

Asia Pacific
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National Opinion Poll
28 June 2010



2010 National Opinion Poll: Canadian Views on Policy Issues Affecting Canadians Abroad

Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

28 June 2010, Vancouver, BC

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Executive Summary

Canada has 2.8 million citizens – or roughly 8% of the nation’s total population – permanently residing outside Canada. The rights and obligations of Canadian citizens abroad have become a hot public policy issue, particularly in the wake of the evacuation of more than 14,000 Canadians from Lebanon in 2006. Should Canadians living abroad have the same citizenship rights and voting rights as citizens in Canada? Should Canada continue to support dual citizenship policy?

In March 2010, the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada) commissioned a public opinion poll to seek the views of Canadians living in Canada on major policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad.

In general, the poll finds that, Canadians aged 18 or over believe that Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same citizenship rights as fellow citizens in Canada, and encourage the Government of Canada to pay more attentions to policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad.

Canadians across the country are most supportive of the concept that the Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad. A large majority (73%) of respondents agreed that Canada needs a central agency to engage Canadians abroad. Only 16% disagreed with the idea.

Other findings from the poll include:

- Two-thirds (66%) of Canadians say that children of Canadians born in another country should have the same citizenship rights as children of Canadians born in Canada.
- 63% of Canadians agree that the Government of Canada should continue to support a dual citizenship policy.
- The margin of support becomes narrower on the question of equal voting rights. Only 51% of Canadians are in favour of Canadian citizens living abroad having the same voting rights as Canadian citizens living in Canada, while 43% disagree.

The results released exclusively in this report are part of the APF 2010 National Opinion Poll¹ that was conducted online by Angus Reid Public Opinion on March 3 - 10, 2010. 2,903 responses were received for an estimated margin of error of +/- 1.8%, 19 times out of 20. The results were weighted by geography, gender and age, according to the latest census data of Statistics Canada. The Appendix reports a summary of the survey results and associated margin of errors.

¹ The Final Report of 2010 National Opinion Poll can be found at the APF’s website at <http://www.asiapacific.ca/sites/default/files/filefield/2010PollReport.pdf> (accessed June 4, 2010)

Overview

About APF Canada

The APF Canada is an independent resource for Canadians on contemporary Asia and Canada-Asia relations. As a national not-for-profit organization established by an Act of the Federal Parliament in 1984, the Foundation brings together people and knowledge to provide the most current and comprehensive research, analysis and information on Asia and on Canada's transpacific relations.

It promotes dialogue on economic, security, political and social issues, helping to inform public policy, the Canadian public, and Canada's Asia practitioners. The Foundation is funded principally through an endowment from the Government of Canada and by corporate and individual donors.

For more information, please visit www.asiapacific.ca.

About the Canadians Abroad Project

The Canadians Abroad Project consists of a policy research consortium initiated by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada with the support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada, the Government of British Columbia and the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation. This three-year (2008-2010) joint research project analyzes the causes and consequences of Canadian citizens by birth or naturalization living abroad.

By conducting policy-oriented research, including, in-house research, joint research efforts with partner organizations and commissioned research, this project provides timely and analytical information for targeted stakeholders in government, business and academic communities, who are interested in Canadians abroad for professional and personal reasons.

For more information, please visit www.canadiansabroad.ca.

2010 National Opinion Poll

The objective of these subset questions of the APF Canada's 2010 National Opinion Poll is to seek views of Canadians living in Canada on major policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad.

The APF 2010 National Opinion Poll was conducted online by Angus Reid Public Opinion between March 3 and March 10, 2010. 2,903 responses were received for an estimated margin of error of +/- 1.8%, 19 times out of 20 by the polling firm. The results were weighted by geography, gender and age, according to the latest census data of Statistics Canada. The Appendix reports a summary of the survey results and associated margin of errors.

Acknowledgement

This study is supported in part by the BC Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development and Western Economic Diversification Canada. They all provide vehicles for the analysis of key socio-economic policy issues in their region of Canada. The views expressed in this study do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministry of Small Business Technology and Economic Development, of Western Economic Diversification Canada or of the Government of Canada.

Findings

Canadians aged 18 or over believe that Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same citizenship rights as fellow citizens in Canada, and encourage the Government of Canada to pay more attentions to policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad.

