

The Water Cooler Poll

A Multi-Themed Global TV/COMPAS Poll



**COMPAS Inc.
Public Opinion and Consumer Research
Toronto / Ottawa
September 25, 2001**

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Introduction

This Global TV/COMPAS poll explores a wide variety of themes that could be reported over the weeks and months ahead. The national representative sample of 500 Canadian adults was interviewed September 10-13, 2001. Samples of this size are deemed accurate to within 4.5 percentage points 19 times out of 20. The principal investigators on this study were Dr. Conrad Winn (416-598-0310 ext. 40) and Robert Laufer. The present document presents a verbal analysis of the findings. A companion document, provided earlier, consists of questions and answers (interview schedule).



The Future of the Monarchy

Down With the King – A Plurality of Canadians Would Abolish the Role of the Monarchy In Our Political System, Especially if Prince Charles Takes Over

A small majority of Canadians would weaken (12%), if not abolish outright (43%), the monarchy. Only 21% would leave the monarchy unchanged, as shown in table 1. These are the key findings from a Global TV/COMPAS poll that asked a nation-wide sample of respondents the following question:

As you probably know, Canada is a constitutional monarchy, meaning that the Queen is our ceremonial head of state. Now, if you had your way, would you strengthen the role of the monarch in our political system, weaken it, or abolish the role of the monarchy completely? [ROTATE] DON'T PROMPT BUT RECORD NO CHANGE vs dnk.

Table 1: "Now, if you had your way, would you strengthen the role of the monarch in our political system, weaken it, or abolish the role of the monarchy completely?"

	%
Strengthen	16
Weaken	12
Abolish	43
UNPROMPTED: No change	21
UNPROMPTED: DNK/REF	8

Prince Charles' potential ascension to the Throne would take Canadians' current weak support for the monarchy and weaken it further. Respondents were asked whether Charles' succession would strengthen or weaken their views about the future of the monarchy. As shown in table 2, those who would abolish the monarchy are the most likely to say the thought of Charles as King strengthens their views about the monarchy intensely. In practice, 37% of abolitionists say that the prospect of Charles as King makes them a lot more convinced of the necessity of abolition. By comparison, 24% of those who favour a weaker Crown say that the thought of Charles as King makes them a lot more convinced of the necessity of abolition. The corresponding figure among those who want a stronger monarchy is 18%. Thus, the thought of Charles does far more to strengthen the conviction of abolitionists than of those who would weaken the monarch and especially than those who would abolish it completely.

A sizeable minority of monarchists, i.e. those favouring a stronger minority, would find their resolve weakened by the prospect of Charles as King. In practice, 27% of



monarchists say that they would be less likely to favour a stronger monarchy if he were King.

In practice, respondents in the Global TV/COMPAS poll were asked the following question: “In the next few years, Queen Elizabeth II may step down from the throne and Prince Charles will then become the head of state in Canada. Does this make you more or less likely to want to [INSERT ANSWER FROM PREVIOUS QUESTION] the monarchy? Is that a lot or somewhat?”

Table 2: Prince Charles’ Effect by Desired Change to Monarchy

	Total*	Strengthen	Weaken	Abolish
A lot more likely	31	18	24	37
Somewhat more likely	24	34	35	17
No change	26	16	25	30
Somewhat less likely	9	15	8	7
A lot less likely	7	12	4	6
DNK/Refused	4	6	5	3

***Note:** Respondents who said they would make “no change” to the role of the monarchy in our political system or who had no opinion were omitted from this analysis.

French-Speaking Male Quebecers Most Likely To Abolish Role of Monarchy, English-Speaking Females Aged Over 60 Least Likely

French-speaking Canadians and Quebecers are especially apt to say that they would remove the monarchy from our political system—60% among French-speakers versus 38% among English-speaking Canadians. Regionally, nearly six in ten (58%) Quebecers would abolish the role of the monarchy completely compared to 42% of Atlantic Canadians, 34% of Ontarians, 48% of Prairie residents, and 34% of BC residents.

Support for abolishing the role of the monarchy appears to increase with education. In practice, 32% of Canadians with a high school education say that they would abolish the monarchy from our political system compared to 43% among those with some post-secondary education, 48% among those with a college degree, and 54% among university graduates.

Males are more apt than females to favour abolition—49% of males versus 37% of females. Abolitionist opinion peaks among French-speaking male Quebecers (65%) and especially among university-educated members of this group (80%), though this sub-sample is small (n=20).



