

2012 Samara Survey – Questionnaire

Q1. In your opinion, how democratic is Canada?

[Note: Use a sliding scale from 0 (not at all democratic) to 10 (fully democratic)]

Q2. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “not at all important” and 10 is “very important” Please indicate how important it is to you PERSONALLY that:

[Note: Order according to Q2 and use a sliding scale from 0 (not important at all) to 10 (extremely important)]

a. The Canadian government treats all Canadians equally	
b. People are free to express unpopular views in public	
c. Those elected to parliament keep most of their promises	
d. Politicians are held accountable for their actions	
e. Political parties discuss the issues that matter to me	
f. Politicians pay attention to what Canadians think	
g. Political decisions are made in the interest of most Canadians	
h. Parliament is representative of Canadian society	
i. Most government officials are honest	
j. Government programs are managed efficiently	
k. There is very little corruption in politics	
l. Political parties in Canada offer true alternatives	

Q3. Using a 0 to 10 scale where 0 is “extremely low score” and 10 is “extremely high score” Now please rate Canada’s performance on each of the following.

[Note: Randomize the order and use a sliding scale from 0 (extremely low score) to 10 (extremely high score)]

a. The Canadian government treats all Canadians equally	
b. People are free to express unpopular views in public	
c. Those elected to parliament keep most of their promises	
d. Politicians are held accountable for their actions	
e. Political parties discuss the issues that matter to me	
f. Politicians pay attention to what Canadians think	
g. Political decisions are made in the interest of most Canadians	
h. Parliament is representative of Canadian society	
i. Most government officials are honest	
j. Government programs are managed efficiently	
k. There is very little corruption in politics	
l. Political parties in Canada offer true alternatives	

Q4. Here are some different opinions about what it takes to be a good citizen. In your opinion, how important is it to:

[Note: Use scale from 0 (not important at all) to 10 (extremely important)]

a. Vote in elections	
b. Pay your taxes	
c. Develop your own opinions independently of other people's	
d. Always obey the laws	
e. Be actively involved in clubs and community organizations	
f. Stay well-informed about what is happening in politics	
g. Show solidarity with people in Canada who are worse off than yourself	
h. Show solidarity with people in the rest of the world who are worse off than yourself	
i. Be prepared to break the law when your conscience requires it	
j. Never try to get a government benefit that you're not entitled to	
k. Act on problems yourself, without expecting the government to solve them	
l. Put others' interests ahead of your own	
m. Try to persuade other people about your view on a political issue	
n. Try to actively influence politics	
o. Choose environmentally friendly products even if they are not the best and/or cheapest	

Q5. Which of the following political issues is the most important to you personally? Please choose one only: [Note: Randomize list]

- Post-Secondary Education
- The economy
- Health Care
- Elderly Care
- The Environment
- Childcare
- Taxes
- Crime
- Immigration
- Jobs
- Pensions
- Government debt/deficit
- Canada's standing in the world
- Defence
- Foreign Aid
- Other [if they pick other, they are not prompted to next question]

The political issue that is most important to me was not on the list
Yes/No

Q6th. [If no] what political issue is most important to you?
[Open ended]

Q7. Who is most likely to do something about [INSERT ISSUE]?
Note: where another issue was specified [INSERT THIS ISSUE]

Members of Parliament
Members of the Provincial Legislature
Local government leaders
The Media
The leader of my religious community
Interest Groups (e.g. Greenpeace; Canadian Taxpayers Federation)
International Organizations (e.g. United Nations)
Protestors
Unions
Business leaders
Friends and family

Q8. In general, how satisfied are with the way the media cover [INSERT ISSUE]?
Note: where another issue was specified [INSERT THIS ISSUE]

Very satisfied (1)
Fairly satisfied (2)
Not very satisfied (3)
Not satisfied at all (4)
Don't Know (5)

Q9. In general, how satisfied are you with the way the government in Ottawa deals with [INSERT ISSUE]?
Note: where another issue was specified [INSERT THIS ISSUE]

Very satisfied (1)
Fairly satisfied (2)
Not very satisfied (3)
Not satisfied at all (4)
Don't Know (5)

Q10. Please indicate which of the following federal government programs you have used over the last five years. Check all the programs used.

a. Unemployment benefits (EI)	
b. Parental or maternity leave (EI)	

c. Labour training or retraining program	
d. Social assistance payments	
e. Paid time off work to care for another person (EI Compassionate Care benefit)	
f. Old age security (OAS) pension	
g. National Child Tax Benefit	
h. Immigration assistance	
i. Universal Childcare Benefit	
j. Disability Benefits	
k. Veterans' Benefits	
l. Student Benefits (work study, student loans)	
m. Programs for small businesses	
n. <i>NONE</i>	

Q11. [If at least one program used] Please indicate whether you have had any contact (face-to-face, by telephone, online or by mail) with a government office about [INSERT PROGRAM][THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS]?

