GLOCAL
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

CANADIANS AND CIVIC ISSUES

An Analysis of C–DEM's 2019 Canadian
Election Study Data

GLOCAL Foundation of Canada 2021

Canadians and Civic Issues
An Analysis of C-DEM's 2019 Canadian Election Study Data

Author: Jenny Nilsson

ABOUT US

GLOCAL is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that is committed to domestic engagement and global awareness. We focus on grassroots initiatives that encourage civic engagement and full participation in Canada's democratic institutions.

On July 1, 2021, we officially launched YouCount.ca - an innovative digital platform for civic engagement and democratic participation. YouCount.ca is an online database of political representatives at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels of government. Fighting against information overload, disinformation and low information rationality, our platform allows users to navigate the information of political representatives and Canada's democratic institutions with ease and in 109 languages.

As of October 2021, our team consists of over 75 staff, volunteers and advisors who have diverse academic and professional backgrounds, and who represent a wide variety of ethnic groups and languages. Our members span the country, from British Columbia to Newfoundland, and we are looking to grow our numbers in all parts of Canada.

C◆DEM Consortium on Electoral Democracy
Consortium de la démocratie électorale

We are an official partner of The Consortium on Electoral Democracy/ Consortium de la démocratie électorale (C-Dem). C-Dem is reimagining election research in Canada by developing a pioneering consortium model for researchers, electoral management boards, policy makers, and civil society organizations to build upon mutual interests and pool resources and knowledge to investigate the health of democracy across the country and over time. C-Dem is a dynamic research network across Canada that addresses urgent questions about political engagement, underrepresentation, levels of government, the evolution of public opinion between and across elections, and data collection practices with an evidence-based, cooperative approach to studying electoral democracy, during federal elections as well as subnationally and between elections. To learn more, visit c-dem.ca

Contents

List of tables

List of figures

Introduction

Politics and governmental issues are viewed as complicated for many, and even taboo for some; nevertheless, it affects us all on a national, community, as well as, individual level, daily. Canadians have been found to increasingly search for political information, particularly with the use of internet (Government of Canada, 2015), and civic engagement among the population has proven to increase as well (The Samara Centre of Democracy, 2017). With this report, we strove to explore Canadians' knowledge of, views on, and experiences with, politics, the government and provincial leadership, and what social statuses or behaviors that might be associated with certain views and experiences.

Correlations were found between social determinants (e.g., age, gender, education), as well as behaviors (i.e., volunteering, consuming news media) in relation to knowledge, attitudes, and experiences, among the population. The results varied, as for instance, while young people were more likely to find politics and governmental issues "too complicated," they were also more likely to feel impactful and included in governmental decisions than their counterparts.

The data of this report on Canadians and Civic Engagement draws from research conducted by the Consortium on Electoral Democracy (C-DEM). During a five-week period, up until the day of the federal election on the 21st of October in 2019, a total of 37,822 participants reported their views and experiences with politics and civic engagement in Canada. Although the social and political climate in Canada, and also on a global scale, has changed since the outbreak and pandemic of COVID-19 started in 2020, we hope that this report will still be a useful tool to highlight the experiences Canadians have with civic engagement.

Executive summary

Canadians are facing a wide array of challenges when it comes to engaging with political issues. This report demonstrates specific knowledge gaps and concerns in regard to social background as well as some behavioural factors.

The main findings of this analysis are summarized as follows:

- About one out of five Canadians could name the Federal Minister of Finance, and merely one out of seven could name the Governor-General of Canada. In contrast to this, the majority of all residents in each province or territory*, could name their Provincial Premier.

- The majority of the participants found politics and government too complicated to understand sometimes. In particular, this concerned young adults, Generation X, those who don't know or prefer to not share their sexual orientation, as well as those with lower education. Those who consumed news media and volunteered more frequently reported a greater understanding of politics and government.

- The majority of the participants did not feel impactful and included in governmental decisions. Young adults, residents of Central Canada, those with higher education and those who consumed news media more often, felt more impactful and included.

- Most of the Canadians were satisfied with the democracy of Canada. However, women, transgender, nonbinary, two spirit people, and gender queer people were less satisfied with the democracy. The majority of the participants were not satisfied with their provincial government.

- Concerning voting attitudes, the majority of permanent residents of Canada reported that they would vote in their first federal election. In general, most of the Canadians of the study viewed voting as a duty (rather than a choice).

* The residents of Nunavut, the Northwestern Territories, and Yukon were limited to small sample sizes in this study. The analysis based on residential living area is therefore limited in this report. Further research with representative samples is needed to accurately address these communities.

Glossary

Political representatives
These are people elected to represent you at different levels of government: federal (national), provincial, and municipal (local). Each represents a small geographic area out of a larger whole, like the country, province, or city/town/county.

Federal government
The federal government is the national level of government, dealing with issues that affect the whole country. Its representatives are elected from across the country and meet in the federal Parliament in Ottawa.

Provincial government
The provincial government is not a "lower" government than the federal, but deals with different issues, like health care, education, and language. Its representatives are elected from across the province, and the provincial legislature will be in the province's capital.

Territorial government
A territorial government is like a provincial government and deals with similar issues, but its power is borrowed from the federal government. It is still made up of elected representatives from across the territory, but the government may operate a little differently from provincial governments.

Permanent resident(s)
According to the Government of Canada (2019), "A permanent resident is someone who has been given permanent resident status by immigrating to Canada, but is not a Canadian citizen. Permanent residents are citizens of other countries." Permanent residents have access to most social services available to citizens, but cannot vote or run for political office.

Federal Minister of Finance
The federal Minister of Finance is in charge of the Department of Finance, which controls all money the federal government takes in through taxation and spends in the federal budget. Planning the taxation and spending in this budget is also called fiscal policy.