By contrast, abolitionism elicits the least support among older Canadians (31% among Canadians 60 and older), especially among English-speaking females aged over 60 (23%). The lowest support for abolition is among the small subset of this group who have high school education or less (17%; n=22).



Defending the North

Canadians Support Tax Funded Increases to Defence Budget to Maintain Sovereignty Over the Canadian North

In this poll, taken before the September 11th calamity, Canadians were already showing their inclination for heightened defence spending. The Global TV/COMPAS poll showed that Canadians would support a 50% increase to our defence budget in order to maintain sovereignty over the Canadian north, even if it meant a tax increase.

Respondents were asked:

Turning to another topic, there's been talk over the years of how important it may be for Canada to control and have sovereignty in the Arctic and how much this might cost. Suppose to maintain sovereignty over the Canadian north, Canada's defence budget would have to be increased by fifty percent. Would you be for or against such an idea [ROTATE SUPPORT/OPPOSE]?

Slightly over one-half (51%) of Canadians support a defence budget increase to protect sovereignty over the Canadian north (38% no; 11% no opinion).

Among those who support the idea, a strong majority would do so even if it meant a tax increase. In response to a follow-up prompt among Canadians who support a defence budget increase,¹ 72% say that they would support it even if it meant a tax increase to cover the additional spending (23% no; 4% no opinion).

Support for Defence Budget Increase is Highest Among Males and in Atlantic, Lowest in Quebec

Canadians tend to follow historical patterns in their regional divisions over increased defence spending. Support for a defence budget increase is strongest in the Atlantic (62%) and in Ontario (58%) while it is weakest in Quebec (42%) and the Prairies (43%) while it is moderate among BC residents (55%). Quebecers' anti-military inclinations have ancient roots, derived from longstanding concern not to risk the lives of the province's youth on faraway battlefields on behalf of a foreign monarch. Atlantic Canadians' support for military enhancement is rooted in the region's longstanding commitment to naval and other service with the Armed Forces.

In keeping with their lesser support for increased military spending, Quebecers are also the most likely to lessen their support once tax implications are highlighted. Thus, only 58% of Quebecers would still support the defence commitment in the north if it meant a tax increase compared to 81% of Atlantic residents, 77% of Ontarians, 75% of those living in the Prairies, and 70% of BC residents.

¹ "And would you support this kind of defence commitment in the north even if it meant a tax increase to cover the additional spending?"



Males are especially apt to support a defence budget increase to help Canada maintain control of the Arctic. In practice, 56% of males support the idea compared to 47% of females. The gender gap widens once tax implications are considered. Over three quarters (78%) of males support the defence increases in light of higher taxes compared to two-thirds (66%) of females.



Health Care

Most Canadians See Healthcare as Worsening (39% “a lot” worse)

A majority of Canadians say that healthcare services, including hospitals, have worsened over the last couple of years. In response to a direct prompt,² 69% of Canadians say that healthcare has gotten a lot worse or somewhat worse over the last couple of years. Meanwhile, 18% of Canadians say that healthcare has improved somewhat or a lot. Thus, the proportion of Canadians who feel that healthcare has worsened outnumbers the proportion who feels that healthcare has improved by a margin of nearly 4:1 (see table 3 below).

Table 3: “Turning to another issue...healthcare services, including hospitals. So far as you can tell, over the last couple of years have healthcare services here in [PROVINCE]...[READ LIST]”

	%
Improved a lot	3
Improved somewhat	15
UNPROMPTED: Remained about the same	10
Gotten somewhat worse	30
Gotten a lot worse	39
UNPROMPTED: DNK/REF	4

Atlantic Canadians are especially apt to say that healthcare services have worsened. Over nine in ten (91%) of Atlantic residents say that healthcare services in their province have gotten somewhat or a lot worse compared to 62% among Quebecers, 67% among Ontarians, 65% among those living in the Prairies, and 75% of BC residents.

In a pattern that may reflect their traditional greater interest in health issues, women are more apt to say that healthcare services have worsened over the last couple of years. In practice, 74% of women say that healthcare services have gotten somewhat or a lot worse compared to 63% of men.

² “Turning to another issue...healthcare services, including hospitals. So far as you can tell, over the last couple of years have healthcare services here in [PROVINCE]...[READ LIST]”



Doctors Increasingly Perceived as Rushing Patients

One possible explanation of Canadians' waning confidence in our healthcare is that they feel doctors spend less time with them during a typical visit. Respondents were asked "And compared to five years ago, would you say your family doctor now spends more time, less time, or about the same amount of time with you on a typical visit? [ROTATE LESS/MORE] And is that somewhat or a lot?" One third (33%) of respondents say that doctors are spending somewhat or a lot less time with them, slightly over one-half (53%) say that doctors are spending about the same time, and 6% say that doctors are spending somewhat or a lot more time with them. Thus, those who feel that doctors spend less time with them relative to the last five years outnumber those who feel that doctors are spending more time with them by a margin of nearly 5:1.

