

Please do not write your name on this form.



Samara Canada -- Heckling Survey 2015

Introduction

Thank you for completing this anonymous survey. It should take approximately 15 minutes. Your responses will remain strictly confidential. **All surveys must be completed and returned by May 11th 2015.**

Please note that, for the purposes of this survey, the definition of ‘heckle’ is: to call out in the chamber of the House of Commons without having the Speaker’s recognition to speak.

Section A – General Information

1. How long have you been a Member of Parliament?

- Up to 4 years 4-7 years 7-9 years 9+ years

2. Have you previously served as an elected official in a (check all that apply):

- Municipal council/legislature Provincial/territorial legislature

3. Which political party do you represent?

- Bloc Québécois Conservative Party of Canada Liberal Party of Canada
 New Democratic Party Other

4. What is your age?

- 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70+

5. What is your gender?

- M F

Section B – Experiences of heckling

6. Which of the following best describes how often you hear heckling in a typical sitting day in the House of Commons?

- Continuously Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never

Note: If you have never heard an MP heckling in the House of Commons, the following questions are not applicable to you and you are invited to skip to section E to add any comments you wish to share on heckling.

7. When does heckling occur? (**Check all that apply**)

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- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> During routine proceedings | <input type="checkbox"/> During oral questions (Question period) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> During government orders | <input type="checkbox"/> During private members' business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> During statements by members | <input type="checkbox"/> During adjournment procedures |

8. If you have ever heard an MP being heckled in the House of Commons, have any of the following been referenced disparagingly in those heckles? (**Check all that apply**)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's idea, comment or question | <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's race |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's party | <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's gender |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's ideology | <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's ethics | <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's sexual orientation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's province or region | <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's age |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's intelligence | <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's language of expression or accent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's size / weight | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the MP's appearance | |

9. What are some examples of heckling that stand out for you the most?

10. What percentage of MPs would you estimate heckle at least once a day when the House of Commons is sitting?

____%

11. Is it possible to distinguish who is heckling at any given time in the House of Commons?

- Yes No

12. If no, is it possible to distinguish what side of the House of Commons is heckling at any given time?

- Yes No

13. If you can distinguish who is heckling, and you believe there are differences in who is heckling, where would you say heckling more frequently comes from in the House of Commons in each of the following sets?

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Set 1) Government or Opposition

14: Set 2) Backbenches or Frontbenches

15: Set 3) New MPs or Veteran MPs

16: Set 4) Men or Women

17: Set 5)

Conservative Party or

Liberal Party or

New Democratic Party or

Bloc Québécois or

Other

18. How often do you hear heckles directed **at you** when the Speaker has recognized you to speak?

Always Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never

19. If you have ever heard heckles directed at you, what were some of the statements you heard?

20. Which statement best describes the extent to which the experience of heckling affects your participation in the chamber of the House of Commons (including in debates, question period, members' statements, presenting petitions, or introducing private member's business)?

I find it stimulating. It encourages me to engage in organized debate/questions more often.

It keeps me sharp. It improves my speeches, statements and questions.

It gets me going and encourages me to heckle.

There is no effect. I always participate as best I can.

There is some effect. I occasionally reduce my participation because of heckling.

There is a significant effect. I often reduce my participation because of heckling.

There is a very serious effect. I almost always reduce my participation because of heckling.

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20a) Please elaborate how, if at all, heckling impacts your participation in the chamber of the House of Commons?

21. How, if at all, is the heckling in the House of Commons different from what you expected before you were first elected? [If relevant to you, please also indicate how, if at all, heckling is different in the House of Commons from the chambers of other levels of government (municipal or provincial/territorial) to which you were previously elected?]

22. Did your party formally advise you on how to deal with heckling when you entered the House of Commons?

Yes No

22a) If yes, what advice did they provide?

23. Did your colleagues informally advise you on how to deal with heckling when you entered the House of Commons?

Yes No

23a) If yes, what advice did they provide?

Section C – Participation in heckling

24. Have you ever heckled in the House of Commons?

Yes No

Note: If you answered 'No' to C1, turn to section D.

25. How would you describe the frequency of your heckling?

A few times a day Once a day A few times a week

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Once a week Less than once a week

26. What factors cause you to heckle?

27. What are some examples of what you say when you heckle?

28. Has anyone ever asked you to heckle, or to stop heckling? If so, who (i.e. party official, House of Commons official, other), what did that person say, and how did it affect your heckling?

29. How, if at all, has your heckling in the House of Commons changed since you were first elected?

30. If relevant to you, how, if at all, is your heckling in the House of Commons different from your heckling in chambers of other levels of government (municipal or provincial/territorial) to which you were previously elected?

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Section D – Attitudes among members

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
31. "Heckling enlivens debate in the House of Commons and helps MPs make their point."	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Please explain:					
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
32. "I see heckling as a problem in the House of Commons."	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Please explain:					
33. "Heckling is a fact of life in the House of Commons."	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Please explain:					
34. "Generally, MPs encourage each other to heckle."	<input type="checkbox"/>				
What, if any, actions have you seen MPs (excluding the Speaker) take to encourage heckling?:					
35. "Generally, MPs discourage each other from heckling."	<input type="checkbox"/>				
What, if any, actions have you seen MPs (excluding the Speaker) take to discourage heckling?:					

36. What, if any, actions have you seen the Speaker take to encourage or discourage heckling?

37. In your opinion, how do your fellow MPs generally perceive heckling and MPs who heckle?

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38. In your opinion, how does the public generally perceive heckling and MPs who heckle?

39. How do you generally perceive heckling and MPs who heckle?

Section E – Additional comments

40. Do you have anything to add about heckling in the House of Commons?

Thank you for completing this anonymous survey.

All surveys must be completed and returned by May 11th 2015.

Hard copies must be returned to:

Samara Canada

33 Prince Arthur Avenue

Toronto, ON

M5R 1B2

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Hilderman either by email (jane.hilderman@samaracanada.com) or telephone (416.960.7928).