

GLOBAL CANADIANS

A SURVEY OF THE VIEWS
OF CANADIANS ABROAD

SEPTEMBER 2007

Asia Pacific
Foundation
of Canada

Fondation
Asie Pacifique
du Canada



Global Canadians

A Survey of the Views of Canadians Abroad

Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
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Executive Summary

- A total of 549 respondents, all age 20 and above and residing in either Asian countries¹ or the United States, were successfully enumerated by online questionnaires between April 9 and June 14, 2007.

Profiles of Canadians Abroad

- Canadians abroad are widely scattered around Asia and the US.
- The average age of respondents is 41.7 years. The largest age group (52.4%) comprises respondents aged 30 to 44.
- The gender ratio of respondents is 58:42, men to women, or 1.39 males per female.
- Nearly 95% of respondents have some post-secondary education.
- Over 56% of respondents have lived outside of Canada for more than five years.
- Nearly 65% of respondents indicate that pursuing job and career opportunities in the global labour market is the main reason they chose to live abroad.
- Some 30% of respondents working abroad have careers related to Canada, either through government, business, NGOs or self-employment.

Citizenship and Identity

- The Canadian population abroad is a heterogeneous group: 44% are solo Canadian citizens, 36% are dual citizens, 16% are Canadian citizens with permanent residency in another country, and 4% are Canadian landed immigrants.
- Some 65% of respondents gained Canadian citizenship by birth, while 29% gained it through immigration and naturalization.
- Nearly 64% of respondents still call Canada home, though this percentage varies notably depending on the respondent's citizenship status, level of education, and the length of time he or she has spent living abroad.
- Canadians abroad may possess more than one identity and identify more with one or another of them in different circumstances. In terms of their professional lives, respondents are almost even on identifying most closely with either Canada (47%) or their country of residence (46%). In terms of their personal or family lives, respondents overwhelmingly identify more closely with Canada (66%) than with their country of residence (31%).

¹ A list of Asian countries included in the survey is provided in Figure 8 of this report.

Ties to Canada

- Nearly 54% of respondents make at least one trip to Canada per year.
- About 69% of respondents have plans to return to Canada and establish permanent residency.
- Among respondents' reasons for returning to Canada, "being closer to family members and friends" and "enjoying the quality of life and culture in Canada" are the most frequently cited.
- Among the news sources used by respondents to get updated information about Canada, "friends and family" and Canadian media are the most frequently cited.
- The majority of respondents reported Ontario, British Columbia, or Quebec as their home provinces in Canada.

Views of Canadians Abroad

- Respondents hold clear views on many issues related to their overseas civil rights and responsibilities. They are likely to agree with the following statements:
 - Canadians living overseas should be allowed to vote in Canadian elections regardless of how long they have been absent from Canada;
 - Canadians living overseas should be entitled to the same level of consular support as Canadian tourists; and
 - The Canadian government should do more to keep in touch with Canadians living overseas.
- Respondents are less likely to agree that:
 - Canada should cease to recognize dual citizenship;
 - Canadians living overseas should pay a surcharge on the renewal of their passports; and
 - Canadians living overseas should be subject to Canadian income tax.
- Respondents also have clear views on the potential benefits they can provide to Canada. The most important of these include the belief that their overseas presence creates goodwill toward Canada, and that their overseas knowledge and skills are transferable to Canada.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present the results and findings of the survey *Views of Canadians Abroad*. The phenomenon of the growing Canadian diaspora² has recently received increased public attention, and many discussions and debates have focused on the presumed consequences and impacts of Canada's overseas population on Canada's well-being. Some fundamental questions still remain unanswered, however, including (but not limited to):

- How many Canadian citizens reside abroad, and where are they?
- What are their demographic and economic profiles?
- What are their connections to Canada, if any?
- What are the implications of these new patterns and how should policy react?

In this debate, the views of one group of Canadians are seldom heard: those of overseas Canadians. Such exclusion is undemocratic — the people who are most likely to be affected by changes in citizenship policy are given little to no input in the relevant discussions themselves. Thus, a primary aim of this report is to fill the 'knowledge gap' created by unanswered questions and to obtain data on the views of Canadians abroad, both of which will contribute to a balanced assessment of Canadian diaspora policies.

The survey cited in this report was designed and conducted by Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. The survey's target sample is the self-identified Canadian population currently residing in Asia and the United States who belong to business associations and social clubs or networks associated with Canada³.

The survey was designed in the form of an online questionnaire⁴ and was open for response from April 9 to June 14, 2007. During this period, we received a total of 597 individual responses, of which 48 were deemed incomplete and ultimately eliminated. The final 549 valid responses are used for analysis in this report.

The remainder of this report is organized in three parts. The next section discusses some working definitions and describes the method used in the survey. Section 3 reports the survey results, emphasizing profiles of Canadians abroad, their citizenships and identities, and their ties to Canada. The final section reports some conclusions.

² APF Canada published a report in 2006 which estimates that some 2.7 million Canadian citizens are scattered around the world. The report is available at APF Canada's website at www.asiapacific.ca/analysis/pubs/pdfs/commentary/cac41.pdf.

³ It is obvious that the Asia Pacific region is of primary interest to the Foundation. We have chosen the US as a secondary region because over half of all Canadians abroad reside there. This choice does not mean to suggest that other regions are not important, however; given the limited time and resources at this stage, we have focused on areas that are immediately relevant to APF Canada's mandate.

⁴ The survey website is operated and managed by InSite Survey System, Ltd., whose website is www.insitesurveys.com.

2. Definitions and Methodology

Working Definition of a 'Canadian Abroad'

There are two nomenclatural challenges that must be addressed before a definition of 'Canadian abroad' can be established. The first entails considering precisely who is Canadian; the second is a definition of who can rightly be considered a Canadian "abroad"⁵. In this study, for reasons of simplicity, we classify Canadians abroad as being:

- ***Those who self-identify as a Canadian or a landed immigrant of Canada.*** This includes respondents who are Canadian citizens through birth, immigration and naturalization, or through Canadian parent(s). It also includes solo Canadian citizens, dual-citizens, Canadian citizens with permanent residency in another country, and Canadian landed immigrants who are citizens in another country.
- ***Those who have principal residence status outside Canada.*** This includes Canadians who are long-term residents (more than one year) or new residents (less than one year) in their host country. It also includes Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who have never lived or spent a significant time in Canada.

Different terms are also used to define Canada's population abroad: diaspora, overseas citizens, expatriates, citizens abroad, etc. Canada has long been considered a country of immigrants, and it has no universally accepted term for Canadians who live outside Canada. In this report, the terms Canadian diaspora, overseas Canadians, and Canadians abroad are used interchangeably to apply to the self-identified Canadian population that holds principal residence outside Canada.

Moreover, the survey's targeted areas are limited to countries in Asia and the United States, where probably over two-thirds of the Canadian overseas population currently resides. Thus, the findings and results of the survey represent only the views of the Canadian population living in these regions.

Method

The results presented in this report are derived from the previously mentioned online questionnaire. APF Canada designed the 18-question survey, which was posted on the website that is operated and managed by InSite Survey System Ltd. Detailed information on the questionnaire is provided in Appendix C.

Gathering as many targeted and representative respondents as possible while avoiding irrelevant respondents is a major challenge to conducting online surveys. Delivering the survey information to the expected potential respondents becomes a key to the success of the project. In facing these problems, we developed the following strategies to reach targeted groups and collect reasonably representative responses:

⁵ Hugo, et al (2003) and Sriskandarajah and Drew (2006) offer interesting discussions on the difficulties of defining nationals abroad, directly applicable to the "Canadian abroad" problem.

- Invite responses through Canadian diplomatic offices' contacts in each country;
- Invite responses through members of Canadian chambers of commerce or Canadian business associations in each country;
- Invite responses through members of Canadian social and cultural organizations in each country;
- Invite responses through subscribers of the websites run by overseas Canadian organizations or individuals; and
- Invite responses through a 'snowball' onward-referral process.

Following these strategies, we sent an initial survey assistance inquiry to many organizations and individuals falling under the above categories. With the exception of Canadian diplomatic offices, where government policy does not permit the solicitation of information for survey purposes, these groups were largely helpful. The invaluable assistance provided by the Canadian chambers of commerce in many Asian countries is highly appreciated and formally acknowledged in Appendix B of this report.

The survey was put online and opened for response on April 9, 2007. The original deadline was set for April 23, 2007, but later postponed to June 14, 2007 in response to some participating Canadian overseas organizations wishing to extend the survey deadline so that it better coincided with their routine operations. Thus, the survey period ran from April 9 to June 14, 2007.

We realized this method is subject to several sources of error. These include: sampling error (because respondents needed to have Internet access to complete the survey; to have some facility with English to understand and complete the survey; to have been informed of the existence of the survey by Canadian organizations in their host countries or through other sources; to be adults at the time of the survey in order to be members of such organizations or subscribers to such e-contacts; and Canadian organizations in host countries needed to be willing and legally able to forward survey information on to their members or subscribers); and measurement error due to question wording and/or question classification and order; deliberate or unintentional inaccurate responses, non-response or refusals, etc. With the exception of sampling error, the magnitude of the errors cannot be estimated. There is, therefore, no way to calculate a finite "margin of error" for this survey.

With pure probability samples, it is possible to calculate the probability that the sampling error is not greater than some number. However, that does not take other sources of error into account. Generally, online surveys are not based on a probability sample and therefore no theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

3. Survey Results

3.1 Profile of Canadians Abroad

Age

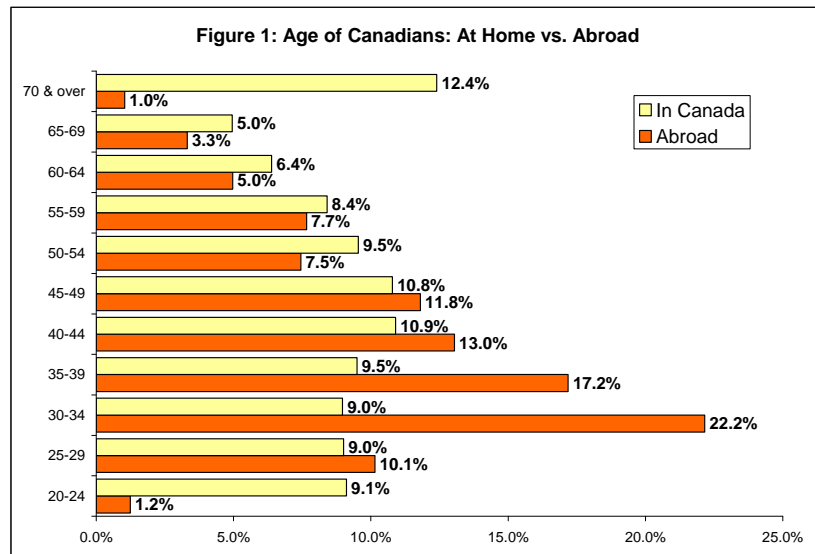
The age profile of the survey respondents varies widely, from 21 years at the youngest to 91 years at the oldest⁶. The median age of all respondents is 39 years, indicating that half of all Canadians abroad are above the age of 39. The average age of the pool is 41.7 years (Table 1). The largest age grouping among survey respondents is age 30 to 44 (Figure 1).

As shown in Figure 1, the overall age distribution of survey respondents is quite different from the age distribution in Canada. The survey data suggests that Canadians abroad are likely over-represented in the early period of working-age compared with the domestic Canadian population⁷. The group aged 30 to 44 accounts for 52.4% of all survey respondents while only representing 29.4% of domestic Canadians.

Post-secondary youth and retirement age demographics are likewise underrepresented in the survey pool. Youth aged 20 to 24 and those aged 65 and over make up only 1.2% and 6.0% of all survey respondents respectively, while in Canada these groups represent 9.1% and 12.4% of the overall population. The age structure of Canadians abroad is much younger than the domestic population, the latter being more akin to typical post-industrial demographic pyramids (Figures 2 and 3).

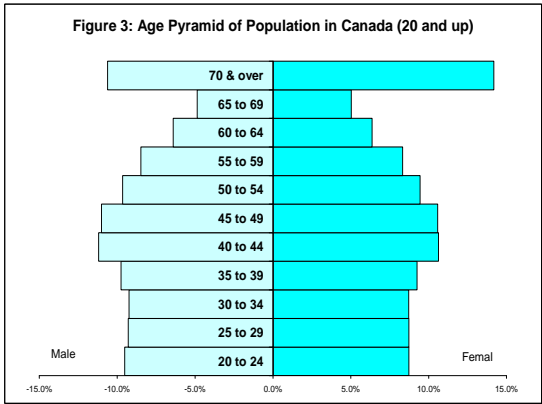
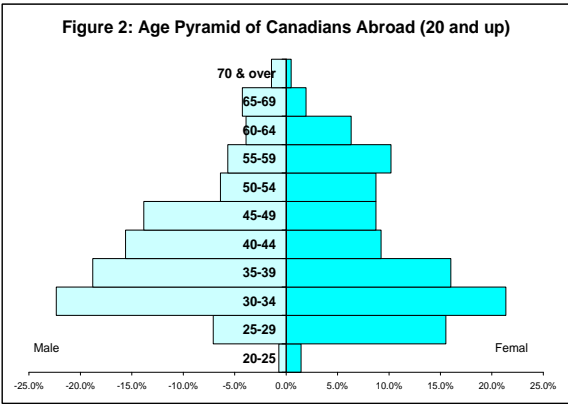
Table 1: Age Profile of Canadians Abroad

Variables	Value
Min	21
Max	91
Median	39
Mode	34
Mean	41.7
Std. Dev.	11.7
N	489



⁶ Because the survey only accepted responses from Canadians abroad aged 20 years and above, this age profile cannot represent the whole overseas strata.