There is an apparent relationship between confidence in healthcare and perceived time spent with the doctor. Among Canadians who think that healthcare has gotten a lot worse over the past couple of years, 44% say doctors are spending a lot less or somewhat less time with them. This compares with 31% among those who say that healthcare has remained the same and 6% among those who say that healthcare has improved a lot (see table 4 below).

Table 4: "Would you say your family doctor now spends more time, less time, or about the same amount of time with you on a typical visit?" by "So far as you can tell, over the last couple of years have healthcare services here..."

	Total	Improved a lot	Improved somewhat	Remained about the same	Gotten somewhat worse	Gotten a lot worse
A lot more time	3	19	6	2	2	3
Somewhat more time	3	19	7	2	3	2
About the same	53	44	64	58	60	44
Somewhat less time	18	0	15	21	20	18
A lot less time	15	6	5	10	10	26
DNK/REF	8	13	4	8	5	7

Health Professionals Perceived as Unhappy Lot

A majority of Canadians feel that health professionals have become increasingly frustrated. An extraordinary 51% perceive healthcare professionals as becoming "a lot" more frustrated. Respondents were asked:



Would you say that the people you meet or hear about in the medical and health professions have become a lot more frustrated delivering care than they were, somewhat more frustrated, somewhat less frustrated, or a lot less frustrated? DON'T PROMPT BUT RECORD about the same vs. dnk

Three-quarters (76%) of Canadians say that the people they meet or hear about in the medical profession have become somewhat or a lot more frustrated. An extraordinary 51% perceive health professionals as becoming “a lot” more frustrated. Meanwhile 10% of respondents say that medical professionals have become somewhat or a lot less frustrated, as shown in table 5 below.

Table 5: “Would you say that the people you meet or hear about in the medical and health professions have become a lot more frustrated delivering care than they were, somewhat more frustrated, somewhat less frustrated, or a lot less frustrated? DON'T PROMPT BUT RECORD about the same vs. dnk”

	%
A lot more frustrated	51
Somewhat more frustrated	25
UNPROMPTED: About the same	6
Somewhat less frustrated	6
A lot less frustrated	4
UNPROMPTED: DNK/REF	8

Not surprisingly, perhaps, perceived quality and perceived levels of frustration are linked in the minds of Canadians. Thus, those who perceive medical professionals as frustrated tend to perceived the quality of healthcare as declining. For example, among those who say that healthcare services have worsened a lot, 77% say that healthcare professionals have become a lot more frustrated compared to 25% among those who say that healthcare services have remained about the same over the last couple of years and 19% among those who say that healthcare services have improved a lot.

The relationship among these variables could entail a downward spiral. Thus, professionals may become more frustrated by the perceived worsening of the system, and this may lead them to provide more abbreviated service that, in turn, causes the public to perceive a worsening of the system.

Table 6: Level of Frustration by Change in Healthcare Services

	Total	Improved a lot	Improved somewhat	Remained about the same	Gotten somewhat worse	Gotten a lot worse



A lot more frustrated	51	19	23	25	47	77
Somewhat more frustrated	25	38	36	33	32	10
About the same	6	0	12	13	6	2
Somewhat less frustrated	6	12	15	10	7	2
A lot less frustrated	4	19	1	4	3	5
DNK/REF	8	13	12	15	6	5

One in Five Canadians Seeks Treatment Abroad, Has Thought about It, or Knows Someone Who Has

The vast majority of Canadians have not left the country in search of better medical treatment, have not thought of doing so, and do not know anyone who has. Yet, one in five have either done so within the last three years or knows someone who has or has been thinking of the option. As shown in table 7, 13% have either sought treatment elsewhere or known someone who has while 6% have thought of doing so.

Table 7: "In the past three years, have you or anyone you know left Canada or thought about leaving Canada in order to receive better medical treatment abroad? DON'T PROMPT"

	%
Yes, left Canada in the past three years	13
Yes, thought about it in the past three years	6
No	79
Yes, left Canada but not in the past three	*
Yes, thought about it but not in the past three years	*
Prefer not to say/REF	1

As shown in table 8, Atlantic Canadians appear to be the most prone to seek treatment abroad, think of doing so, or know someone who has. Part of the foreign medical inclinations of Atlantic Canadians may derive from their dismay about the declining quality of healthcare services. Part of their foreign medical orientation may also stem from Atlantic Canada's strong ties with New England.