Governor-General
The Governor-General (G-G) is the ceremonial head of state, but does not take part in governing the country. The G-G represents the Crown and symbolically

wields its constitutional power and sovereignty, but does so only at the advice of the Prime Minister, the head of government.

Premier
The Premier is the head of government in a province, and plays a role much like the Prime Minister, but at the provincial level.

1. Knowledge about representatives

The participants were asked if they could name different political figures and representatives including the federal Minister of Finance, the Governor General of Canada as well as their Provincial Premier.

1.1 Federal representatives

As displayed in Table 1, 18% correctly named the federal Minister of Finance, Bill Morneau (active from 2015 to 2020). As presented in Table 2, 14% correctly named the Governor General of Canada, Julie Payette (active from 2017 to 2021).

Table. 1 Federal Minister of Finance

	Frequency	Percent
No answer/Incorrect	27650	82%
Correct (Bill Morneau)	6227	18%
Total	33877	100%

Table 2. Governor General

	Frequency	Percent
No answer/Incorrect	29266	86%
Correct (Julie Payette)	4611	14%
Total	33877	100%

Photo source: Wikimedia Commons
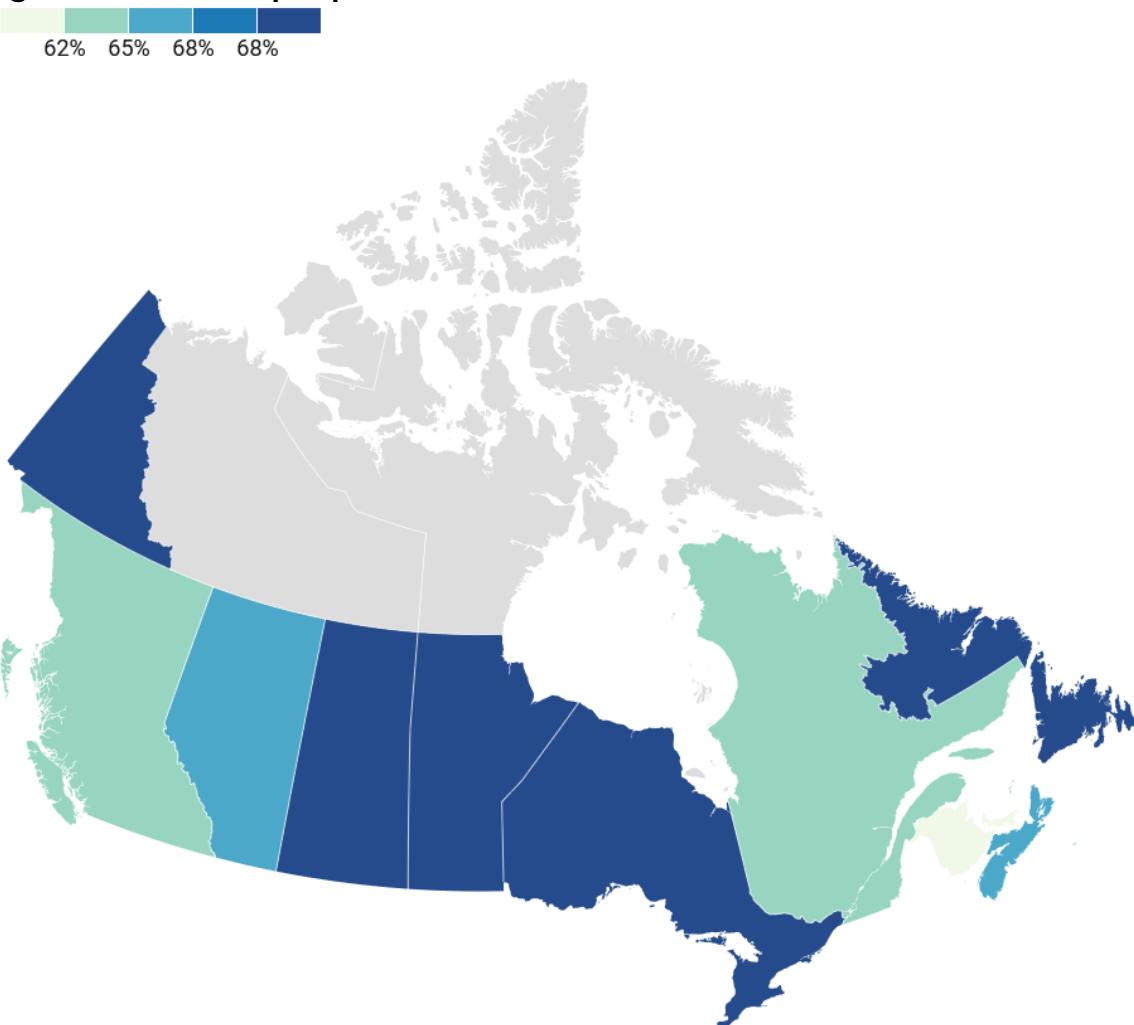
Photo source: Wikimedia Commons

1.2 Residents' knowledge of their Premier

The residents of **Newfoundland and Labrador** reported the highest knowledge of their provincial premier (76%). The second-highest knowledge of the name of their provincial representative came from **Ontario** (72%) and the third-highest reported knowledge from **Manitoba**, **Saskatchewan**, and **Yukon*** (68% respectively). In **Quebec**, 63% reported the name of their provincial Premier correctly; in **Nova Scotia**, 65%, and in **Alberta**, 67%. The residents of **New Brunswick** reported the lowest knowledge of their provincial premier (50%); followed by **Prince Edward Island** (60%) and **British Columbia** (62%) (see Figure 1 or Table 3).