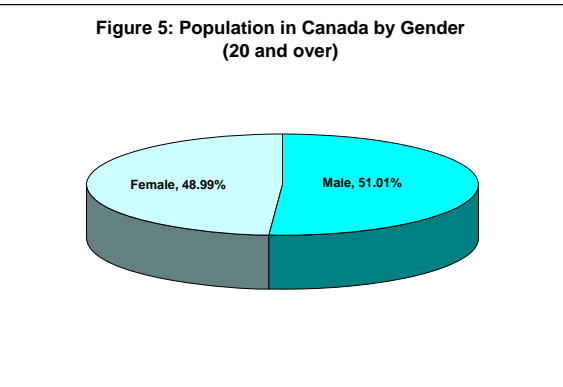
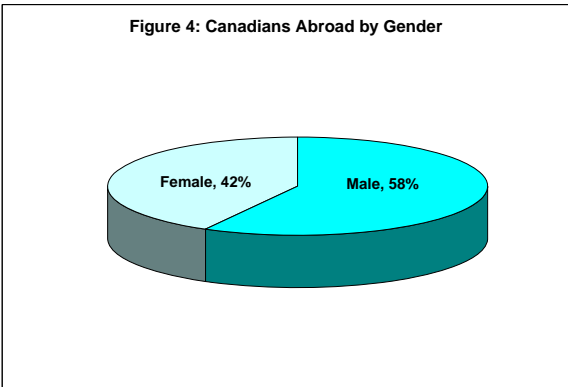
⁷ For the purpose of comparison, the author recalculated age distribution of aged 20 years and up based on Statistics Canada, CANSIM, Table 051-0001, accessed on July 20, 2007, at <http://www40.statcan.ca/101/cst01/demo10a.htm>

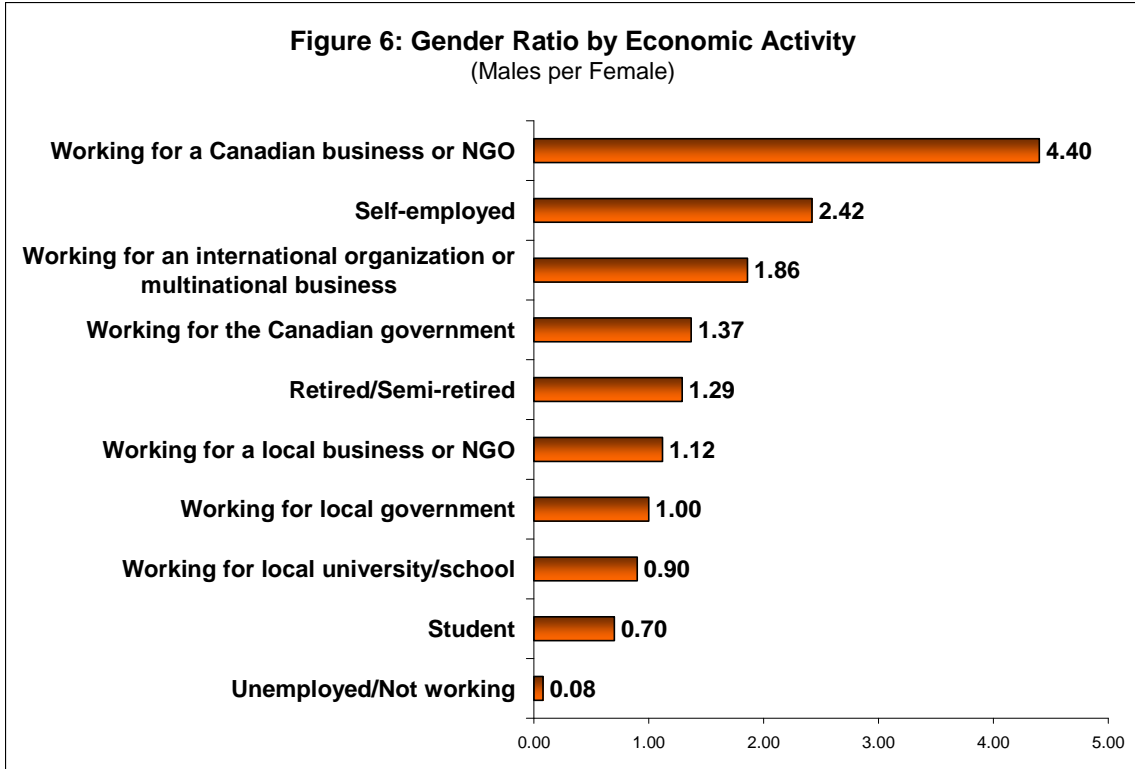


Gender

The gender ratio of all survey respondents is 58:42, men to women, or 1.39 males per female. This ratio is weighted toward the male gender significantly more than is the gender ratio of the domestic Canadian population (51:49, or 1.04 males per female).

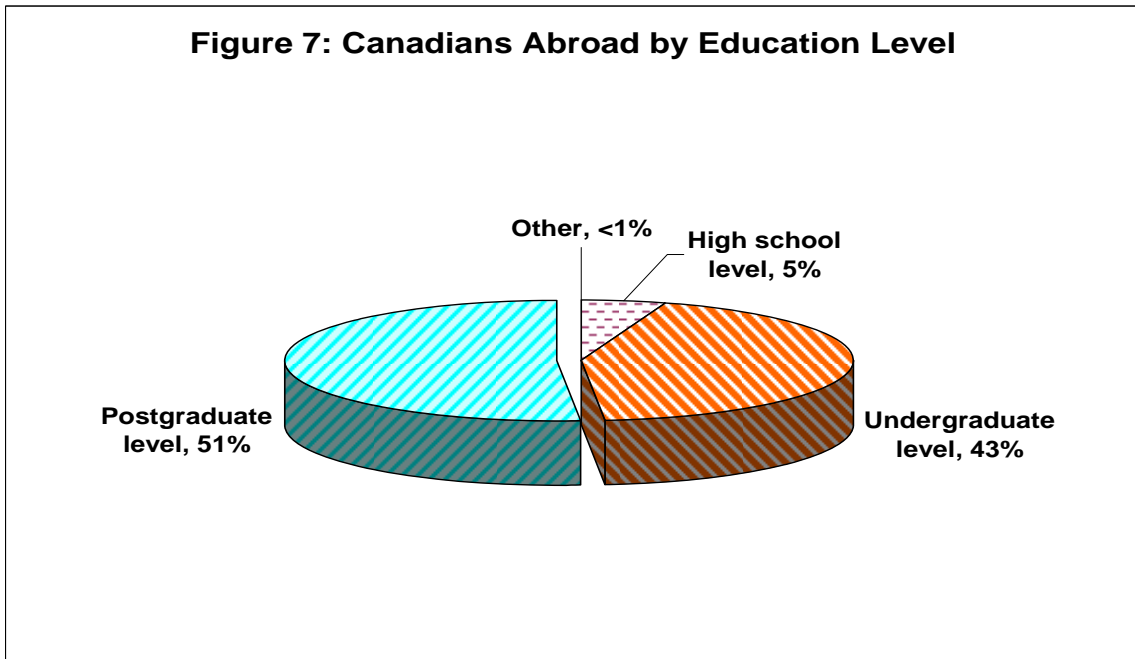
The respondent gender ratio varies tremendously by area of economic activity and employment. Men are overwhelmingly dominant in areas associated with Canadian business, NGOs, self-employment, international organizations and multi-national companies (MNCs). Conversely, women are dominant in the areas of education (both as students and employees) and unemployed/not working. The gender ratio is relatively balanced in the categories of Canadian government, local government, business/NGO, and retired/semi-retired.





Education

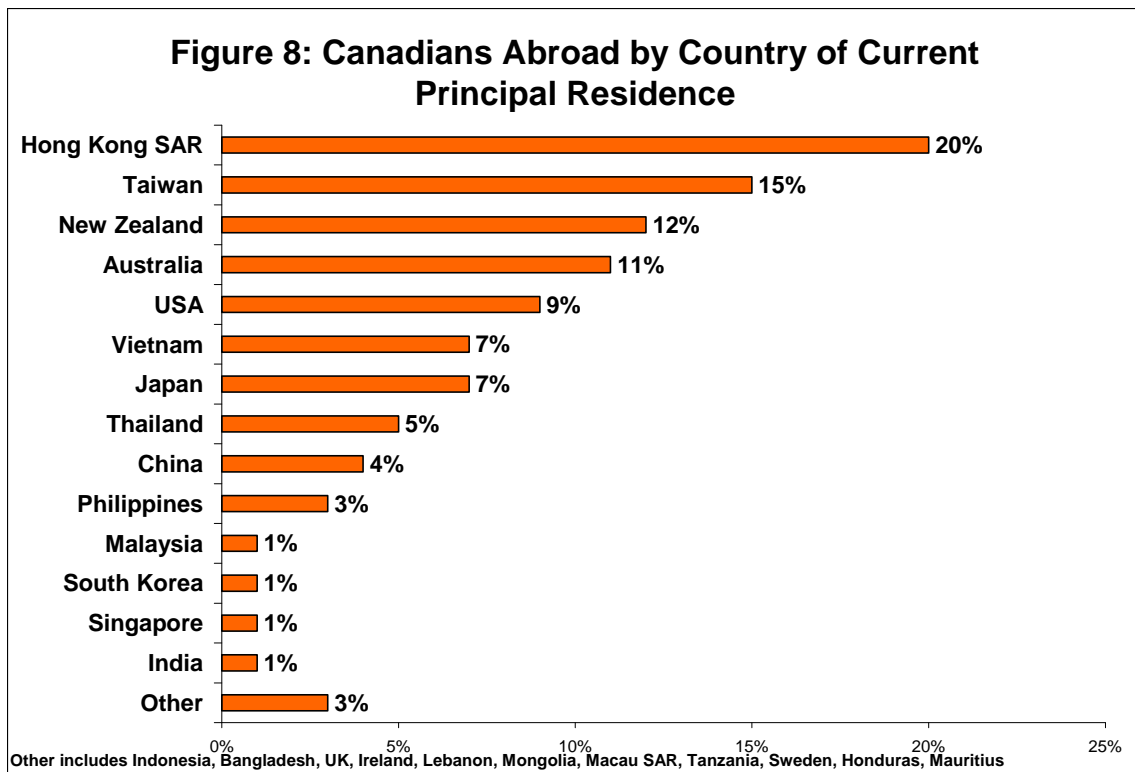
Canadians abroad are highly educated. Close to 95% of respondents have some post-secondary education or higher; over half have some level of postgraduate education and 43% have some level of undergraduate education.



Country of Current Residence⁸

Because of the survey limitations discussed earlier, our results may not represent an absolutely accurate description of the Canadian population distribution in Asia and the US. Our survey outcomes do provide some indication that Canadians are widely scattered through these regions with relative concentration in some countries/territories, such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, New Zealand, Australia and the US. (Figure 8).

Furthermore, the results illustrate great variation in citizenship status of overseas Canadians that is dependant on the country in which they reside (Table 2). In Thailand, Japan, Vietnam and the US, for example, the majority of Canadians are citizens of Canada only. Dual citizenship is only prominent in countries such as Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia, which have policies favourable to dual-citizenship. Table 3 highlights differences from country to country in how Canadians abroad gained their citizenship statuses. Canadian citizens abroad in Australia, Japan and New Zealand are overwhelmingly citizens by birth, whereas China and Taiwan have higher proportions of Canadians who gained citizenship through immigration and naturalization. Both of the latter also see a larger share of Canadians who gained landed immigrant status in Canada, but returned to China or Taiwan before obtaining full citizenship.



⁸ Country list as used here refers to independent economies.

Table 2: Respondents' Country of Current Residence by Citizenship Status (%)

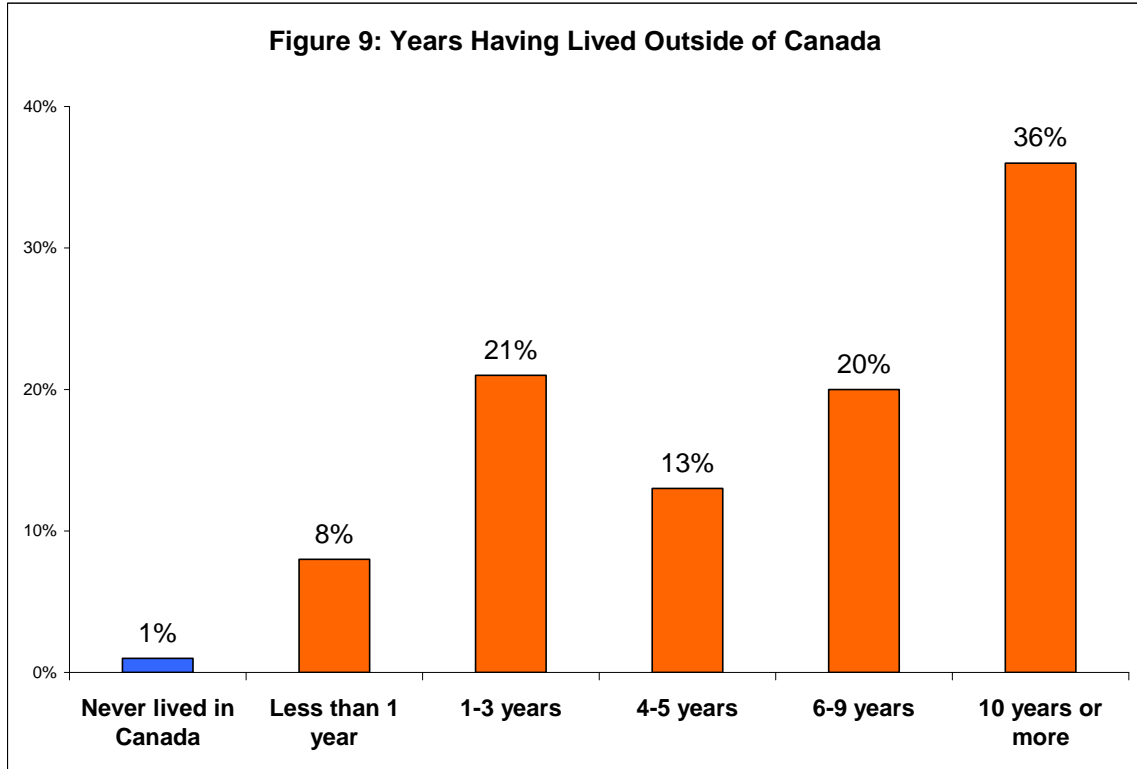
Country of current principal residence	Citizen of Canada and other country	Citizen of Canada only	Citizen of Canada with "permanent residency" in other country	Landed Immigrant of Canada and citizen of other country	Total
Thailand	20.8	79.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Japan	13.9	75.0	11.1	0.0	100.0
Vietnam	27.8	69.4	2.8	0.0	100.0
USA	28.9	59.6	11.5	0.0	100.0
Philippines	33.3	50.0	11.1	5.6	100.0
Hong Kong	21.7	48.1	28.3	1.9	100.0
China	31.6	31.6	5.3	31.6	100.0
Taiwan	56.4	30.8	1.3	11.5	100.0
New Zealand	46.3	28.4	25.4	0.0	100.0
Australia	53.2	16.1	30.7	0.0	100.0
Other	43.9	43.9	9.8	2.4	100.0
Total	36.4	44.3	15.8	3.5	100.0
N = 539	Pr < 0.001				