Quebecers are least likely to seek treatment abroad, think of doing so, or know someone who has, as shown in table 8. This is perhaps unsurprising considering that they are least apt to say that healthcare services have worsened, as reported earlier.



Table 8: “In the past three years, have you or anyone you know left Canada or thought about leaving Canada in order to receive better medical treatment abroad? DON’T PROMPT” by Region

	Total	ATL	QC	ON	MN/SK/AB	BC
Yes, left Canada in the past three years	13	22	6	15	11	19
Yes, thought about it in the past three years	6	10	8	4	6	10
No	79	68	85	78	83	70
Yes, left Canada, but not in the past three years	*	-	-	1	-	-
Yes, thought about it but not in the past three years	*	-	-	1	-	-
Prefer not to day/DNK/REF	1	-	1	2	-	-

Anti-Depressants—Use Especially High among the Well Educated and on the Prairies and East of Ontario—Typically for at Least 12 Months

One-third of Canadians know someone who is currently taking anti-depressants. In response to a direct prompt,³ 33% of respondents say that they happen to know someone who is currently taking anti-depressants (65% no; 2% no opinion; <.5% yes, but not in the last two years).

Atlantic and Prairie respondents are most apt to say that they know someone who is currently taking anti-depressants. In practice, 42% of Atlantic respondents report knowing someone on anti-depressant medication compared to 37% of Quebecers, 27% of Ontarians, 38% of Canadians living in the Prairies and 28% of BC residents, as shown in table 9 below.

Table 9: “As you know, this survey is entirely confidential with all answers treated statistically. Now, do you happen to know anyone who is currently taking anti-depressants?” by Region

	Total	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	BC
Yes	33	42	37	27	38	28

³ “As you know, this survey is entirely confidential with all answers treated statistically. Now, do you happen to know anyone who is currently taking anti-depressants?”



No	65	55	61	71	61	70
Yes, but not in the past two years	*	0	1	0	0	0
Don't Know/Refused	2	2	2	2	1	2

More educated Canadians are especially apt to know someone who is taking anti-depressant medication. For example, 26% of Canadians with a high school education know someone on anti-depressant medication compared to 32% among those with some college or university education, 31% among those with a college degree, 43% among university graduates, and 44% among those with a post-graduate/PhD education.

Table 10: "As you know, this survey is entirely confidential with all answers treated statistically. Now, do you happen to know anyone who is currently taking anti-depressants?" by Education

	Total	High school or less	Some college or university	College / Degree graduate	University graduate	Post-graduate / Masters / PhD / Law / Medicine
Yes	33	26	32	31	43	44
No	65	73	64	68	55	55
Yes, but not in the past two years	*	0	2	0	0	0
Don't Know/Refused	2	2	2	1	3	2

Respondents who indicated that they know someone taking anti-depressants were asked a follow-up question: "As far as you know, has this person been taking the medication for more than a year?" Three quarters (74%) of qualifying respondents say that the person they know has been taking the medication for over one year.



Protecting Canadian NHL Teams—A Backburner Issue with Explosive Potential

Hockey Advocates Are Increasingly Passionate while Public Remains Divided about Tax or Lottery Relief

For the time being, the protection of Canadian NHL teams is a backburner issue. It's on the minds of 60% of Canadians but is not at the 90% level, as it was in January, 2000, when Canada faced the risk of losing the Ottawa Senators. For hockey advocates, maintaining a Canadian presence in the National Hockey League is nonetheless a passionate matter—indeed even more passionate than a year and a half ago.

The Global TV/COMPAS poll measured the salience of the issue and public commitment to retaining Canadian teams in the league with the following questions:

Turning to another matter, supporters of several Canadian NHL teams have been asking federal, provincial, and local governments to reduce the tax burden on Canadian hockey teams because their competitors in the United States pay no taxes or almost none and also get subsidies from their governments. The difference in the value of the US and Canadian dollars also hurts Canadian teams.

Have you heard anything about this issue?

In the past few years, two Canadian cities – Quebec City and Winnipeg – saw their teams move to the United States. In your opinion, how important is it that Canada have more than the Toronto Maple Leafs and Montreal Canadiens in the NHL? Do you think this is very important, moderately important, not very important, or not important at all?