Figure 1. Premier map in percent

62%   65%   68%   68%

Click on the map to get to the interactive version. Refer to the next page of this report for a note on the data concerning Yukon, the Northwestern Territories and Nunavut.

Table 3. Provincial and territorial Premiers

Provincial/Territorial Premier Fall 2019		Correctly named	No answer /Incorrect	Total
Jason Kenney (Alberta)	Count	2531	1270	3801
	Percent	67%	33%	100%
John Horgan (British Columbia)	Count	2835	1762	4597
	Percent	62%	38%	100%
Brian Pallister (Manitoba)	Count	813	379	1192
	Percent	68%	32%	100%
Blaine Higgs (New Brunswick)	Count	370	368	739
	Percent	50%	50%	100%
Dwight Ball (Newfoundland and Labrador)	Count	396	122	518
	Percent	76%	24%	100%
Bob McLeod (Northwest Territories)	*	*	*	*
Stephen McNeil (Nova Scotia)	Count	598	320	918
	Percent	65%	35%	100%
Joe Savikataaq (Nunavut)	*	*	*	*
Doug Ford (Ontario)	Count	9312	3693	13005
	Percent	72%	28%	100%
Dennis King (Prince Edward Island)	Count	83	56	139
	Percent	60%	40%	100%
François Legault (Québec)	Count	4968	2980	7948
	Percent	63%	38%	100%
Scott Moe (Saskatchewan)	Count	689	331	1020
	Percent	68%	33%	100%
Sandy Silver (Yukon)	Count	26	12	38
	Percent	*68%	32%	100%

There were only 38 participants from Yukon so the result from this territory is less representative than the other results. Similarly, the sample sizes of residents from the Northwestern Territories and Nunavut were not big enough to accurately represent these territories.

Attitudes and experiences with civic issues
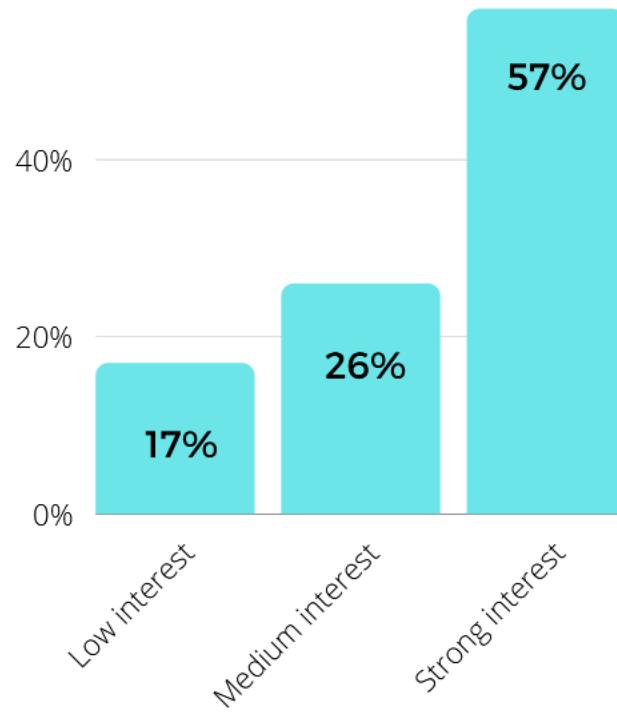
The participants were asked to rate their general interest in politics, how well they understand government and politics and how impactful and included they feel in governmental decisions. They were also asked to rate their satisfaction with Canadian democracy as well as their provincial government. Permanent residents of the study were asked about their attitudes towards voting in their first federal election once/if they become citizens. Finally, all of the participants were asked whether they view voting as a duty or choice.

To get a clearer idea of why, and how, the participants had their attitudes and experiences with civic issues, their answers are categorized to illustrate how differences in age, gender, educational background, etc. can affect their experiences.

2. Political interest

On a scale of 0-10, the participants were asked about their general interest in politics, where 0 represented "no interest at all" and 10 represented "a great deal of interest". As shown in Figure 2, the participants reported a strong, general interest in political matters as 57% had reported their general political interest as strong (7, 8, 9 or 10 on the scale). Medium interest was reported by 26% of the group who reported the value 4, 5 or 6 on the scale and 17% reported low interest by indicating the value 0, 1, 2 or 3 on the scale.
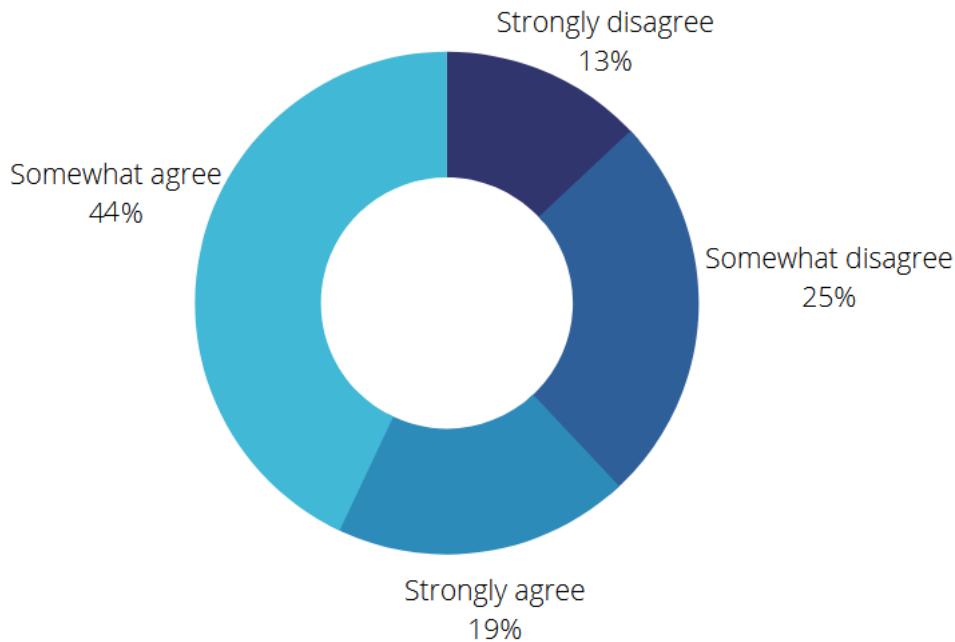
Figure 2. Political interest