[Note: if only one program named, insert the name; if multiple mentions, pre-program list so that only programs used appear]

a. Unemployment Insurance benefits (EI)	
b. Parental or maternity leave (EI)	
c. Labour training or retraining program	
d. Social assistance payments	
e. Paid time off work for to care for another person (EI Compassionate Care benefit)	
f. Old age security (OAS) pension	
g. National Child Tax Benefit	
h. Immigration assistance	
i. Universal Childcare Benefit	
j. Disability Benefits	
k. Veterans' Benefits	
l. Student Benefits (work study, student loans)	
m. Programs for small businesses	

Q12. [If at least one contact] How would you describe your contact?

[Note: pre-program so that programs contacted appear]

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative
a. Unemployment Insurance benefits (EI)				
b. Parental or maternity leave (EI)				
c. Labour training or retraining program				
d. Social assistance payments				
e. Paid time off work to care for another person (EI Compassionate Care benefit)				
f. Old age security (OAS) pension				
g. National Child Tax Benefit				
h. Immigration assistance				
i. Universal Childcare Benefit				
j. Disability Benefits				
k. Veterans' Benefits				
l. Student Benefits (Work Study, Student loans)				
m. Programs for small businesses				

Q13. Do you happen to remember the name of the Member of Parliament (MP) who CURRENTLY represents your riding? Write in:_____

Q13b. [Only people who know their MP] How satisfied are you with the way YOUR MP is doing his/her job

- Very satisfied (1)
- Fairly satisfied (2)
- Not very satisfied (3)
- Not satisfied at all (4)
- Don't know (5)

Q14. When it comes to taxing people with high incomes, the government should

- Increase taxes on high incomes (1)
- Keep taxes on high incomes as they are (2)
- Decrease taxes on high incomes (3)
- Don't know (4)

Q14b. Which of the following parties is in favour of tax cuts for people with high incomes?

- Bloc Québécois
- Conservative
- Green
- Liberal
- NDP

Other
None
Don't know

Q15. When it comes to helping families with young children, the government should do;

Fund public daycare (1)
Give money directly to parents (2)
Neither (3)
Don't know (4)

Q15b. Which of the following parties is in favour of funding public daycare? [Program the rotation so that if someone gets e.g. NDP first, they always get NDP first, etc. The Bloc should be dropped outside Quebec]

Bloc Québécois
Conservative
Green
Liberal
NDP
Other
None
Don't know

Q16. When it comes to producing oil, should production from the Alberta oil sands

Be increased (1)
Stay the same (2)
Be decreased (3)
Be ended completely (4)
Don't know (5)

Q16b. Which of the following parties is in favour of producing oil from the Alberta oil sands?

[rotate party order]

Bloc Québécois
Conservative
Green
Liberal
NDP
Other
None
Don't know

Q17. When it comes to spending on the military, should the government

- Increase spending (1)
- Keep spending about the same as now (2)
- Decrease spending (3)
- Don't know (4)

Q17b. Which of the following parties is in favour of decreased spending on the military?

- Bloc Québécois
- Green
- Conservative
- Liberal
- NDP
- Other
- None
- Don't know

[YES=1, NO=2, DON'T KNOW=3]

Q18. Did the federal government vote to cancel the long gun registry? Yes/no don't know

Q18b. Should the federal government have cancelled the long gun registry? Yes/No don't know

Q19. Has the federal government signed the Kyoto Protocol? Yes/no don't know

Q19b. Should the federal government sign the Kyoto Protocol? Yes/no don't know

Q20. Is the federal government considering raising the age for receiving an Old Age Security pension to 67? Yes/No don't know

Q20b. Should the federal government raise the age for receiving an Old Age Security pension to 67? Yes/No don't know

Q21. In general, how satisfied are you with the way MPs in Canada are doing their jobs?

- Very satisfied (1)
- Fairly satisfied (2)
- Not very satisfied (3)
- Not satisfied at all (4)
- Don't Know (5)

Q22. Generally speaking, do you feel that the people who run for elected office tend to have values that are:

- Very similar to your own (1)
- Similar to your own (2)
- Different from your own (3)

Opposite from your own (4)
Don't Know (5)

Q23. In general, how satisfied are you with the way your interests are represented by the federal government?

Very satisfied (1)
Fairly satisfied (2)
Not very satisfied (3)
Not satisfied at all (4)
Don't Know (5)

Q24. How important do you think each activity should be to Members of Parliament?