A majority (60%) of Canadians are aware that supporters of several Canadian NHL teams have been asking federal, provincial, and local governments to reduce the tax burden on Canadian hockey teams in order to improve international competitiveness. Awareness of the issue has decreased substantially since a COMPAS/National Post poll conducted in January 2000 (down from 90% in January 2000 to 60% in September 2001). The decline in awareness is probably due to waning media coverage.

Despite the diminished awareness and salience of the issue, advocates of a Canadian NHL presence are at least as passionate as they were a year and a half ago. A majority of Canadians (55%) say it is very important or moderately important for Canada to have more than the Toronto Maple Leafs and Montreal Canadiens in the NHL—nominally up from 51% in January, 2000. More significantly, Canadians concerned to protect a Canadian NHL presence are more intense in their commitment--30% of respondents today feel that it is “very important” to have more than two teams compared to 22% of respondents in January 2000, as shown in table 11.



Table 11: "In the past few years, two Canadian cities – Quebec City and Winnipeg – saw their teams move to the United States. In your opinion, how important is it that Canada have more than the Toronto Maple Leafs and Montreal Canadiens in the NHL? Do you think this is very important, moderately important, not very important, or not important at all?"

	January 2000	September 2001
Very important	22	30
Moderately important	29	25
Not very important	24	18
Not important at all	24	22
UNPROMPTED: Prefer not to say/REF	1	5

In keeping with the moderately increased concern for Canadian hockey, opposition to tax relief has abated over the last year and a half. Respondents were asked: "Generally speaking, should governments move part way towards reducing some of the tax disadvantage of Canadian teams competing with American teams? Is that definitely or probably?" Opposition to reducing the tax disadvantage has decreased from 66% in January 2000 to its current level of 51%. Meanwhile, the most intense opposition (i.e. "definitely not") has decreased from 50% in January 2000 to the current 39%, as shown in table 12 below.

Table 12 : "Generally speaking, should governments move part way towards reducing some of the tax disadvantage of Canadian teams competing with American teams? Is that definitely or probably?"

	January 2000	September 2001
Definitely	15	19
Probably	18	19
Probably not	16	12
Definitely not	50	39
UNPROMPTED: Prefer not to say/REF	2	11

Atlantic Canadians depart from the overall pattern insofar as a majority (52%) of Atlantic residents say that government should probably or definitely reduce hockey teams' tax disadvantage.

Support for reducing the tax disadvantage rises with the perceived importance of having more than two Canadian teams in the NHL. For example, among those who say that it is *not important at all* for Canada to have more than two teams, 80% say that government should *definitely not or probably not* move toward reducing the tax



disadvantage. This compares with 69% among those who say that it not very important, 43% among those who say it is moderately important, and 29% among those who say it is very important to have more than two Canadian teams in the NHL, as shown in table 13 below

Table 13: Importance of Having More Than Two Canadian Teams in the NHL by Support for Reducing Tax Disadvantage

	Total	Not important at all	Not very important	Moderately important	Very important
Definitely	20	4	8	16	42
Probably	19	10	10	34	20
Probably not	12	8	19	14	12
Definitely not	39	72	50	29	17
Prefer not to say/DNK/Refused	11	6	14	8	9

A small majority of Canadians do support the creation of an NHL based lottery that would benefit the teams. In practice, 54% support the idea while 36% oppose it, as shown in table 14 below.

Table 14: "Some teams have proposed that our federal and provincial governments create a lottery based on NHL games that would benefit the Canadian NHL teams. Would you support or oppose this idea? (Is that strongly or somewhat?)"

	%
Strongly support	23
Somewhat support	31
Somewhat oppose	12
Strongly oppose	24
UNPROMPTED: DNK/REF	10

Support for an NHL based lottery rises with the felt importance of having more than two Canadian teams in the NHL. For example, among those who say that it is not at all important for Canada to have more than two teams, 57% oppose an NHL based lottery compared to 48% among those who say that it not very important, 31% among those who say it is moderately important, and 19% among those who say it is very important to have more than two Canadian teams in the NHL, as shown in table 15 below.



Table 15: Importance of Having More Than Two Canadian Teams in the NHL by Support for NHL Based Lottery

	Total	Not important at all	Not very important	Moderately important	Very important
Strongly support	23	12	8	21	45
Somewhat support	31	19	35	40	33
Somewhat oppose	12	13	19	11	9
Strongly oppose	24	44	29	20	10
Don't Know/Refused	10	11	10	8	4



The Other National Sport

Canadians Don't "Kiss and Tell" - A Majority of Canadians are Shy About Their Sex-Life

A majority of Canadians choose not to share the details of their sex lives with close friends. In response to a direct prompt,⁴ 66% of Canadians say that they do not share much (20%) or even none at all (46%) of the details about their sex lives. Meanwhile, one quarter of Canadians (26%) do share some (17%) or a lot (9%) of the details with their close friends.

