

Half of Canadians say restoring diplomatic ties with India was 'right move' as economic issues take priority

Majority say Canada should still approach India with caution in advance of Anand's trip

October 13, 2025 – Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand makes the first ministerial trip to India in two years as the Canada-India relationship continues to thaw after a lengthy freeze during the end of previous Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's time in office.

New data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute, in partnership with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, finds that Canadians believe – by a two-to-one margin (51% to 22%) – it was the “right move” rather than the wrong one to restore ties with India. The two countries had recalled diplomats after Trudeau levelled allegations that India was involved in the killing of a Canadian Sikh activist in Canada in 2023.

Alongside this openness to reconnection, Canadians are expressing notes of caution. A majority (54%) have unfavourable views of India, and three-in-five (59%) believe Canada should approach the world's most populous country at least with caution (35%) or as a potential threat or enemy (23%).

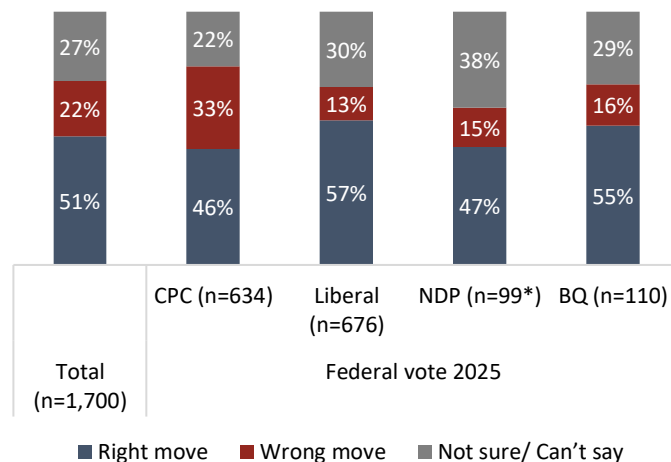
There is also evidence that Canadians' priorities in the relationship between Canada and India have also shifted in the wake of the economic upheaval caused by U.S. President Donald

Trump's tariffs. When asked what should be most important to Canada in its relationship with India, Canadians are split evenly between saying the rule of law (52%) and trade opportunities (48%). Last year, the balance was much more towards the former (62%) than the latter (38%).

More Key Findings:

- Canadians are split as to whether India is “as good a trade partner as any” (38%) or one Canada should avoid (34%).

Do you believe it was the right or wrong move for Canada to restore diplomatic ties with India?



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute, in partnership with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, conducted an online survey from Sept. 25-29, 2025, among a randomized sample of 1,700 Canadian adults who are members of [Angus Reid Forum](#). The sample was weighted to be representative of adults nationwide according to region, gender, age, household income, and education, based on the Canadian census. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was commissioned and jointly paid for by ARI and APF Canada. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

For more information on our polling methods, [click here](#).

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- Prior to the allegations of India's involvement in the murder – levelled by Trudeau – Canadians were as likely to view India favourably (44%) as unfavourably (43%). Since then, unfavourable views have been the majority opinion.

About Angus Reid Institute

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research foundation established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.*

About Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

*The **Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada)** is an independent, not-for-profit public institution focused on Canada's relations with Asia. Its mission is to be Canada's catalyst for engagement with Asia and Asia's bridge to Canada. APF Canada is dedicated to strengthening ties between Canada and Asia through its research, education, and convening activities. APF Canada's research provides high-quality, relevant, and timely information, insights, and perspectives on Canada-Asia relations for Canadians and stakeholders across the Asia Pacific. APF Canada also works with business, government, and academic stakeholders to provide Asia Competency training for Canadian organizations and students.*

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Half say 'right move' to restore ties with India

Since securing a minority government in April, Prime Minister Mark Carney and the Liberal government has sought a new relationship with India. Relations have been tense and conflicted for a number of years now, after Canada announced it had evidence linking India to the killing of [Hardeep Singh Nijjar](#), a Canadian Sikh activist who was murdered in June 2023. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service also said this summer that India [remains a concern](#) over foreign interference.