Canadians across the country strongly support the concept that the Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad. A large majority (73%) of respondents agreed that Canada needs a central agency to engage Canadians abroad. Only 16% disagreed with the idea.

Other findings from the poll include:

- Two-thirds (66%) of Canadians say that children of Canadians born in another country should have the same citizenship rights as children of Canadians born in Canada².
- 63% of Canadians agree that the Government of Canada should continue to support dual citizenship policy³.
- The margin of support becomes narrower on the question of equal voting rights.⁴ Only 51% of Canadians are in favour of Canadian citizens living abroad having the same voting rights as Canadian citizens living in Canada, while 43% disagree.

² The current legislation, *Bill C-37: An Act to amend the Citizenship Act*, precludes Canadian citizens from passing citizenship down to their children born abroad after one generation (new section 3(3)). For more details, please refer to the Legislative Summary LS-591E (2008), <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Content/LOP/LegislativeSummaries/39/2/c37-e.pdf>.

³ Canadian citizenship law allows Canadian citizens to acquire a foreign nationality without losing their Canadian citizenship. For more details, please refer to the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/dual-citizenship.asp>.

- Canada's coastal provinces (BC and the Atlantic provinces) are more in favour than other provinces on the dual citizenship and equal citizenship rights for children born abroad.
- Female Canadians are more supportive of dual citizenship; while males are more in favour of equal voting rights.
- The mid-age group (35-54) is less supportive than younger (18-34) or senior groups (55+) on all four questions.
- The lower income group (less than \$50K) is more in favour than other income groups of the same voting rights for citizens living abroad.
- Highly educated Canadians (university plus) are more in favour on dual citizenship and same voting rights for Canadians abroad.
- English-speaking Canadians are more supportive than French-speaking Canadians of dual citizenship, equal voting rights for Canadians abroad and full citizenship rights for children of Canadians born abroad.
- It is almost unanimous across all regions, gender, age, income, education level and language groups that the Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad.

Conclusions

The general findings of the poll suggest that Canadians aged 18 or over believe that Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same citizenship rights as fellow citizens in Canada. Canadians across the country are equally supportive of the concept that the Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad.

These are strong views on an important subject. The APF Canada hopes that the Canadians' views reflected in this report will contribute to the public debate and policy discussion on issues affecting Canadians abroad.

The APF Canada also realizes that the views of Canadians living abroad on the same issues are equally important. These will be considered in further research.

⁴ Canadians who have been residing outside Canada for more than five consecutive years cannot vote in Canada's general election. For more details, please refer to section 222 of the *Canada Elections Act*, http://www.elections.ca/loi/ref/legislation_e.pdf.