Secrecy about sex rises with age. For example, 29% of Canadians aged under 30 share none of the details of their sex lives compared to 36% among those in their 30s, 44% among those in their 40s, and 57% among those in their 50s and 65% among those aged 60 or over, as shown in table below.

Table 16: "How much detail about your sexual life do you share with your close friends...a lot, some, not much, or none at all?" by Age

	Under 30 years of age	In your 30s	40s	50s	60s or older
A lot	20	7	10	2	3
Some	32	21	12	9	10
Not much	17	30	26	19	7
None at all	29	36	44	57	65
DNK/Refused	2	6	8	12	15

Atlantic Canadians are the most secretive about their sex lives. In practice, 65% of Atlantic residents share none of the details compared to the national average of 46%.

Given that Canadians are not inclined to share details about their sex lives, one might expect them to be fairly honest about the number of sexual encounters and sexual partners they have had. Indeed, such appears to be the case in the overwhelming majority, nearly all respondents, insist that they say the truth about such things. Over eight in ten Canadians report that they tell the truth about the number of sexual partners (83%)⁵ and sexual encounters (87%)⁶ they have had.

⁴ "Strictly for statistical purpose and strictly on a confidential basis, our study requires that we ask you a few questions about your personal relationships. How much detail about your sexual life do you share with your close friends...a lot, some, not much, or none at all?"

⁵ "Have you ever fibbed to your friends about the number of sexual partners you have had? [IF YES: And did you tell your friends you had more or fewer sexual partners?]"



Males are especially apt to admit fibbing about their sex lives. For example, 20% of males admit to telling their friends that they had either more or fewer sexual partners compared to 9% of females. Similarly, 16% of males admit to telling their friends that they had either more or fewer sexual encounters compared to 4% of females. In keeping with other COMPAS studies on sexual behaviour, men admit that they are more likely to exaggerate the number of their partners, especially in conversation with me, than they are to under-report the number.

The apparent propensity to fib about sexual encounters rises with sex-life openness. For example, among those who report not sharing much detail, 88% say that they do not misrepresent to their friends the number of sexual partners they have had compared to 81% among those who share some details, and 72% among those who share a lot of details (see tables below).

Table 17: “Have you ever fibbed to your friends about the number of sexual partners you have had” by “How much detail about your sexual life do you share with your close friends”

	Total	A lot	Some	Not much	None at all
No	83	72	81	88	NA
Yes, more	8	19	10	3	NA
Yes, fewer	6	7	7	5	NA
DNK/Refused	3	2	2	4	NA

Table 18: “Have you ever fibbed to your friends about the number of sexual encounters you have had?” by “How much detail about your sexual life do you share with your close friends”

	Total	A lot	Some	Not much	None at all
No	87	72	88	92	NA
Yes, more	6	17	5	2	NA
Yes, fewer	4	7	4	3	NA
DNK/Refused	3	5	4	3	NA

Most Canadians Are Married and Have Conventional Sexual Histories

A majority of Canadians—55%--are married. For all the public talk of sexual liberation and unconventional relationships, those who are married outnumber 5.5:1 those who live common law--55% married vs. 9% living with a partner. Meanwhile, 12%

⁶ “And have you ever fibbed to your friends about the number of sexual encounters you have had? [IF YES: And did you tell your friends you had more or fewer sexual encounters?]”



are unmarried and in a relationship, and 23% are single and unattached. In keeping with the social and cultural impacts of the “Quiet Revolution” that saw Quebecers rebel against the Church, Quebecers are the least likely to be married and the most likely to be living common law.

Canadians report that they have had sexual intercourse with an average of 1.5 partners over the last twelve months.⁷ But averages are highly misleading. A clear majority, 61%, have had only one partner. At least 15% have had no partner. A sizeable proportion of the 16% refusing the answer the question may also have had no partner. At the end of partnering, 3.2% reporting having had 4-10 partners and another 0.8%, between 11 and a high of 72 partners. Only 2% of married respondents acknowledged having more than one partner compared to 15% among those living common law.

Canadians have sexual intercourse approximately once per week. In response to a direct prompt,⁸ Canadians report that they have had sexual intercourse 4.2 over the past four weeks. Single Canadians depart from this pattern insofar as 68% of those not in a relationship have not had sexual intercourse at all within the past four weeks, compared to 27% nationally. The contrasting experience of married and single people suggests that marriage may be a kind of licence for licentiousness.