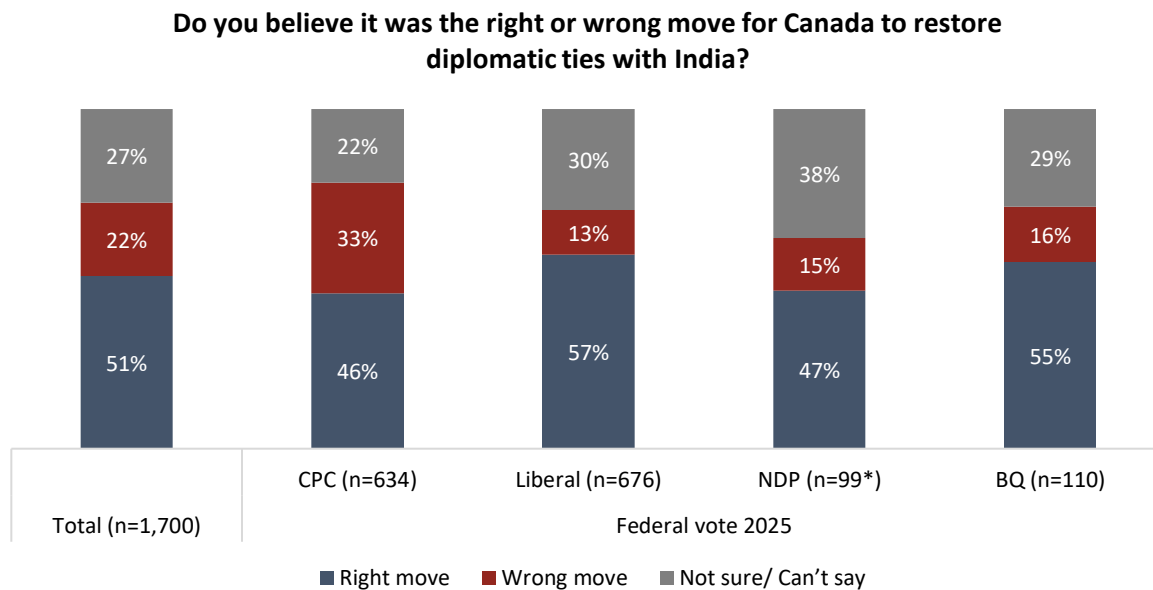
Despite this, the Carney government signalled a willingness to re-engage with India, as the Canadian Prime Minister met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June at the G7. While recent reports that trade talks have already begun were [dampened by Canadian officials](#), the relationship appears to be

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moving forward as Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand visits the country this week, the first such ministerial visit [in two years](#).

Canadians are more supportive than opposed to the idea of restarting the diplomatic relationship. Half (51%) say this was the right move, while one-in-five (22%) disagree. There is more support than opposition to the restoration of ties across the political spectrum:



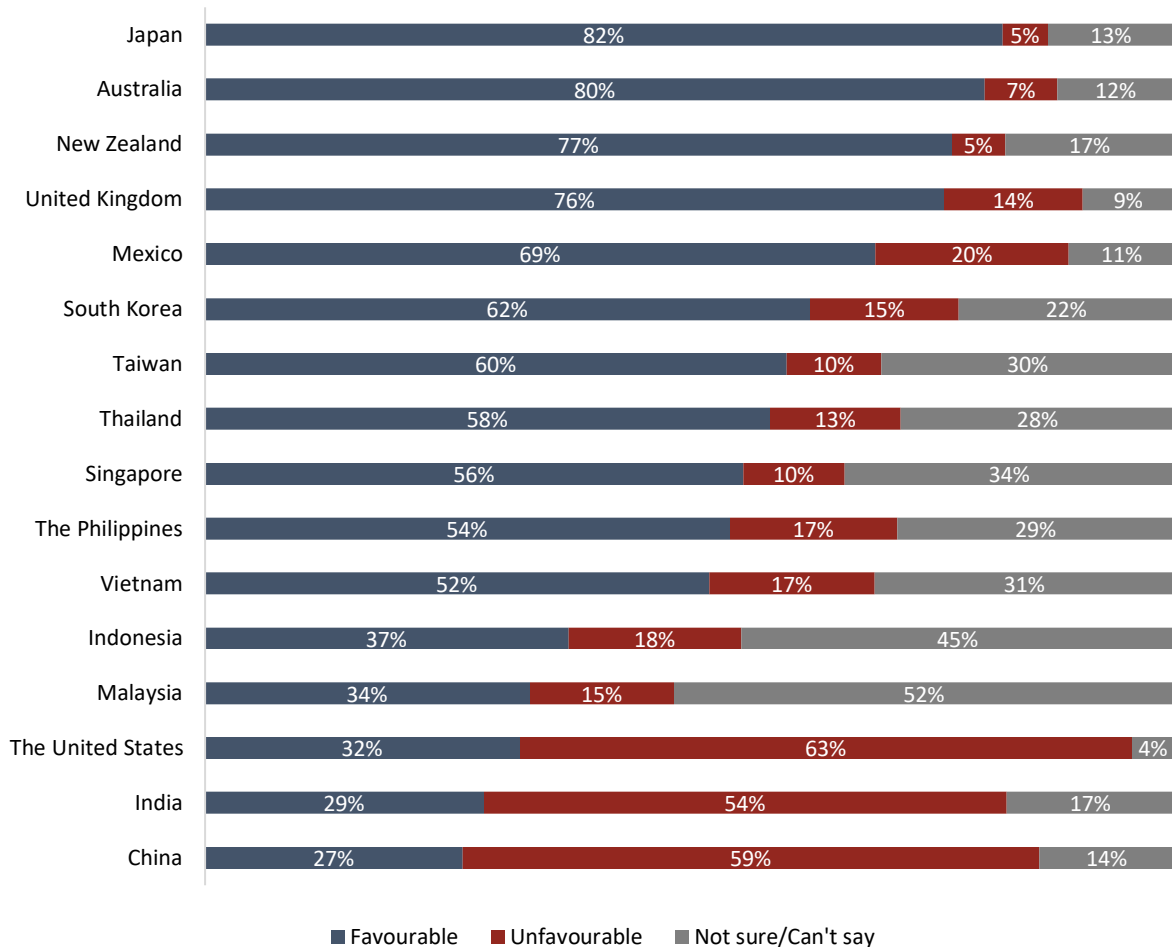
But Canadians' views of India more negative than not

The restoration of ties with India, and Canadians' openness to it, come as a majority say they have an unfavourable view of the world's most populous country. Three-in-ten (29%) say they view India positively, putting assessments at the lower end of other Asian countries and at a similar level to those of the United States:

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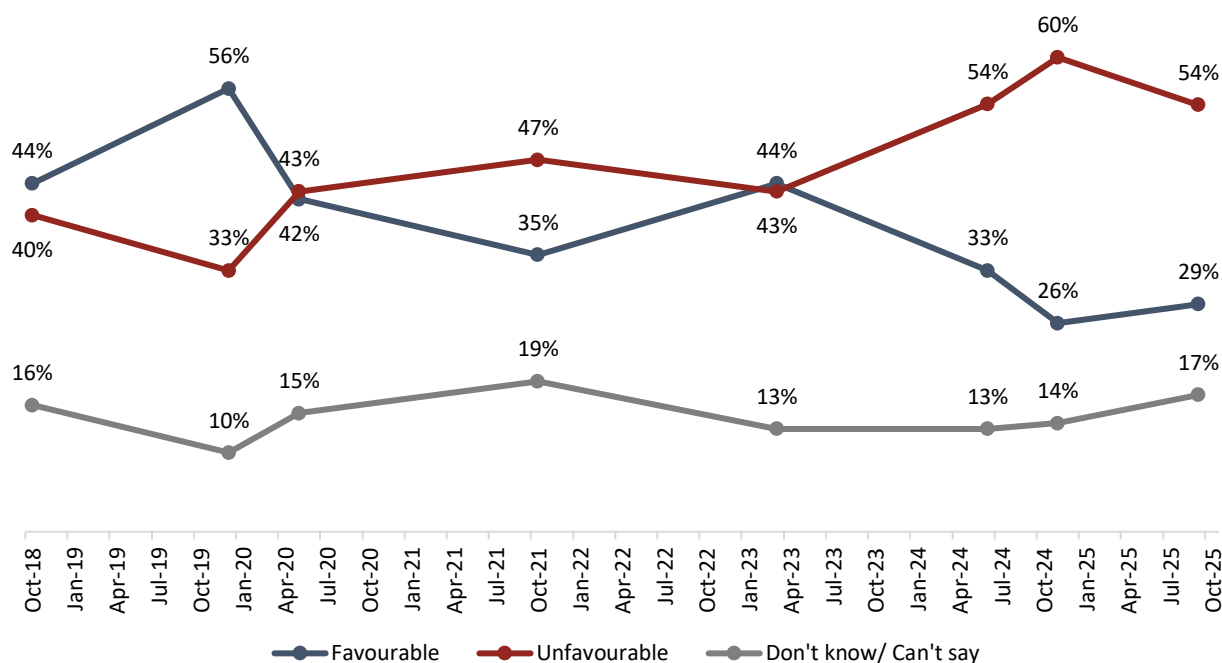
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**Overall, would you say you have a favourable or unfavourable view of each of the following regions, countries, or economies?
(All respondents, n=1,700)**