APPENDIX: Summary Figures and Tables

Figure 1

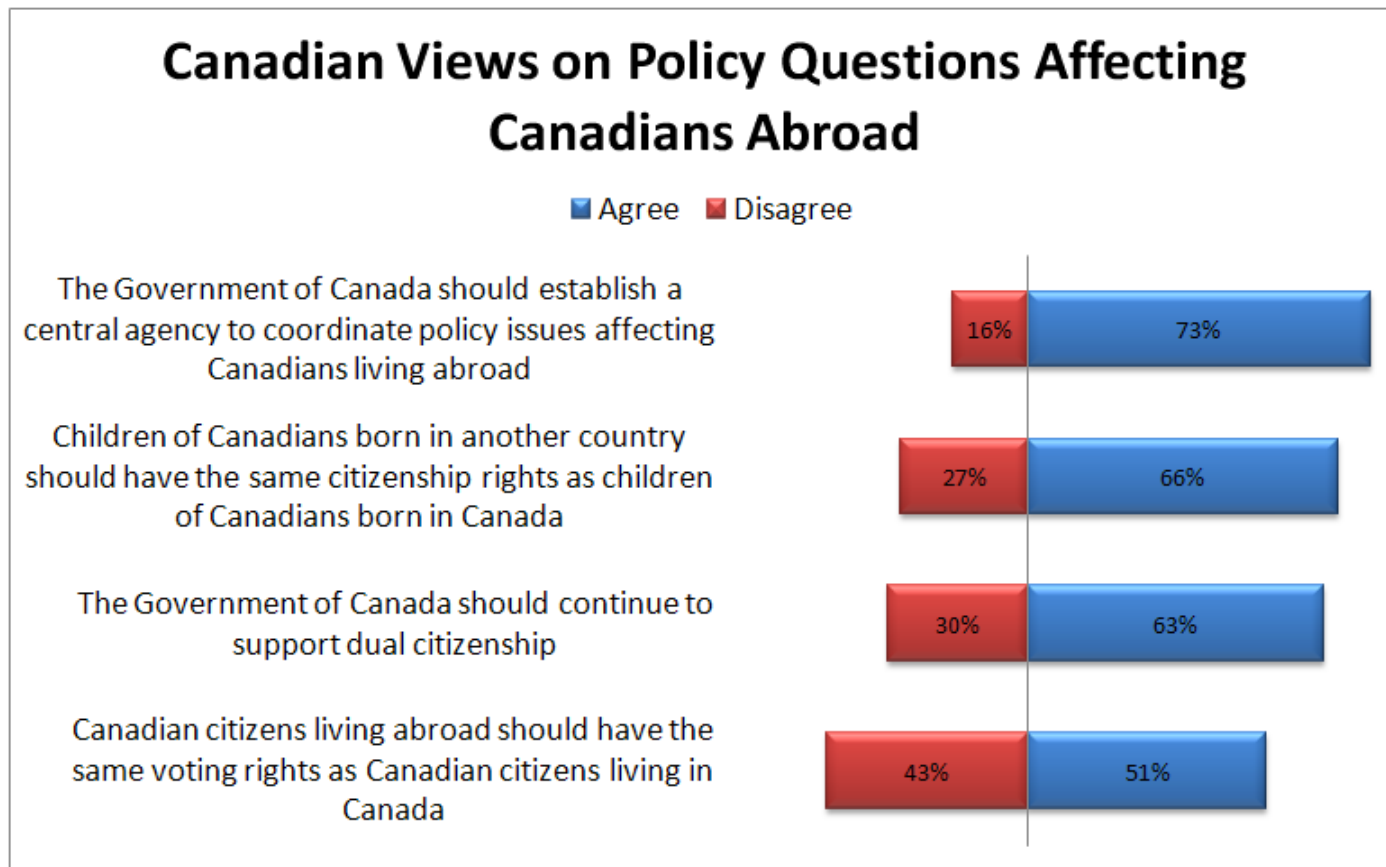


Figure 2



Note: Mean level of agreement is calculated by assigning values as Strongly Agree=1; Somewhat Agree=0.5; Don't Know=0; Somewhat Disagree=-0.5; and Strongly Disagree=-1. The results vary between -1 to 1. A negative mean indicates respondents basically disagree, while positive indicates agreement. The level of agreement or disagreement increases as the mean gets closer to +/-1.

Table 1: Summary of Strongly Agree or Somewhat Agree to Each of the Statements Below:

Q1: The Government of Canada should continue to support dual citizenship.

Q2: Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same voting rights as Canadian citizens living in Canada.

Q3: Children of Canadians born in another country should have the same citizenship rights as children of Canadians born in Canada.

Q4: The Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad.

	TOTAL	REGION						Gender		Age		
	Canada	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q1	63%	70%	63%	62%	63%	58%	71%	60%	66%	73%	59%	59%
Q2	51%	45%	54%	49%	53%	49%	55%	53%	48%	57%	45%	52%
Q3	66%	70%	69%	71%	65%	60%	77%	65%	67%	68%	63%	68%
Q4	73%	69%	76%	75%	71%	76%	79%	74%	73%	71%	71%	79%

	Income			Education			Language	
	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	University+	English	French
Q1	64%	62%	65%	60%	62%	70%	65%	56%
Q2	53%	47%	54%	47%	49%	60%	52%	47%
Q3	68%	65%	69%	65%	65%	70%	68%	58%
Q4	76%	73%	72%	73%	74%	72%	73%	76%

Table 2: Summary of Strongly Disagree or Somewhat Disagree to Each of the Statements Below:

Q1: The Government of Canada should continue to support dual citizenship.

Q2: Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same voting rights as Canadian citizens living in Canada.

Q3: Children of Canadians born in another country should have the same citizenship rights as children of Canadians born in Canada.

Q4: The Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad.