3. Understanding political and governmental information

The respondents were asked if they experience politics and government as sometimes too complicated to understand "for a person like them". As presented in Figure 3, the majority of the respondents (44%) reported that they somewhat agree. The second most frequent answer was that they somewhat disagree (25%) and the third most common answer was that they strongly agree (19%). The least frequent answer was that they strongly disagree (13%)**.**

Figure 3. Political comprehension

This information demonstrates a clear gap between Canadians' understanding of civic issues (for example political happenings and governmental decisions) and the way that the government and other civic bodies communicate information about these issues to Canadians.

3.1 Age and generations and comprehension

Here, we will look at how complicated Canadians find the government and politics, in relation to age and generational belonging. The biggest difference is found among young adults as 67% of them reported that they somewhat or strongly agree with the statement. Among the middle-aged adults, 62% and within the older adults group, 60% reported that they somewhat or strongly agree (see Table 4).

Table 4. Age and political comprehension

		Finding politics and government hard to understand sometimes		
		Disagree	**Agree**	**Total**
Young Adults	Count	2889	5994	8883
	Percent	33%	67%	100%
Middle Aged	Count	4025	6573	10598
	Percent	38%	62%	100%
Older Adults	Count	5406	8133	13539
	Percent	40%	60%	100%
Total	Count	12320	20700	33020
	Percent	37%	63%	100%

A similar pattern can be found when looking at the generations. Younger people reported that they sometimes find governmental matters to be "too complicated", for Generation Z, this correlated to 70% of the group, and for Millennials, 66%. Generation X (62%), Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation (60% respectively), and the Greatest Generation (58%) were somewhat more divided between "agreeing" and "disagreeing" (see table 5).

Table 5. Generations and political comprehension

		Finding politics and government hard to understand sometimes		
		Disagree	**Agree**	**Total**
The Greatest Generation	Count	149	202	351
	Percent	43%	58%	100%
The Silent Generation	Count	987	1504	2491
	Percent	40%	60%	100%
Baby boomers	Count	4270	6427	10697
	Percent	40%	60%	100%
Generation X	Count	3182	5143	8325
	Percent	38%	62%	100%
Millennials	Count	2928	5578	8506
	Percent	34%	66%	100%
Generation Z	Count	804	1846	2650
	Percent	30%	70%	100%
Total	Count	12320	20700	33020
	Percent	37%	63%	100%

* It is notable that only 351 respondents represent the Greatest Generation for this survey question.

3.2 Sexual orientation and comprehension

Here, we will look at how complicated Canadians find the government and politics, in relation to their sexuality. The strongest pull towards agreeing with the statement and "sometimes finding government and politics too complicated", was found among the participants who didn't know or preferred not to share their sexual orientation (71%). People who identified themselves as homosexual, bisexual or other, mainly reported that they somewhat or strongly agree (65%) and the majority of people who identified themselves as heterosexual agreed as well (62%) (see Table 6). This illustrates a stronger confusion within the group that did not define their sexuality or who preferred to not state it, than within the other groups.

Table 6. Sexuality and political comprehension

		Finding politics and government hard to understand sometimes		
		Disagree	**Agree**	**Total**
Heterosexual	Count	10749	17564	28313
	Percent	38%	62%	100%
Homosexual/Bisexual/Other	Count	1161	2136	3297
	Percent	35%	65%	100%
Don't know/Prefer not to say	Count	410	1000	1410
	Percent	29%	71%	100%
Total	Count	12320	20700	33020
	Percent	37%	63%	100%

*It is difficult to make assumptions concerning the group that did not share their sexuality, as "I don't know" or "I prefer not to answer" was an option for almost all questions in the survey. There can be many reasons for why someone wouldn't respond to any question with either of these answers.

3.3 Educational background and comprehension

Here, we will look at how complicated Canadians find the government and politics, in relation to their educational background.

As illustrated in table 7, there is a clear correlation between higher education and finding government and politics less complicated. The participants with no high school diploma reported the highest rate of agreement with the statement (73%), people who had graduated high school reported agreement at 70%, people who had started or completed college* at 65%, people who had started or completed a bachelor's degree at 55%, and people who had a master's degree, professional degree or doctorate at 45%.

Table 7. Education and political comprehension

		Finding politics and government hard to understand sometimes		
		Disagree	**Agree**	**Total**
No High School Diploma	Count	844	2253	3097
	Percent	27%	73%	100%
Graduated High School	Count	2539	5837	8376
	Percent	30%	70%	100%
Started or completed college*	Count	3885	7099	10984
	Percent	35%	65%	100%
Started or completed bachelor's degree	Count	3411	4147	7558
	Percent	45%	55%	100%
Master's degree or Professional degree or doctorate	Count	1626	1331	2957
	Percent	55%	45%	100%
Total	Count	12305	20667	32972
	Percent	37%	63%	100%

* Technical, community college, CEGEP, College Classique

3.4 Consumption of news media and comprehension

Here, we will look at how complicated Canadians find the government and politics, in relation to how often they consume news media.