There are fewer Canadians who say they have a negative view of India now (54%) than did so a year ago (60%), but recent assessments are much more negative than they were prior to 2023 and the chilling of the relationship after the Nijjar allegations:

Canadians' views of India over time



Most say Canada should approach India cautiously or as a potential threat

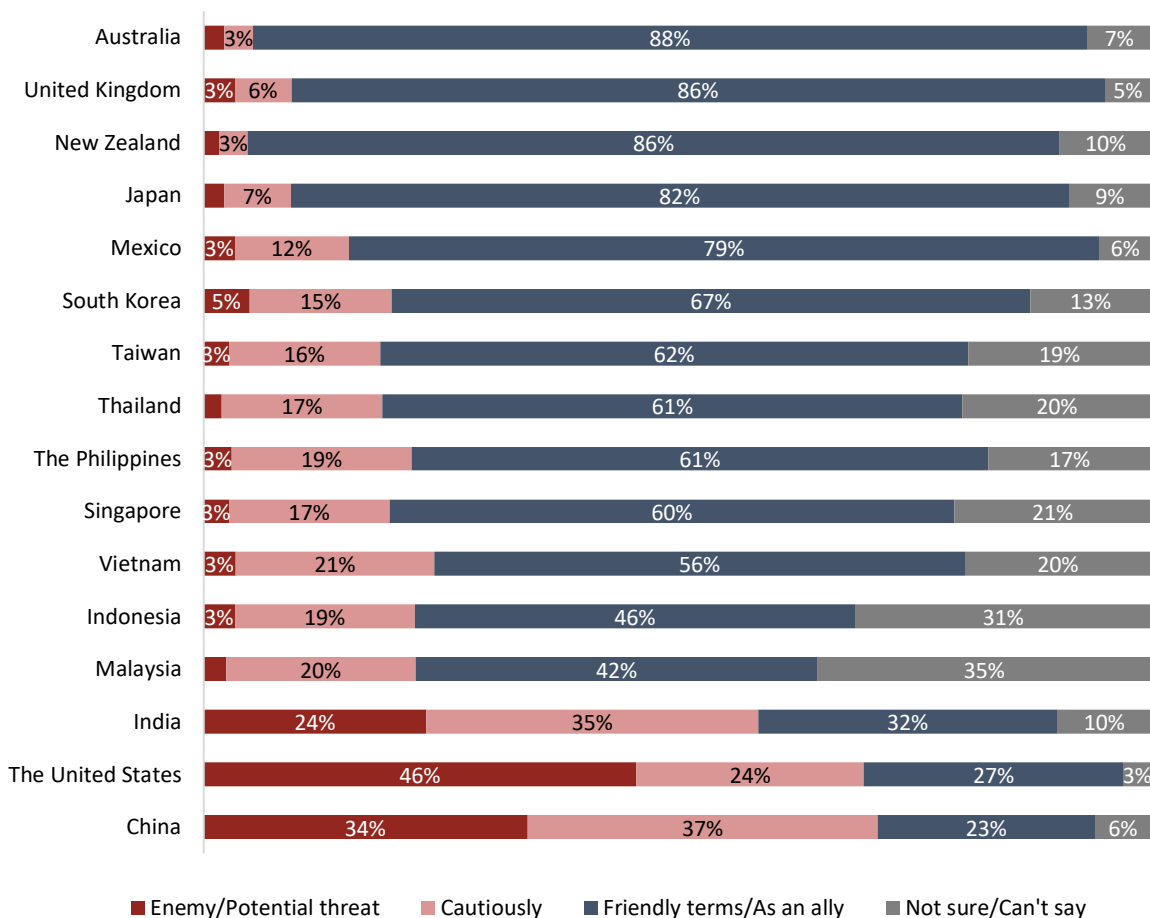
It follows then that Canadians express caution as to how they want Anand and the Liberal government to proceed as diplomatic ties are restored. One-quarter (24%) say they believe the government should approach India as a potential threat (16%) or even an enemy (7%, see detailed tables). A further one-third (35%) say caution is necessary in the Canadian government's approach, while a similar sized group (32%) believes Canada should view India as a valued partner and ally (6%) or at least as a friendly nation (25%).