	TOTAL	REGION						Gender		Age		
	Canada	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q1	30%	24%	34%	33%	30%	32%	21%	36%	24%	18%	33%	36%
Q2	43%	47%	43%	48%	41%	43%	37%	44%	42%	34%	48%	44%
Q3	27%	22%	29%	25%	27%	34%	15%	32%	23%	23%	30%	27%
Q4	16%	19%	18%	16%	18%	14%	11%	20%	12%	15%	18%	16%

	Income			Education			Language	
	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	University+	English	French
Q1	26%	34%	30%	30%	32%	25%	29%	33%
Q2	39%	47%	44%	43%	46%	38%	42%	46%
Q3	24%	30%	29%	25%	29%	27%	25%	36%
Q4	12%	18%	22%	13%	17%	21%	17%	13%

Table 3-a: The Government of Canada should continue to support dual citizenship							
	Canada	REGION					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	380	305	201	1,031	750	237
Strongly agree	27%	31%	28%	23%	30%	19%	31%
Somewhat agree	36%	39%	34%	38%	33%	39%	41%
Somewhat disagree	16%	11%	18%	17%	15%	21%	17%
Strongly disagree	13%	13%	17%	16%	16%	11%	4%
Don't know	7%	6%	3%	6%	7%	10%	8%
Mean level of agreement	0.23	0.32	0.20	0.18	0.23	0.16	0.38

Table 3-b: The Government of Canada should continue to support dual citizenship			
	Canada	GENDER	
		Male	Female
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,425	1,478
Strongly agree	27%	25%	28%
Somewhat agree	36%	35%	38%
Somewhat disagree	16%	17%	15%
Strongly disagree	13%	19%	8%
Don't know	7%	4%	10%
Mean level of agreement	0.23	0.15	0.31

Table 3-c: The Government of Canada should continue to support dual citizenship				
	Canada	AGE		
		18-34	35-54	55+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	816	1,186	901
Strongly agree	27%	37%	23%	21%
Somewhat agree	36%	36%	36%	38%
Somewhat disagree	16%	12%	18%	18%
Strongly disagree	13%	7%	15%	17%
Don't know	7%	9%	8%	5%
Mean level of agreement	0.23	0.43	0.17	0.14

Table 3-d: The Government of Canada should continue to support dual citizenship				
	Canada	INCOME		
		<\$50k	\$50-99k	\$100k+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,026	1,027	457
Strongly agree	27%	27%	25%	31%
Somewhat agree	36%	37%	36%	34%
Somewhat disagree	16%	15%	18%	13%
Strongly disagree	13%	10%	16%	17%
Don't know	7%	11%	4%	5%
Mean level of agreement	0.23	0.27	0.18	0.25

Table 3-e: The Government of Canada should continue to support dual citizenship				
	Canada	EDUCATION		
		HS or less	College/Tech school	University+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,112	1,181	609
Strongly agree	27%	21%	28%	34%
Somewhat agree	36%	38%	35%	36%
Somewhat disagree	16%	18%	17%	12%
Strongly disagree	13%	12%	15%	15%
Don't know	7%	10%	6%	5%
Mean level of agreement	0.23	0.19	0.22	0.33

Table 3-f: The Government of Canada should continue to support dual citizenship			
	Canada	LANGUAGE	
		English	French
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	2,259	644
Strongly agree	27%	29%	17%
Somewhat agree	36%	36%	39%
Somewhat disagree	16%	15%	21%
Strongly disagree	13%	14%	12%
Don't know	7%	6%	11%
Mean level of agreement	0.23	0.26	0.14

Table 4-a: Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same voting rights as Canadian citizens living in Canada							
	Canada	REGION					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	380	305	201	1,031	750	237
Strongly agree	24%	22%	24%	21%	26%	20%	30%
Somewhat agree	27%	23%	30%	28%	27%	29%	25%
Somewhat disagree	27%	29%	28%	28%	23%	30%	26%
Strongly disagree	16%	18%	15%	20%	18%	13%	12%
Don't know	6%	7%	2%	3%	6%	8%	8%
Mean level of agreement	0.08	0.01	0.10	0.01	0.10	0.06	0.18