A majority of Canadians have never had a one-night stand. In practice 58% have never “had sex with someone only once” and another 17% have only had one or two one-night stands (11% several, 14% refused).⁹ Males are more likely than females to report having had many one-night stands (18% versus 5% among females. COMPAS’ past research found that Canadians tend to believe that men over-report their sexual experience. Married Canadians appear least apt to have had a one-night stand (34%) and those living common law with a partner appear most apt (60%) compared to single Canadians (50% among unmarried but in a relationship and 49% among singles).

⁷ “How many partners have you had sexual intercourse with over the last 12 months?”

⁸ “Over the past four weeks, how often, on average, have you had sexual intercourse with a partner?”

⁹ “Have you, personally, ever had a “one-night stand,” that is, had sex with someone only once?”



Canadian Mosaic?

A Majority of Canadians are White, Born in Canada, and Their Mother Tongue is One of Canada’s Official Languages

A majority of Canadians are white, born in Canada and have one of the two official languages as their mother tongue. Canadians were asked to indicate which language¹⁰ and which racial or ethnic-racial categories¹¹ they fall into. Three-quarters of English-speaking Canadians were born in Canada and their first language is English. Two-thirds (67%) of French-speaking respondents were born in Canada and their first language is French. The full distribution of responses is shown in table 16 below.

Table 19: “Canadian people can be categorised by language, for example, [INSERT CATEGORIES AND ROTATE]. Which of these categories best describes you?” by Region

	Canada	English-speaking respondents	French-speaking respondents
Those born in Canada whose first language is English	61	75	16
Those born in Canada whose first language is French	20	7	67
Foreign-born whose mother tongue is English (French among francophone respondents)	10	11	8
Foreign-born whose first language was something other than English (French among francophone respondents).	2	1	4
UNPROMPTED: DNK/REF	6	7	5

Nearly nine in ten (89%) of Canadians say that they belong to the “white” ethnic-racial category. The remaining Canadians are self-classified as Aboriginal (2%), African (2%), Chinese (2%), Japanese (1%) or other Asian (3%).

¹⁰ “Canadian people can be categorised by language, for example, [INSERT CATEGORIES AND ROTATE]. Which of these categories best describes you?”

¹¹ “Sometimes people are classified into so-called racial or ethnic-racial categories, for example, [RANDOMIZE] white Canadian, Aboriginal Canadians, African-Canadians, Chinese Canadians, Japanese Canadians, other Asian Canadians. Which category do you belong to?”



French-Speaking Canadians Appear More Open Than English-Speaking Canadians Toward Inviting Other Cultures into Their Homes

French-speaking Canadians appear more apt than English-speaking Canadians to have people from each of the language and ethnic-racial categories over for dinner. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they have had a meal in their home with people in every one of the language and ethnic-racial groups listed above. Nearly three-quarters (71%) of French-speaking Canadians have broken bread with people from all language groups in the last five years compared to 43% of English-speaking Canadians, as shown in table 17 below

Table 20: “Over the last 5 years, have you had a meal in your home with people in every one of these groups?” by Language

	Canada	English-speaking respondents	French-speaking respondents
Yes	49	43	71
No	49	55	29
UNPROMPTED: Prefer not to say/REF	2	2	0

Half of French-speaking Canadians report having had white Canadian, Aboriginal Canadian, African Canadian, Chinese Canadian, Japanese Canadian, and other Asian Canadian dinner guests compared to 23% of English-speaking Canadians, as shown in table 18 below.

Table 21: “Over the last 5 years, have you had a meal in your home with people in every one of these groups? [REPEAT LIST AS NECESSARY]”

	Canada	English N=290	French N=54
Yes	29	23	50
No	69	75	48
Prefer not to say/Don't Know/Refused	2	2	2

Respondents who indicated that they did not have meals with Canadians from all groups were asked follow-up questions¹² to ascertain which specific groups they did not have a meal with in their homes. Among qualifying English-speaking Canadians, 66%

¹² “IF NO: With which of these [language] groups have you not had a meal with in your home?” and “IF NO: With which of these [ethnic-racial] groups have you not had a meal in your home?”



did not have a meal with foreign-born Canadians whose mother tongue is other than English, 59% did not have a meal with those born in Canada whose first language is French, 43% did not eat with foreign-born Canadians whose mother tongue is English, and 7% did share a meal with those born in Canada whose first language is English.

