are reflected in the makeup of the House of Commons.

Average		
2015	2017	2019
50	57	51

* Visible Minorities

2015	2017	2019
50	75	65

* Women

2015	2017	2019
50	52	54

* Indigenous people

2015	2017	2019
54	78	67

* Foreign-born Canadians

2015	2017	2019
68	62	63

* Youth (ages 18-30)

2015	2017	2019
29	24	5

Source: Andrew Griffith, the Parliament of Canada, and Statistics Canada
2016 census data of Canadian residents*

**Residents of Canada, not citizens, used for comparison.*

Diversity in Canadian Provincial and Territorial Legislatures

The percentage of visible minorities, women, and Indigenous elected representatives in provincial and territorial legislatures compared to the percentage in the provincial or territorial population.

* Visible Minorities

	% of Legislature	% of Prov/Ter population
BC	16%	30%
AB	15%	24%
SK	2%	11%
MB	7%	18%
ON	21%	29%
QC	3%	13%
NB	0%	3%

PEI	0%	5%
NS	10%	7%
NL	3%	2%
YT	5%	9%
NT	0%	10%
NU	0%	3%

* Women

	% of Legislature	% of Prov/Ter population
BC	42%	50%
AB	33%	49%
SK	26%	50%
MB	27%	50%
ON	40%	51%
QC	42%	50%
NB	22%	51%
PEI	15%	51%
NS	33%	51%
NL	23%	51%
YT	37%	49%
NT	11%	49%
NU	9%	48%

* Indigenous people

	% of Legislature	% of Prov/Ter population
BC	3%	6%
AB	1%	7%
SK	8%	16%
MB	11%	18%
ON	2%	3%
QC	0%	2%
NB	0%	4%
PEI	0%	2%
NS	0%	6%
NL	0%	9%
YT	16%	23%
NT	26%	51%
NU	86%	86%

Source: Andrew Griffith and Stats Canada 2016 census data of Canadian residents