Please rank order the activities from 1 (least important) to 7 (most important)

[Note: Present in same order as Q26. Rank order by clicking the activity into the corresponding box]

a. Putting constituents' interests ahead of their own	
b. Representing the views of their political party	
c. Staying in touch with constituents and local groups	
d. Dealing with the problems of individual constituents	
e. Debating and voting on important issues in the House of Commons	
f. Holding the government to account	
g. Representing the views of their constituents	

Q25. Now please rate the performance of Members of Parliament on each of the following

[Note: Randomize the order and use a sliding scale from 0 (extremely low score) to 10 (extremely high score)]

a. Putting constituents' interests ahead of their own	
b. Representing the views of their political party	
c. Staying in touch with constituents and local groups	
d. Dealing with the problems of individual constituents	
e. Debating and voting on important issues in the House of Commons	
f. Holding the government to account	
g. Representing the views of their constituents	

Q26. If a federal election were held today, which party would you vote for?

Bloc Québécois

- Conservative
- Green
- Liberal
- NDP
- Other
- Note sure
- I wouldn't vote

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

[Note: use 5-point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly disagree)]

Q27. It seems like government is run for the benefit of a few big interests

Q28. Politicians are out of touch with life in the real world

Q29. It's difficult for me to figure out what is going on in politics

Q30. I feel that I have a great deal of control over my life

Q31. It seems like politicians only care about themselves

Q32. Candidates for public office are interested only in people's votes, not their opinions

Q33. If you disagreed with a federal government policy, which of the following actions do you think would be the MOST effective in getting the policy changed? Please choose one only

- Contact your Member of Parliament
- Join a political party
- Sign a petition
- Join an interest group or advocacy group
- Start a Facebook group
- Take part in a demonstration
- Nothing would be effective

Q34. [If an action is chosen] How likely would you be to [INSERT ACTION]?

- Very likely (1)
- Likely (2)
- Somewhat likely (3)
- Not at all likely (4)
- Don't Know (5)

Q35. In the last 5 years, have you:

	Yes	No
a. Voted in an election		
b. Belonged to a political party		
c. Donated money to a political party or		

candidate		
d. Volunteered in an election campaign		
e. Tried to persuade someone to vote		

Q36. In the last 12 months, have you:

	Never	Once	More than once
a. Signed a petition			
b. Done voluntary work			
c. Boycotted or bought products for environmental reasons			
d. Boycotted or bought products for ethical or political reasons			
e. Attended a political meeting			
f. Contacted an elected official			
g. Worked with others on a community issue			
h. Donated money to a political or societal cause			
i. Taken part in a protest or demonstration			

Q37. Have you been active in any of the following groups or organisations in the past year?

	Yes	No
a.Union		
b.Business or professional association		
c.Religious group		
d.Local organization that helps people e.g. a food bank, meals-on-wheels		
e.Sports organization or recreation group		
f.Arts or hobby group		
g.School group or parents' group e.g. PTA, or a baby-sitting circle		
h.Seniors' group		
i.Ethnic or immigrant social organization		
j.Women's group		
k.Environmental group		
l.Political action/activist group		
m.Neighbourhood, civic or community group		
n.Any other type of group or organization		

Q38 Do you have a profile on a social networking site?

	Yes	No
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a. Facebook		
b. Twitter,		
c. Google+		
d. Blogging site		
e. Other		

Q39. [If YES] Generally speaking, how many days in a week do you use [INSERT SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE]

[Note: Use a sliding scale from 0 to 7 days]

- a. Facebook
- b. Twitter
- c. Google+
- d. Blogging Site
- e. Other

Q40. [If YES to Q34] Have you done the following things on [INSERT SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE] in the last 12 months?

Circulated, (re)posted or embedded political information or content? Yes/No
 Indicated your support for/opposition to a politician or political issue? Yes/No

Q41. In the last 12 months, have you:

	A few times a week	A few times a month	Once or twice	Never
a. Participated in an online discussion group about a political or societal issue				
b. Used e-mail or instant messaging to discuss a political or societal issue				
c. Discussed a political or societal issue face-to-face or over the phone?				
d. Given a political speech in public				
e. Organized a public event or meeting about politics				
f. Written a letter to the editor about a political issue				
g. Blogged about a political issue				

Q42. How well informed do you feel about politics?