Among qualifying French-speaking Canadians (n=32), 54% did not have a meal with foreign-born Canadians whose mother tongue is other than French, 33% did not have a meal with those born in Canada whose first language is French, 52% did not eat with foreign-born Canadians whose mother tongue is French, and 49% did not share a meal with those born in Canada whose first language is English (see table 22 below).

Table 22: "IF NO: With which of these groups have you not had a meal with in your home?" by Language

	Canada	English-speaking respondents N=214	French-speaking respondents N=32
Foreign-born whose first language was something other than English (other than French among francophone respondents)	65	66	54
Those born in Canada whose first language is French	56	59	33
Foreign-born whose mother tongue is English (French among francophone respondents)	44	43	52
Those born in Canada whose first language is English	12	7	49
UNPROMPTED: DNK/REF	9	7	21

Note: This is a multiple response question i.e. respondents were asked to name several answers. For this reason, the percentage when added will be greater than 100%.

Qualifying French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians are almost equally likely to not have shared a meal with white Canadians, Japanese Canadians, Aboriginal Canadians, Chinese Canadians, and other Asian Canadians. For example, 66% of English-speaking Canadians say that they have not had a meal with Aboriginal Canadians compared to 66% among French-speaking Canadians, as shown in table 23 below. English-speaking Canadians appear especially apt to say that they have not had a meal with African Canadians (66% versus 53% among French-speaking Canadians).

Table 23: "IF NO: With which of these groups have you not had a meal in your home?"



	Canada	English N=290	French N=54
Japanese Canadian	69	71	60
Aboriginal Canadian	66	66	66
African Canadian	64	66	53
Chinese Canadian	63	64	58
Other Asian Canadians	63	63	58
White	10	9	16
Don't Know/Refused	5	3	14

Note: This is a multiple response question i.e. respondents were asked to name several answers. For this reason, the percentage when added will be greater than 100%.



Which Liberal Leader Would Do the Best Job, Be Most Trusted, or Be the Best Dinner Guest—Martin’s Performance Well Perceived in Quebec, Copps and Tobin Do Well as Dinner Guests

Respondents in this Global TV/COMPAS study were invited to identify which among a list of Liberal leaders was most like the respondent, was most trusted by the respondent, would be the best dinner guest in the respondent’s home, and would perform best at managing Canada’s relationship with the United States.

One of the most interesting findings is that almost two-fifths of Canadians or higher had so little confidence in their knowledge of these politicians that they could not answer the question. Their sense of psychological distance was especially striking in their response to the question about which politician was most like themselves—a clear majority (61%) felt unable to answer the question. Respondents had the least difficulty identifying the politician whom they would most like to have over for dinner. But even in this instance, 37% felt unable to pick one from the list.

The Prime Minister leads in all four categories with Paul Martin not far behind. Jean Chretien’s biggest lead is as a dinner guest—26% vs. 13% for Martin while his smallest lead is in the trust category—22% for Chretien and 20% for Martin. Among the remainder, Sheila Copps evinces the most interesting pattern—a strong third place as a desired dinner guest (9%) along with weak scores for trust or competence in managing Canada-U.S. relations, as shown in table 24.

Other key findings:

- With respect to politician “like you,” Martin does well among Quebecers, Copps and Chretien among women, Tobin and Copps among English-speakers
- With respect to “trust,” Martin does better than otherwise among Quebecers and French-speakers
- With respect to managing Canada-U.S. relations, Martin does better than otherwise among Quebecers and French-speakers while Chretien does especially well among women
- As a dinner guest, Copps does especially well among women while both Copps and Tobin do especially well among English-speakers as a whole.



Table 24: Best Liberal Leaders according to Four Different Criteria

	%
Which of these politicians is most like you	
Paul Martin	11
Jean Chretien	9
Brian Tobin	6
Sheila Copps	5
Alan Rock	3
Frank McKenna	3
John Manley	1
UNPROMPTED: DNK/REF	61
Whom do you trust the most in this group	
Jean Chretien	22
Paul Martin	20
Brian Tobin	6
Frank McKenna	5
Alan Rock	4
Sheila Copps	4
John Manley	1
UNPROMPTED: DNK/REF	38
Who would do the best job in managing our relationship with the United States	
Jean Chretien	24
Paul Martin	19
Brian Tobin	7
Alan Rock	4
Frank McKenna	3
Sheila Copps	2
John Manley	2
UNPROMPTED: DNK/REF	41
Which of these politicians would you most like to have over for dinner at your house	
Jean Chretien	26
Paul Martin	13
Sheila Copps	9
Brian Tobin	7
Frank McKenna	4



	%
Alan Rock	3
John Manley	1
UNPROMPTED: DNK/REF	37

S