Table 4-b: Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same voting rights as Canadian citizens living in Canada			
	Canada	GENDER	
		Male	Female
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,425	1,478
Strongly agree	24%	27%	21%
Somewhat agree	27%	26%	28%
Somewhat disagree	27%	23%	30%
Strongly disagree	16%	21%	11%
Don't know	6%	3%	10%
Mean level of agreement	0.08	0.08	0.08

Table 4-c: Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same voting rights as Canadian citizens living in Canada				
	Canada	AGE		
		18-34	35-54	55+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	816	1,186	901
Strongly agree	24%	30%	20%	23%
Somewhat agree	27%	27%	25%	29%
Somewhat disagree	27%	22%	30%	27%
Strongly disagree	16%	12%	18%	17%
Don't know	6%	8%	7%	4%
Mean level of agreement	0.08	0.20	0.00	0.07

Table 4-d: Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same voting rights as Canadian citizens living in Canada				
	Canada	INCOME		
		<\$50k	\$50-99k	\$100k+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,026	1,027	457
Strongly agree	24%	26%	20%	28%
Somewhat agree	27%	27%	28%	25%
Somewhat disagree	27%	26%	27%	27%
Strongly disagree	16%	13%	19%	17%
Don't know	6%	8%	6%	2%
Mean level of agreement	0.08	0.13	0.00	0.10

Table 4-e: Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same voting rights as Canadian citizens living in Canada				
	Canada	EDUCATION		
		HS or less	College/Tech school	University+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,112	1,181	609
Strongly agree	24%	21%	22%	32%
Somewhat agree	27%	26%	27%	28%
Somewhat disagree	27%	28%	27%	23%
Strongly disagree	16%	15%	18%	15%
Don't know	6%	10%	5%	2%
Mean level of agreement	0.08	0.05	0.04	0.20

Table 4-f: Canadian citizens living abroad should have the same voting rights as Canadian citizens living in Canada			
	Canada	LANGUAGE	
		English	French
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	2,259	644
Strongly agree	24%	25%	18%
Somewhat agree	27%	26%	29%
Somewhat disagree	27%	25%	32%
Strongly disagree	16%	17%	14%
Don't know	6%	6%	8%
Mean level of agreement	0.08	0.09	0.02

Table 5-a: Children of Canadians born in another country should have the same citizenship rights as children of Canadians born in Canada

	Canada	REGION					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	380	305	201	1,031	750	237
Strongly agree	34%	38%	36%	34%	35%	27%	41%
Somewhat agree	32%	31%	33%	37%	30%	34%	36%
Somewhat disagree	18%	15%	19%	14%	15%	26%	12%
Strongly disagree	9%	7%	10%	11%	12%	8%	2%
Don't know	7%	8%	2%	4%	8%	6%	8%
Mean level of agreement	0.32	0.40	0.33	0.34	0.30	0.22	0.51

Table 5-b: Children of Canadians born in another country should have the same citizenship rights as children of Canadians born in Canada

	Canada	GENDER	
		Male	Female
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,425	1,478
Strongly agree	34%	33%	34%
Somewhat agree	32%	31%	34%
Somewhat disagree	18%	20%	16%
Strongly disagree	9%	12%	7%
Don't know	7%	4%	9%
Mean level of agreement	0.32	0.27	0.36

Table 5-c: Children of Canadians born in another country should have the same citizenship rights as children of Canadians born in Canada

	Canada	AGE		
		18-34	35-54	55+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	816	1,186	901
Strongly agree	34%	38%	29%	36%
Somewhat agree	32%	30%	34%	33%
Somewhat disagree	18%	17%	19%	17%
Strongly disagree	9%	6%	11%	11%
Don't know	7%	8%	7%	4%
Mean level of agreement	0.32	0.38	0.26	0.33

Table 5-d: Children of Canadians born in another country should have the same citizenship rights as children of Canadians born in Canada

	Canada	INCOME		
		<\$50k	\$50-99k	\$100k+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,026	1,027	457
Strongly agree	34%	36%	31%	39%
Somewhat agree	32%	32%	34%	30%
Somewhat disagree	18%	17%	21%	15%
Strongly disagree	9%	7%	10%	14%
Don't know	7%	9%	5%	2%
Mean level of agreement	0.32	0.37	0.28	0.32

Table 5-e: Children of Canadians born in another country should have the same citizenship rights as children of Canadians born in Canada