Table 3: Country of Current Residence by Means of Acquiring Citizenship (%)

Country of current principal residence	Canadian citizen by birth	Canadian citizen through immigration and naturalization	Canadian citizen through parents' Canadian citizenship	Canadian landed immigrant	Total
Australia	95.2	3.2	1.6	0.0	100.0
Japan	86.1	13.9	0.0	0.0	100.0
New Zealand	83.6	14.9	1.5	0.0	100.0
USA	76.9	23.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Thailand	76.0	24.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Vietnam	67.6	27.0	5.4	0.0	100.0
Hong Kong	61.1	31.5	5.6	1.9	100.0
Philippines	55.6	38.9	0.0	5.6	100.0
Taiwan	34.9	53.0	1.2	10.8	100.0
China	15.0	45.0	10.0	30.0	100.0
Other	46.3	46.3	4.9	2.4	100.0
Total	65.0	28.8	2.7	3.5	100.0
N=549	Pr<0.001				

Length of Time Living Abroad

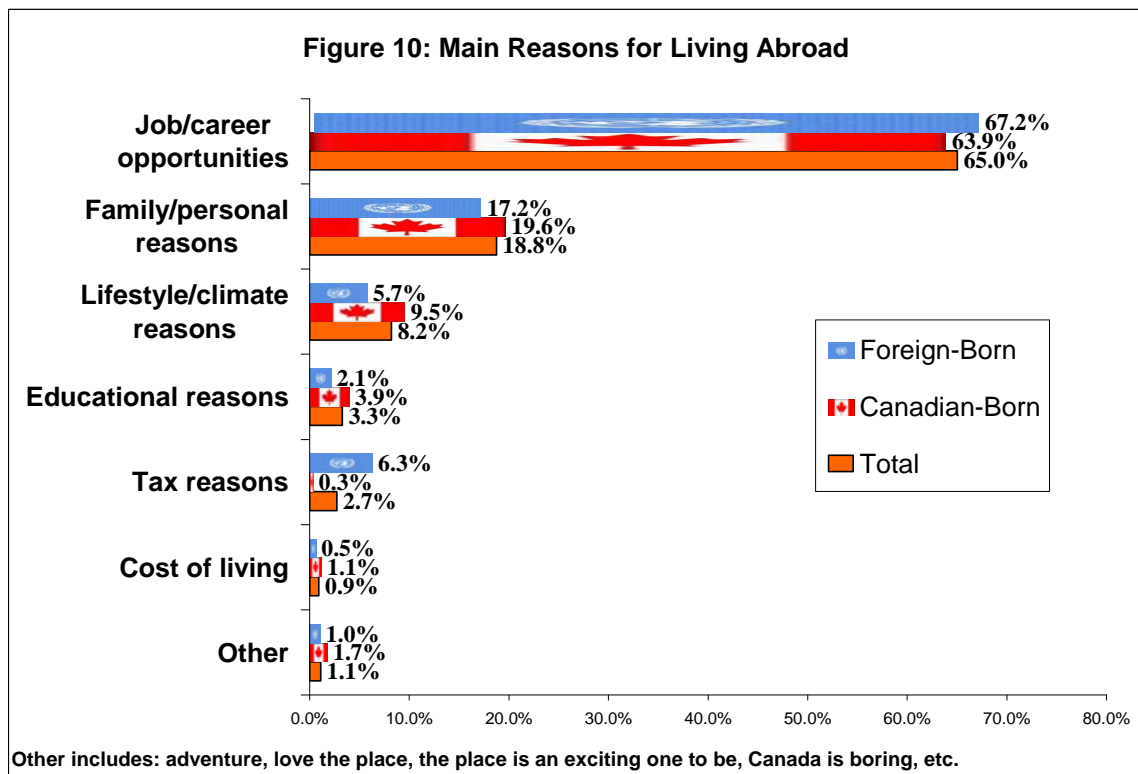
Canadians living abroad tend to do so on a long-term basis. Over 56% of survey respondents have lived outside Canada for more than five years. Some 34% have lived overseas between 1-5 years, and another 8% joined the Canadian diaspora within the past year. Interestingly, approximately 1% of respondents have never lived in Canada.



Motivations for Living Abroad

Following career opportunities is the dominant factor motivating Canadians to reside abroad. Nearly two-thirds of respondents indicate that “job and career opportunities” was the key reason for their decision to move abroad. This is followed by family and personal reasons — marrying a local or following a spouse overseas, for example — accounting for 19% of all responses. The third most frequently cited reason is related to lifestyle and climate, amounting to 8%.

Motivations for living abroad do not differ dramatically between Canadian-born and foreign-born. One notable difference, however, appears in the response to a question about Canadian taxes. Over 6% of foreign-born Canadians abroad indicate that tax was the key motivation for living outside Canada, while only 0.3% of Canadian-born indicates it was the reason for moving abroad, as shown in Figure 10.

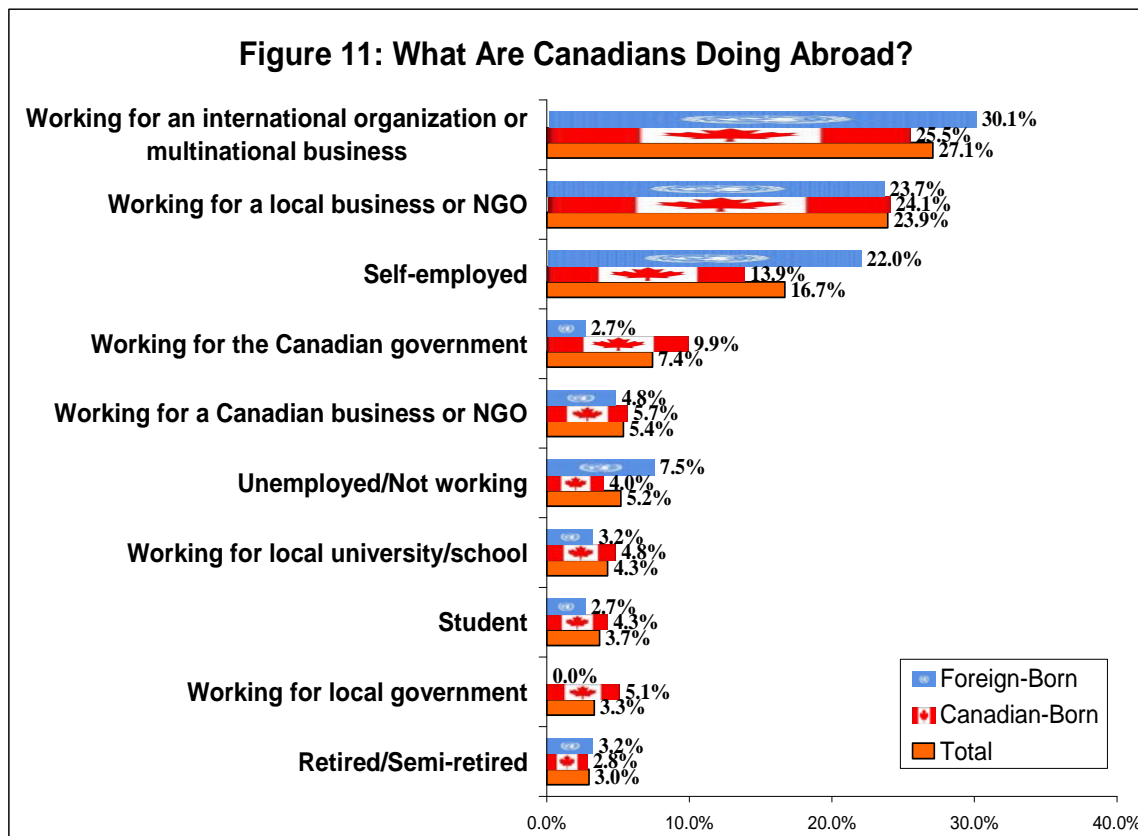


Note: N=549; Pr<0.01

Economic Activity

Although approximately two out of every three Canadians abroad have left Canada for work-related reasons⁹, the types of economic activities they engage in vary significantly and have different implications for Canada (Figure 11). Some 30% of respondents working abroad do so for Canadian entities, such as governments, businesses, NGOs, or some form of self-employment. Over 31% of respondents are integrated into the local economy through local governments, businesses, schools, or NGOs. Another 27% of respondents work for international organizations or multinational entities, and some 12% are economically inactive because they are either retired/semi-retired, a student, or unemployed/not working.

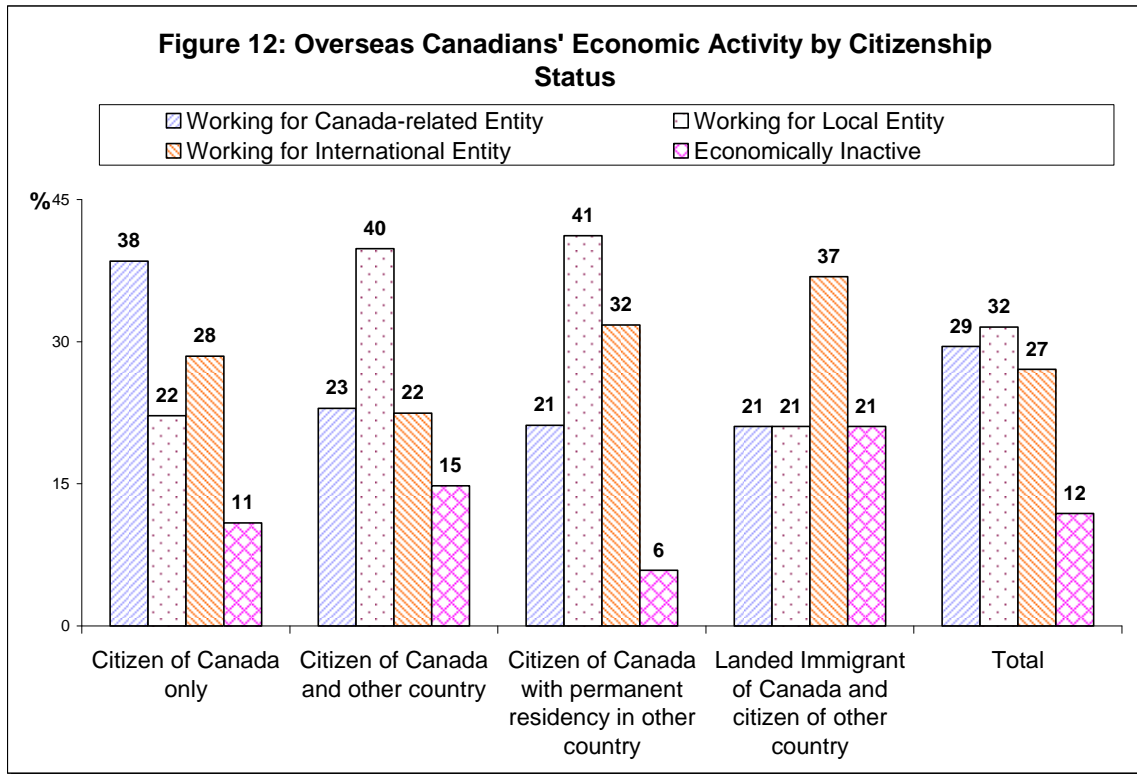
Canadian-born- and foreign-born Canadians abroad seem to have different economic opportunities overseas. Canadian-born Canadians are more likely to be engaged in categories of “working for the Canadian government,” and “working for local government”. Foreign-born Canadians, however, are more frequently engaged in other categories, such as “working for an international organization or multinational business,” “self-employed,” or “unemployed/not working”.



Note: N=539, Pr<=0.001

⁹ This is similar to the findings of Sriskandarajah and Drew (2006:22) regarding overseas Britons.

In addition to the gender-related differences discussed earlier, economic activity also varies by citizenship status (Figure 12). Solo Canadian citizens living abroad are dominant in the Canada-related entities field, accounting for 38% of the group. Dual citizens and Canadian citizens with “permanent residency” in other countries are more likely to be engaged in local-related entities, representing some 40% of each group. However, Canadians abroad who are landed immigrants in Canada and citizens of another country are most likely to work for an international entity (37%).



Note: N=539, Pr<0.001

3.2 Citizenship and Identity

Solo Citizenship and Dual Citizenship

As should now be clear, the Canadian population abroad is by no means a homogeneous group. It includes Canadians who are citizens of Canada only, dual citizens, multiple citizens, and other persons who hold various combinations of immigration, citizenship and residency statuses between Canada and their host countries. According to the results of this survey, 44% of all respondents are solo Canadian citizens, 36% are dual citizens of Canada and another country, 16% are Canadian citizens with permanent residency in another country, and 4% are landed immigrants in Canada (Figure 13a).

The survey results also reveal the means through which Canadians abroad attained their Canadian citizenship statuses. Some 65% of respondents report that they are Canadian citizens by birth. Approximately 29% of respondents indicate that their Canadian citizenship was gained through Canada's immigration and naturalization process. Only 3% are Canadian citizens through their parents' Canadian citizenship, and another 3% are landed immigrants who are not yet Canadian citizens (Figure 13b).

Based on these figures, we can estimate that roughly 65% of all respondents are Canada-born Canadians and 35% are foreign-born Canadians, using the category of "citizenship by birth" as meaning "born in Canada."