There is a clear correlation between consuming the news in some way (reading, watching, listening to the news) more and reporting less confusion with the government and political information. The strongest pull towards reporting more confusion is found among the people who don't consume news media at all, who reported agreement with the statement at 81%. The respondents reported respectively the following time to be dedicated to consuming news media daily in relation to how many found politics and government complicated: 1-10 minutes (77%), 11-30 minutes (67%), 31-60 minutes (59%), 1-2 hours (51%) and more than two hours (45%) (see Table 8).

Table 8. News media consumption and political comprehension

		Finding politics and government hard to understand sometimes		
		Disagree	Agree	Total
None	Count	130	561	691
	Percent	19%	81%	100%
1-10 minutes	Count	698	2326	3024
	Percent	23%	77%	100%
11-30 minutes	Count	1401	2871	4272
	Percent	33%	67%	100%
31-60 minutes	Count	1806	2574	4380
	Percent	41%	59%	100%
1-2 hours	Count	1356	1424	2780
	Percent	49%	51%	100%
More than 2 hours	Count	591	483	1074
	Percent	55%	45%	100%
Total	Count	5982	10239	16221
	Percent	37%	63%	100%

* Fewer respondents (16,221) reported an answer on this question.

3.5 Volunteering experience and comprehension

Here, we will look at how complicated Canadians find the government and politics, in relation to how often they had volunteered for a group, organization or association in the past 12 months.
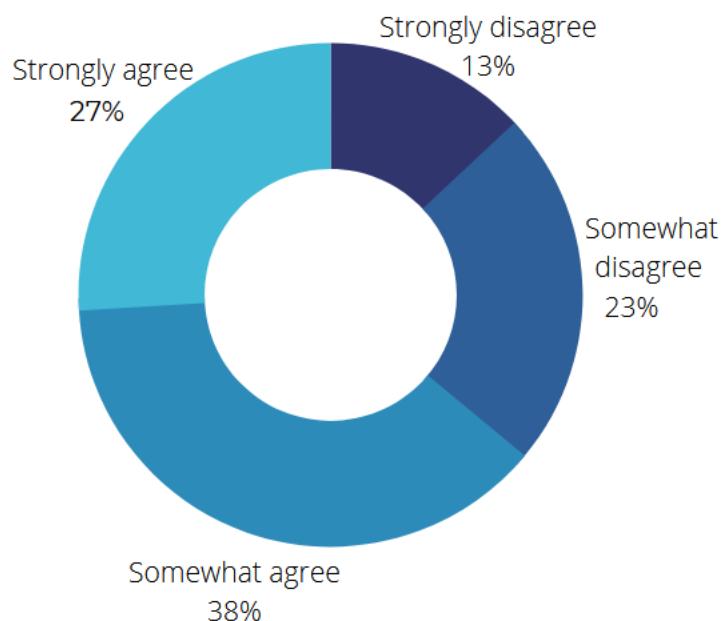
A decrease in finding government complicated can be found in correlation with the more the respondents had been volunteering. The majority of both the people who had not volunteered in the past 12 months and those who had volunteered one time reported to agree with the statement (64% respectively). Among those who had volunteered a few times, 59% agreed with the statement. The group who had volunteered more than five times reported to find government too complicated sometimes at 56%. This mirrors an increase in understanding of governmental information in relation to the more often people volunteer (see Table 9).

Table 9. Volunteering and political comprehension

		Finding politics and government hard to understand sometimes		
		Disagree	**Agree**	**Total**
Never	Count	5162	9348	14510
	Percent	36%	64%	100%
Just once	Count	1383	2483	3866
	Percent	36%	64%	100%
A few times	Count	2831	4447	7278
	Percent	39%	61%	100%
More than five times	Count	2385	3212	5597
	Percent	43%	57%	100%
Total	Count	11761	19490	31251
	Percent	38%	62%	100%

4. Feeling impactful and included in governmental decisions

The survey participants were asked how much they agree with the statement "People like me don't have any say about what the government does" - meaning the ability to impact and be included in governmental decisions. As displayed in Figure 4, the majority (38%) reported that they "somewhat agree" with this statement. The second most frequent answer (27%) was that they "strongly agree," the third most common answer was that they "somewhat disagree" (23%) and the least common answer (13%) was that they "strongly disagree". This analysis shows us that Canadians don't feel very impactful when it comes to civic, or governmental issues.

Figure 4. Feeling impactful and included

Strongly disagree 13%

Strongly agree 27%

Somewhat disagree 23%

Somewhat agree 38%

4.1 Generations, impact, and inclusion

A pattern can be found among older generations, to tend to feel like they have less impact or feel less included in politics and government in Canada. The generations reported to agree with the statement respectively at 67% (the Silent Generation), 66% (Baby boomers), 64% (Generation X), 63% (Millennials) and 58% (Generation Z) (see Table 10). These results suggest that younger Canadians tend to be more likely to feel that they have an impact. The greatest generation breaks this pattern, by also sharing this experience with the younger generations by agreeing with the statement at 61%.

Table 10. Generations and feeling impactful and included

		Not feeling impactful and included in governmental decisions		
		Disagree	**Agree**	**Total**
The Greatest Generation	Count	136	213	349
	Percent	39%	61%	100%
The Silent Generation	Count	825	1677	2502
	Percent	33%	67%	100%
Baby boomers	Count	3684	6996	10680
	Percent	35%	66%	100%
Generation X	Count	2969	5352	8321
	Percent	36%	64%	100%
Millennials	Count	3125	5381	8506
	Percent	37%	63%	100%
Generation Z	Count	1097	1541	2638
	Percent	42%	58%	100%
Total	Count	11836	21160	32996
	Percent	36%	64%	100%

* It is notable that only 349 respondents represent the Greatest Generation for this survey question.