- Very well informed (1)
- Quite well informed (2)
- Not very well informed (3)

Not informed at all (4)
Don't know (5)

Q43. Citizenship scorecard for Canada

Now please rate Canadians' performance on each of the following. Canadians:

[Note: Randomize the order and use a sliding scale from 0 (extremely low score) to 10 (extremely high score)]

a. Are informed about politics.	
b. Are welcoming to newcomers and immigrants	
c. Help the poor and disadvantaged	
d. Act on problems themselves, without expecting the government to solve them	
e. Treat others fairly.	
f. Do not accept bribes.	
g. Take responsibility for themselves	
h. Do their fair share to hold government accountable	
i. Are tolerant of different ways of life	
j. Feel they have a duty to vote	
k. Can be trusted	

Q44. Generally speaking, how many days in a week do you:

[Note: Use a sliding scale from 0 to 7 days]

- a. Watch the news on TV
- b. Read the news in the newspaper
- c. Listen to the news on the radio
- d. Read the news on the internet

Q45. How good a job do you think the print and broadcast (hard copy or online) media do in:

[Note: Use a sliding scale from 0 [extremely bad job) to 10 (extremely good job)]

- a. Exposing abuses of power by the government and other powerful institutions
- b. Reporting the story behind the headlines
- c. Analyzing important events
- d. Reporting on government actions
- e. Providing a Canadian perspective on world events

Q46. How often do you get news about politics from the following websites?

	Often	Sometimes	Never
a. Directly on the website of a newspaper or a television or radio network (e.g. CBC, CTV)			
b. Through links posted on social networking sites (like Facebook or Twitter)			
c. On websites run by political groups (political parties, advocacy groups, etc.)			
d. From alternative news sites (e.g. Huffington Post, The Mark)			
e. Political blogs			

Q47 How good a job do new media (e.g. social networking sites, blogs or alternative news sites) do in?

[Note: Do not ask if responded 0 to Q44 for reading news on the Internet. Use a sliding scale from 0 (extremely bad job) to 10 (extremely good job)]

- a. Exposing abuses of power by the government and other powerful institutions
- b. Reporting the story behind the headlines
- c. Analyzing important events
- d. Reporting on government actions
- e. Providing a Canadian perspective on world events
- f. Covering political issues not reported by the mainstream media

Q48. How interested are you in:

[Note: use a sliding scale from 0 (not at all interested) to 10 (extremely interested)]

- a. News about my community
- b. News about local or municipal politics
- c. News about provincial politics
- d. News about federal politics
- e. International news
- f. Sports or Entertainment

Q49. Over the past five years, has the rate of violent crime in Canada:

- Gone up (1)
- Gone down (2)
- Stayed about the same (3)
- Don't know (4)

Q50. Which party is the official opposition party in Parliament?

Bloc Québécois

The Conservatives
The Greens
The Liberals
The NDP

Q51. Does Canada have:

[YES=1, NO=2]

- a. A Supreme Court yes/no
- b. An elected Senate yes/no

Q52. If you had to identify one problem with the way democracy works in Canada, what would it be?

[Open-ended]

Q52a. On the whole are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not satisfied at all with the way democracy works in Canada?

Very satisfied
Fairly satisfied
Not very satisfied
Not satisfied at all
Don't Know
Refused

Q53. And finally, if you had to identify one good thing about the way democracy works in Canada, what would it be?

[Open-ended]

Q54. In what year were you born? 19_____

Q55. Are you... Female_____ Male_____

Q56. Are you married, living with a partner, never married, divorced or separated, widowed?

Q57. Do you have children under 18 years of age living with you?

[click under 6 years of age or 6 to 17 years of age]

- a. Child one
- b. Child two
- c. Child three
- d. Child four

Q58. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Some High School (1)
- High School Diploma (2)
- College or Technical Degree (3)
- Some University (4)
- Bachelor's Degree (5)
- Master's Degree (6)
- Professional Degree (7)
- Doctorate (8)
- Refused (9)

Q59. Are you currently (please check all that apply)

- Employed
- Self-employed
- Unemployed/laid off
- Homemaker
- Retired
- Student
- Other (please specify) _____

Q60. (If employed) What best describes your main occupation?

- Unskilled labour (1)
- Skilled labour (2)
- Professional (3)
- Self employed (4)
- Student (5)
- Caring for a family (6)
- Disabled (7)
- Retired (8)
- Don't Know/Refused (10)

Q61. Were you born in Canada?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q61b. If No, in what year did you come to live in Canada _____

Q61c. If not, what is your country of origin? _____

Q62. To which ethnic group(s) do you belong? (Please check all that apply)

62_1. White

62_2. Aboriginal/First Nations

62_3. Arab

62_4. Asian

62_5. Black

62_6. Hispanic/Latino

62_7 Other (please indicate): _____

Q63. What is your religion?

None

Buddhist

Catholic

Protestant

Orthodox Christian (e.g. Greek, Russian)

Other Christian

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

Other (please indicate): _____

Q64. What is the first language you learned and still speak?

French English Other (please specify) _____

Q65. Are you bilingual (French and English)?

Yes No

Q66. What is your postal code? _____

Q67. What is your total household income?

Less than \$20,000; \$20,000 to \$39,000; \$40,000 to \$59,000; \$60,000 to \$79,000; \$80,000 to \$99,000; \$100,000 to \$119,000; more than \$120,000.