The survey data also show the most common countries that Canadians abroad have their citizenship of permanent residency are Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, UK, and USA. Nearly 4.5% of respondents have more than one citizenship or permanent residency other than Canada (Figure 14).

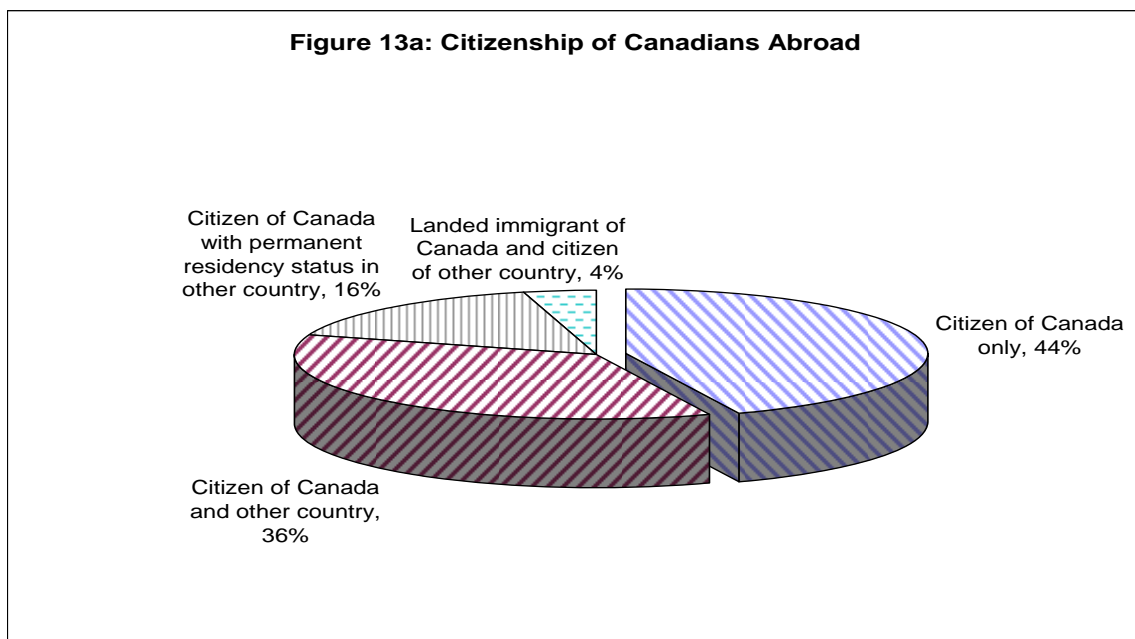


Figure 13b: How Canadians Abroad Gained Citizenship

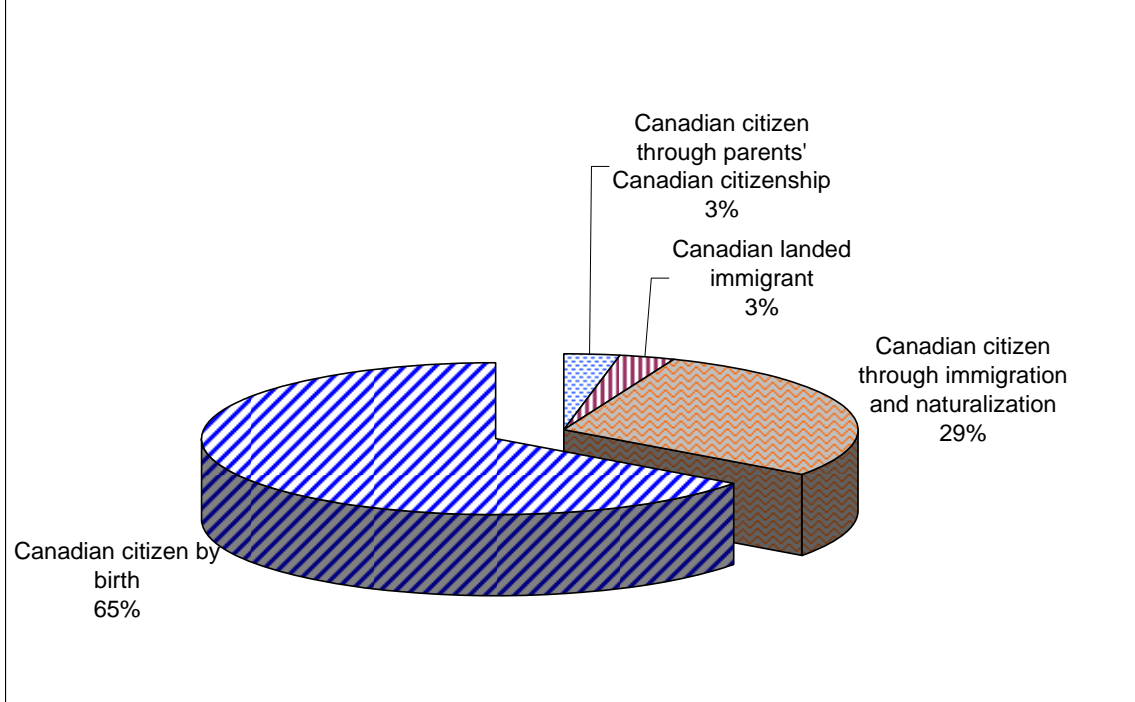
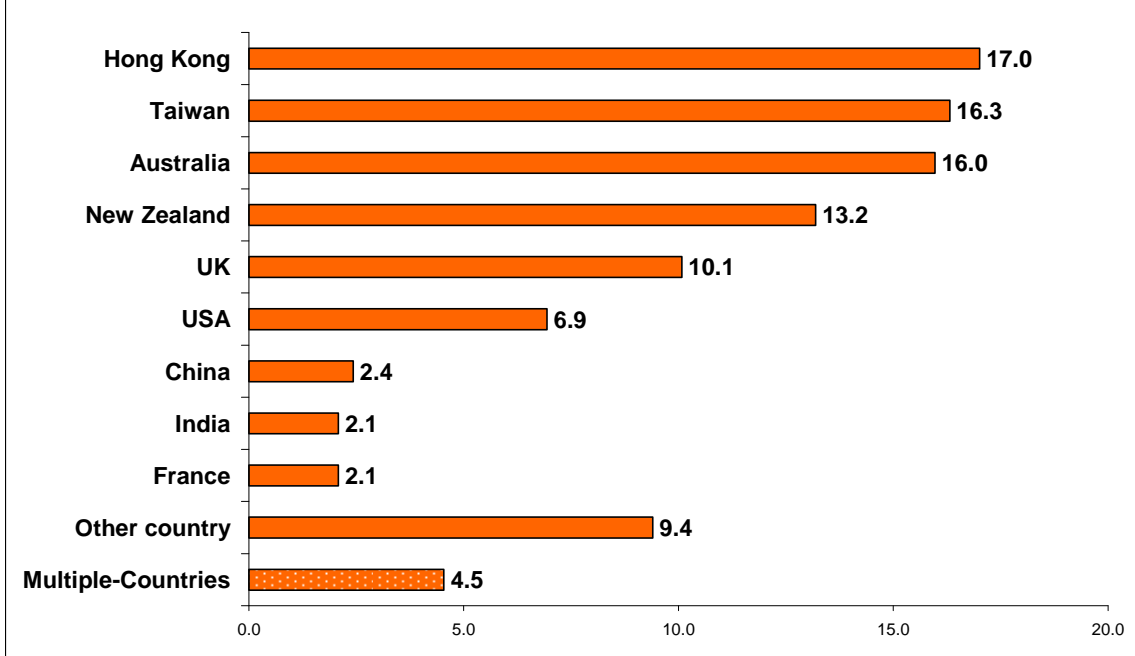


Figure 14: Overseas Canadians' Dual/Multiple Citizenship or Permanent Residency (%)



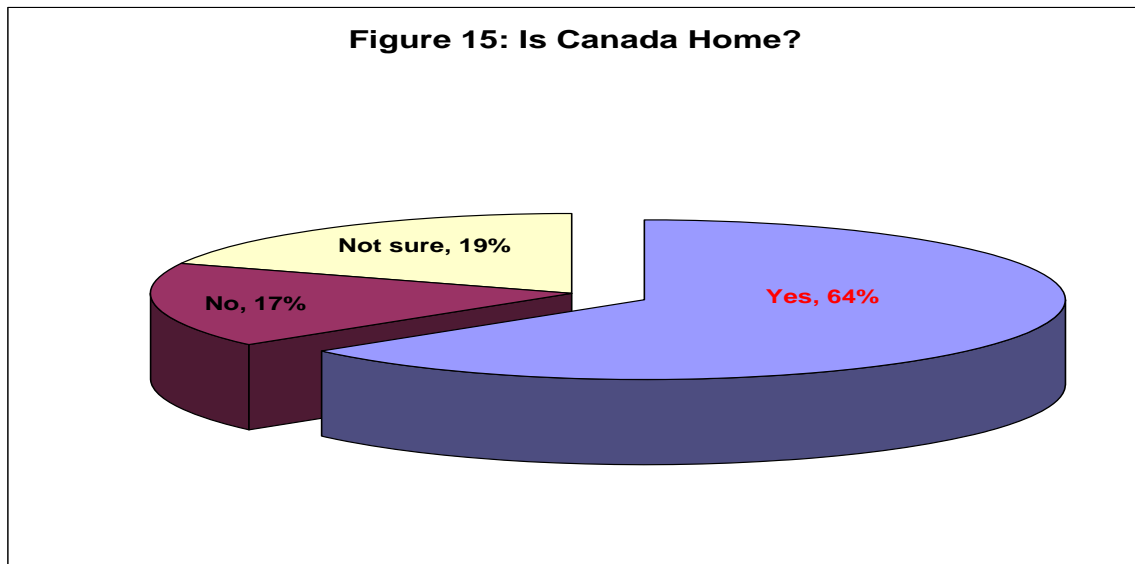
Sense of Belonging: Is Canada Home?

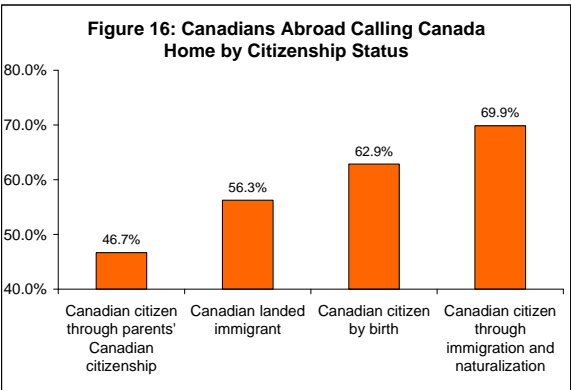
On the whole, members of the Canadian diaspora display significant personal linkages to Canada. One such linkage is respondents' personal sense of belonging to Canada. Nearly 64% of respondents indicate that they consider Canada their home. While another 19% say they are not sure whether Canada is their home or not, only 17% say, definitively, that Canada is not their home (Figure 15).

This sense of belonging varies notably by citizenship status. Canadians abroad who gained citizenship through immigration and naturalization recognize Canada as their home more frequently than any other group. Although this level of recognition is not significantly different from that of Canadians abroad who gained citizenship by birth, it is still notably higher — even taking into account survey variation. It may not be surprising, then, that Canadians abroad who gained citizenship through their parents have the lowest level of recognition that Canada is their home (Figure 16).

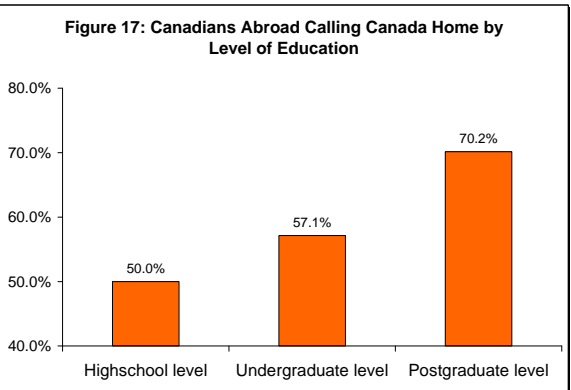
Educational background also appears to affect a group's personal linkages to Canada. In general, the higher the education level a respondent has, the more likely he or she will associate Canada with home (Figures 17-19). Likewise, the longer a Canadian lives abroad, the less likely he or she will consider Canada home. Respondents who have never lived in Canada have the lowest frequency of association. There is no statistical difference between the proportion of males and females who call Canada home.

Another linkage to Canada is respondents' close professional and personal associations with Canada. Respondents are almost evenly split over which country they most closely associate professionally with: Canada (47%) or their country of residence (46%). In terms of personal or family-life associations, 66% of respondents indicate that they feel closer to Canada than their host country (31%). This suggests that Canadians abroad may possess multiple national identities that gain prominence or diminish depending on the circumstance (Figure 20).