4.2 Regions impact, and inclusion

The greatest divide is found among the residents of the **Prairie Provinces** as 74% of them reported that they don't feel impactful or included. The **West**

Coast (71%) and the **Atlantic Provinces** (72%) reported similar rates. Residents of **Central Canada** reported to feel most impact with 59% agreeing with the statement (see Table 11). This illustrates that residents of Central Canada tend to feel more impactful.

Table 11. Regions and feeling impactful and included

		Not feeling impactful and included in governmental decisions		
		Disagree	**Agree**	**Total**
The Atlantic Provinces	Count	631	1622	2253
	Percent	28%	72%	100%
Central Canada	Count	8362	11989	20351
	Percent	41%	59%	100%
The Prairie Provinces	Count	1554	4351	5905
	Percent	26%	74%	100%
The West Coast	Count	1289	3197	4486
	Percent	29%	71%	100%
Total	Count	11836	21159	32995
	Percent	36%	64%	100%

* The sample size of residents from the Northwestern Territories was not big enough to accurately represent the territory (n=87).

4.3 Educational background, impact and inclusion

People who had not obtained a high school diploma most frequently reported feeling less impactful and included in governmental decisions (69%), followed by people with a high school degree and those who had started or completed a college degree* (67% respectively). People who had started or completed a bachelor's degree reported notably more divided responses as 59% reported to feel less impactful and included, this was also the case with the respondents with master's degrees, professional degrees or doctorates who reported 54% (see Table 12). This illustrates that people with higher, especially academic, education may feel like they have a stronger impact regarding governmental decisions.

Table 12. Education and feeling impactful and included

		Not feeling impactful and included in governmental decisions		
		Disagree	**Agree**	**Total**
No High School Diploma	Count	953	2142	3095
	Percent	31%	69%	100%
Graduated High School	Count	2811	5573	8384
	Percent	34%	67%	100%
Started or completed college*	Count	3588	7402	10990
	Percent	33%	67%	100%
Started or completed bachelor's degree	Count	3129	4403	7532
	Percent	42%	59%	100%
Master's degree or Professional degree or doctorate	Count	1344	1601	2945
	Percent	46%	54%	100%
Total	Count	11825	21121	32946
	Percent	36%	64%	100%

* Technical, community college, CEGEP, College Classique

4.4 Consumption of news media, impact, and inclusion

A similar pattern was found among news (non-)consumers as a correlation appeared between consuming the news in some way (reading, watching, listening to the news) more and reporting a higher percentage of feeling more impactful and included in governmental decisions. Those who didn't consume news media at all, or spent 1-10 minutes daily consuming it, reported that they felt less impactful and included at a rate of 70% respectively. Consuming even as little as 11-30 minutes of news media per day dropped that rate to 65%. More news consumption provided similar but diminishing results from that point on: 31-60 minutes (63%), 1-2 hours (62%) and more than two hours (61%) (see Table 13).
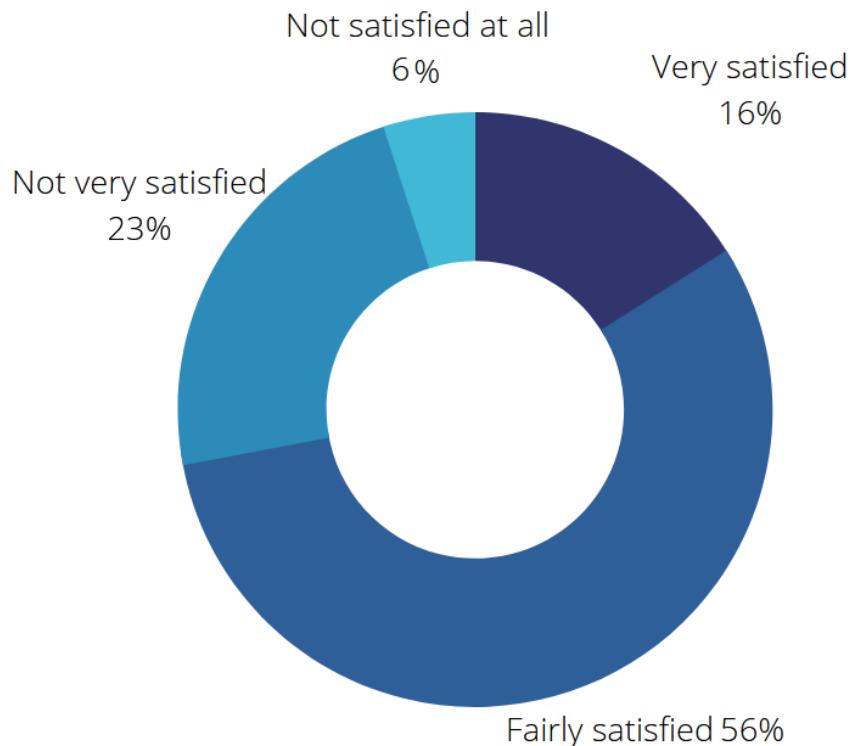
Table 13. News media consumption and feeling impactful and included

		Not feeling impactful and included in governmental decisions		
		Disagree	**Agree**	**Total**
None	Count	209	494	703
	Percent	30%	70%	100%
1-10 minutes	Count	920	2096	3016
	Percent	31%	70%	100%
11-30 minutes	Count	1507	2762	4269
	Percent	35%	65%	100%
31-60 minutes	Count	1637	2751	4388
	Percent	37%	63%	100%
1-2 hours	Count	1064	1710	2774
	Percent	38%	62%	100%
More than 2 hours	Count	419	657	1076
	Percent	39%	61%	100%
Total	Count	5756	10470	16226
	Percent	36%	65%	100%

5. Views of the Canadian democracy

To the question if they're satisfied with the way democracy works in Canada, the most common answer (56%) was "fairly satisfied" while the second most frequent answer was "not very satisfied" (23%). Merely 16% were "very satisfied" and 6% were "not satisfied at all" (see Figure 5).