	Canada	EDUCATION		
		HS or less	College/Tech school	University+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,112	1,181	609
Strongly agree	34%	32%	33%	39%
Somewhat agree	32%	33%	32%	31%
Somewhat disagree	18%	17%	19%	16%
Strongly disagree	9%	8%	10%	11%
Don't know	7%	10%	6%	3%
Mean level of agreement	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.35

Table 5-f: Children of Canadians born in another country should have the same citizenship rights as children of Canadians born in Canada

	Canada	LANGUAGE	
		English	French
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	2,259	644
Strongly agree	34%	37%	23%
Somewhat agree	32%	32%	35%
Somewhat disagree	18%	15%	28%
Strongly disagree	9%	10%	8%
Don't know	7%	7%	6%
Mean level of agreement	0.32	0.35	0.18

Table 6-a: The Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad

	Canada	REGION					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	380	305	201	1,031	750	237
Strongly agree	28%	23%	26%	28%	32%	25%	35%
Somewhat agree	45%	46%	50%	47%	39%	51%	44%
Somewhat disagree	12%	12%	13%	11%	13%	11%	8%
Strongly disagree	5%	7%	5%	4%	5%	3%	3%
Don't know	10%	12%	6%	9%	12%	10%	10%
Mean level of agreement	0.40	0.33	0.39	0.42	0.40	0.42	0.50

Table 6-b: The Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad

	Canada	GENDER	
		Male	Female
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,425	1,478
Strongly agree	28%	27%	29%
Somewhat agree	45%	46%	44%
Somewhat disagree	12%	14%	9%
Strongly disagree	5%	6%	3%
Don't know	10%	6%	15%
Mean level of agreement	0.40	0.37	0.43

Table 6-c: The Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad

	Canada	AGE		
		18-34	35-54	55+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	816	1,186	901
Strongly agree	28%	28%	25%	32%
Somewhat agree	45%	43%	46%	47%
Somewhat disagree	12%	11%	12%	12%
Strongly disagree	5%	3%	6%	4%
Don't know	10%	14%	11%	5%
Mean level of agreement	0.40	0.41	0.37	0.45

Table 6-d: The Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad

	Canada	INCOME		
		<\$50k	\$50-99k	\$100k+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,026	1,027	457
Strongly agree	28%	31%	26%	29%
Somewhat agree	45%	46%	48%	43%
Somewhat disagree	12%	10%	12%	13%
Strongly disagree	5%	2%	6%	9%
Don't know	10%	12%	8%	6%
Mean level of agreement	0.40	0.46	0.37	0.35

Table 6-e: The Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad

	Canada	EDUCATION		
		HS or less	College/Tech school	University+
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	1,112	1,181	609
Strongly agree	28%	26%	29%	30%
Somewhat agree	45%	47%	45%	42%
Somewhat disagree	12%	9%	13%	14%
Strongly disagree	5%	4%	4%	7%
Don't know	10%	14%	9%	7%
Mean level of agreement	0.40	0.41	0.41	0.37

Table 6-f: The Government of Canada should establish a central agency to coordinate policy issues affecting Canadians living abroad

	Canada	LANGUAGE	
		English	French
All Respondents (Weighted)	2,903	2,259	644
Strongly agree	28%	30%	23%
Somewhat agree	45%	43%	52%
Somewhat disagree	12%	12%	11%
Strongly disagree	5%	5%	3%
Don't know	10%	10%	11%
Mean level of agreement	0.40	0.40	0.42

Notes:

- Results are based on two-sided tests with significance level of 0.05. For each significant pair, the category with the smaller column proportion is highlighted in a lighter shade, compared with the category with the larger column proportion that is highlighted with a darker shade.
- Tests are adjusted for all pairwise comparisons within a row of each innermost subtable using the Bonferroni correction.
- Cell counts of some categories are not integers. They were rounded to the nearest integers before performing column proportions tests.
- Margin of errors for groups in the cross-tabs are reported in the following table with a confident interval at 19 times out of 20.

Group	Margin +/-
Each of regions	4.4%
Men	2.6%
Women	2.6%
Under \$50k	3.2%
\$50k to \$99k	3.0%
\$100k+	4.1%
HS or Less	4.2%
College/Tech	2.7%
University	3.1%
French	4.7%
English	2.0%