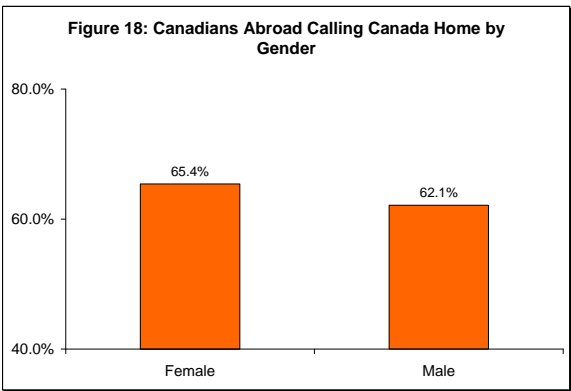




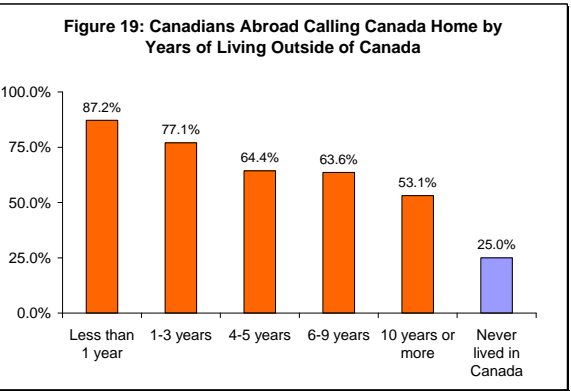
Note: N=527, Pr<0.1



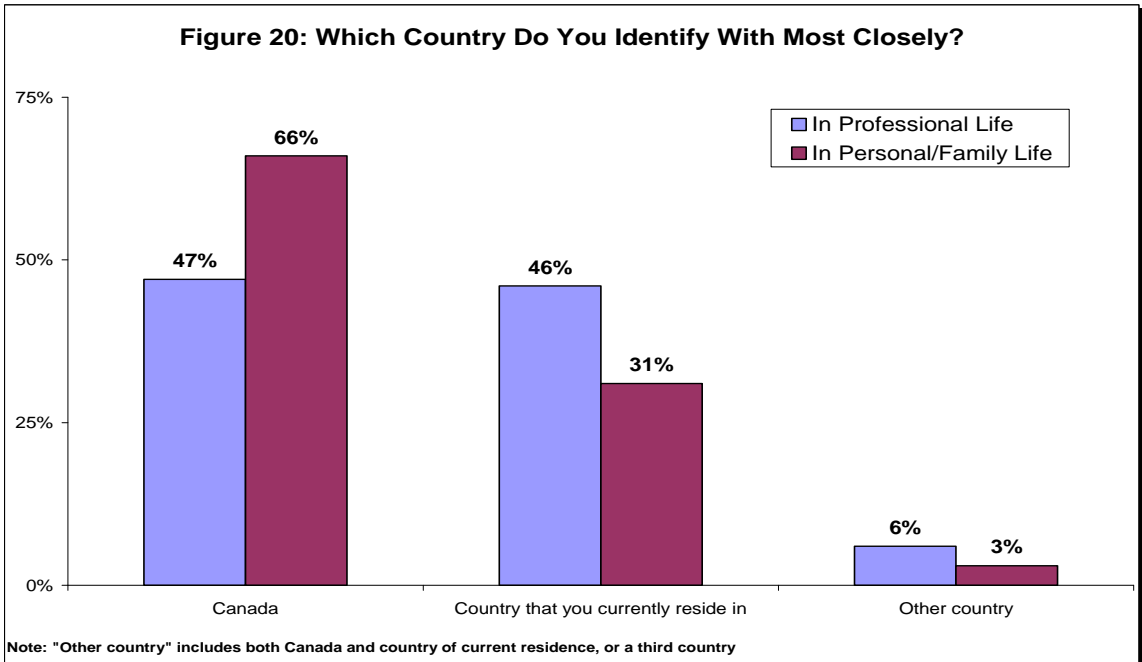
Note: N=501, Pr<0.1



Note: N=504, Pr=0.486



Note: N=527, Pr <= 0.001



3.3 Ties to Canada

Trips to Canada

The Canadian diaspora also keeps close physical ties with Canada. One such tie is visits to Canada; over 94% of respondents have visited Canada since they established principal residency abroad. Nearly 54% of respondents make at least one trip to Canada per year, among which 9% make three or more trips a year. Some 40% have made at least one trip to Canada every two years or more. Only 6% of respondents have never made a trip to Canada (Figure 21).

Visiting Canada as a means of connecting with Canada varies notably in accordance with their characteristics. Those who consider Canada as home make more trips to Canada than those who do not or not sure they regard Canada as home (Table 4). Canadian students, those working for a Canadian business or NGO and self-employed are likely the most frequent travelers who make three or more trips a year back to Canada. Canadian academics, those working for a Canadian business and government are likely the moderate travelers who make 1-2 trips a year to Canada (Figure 22).

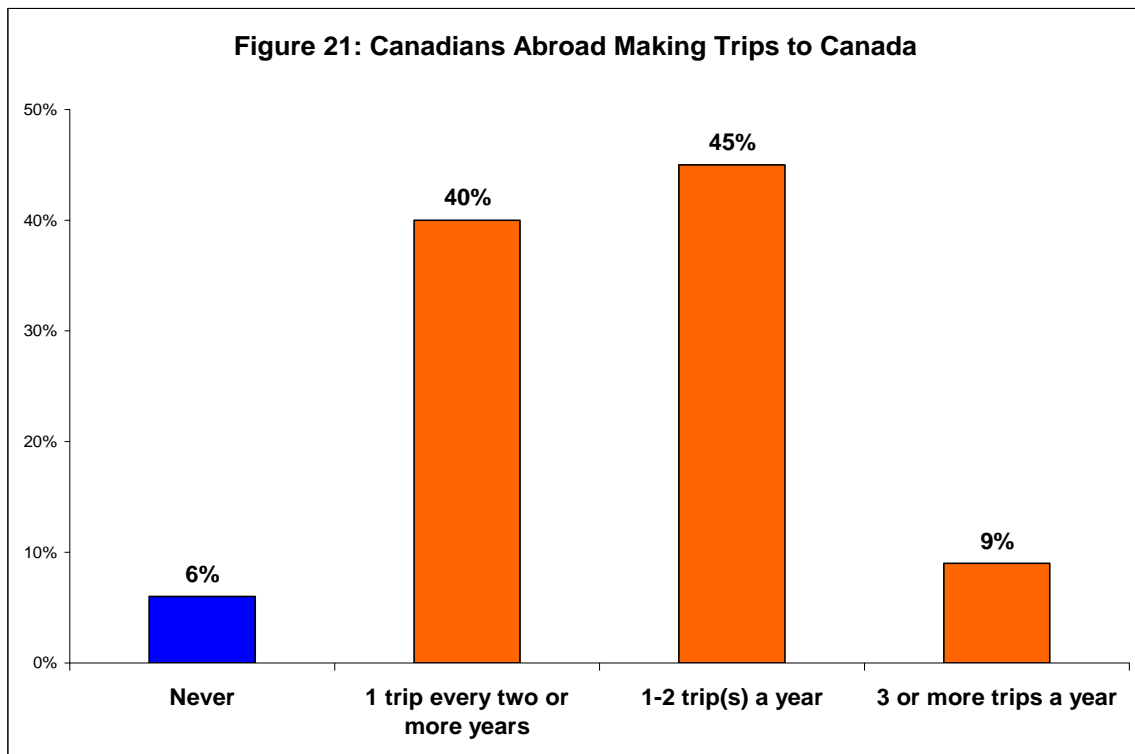
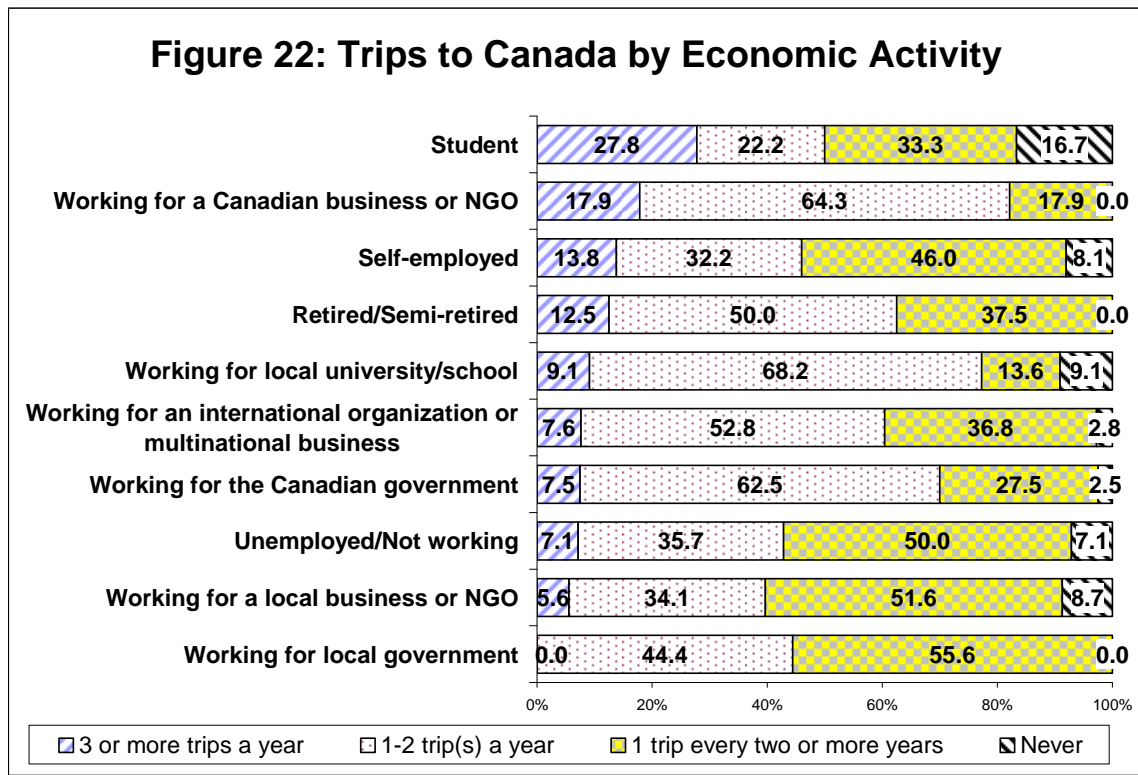


Table 4: Trips to Canada by Whether Considering Canada Home

	Consider Canada Home (%)		
	Yes	Not Sure	No
Never	4.7	4.06	11.4
1 trip every two or more years	34.0	54.5	48.9
1-2 trip(s) a year	48.5	37.6	37.5
3 or more trips a year	12.7	4.0	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
N=527	338	101	88
Pr<0.001			

Figure 22: Trips to Canada by Economic Activity

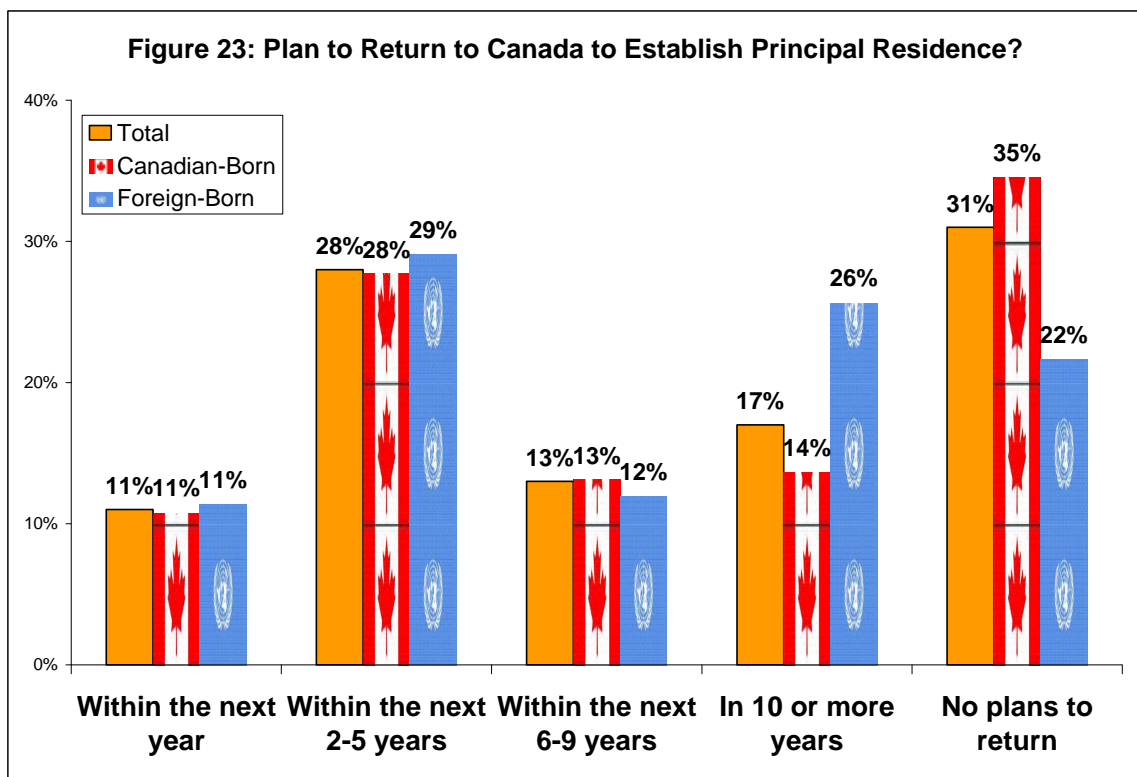


Note: N=527, Pr<0.001

Return to Canada

Re-establishing or planning to re-establish principal residence in Canada is another link between Canadians abroad and Canada. In total, as many as 69% of respondents indicate they have plans to return to Canada in the future; 11% report that will return within the next year, and 17% suggest their return will happen in 10 or more years. Over 40% of respondents indicate they plan to return to Canada within 10 years while 31% have no plans to return.

Canadian-born Canadians abroad are less likely to have plans to return to Canada compared with their foreign-born counterparts. However, foreign-born Canadians indicate their return will most likely be in 10 or more years.