Figure 5. Canadian democracy

Not satisfied at all 6%
Very satisfied 16%
Not very satisfied 23%
Fairly satisfied 56%

This demonstrates a fairly positive view of Canadian democracy among the participants, although the rates of dissatisfaction and lower rates of great satisfaction are to be noted.

5.1 Democracy satisfaction by gender

People who identified as other (e.g., trans, non-binary, two-spirit or gender-queer) reported the lowest amount of satisfaction with Canadian democracy; where 60% responded that they were "fairly" or "very" satisfied. Among cisgender women, 69% reported that they were "fairly" or "very" satisfied, and cisgender men reported the highest percentage (75%) of respondents who

were fairly or very satisfied (see Table 14).
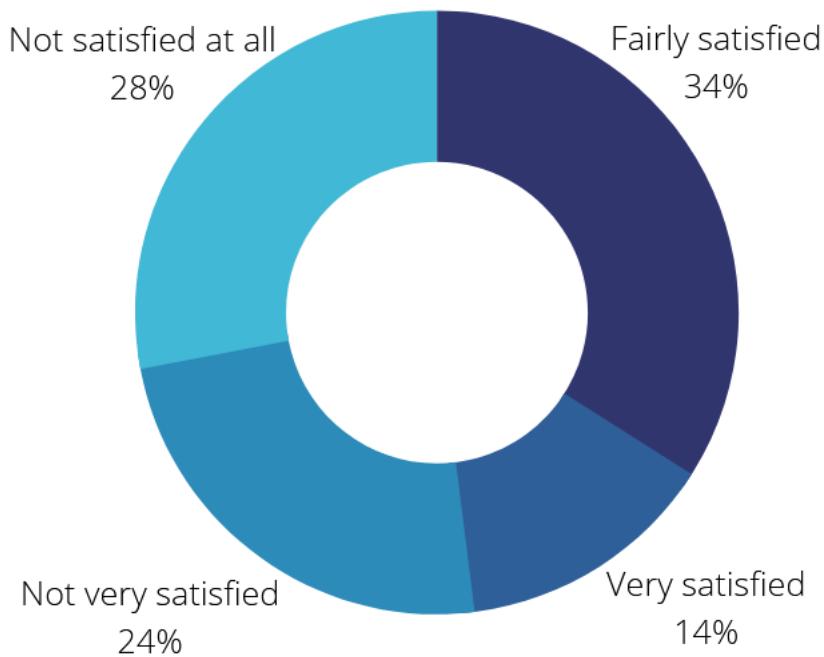
Table 14. Gender and democracy satisfaction

		Democracy satisfaction		
		Not at all/Not very satisfied	Fairly/Very satisfied	Total
Cis men	Count	4089	12036	16125
	Percent	25%	75%	100%
Cis women	Count	5180	11510	16690
	Percent	31%	69%	100%
Other (e.g. Trans, non-binary, two-spirit, gender-queer)	Count	40	60	100
	Percent	40%	60%	100%
Total	Count	9309	23606	32915
	Percent	28%	72%	100%

6. Views of the provincial governments

As presented in Figure 6, the plurality of respondents reported that they were "fairly satisfied" with their provincial or territorial governments (34%) while 28% reported that they were "not satisfied at all". The third most frequent answer was that they felt "not very satisfied" (24%) and the least common response was that they felt "very satisfied" (14%).

Figure 6. Provincial/Territorial government

The lowest rates of satisfaction with their provincial or territorial governments, were reported from residents of **Ontario, Nova Scotia**, and **Newfoundland and Labrador** where 72%, 65%, and 53% respectively were not satisfied. The highest rates of satisfaction with provincial governments, were found in **Prince Edward Island** (80%), **Quebec** (70%), **Saskatchewan** (63%), and **Alberta** (58%). The results were more equally divided between residents being "not satisfied" and "satisfied" with their provincial leadership in the other provinces, as the rates for those who were "satisfied" varied as follows; **Manitoba** (49%), **New Brunswick** (50%), and **British Columbia** (55%) (see Table 15).

Table 15. Satisfaction with provincial and territorial leadership

|			Not satisfied	Satisfied	Total
Province	**Alberta**	Count	1437	1955	3392
		Percent	42%	58%	100%
	British Columbia	Count	1784	2202	3986
		Percent	45%	55%	100%
	Manitoba	Count	566	548	1114
		Percent	51%	49%	100%
	New Brunswick	Count	311	309	620
		Percent	50%	50%	100%
	Newfoundland and Labrador	Count	259	228	487
		Percent	53%	47%	100%
	Nova Scotia	Count	537	294	831
		Percent	65%	35%	100%
	Ontario	Count	9027	3506	12533
		Percent	72%	28%	100%
	Prince Edward Island	Count	24	99	123
		Percent	20%	80%	100%
	Quebec	Count	2158	5153	7311
		Percent	30%	70%	100%
	Saskatchewan	Count	326	562	888
		Percent	37%	63%	100%
Total		Count	16453	14895	31348
		Percent	52%	48%	100%
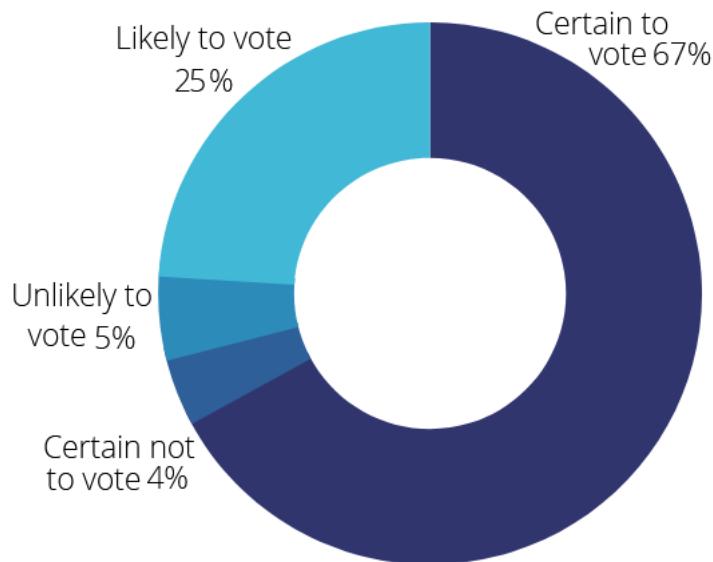
* The sample sizes of residents from the Northwestern Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon were not big enough to accurately represent these territories.

These results illustrate a lower satisfaction rate with provincial governments than the democracy of the whole country. While 72% reported that they were fairly or very satisfied with the democracy of Canada, only 48% reported that they were fairly or very satisfied with their provincial government.

7. Voting attitudes of permanent residents

The majority of the 1,105 permanent residents analyzed here (67%) responded that they were "certain to vote" in the first Canadian election they'll be eligible to vote. The second most frequent answer was that they declared to be "likely to vote" (25%) and the least common answers were that they'd be "unlikely to vote" (5%) and "certain not to vote" (4%) (see Figure 7).

Figure 7. Permanent resident voting

This demonstrates a strong interest among future Canadian citizens, who already reside in Canada, to become an active part of civic society through participating in electoral democracy through voting.

8. To vote – a duty or a choice?

The majority of the participants, around 7 out of 10 (68%), reported that they experience voting as a duty to fulfill while only 32% reported that they view it as a choice (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Voting as a duty or choice

Methodology

The analyst used the dataset of the *"2019 Canadian Election Study"* from C-DEM and prepared and conducted the analysis with the use of SPSS Statistics (and partly, Excel). A total of 37,822 Canadians participated in the digital *Campaign Period Survey* that collected data from September 13th to October 21st, 2019. The data used in this report was chosen based on its relevance for the work of GLOCAL as well as whether strong correlations were detected or not. Non-responses were generally not included and unindicative answers ("I don't know"/"Prefer not to answer") were only included if they appeared to be useful for the analysis. The cross tables were all subjected to a significance test called the Chi2-test where they all reported a p-value lower than 0.05, indicating that there is a low risk (0,1%) that the results would not be accurately showing a correlation, assuming that the sample is representable. The variables were weighed according to province, gender, age group and education level, based on data from the 2016 Canadian census to ensure that the data is representative of the population. Additionally, only high-quality respondents were included (i.e. excluding incomplete responses, duplicates, speeders, "straight-liners", and those with mismatched postal codes). Data from residents of the territories was not weighed as the sample of this group was too small to be representative. All data has been rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Acknowledgements

References

Government of Canada, S.C. (2015), *"Civic engagement and political participation in Canada",* 14 September, available at: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2015006-eng.htm (accessed 6 October 2021).

Government of Canada. (2019, September 17). *Understand Permanent Resident Status.* Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC). https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/pr-card/understand-pr-status.html

Stephenson, Laura B., Allison Harell, Daniel Rubenson and Peter John Loewen. The 2019 Canadian Election Study – Online Collection. [dataset]

The Samara Centre for Democracy. (n.d.). *"2017 Democracy 360 Report"*, available at: https://www.samaracanada.com/research/2017-democracy-360 (accessed 6 October 2021).

Further reading

Courtney, J. C. and Smith, D. E. (eds.). (2010). *The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Politics*. Oxford University Press.
This is a reader for people with some background in Canadian politics and government, and gets into some more technical aspects in detail.

Parliament of Canada. (n.d.). *Parliamentary Primer*. Retrieved August 12, 2021.
https://lop.parl.ca/sites/Learn/default/en_CA/ParliamentaryPrimer
A short summary of how Parliament works and what its parts do, aimed at general audiences, with graphics.

Parliament of Canada. (n.d.). *Explore: Our Country, Our Parliament*. Retrieved August 12, 2021.
https://lop.parl.ca/About/Parliament/Education/OurCountryOurParliament/home-e.aspx
A guide for school-age children to understand Parliament and its institutions, and how government works.

Library of Parliament. (n.d.) *Get to Know the House of Commons*. Retrieved August 12, 2021.
https://lop.parl.ca/staticfiles/Learn/assets/PDF/ParliamentaryPrimer/GetToKnowTheHOC-en.pdf
A brochure briefly explaining what the House of Commons is and what it does, with graphics, appropriate for high school and up, and newcomers to Canada as well.

Parliament of Canada. (n.d.). Guide to the Canadian House of Commons. Retrieved August 12, 2021. https://learn.parl.ca/sites/Learn/default/en_CA/GuideToHOC
A more detailed and advanced explanation of how the House of Commons works, suitable for anyone who knows the basics and wants to learn more.

Forsey, E. A. (2020). How Canadians Govern Themselves, 10th Edition. Library of Parliament.
https://lop.parl.ca/About/Parliament/SenatorEugeneForsey/book/assets/pdf/How_Canadians_Govern_Themselves_10th-ed_EN.pdf
A definitive explainer of how Parliament works by a renowned expert, whom parliamentarians themselves consulted for his expertise. You won't get more detail outside an academic source.

Contact Us

450 Southwest Marine Drive
Vancouver, BC V5X 0C3

info@glocalfoundation.ca

www.glocalfoundation.ca

We'd love to hear from you!

GLOCAL
FOUNDATION OF CANADA