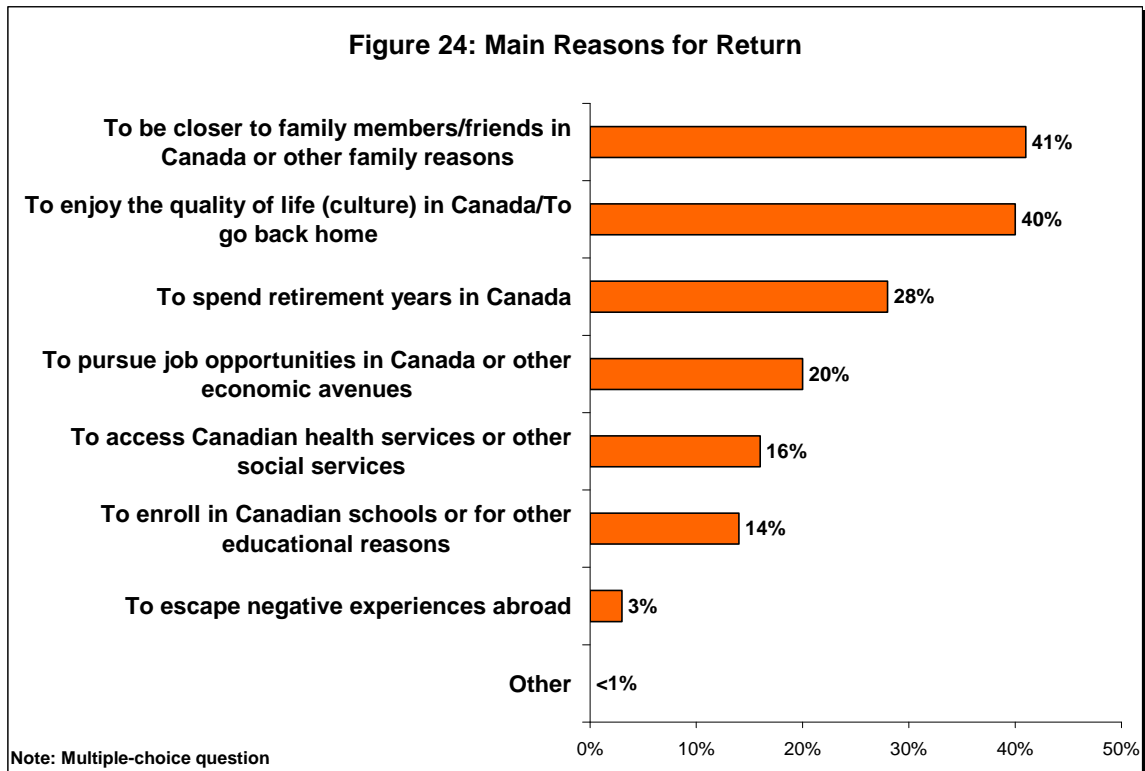
Note: N=525, Pr<0.01

Reasons for Return

The top reason cited by respondents for wanting to return to Canada is that they miss their family and friends after some years away from home. Nearly 41% respondents say they plan to return for this or other family-related reasons.

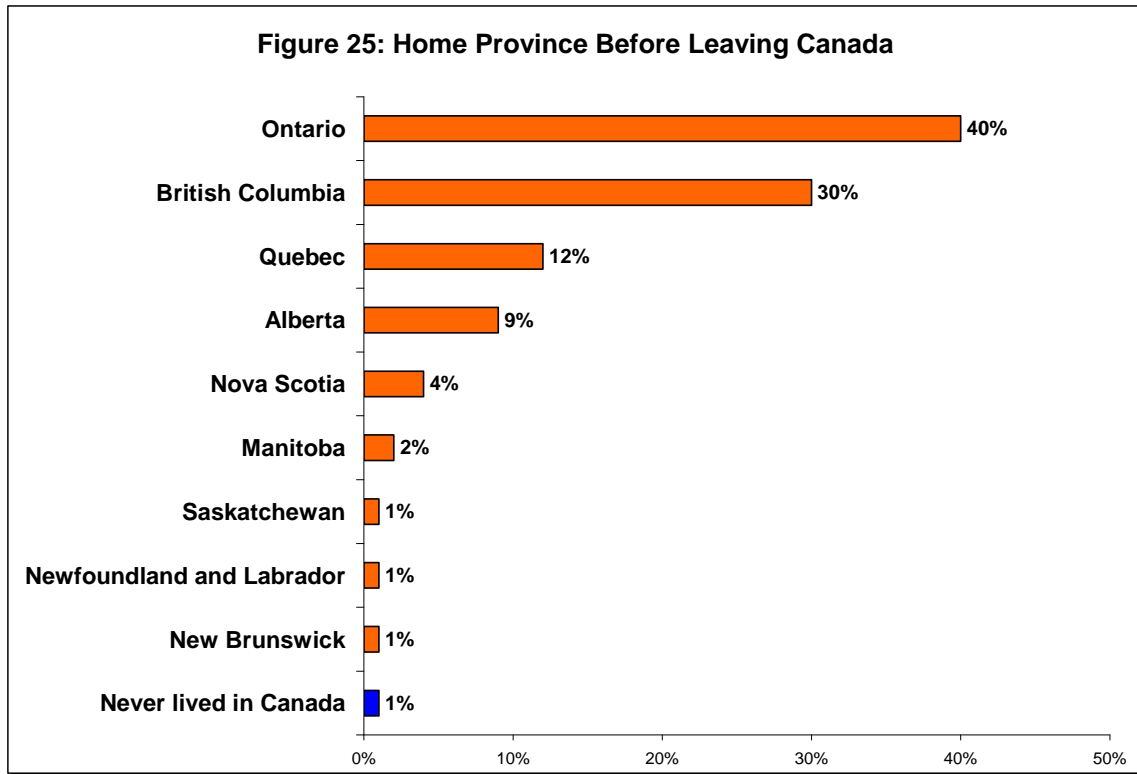
A second reason often cited by respondents is their longing for home: 40% of Canadians abroad report that they miss their home and the culture and quality of life in Canada. This indicates that psychological and cultural ties are important fibres of the connection to Canada that may ultimately bring many overseas Canadians back home.

Returning to Canada for retirement, which 28% of respondents indicate as one of the reasons they wish to return, is a natural end for those Canadians living abroad for job-related purposes. Similarly, job availabilities or other economic opportunities in Canada are likely important factors that will bring some members of the Canadian diaspora home. Access to health services, social services or educational opportunities in Canada also attract many overseas Canadians. In sum, a respondent's decision to return to Canada is the outcome of many factors, social and otherwise.



Province of Origin

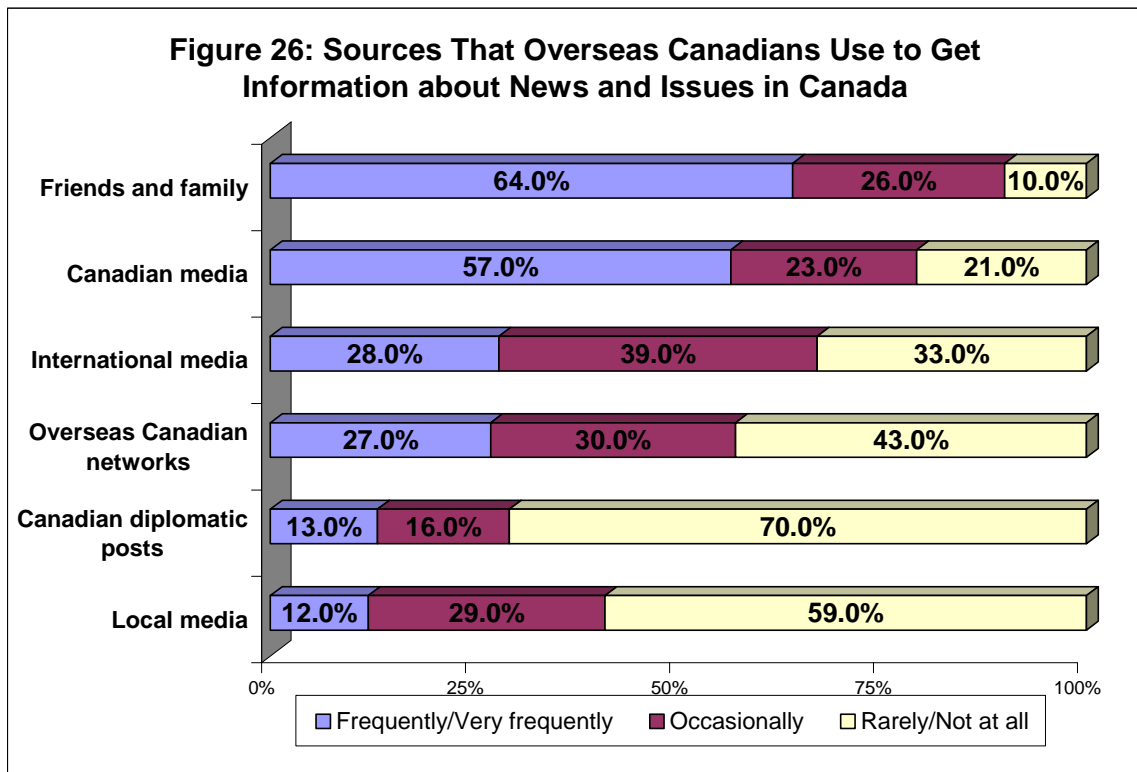
Many Canadians abroad associate “home” not only with Canada, but also with a particular province. The survey data shows that Ontario (40%) and British Columbia (30%) are the home provinces of most Canadians abroad. Quebec and Alberta are also the home province to a significant number, tallying 12% and 9% of responses respectively.



Keeping Ties

It is important not only to have close ties connecting Canadians abroad with Canada, but to also keep such ties strong. One way Canadians abroad achieve this is by keeping themselves updated on Canadian news, events and issues. The survey finds that friends and family are the most important source of Canadian news for overseas Canadians; 64% of respondents indicate that they get Canadian information “frequently” or “very frequently” from this source. The second leading information source for Canadians abroad is the domestic Canadian media (including print, web and broadcast sources), through which 57% of respondents get information about Canada “frequently” or “very frequently.” International media plays a moderate role in providing Canada-related news to Canadians living abroad; 12% of respondents indicate that local media is their key source for information on Canada.

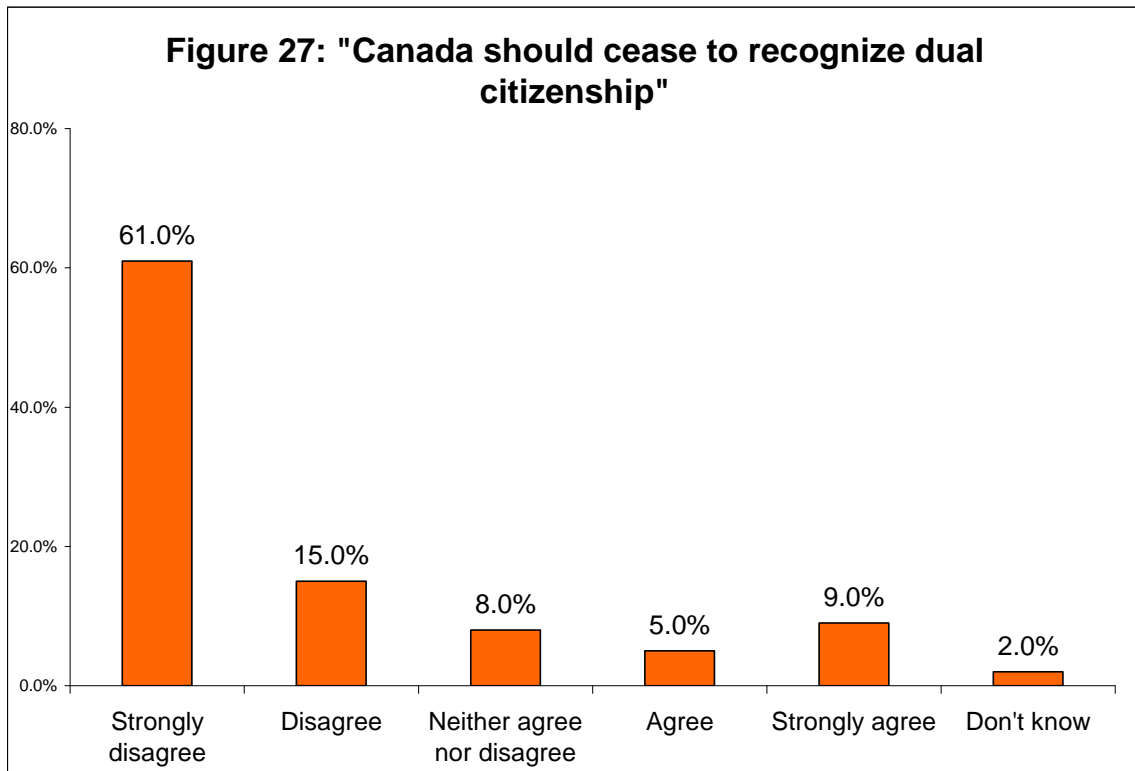
Surprisingly, overseas Canadian networks are rarely used as a primary source of information on Canada. Only 27% of respondents report that they “frequently” or “very frequently” get Canada-related information from overseas networks, while 43% of respondents indicate that they get Canada-related information from overseas networks “rarely” or “not at all.” As few as 13% of respondents indicate that they “frequently” or “very frequently” get information on Canada from Canadian diplomatic posts, while 70% say they do this “rarely” or “not at all.”



3.4 Views of Canadians Abroad

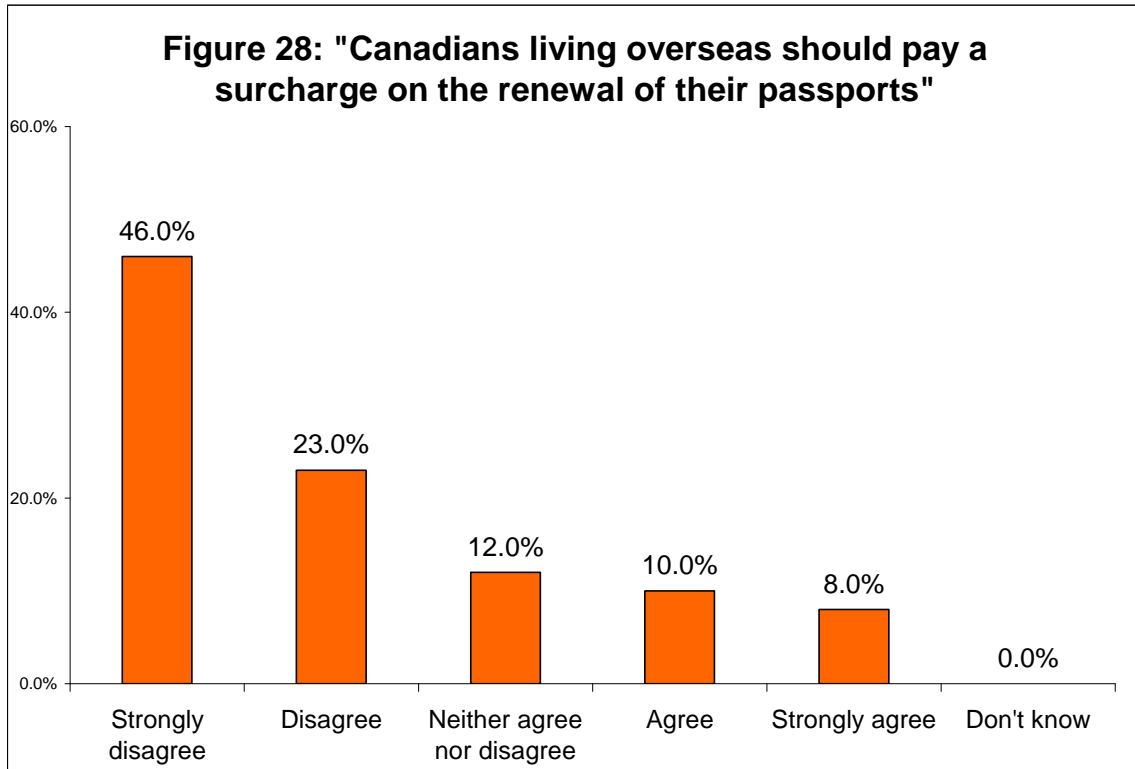
Dual Citizenship

One of the questions often raised in the public debate about Canada's overseas citizens is whether or not Canada should continue to recognize dual citizenship. To ascertain what Canadians abroad think about the issue, our survey contained the statement "Canada should cease to recognize dual citizenship," asking respondents to agree or disagree. The survey data suggests that most respondents strongly disagree: nearly 15% "disagree" and 61% "strongly disagree," while only 14% of respondents indicate they agree with the statement.



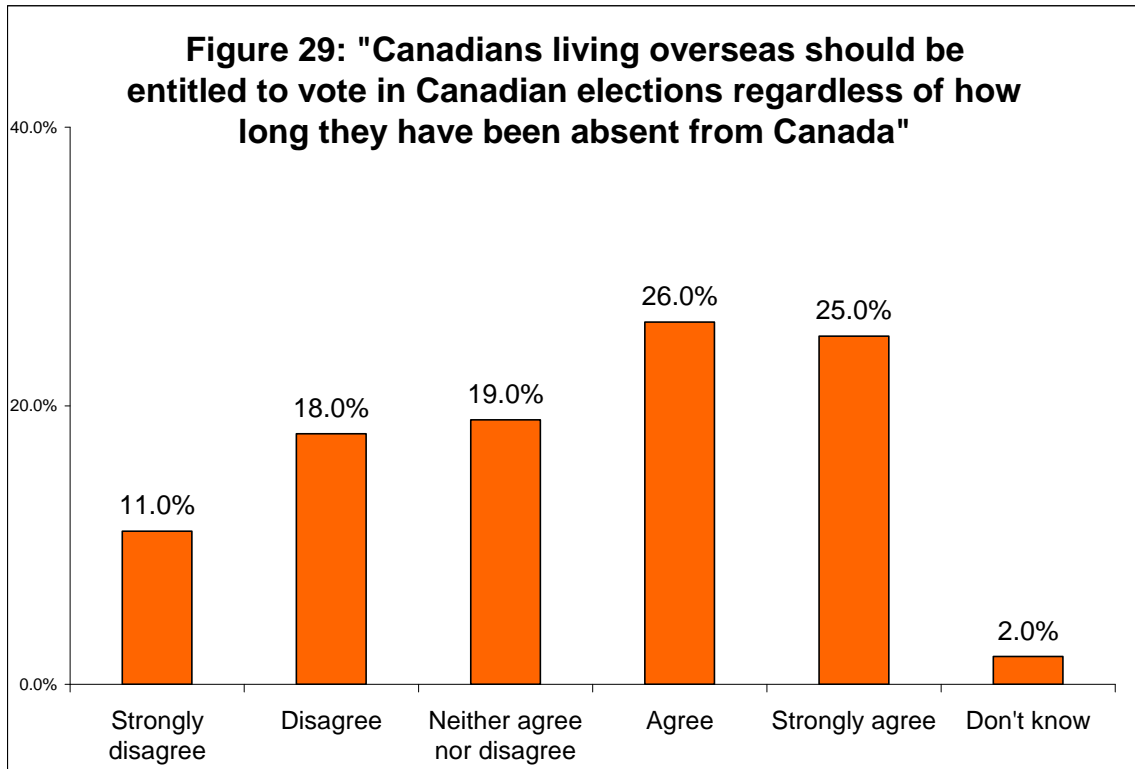
Passport Renewal Fee Surcharges

A majority of Canadians abroad would also oppose having to pay a surcharge on the renewal of their Canadian passports. Nearly 70% of respondents disagree or strongly disagree with the statement that “Canadians living overseas should pay a surcharge for the renewal of their passport.” Only 18% indicated agreement.



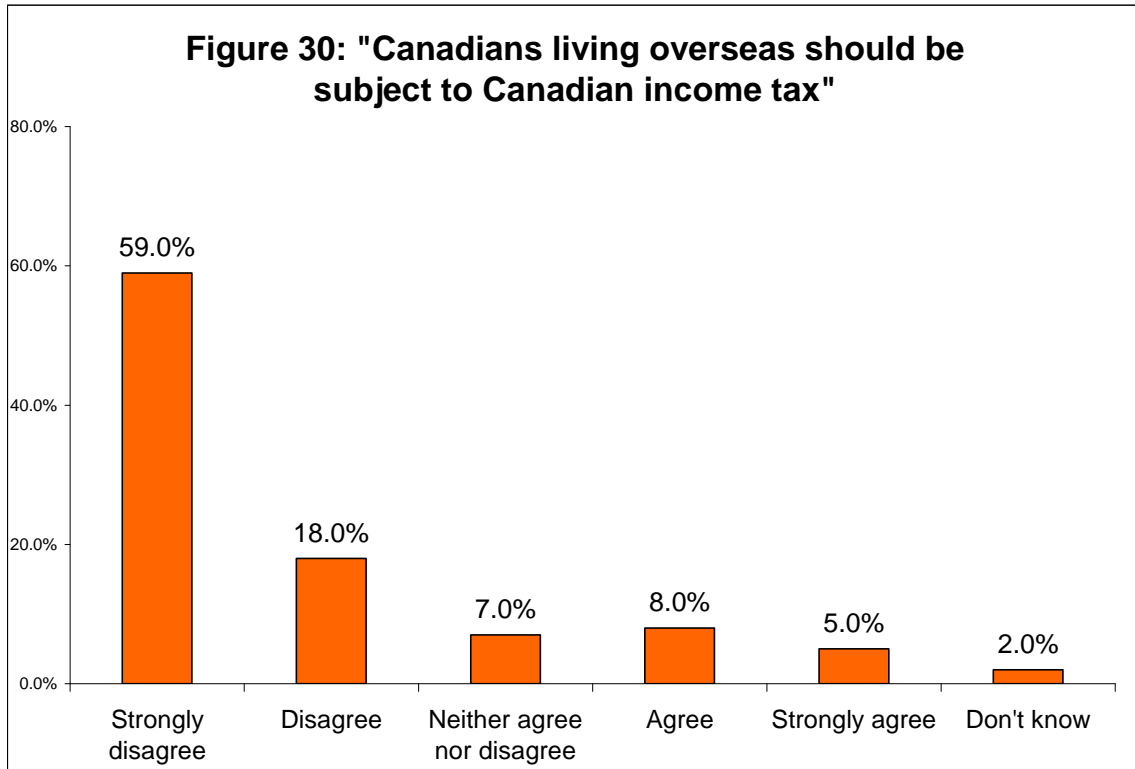
Voting

Canadians living abroad do not appear to have a strong desire to vote in Canada's elections. When asked to agree or disagree with the statement, "Canadians living overseas should be entitled to vote in Canadian elections regardless of how long they have been absent from Canada," just over 50% of respondents agreed. Some 29% of respondents do not agree with the statement, while the remaining 19% hold a neutral position.



Taxes

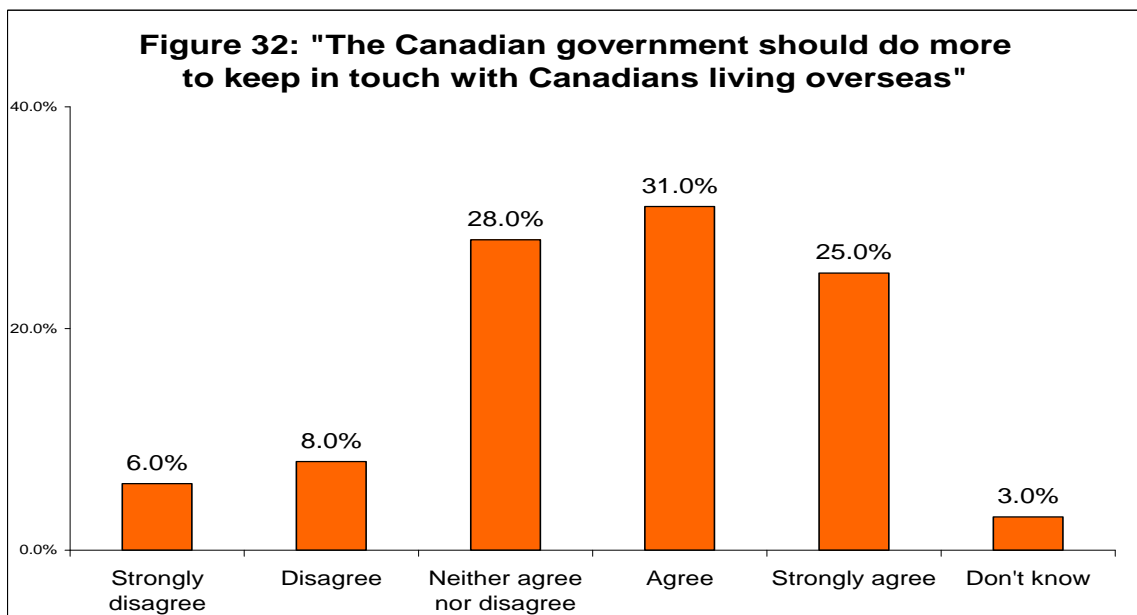
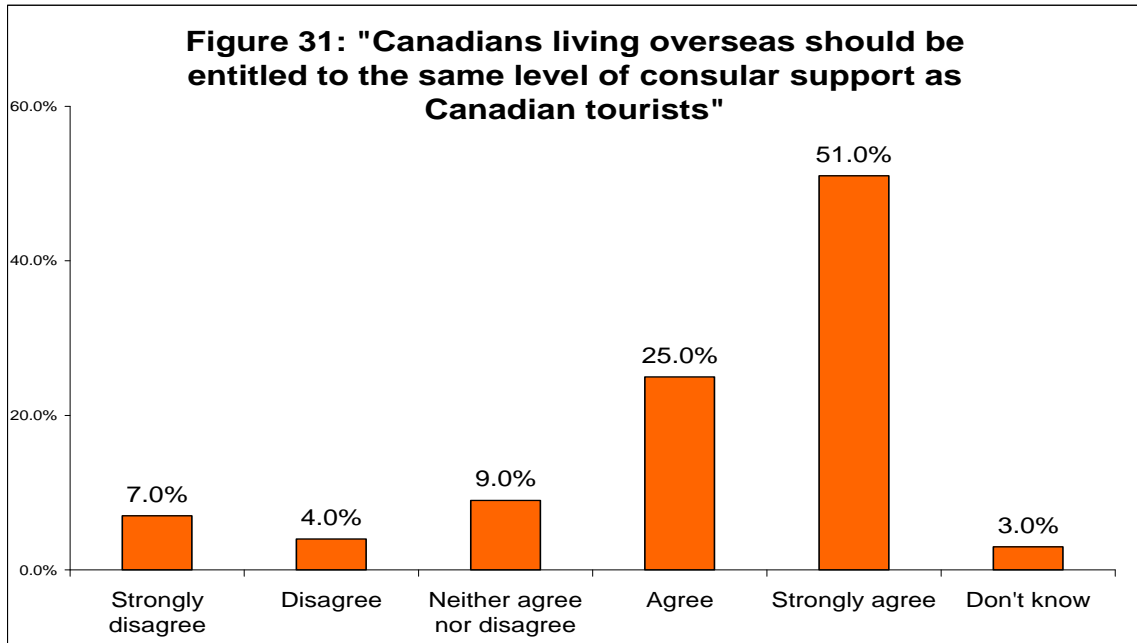
Being subject to Canadian income tax is also highly unpopular with Canadians abroad. Over 77% of respondents “disagree” or “strongly disagree” with the statement that “Canadians living overseas should be subject to Canadian income tax,” while as few as 13% of respondents agree.



Government Services

Canadians abroad on the whole feel that they should not be treated differently from Canadian tourists in terms of receiving Canadian consular support. When asked to respond to the statement, “Canadians living overseas should be entitled to the same level of consular support as Canadian tourists,” 76% of respondents agreed and 11% disagreed.

More than half of the survey respondents expect that “the Canadian government should do more to keep in touch with Canadians living overseas.” Only 14% disagree with this statement.



Benefits to Canada

Respondents' opinions on the potential benefits Canadians abroad may provide to Canada are detailed in Table 5. Respondents were asked to rate eight categories of benefits each on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being "of no benefit" and 5 being "of very great benefit."

Respondents most frequently espoused two benefits: that their overseas presence creates goodwill toward Canada, and that their overseas knowledge and skills are transferable to Canada. A second tier of benefits ranked high by respondents include the belief that:

- the network of overseas contacts created by Canadians abroad could be useful for other Canadians;
- Canadians abroad could be useful in creating or enhancing institutional and cultural links between Canada and their host countries;
- Canadians abroad could be useful in creating awareness of Canadian values and culture; and
- Canadians abroad could be useful in creating business, trade and investment links with Canada.

Respondents indicated that third-tier benefits, such as being able to influence host country policies toward Canada or sending remittances to family members in Canada, were not as important as the benefits cited above. Still, it is clear that most Canadians abroad view their benefits to Canada in a 'soft power' sense — they can influence a host country and its denizens in ways that Canadians at home cannot.

Table 5: Respondents' perception on the benefits to Canada derived from Canadians living abroad

Benefits	Rate the Benefits (where 1 = no benefit and 5 = the greatest benefit)							Mean of rating	Std. Dev.
	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know	Total		
Creating goodwill toward Canada	27 <i>5.3%</i>	12 <i>2.4%</i>	55 <i>10.8%</i>	174 <i>34.3%</i>	226 <i>44.6%</i>	13 <i>2.6%</i>	507 <i>100%</i>	4.13	1.07
Knowledge and skills that are transferable to Canada	20 <i>3.9%</i>	28 <i>5.5%</i>	75 <i>14.8%</i>	137 <i>27.0%</i>	227 <i>44.7%</i>	21 <i>4.1%</i>	508 <i>100%</i>	4.07	1.10
Network of overseas contacts for other Canadians	28 <i>5.5%</i>	19 <i>3.7%</i>	66 <i>13.0%</i>	164 <i>32.3%</i>	216 <i>42.5%</i>	15 <i>3.0%</i>	508 <i>100%</i>	4.06	1.11
Creating/enhancing institutional, cultural, and other links between host country and Canada	26 <i>5.1%</i>	18 <i>3.6%</i>	72 <i>14.2%</i>	180 <i>35.5%</i>	194 <i>38.3%</i>	17 <i>3.4%</i>	507 <i>100%</i>	4.02	1.08
Creating awareness of Canadian values and culture	26 <i>5.1%</i>	26 <i>5.1%</i>	77 <i>15.2%</i>	160 <i>31.6%</i>	209 <i>41.2%</i>	9 <i>1.8%</i>	507 <i>100%</i>	4.00	1.12
Creating business/trading/investment links with Canada	29 <i>5.7%</i>	28 <i>5.5%</i>	75 <i>14.8%</i>	148 <i>29.2%</i>	210 <i>41.4%</i>	17 <i>3.4%</i>	507 <i>100%</i>	3.98	1.16
Influencing host country policy toward Canada	40 <i>7.9%</i>	64 <i>12.6%</i>	133 <i>26.2%</i>	121 <i>23.9%</i>	100 <i>19.7%</i>	49 <i>9.7%</i>	507 <i>100%</i>	3.39	1.22
Sending remittances to family members in Canada	88 <i>17.4%</i>	82 <i>16.2%</i>	125 <i>24.7%</i>	85 <i>16.8%</i>	56 <i>11.0%</i>	71 <i>14.0%</i>	507 <i>100%</i>	2.86	1.30

Note: Percentages in italics are measured against the total number of respondents successfully enumerated.

4. Conclusion

This survey is part of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada's innovative study series on global Canadians. Using APF Canada's earlier estimation of the number of Canadians abroad as a starting point, this survey has attempted to provide a three-dimensional profile of Canadians living abroad. It has also aimed to obtain the views of Canadians abroad on specific policy issues that may have an impact on Canadian citizens living and working in the global economy, both at present and in the future.

This report has shed light on a number of unknowns surrounding the Canadian diaspora phenomenon, especially those regarding their demography, economic profiles, citizenship and identity, ties to Canada, and their views on aspects of Canadian domestic and foreign policies. It is hoped that this study will facilitate further public discussion in this area and contribute to a more balanced assessment of any policy that has an impact on Canadians, regardless of where they live.

The survey results have also suggested that Canadians are becoming more and more global, and that a large portion of this overseas population has retained a strong Canadian identity, kept close ties with Canada, and played an influential role abroad, where its influence on Canada's foreign relations is unique. By these accounts, a global Canadian population is a significant asset for a global Canada. How Canada utilizes this asset is one of the many challenges Canada must soon face. We at APF Canada hope this study serves as a reference point for future research, debate and discussion of the diaspora phenomenon — a small step in the right direction.

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Appendix A: About the Author

Kenny Zhang is Senior Research Analyst at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. Mr. Zhang received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in economics from Fudan University, China and the Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands, respectively. Prior to joining the Foundation, Mr. Zhang worked as an associate research professor at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) and as a senior researcher at the Centre of Excellence on Immigration Studies (RIIM) at Simon Fraser University. His main research interests focus on Canada-China trade and investment relations, China's domestic labour migration, Canada's immigration and emigration, and, most recently, the Canadian population abroad and its policy implications for Canada. Since May 2005, Mr. Zhang has been a member of the Vancouver Mayor's Task Force on Immigration.

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Appendix B: Acknowledgements

We are grateful to all the anonymous individuals who took part in the online survey. Without their participation, this study would have not been possible. We are especially grateful to the many Canadian organizations, associations and individuals who helped us in disseminating this survey information in Asia and the US. These organizations are listed in the following table of this Appendix.

Our thanks also go to Meyer Burstein, Shibao Guo, Jean Kunz, Chris Robinson and Wenhong Chen, all of whom provided invaluable research ideas and suggestions prior to the survey design. Special thanks must also be given to Don DeVoretz, who helped design the questionnaire and advised us on many research questions.

Several of our colleagues at APF Canada have contributed to this project. Yuen Pau Woo provided strong leadership in directing this study, and Ron Richardson and Christopher LaRoche helped extensively in editing this report.

List of Overseas Canadian Organizations Contacted in Asia and the US

Australia	
Canadian Australian Chamber of Commerce	www.canauscham.org.au
Canadian Australian Club, Sydney	www.canadianaustralianclub.com/aboutus.htm
Canadian Australian Club Gold Coast /Tweed Inc.	
Canada Club of Newcastle	
Tasmanian-Canadian Association	
Canada Club of Victoria Inc.	www.canadaclub-vic.org.au
Canadian Association of South Australia	www.canadainsa.org.au
The Canadian Club of WA Inc.	www.geocities.com/canadawa01/
Canada Australia New Zealand Business Association (CANZBA) – Vancouver	www.canzba.org
Canadian Club Québécois - Brisbane	
Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand	www.acsanz.org.au/
China	
Canada China Business Council - Beijing Office	www.ccbc.com/Beijing/
Canadians in China	www.canadiansinchina.com/
Club Canada	www.clubcanada.net/
Hong Kong	
Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong	www.cancham.org
Canadian Club in Hong Kong	canadianclub.org.hk/
Chinese Canadian Association Hong Kong	www.ccahk.org/
The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association	www.hkcba.com/

Indonesia

Canada Indonesia Business Development Office www.cme-mec.ca/cibdo/

Indonesia Canada Chamber of Commerce www.iccc.or.id

Japan

Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan - Tokyo Office www.cccj.or.jp

McGill MBA Japan www.mcgillmbajapan.com

Association of Canadian Teachers in Japan www.actj.org/joomla

Tokyo Canadian Club www.tokyocanadianclub.com

Quebecwa www.quebecwa.net

Canadian Alumni Association www.caaj.jp

Tokyo Canadians Hockey Club www.tokyocanadians.com

South Korea

Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Korea www.ccek.org

Malaysia

Malaysia-Canada Business Council www.malaysia-canada.com

Canadian Association of Malaysia www.canadians-in-kl.com/index.htm

Canadian Graduates' Association in Malaysia www.cgamalaysia.org

Malaysia-Canada Business Council (Sabah)

New Zealand

The Canada New Zealand Business Association www.canada-nz.org.nz

The Canadian Club of New Zealand www.canada-nz.org.nz/canadian_club.htm

Wellington Canada Club

Christchurch Canada Club

Philippines

Canadian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines www.cancham.com.ph

Canadian Club of the Philippines www.geocities.com/thecanadianonline/index.htm

Philippines - Canada Trade Council – Vancouver www.philcantrade.org

Singapore

Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Singapore www.cancham.org.sg

Canadian Association of Singapore www.canadians.org.sg

Taiwan

The Canadian Society in Taiwan www.canadiansociety.org

Thailand

The Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce www.tccc.or.th

Vietnam

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (HoChi Minh City) www.canchamvietnam.org

USA

Canada Arizona Business Council www.canaz.net

O Canada Tucson www.ocanadatucson.com

The Phoenix Expat Canadian Meetup Group canadian.meetup.com/3/?gjs=sj21

Digital Moose Lounge (Silicon Valley) www.digitalmooselounge.com

Canadians Abroad (Los Angeles)	www.canadiansabroad.com
Québécois a Los Angeles	www.quebecoisalosangeles.org
Canadians in San Diego – CanDiego.org	www.candiego.org/index.htm
Canada25 of San Francisco	www.canada25.com/index.html
Newfoundland Club of California	www.newfoundlandclubofcalifornia.net/index.asp
CanAm - The Canadian American Society of the Southeast	www.canamsociety.org
Canadian Women's Club of Atlanta	www.cwatlanta.org
Canadian Club of Chicago	www.canadianclubofchicago.org
Canadian Women's Club of Chicago	www.cwcchicago.com
Canadian Club of Boston	www.canadianclubofboston.com
Canadian Women's Club of Boston, Inc.	www.canadaclub.org
The New England-Canada Business Council	www.necbc.org
Upper North Side	www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/uppernorthside
Canadian Association of New York	www.canadianassociationny.org
Canadian Women's Club of New York City	www.cwcny.org
CanSouth Club	www.cansouth.org
Canada-America Society of Seattle	www.canada-americasociety.org
Canadian Business Network	www.canadianbusinessnetwork.com
Canadian American Business Council	www.canambusco.org
Canadian-American Chamber of Commerce	www.canamcc.org/index.html
Other	
CRA Magazine	www.cramagazine.com
Canadian Expatriates Blog	canadianexpatriatesblog.blogspot.com
Canadian Abroad Resource Guide	www.geocities.com/canadians_abroad
Association of Canadian Clubs	www.canadianclub.ca
Connect2Canada	www.connect2canada.com

Note: Highlighted organizations are those that helped the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada disseminate survey information to Canadians abroad.

Appendix C: Survey Questionnaire

Responses to this survey are strictly confidential and will only be used in the aggregate.

This survey is directed at Canadian citizens or landed immigrants currently living outside of Canada. Please indicate if you are a

- Canadian citizen by birth (continue)
- Canadian citizen through parental rights (continue)
- Canadian citizen through immigration (continue)
- Canadian landed immigrant (continue)
- Neither Canadian citizen nor landed immigrant (stop)

1. Where is your current principal residence?

- Australia
- China (PRC)
- Hong Kong SAR
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Korea (Republic of)
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Philippine
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- USA
- Vietnam
- Other _____

2. How many years have you lived outside of Canada?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-3 years
- 4-5 years
- 6-9 years
- 10 years or more
- Never lived in Canada

3. What is your main reason for living abroad?

- Job/career opportunities
- Cost of living
- Tax reasons
- Educational reasons
- Family/personal reasons
- Lifestyle/climate reasons
- Health reasons
- Other _____

4. Which one of the following categories best describes your current employment situation?

- Working for the Canadian government
- Working for a Canadian business or NGO
- Working for an international organization or multinational business
- Working for a local business or NGO
- Self-employed
- Unemployed
- Student
- Retired
- Other (please specify) _____

5. What is your citizenship?

- Citizen of Canada only
- Citizen of Canada and other country
- Citizen of Canada with “permanent residency” status in other country
- Landed immigrant of Canada and citizen of other country

5b. Please indicate the name of “other” country that you have citizenship or permanent residency

6. In your professional life, which country do you identify most closely with?

- Canada
- Country that you currently reside in
- Other country (please indicate) _____

7. In terms of your personal/family life, which country do you identify most closely with?

- Canada
- Country that you currently reside in
- Other country (please indicate) _____

8. Do you consider Canada as your home?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

9. Since living abroad, how often do you on average return to Canada for visits?

- Never
- 1 trip every two years or more
- 1-2 trip(s) a year
- 3 or more trips a year

10. Which of the following statements best describes your situation?

- I plan to return to Canada to establish my principal residence within the next year
- I plan to return to Canada to establish my principal residence within the next 2-3 years
- I plan to return to Canada to establish my principal residence within the next 4-5 years
- I plan to return to Canada to establish my principal residence within the next 6-9 years
- I plan to return to Canada to establish my principal residence in 10 or more years
- I have no plans to return to Canada to establish my principal residence (skip to 15)

11. What would be your main reason for returning to Canada? (Select all that apply)

- To spend retirement years in Canada
- Job opportunities in Canada or other economic reasons
- To enrol yourself or family members in Canadian schools or other educational reasons
- To be closer to family members in Canada or other family reasons
- To enjoy quality of life in Canada
- To access Canadian health services or other social services
- Negative experiences abroad
- Other (please specify) _____

12. On a scale of 1-5, please indicate your level of agreement/disagreement with the following statements (1 = strongly disagree; 2 = disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 4 = agree; 5 = strongly agree)

- 12a) Canada should cease to recognize dual citizenship
- 12b) Canadians living overseas should be entitled to the same level of consular support as Canadian tourists
- 12c) Canadians living overseas should pay a surcharge for the renewal of their passports
- 12d) Canadians living overseas should be entitled to vote in Canadian elections regardless of how long they have been absent from Canada
- 12e) Canadians living overseas should be subject to a tax on their global income
- 12f) The Canadian government should do more to keep in touch with Canadians living overseas

13. On a scale of 1-5, please rate the benefits of Canadians living abroad for Canada as a whole (1 = no benefit, 2 = little benefit; 3 = moderate benefit; 4 = great benefit; 5 = very great benefit, DK = don't know)

- Knowledge and skills that are transferable to Canada
- Remittances to family members in Canada
- Creating business/trading/investment links with Canada
- Creating awareness of Canadian values and culture
- Creating goodwill towards Canada
- Creating/enhancing institutional, cultural and other links between host country and Canada
- Influencing host country policy towards Canada
- Network of overseas contacts for Canadians
- Other (please specify) _____

14. On a scale of 1-5, please rate the extent to which you get information about news and issues in Canada from the following sources (1 = not at all; 2 = rarely; 3 = occasionally; 4 = frequently; 5 = very frequently)

- Canadian media (print, web, or broadcast)
- Overseas Canadian networks
- Local media
- International media
- Canadian diplomatic posts
- Friends and family
- Other (please specify) _____

15. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

16. Year of birth _____

17. Which one of the following best describes your highest education level?

- Postgraduate level
- Undergraduate level
- High school level
- Other _____

18. Province of residence before leaving Canada:

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- Prince Edward Island
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan
- Northwest Territories
- Yukon
- Nunavut
- Never lived in Canada

Thank you!



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