Compared to other Asian countries, with the exception of China, Canadians want a guarded approach to India:

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**From an overall point of view, how do you think the Canadian government should approach each of the following regions, countries or economies:
(All respondents, n=1,700)**



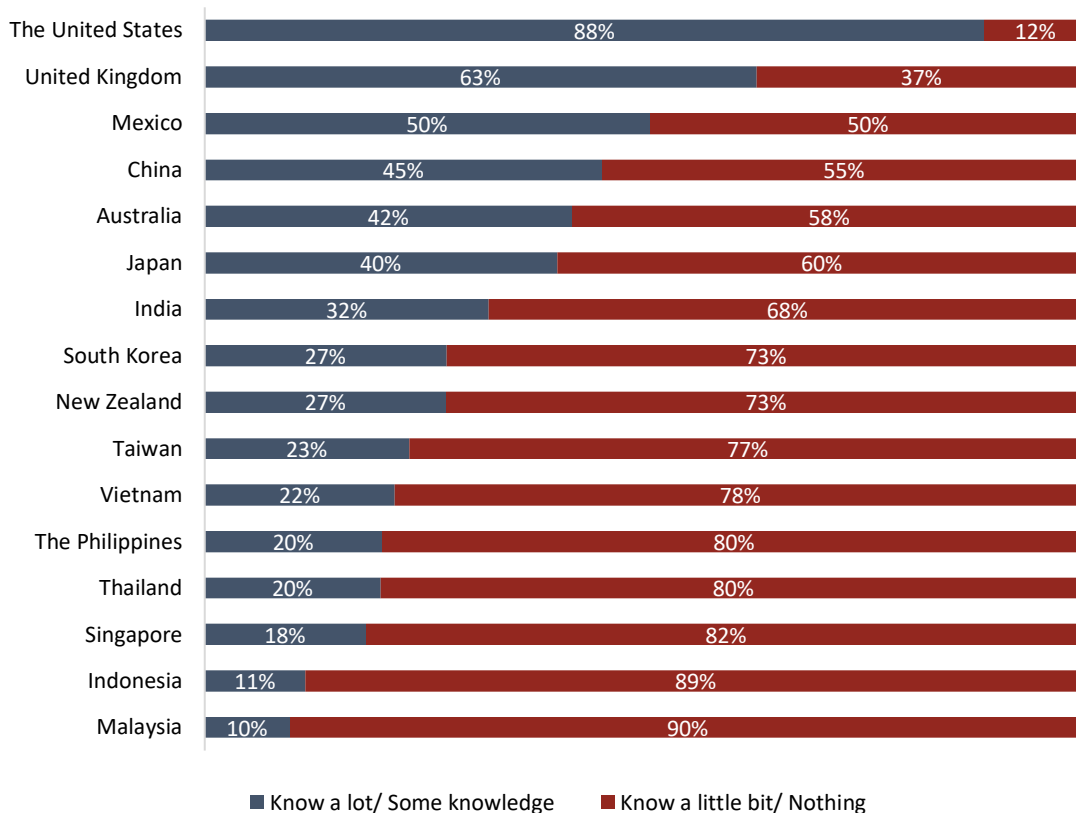
Knowledge of India among Canadians is lower than other major countries

Canadians pair a desire for wariness in their government's approach with more knowledge when it comes to China and the United States than India. Approaching nine-in-ten (88%) Canadians say they have knowledge of the U.S., while more than two-in-five (45%) say the same of China. Comparatively, one-third (32%) say they have at least some knowledge of India, putting it below Japan, Australia, Mexico, the U.K. and the aforementioned China and the U.S.:

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How much would you say you know about each of these regions, countries or economies:
(All respondents, n=1,700)



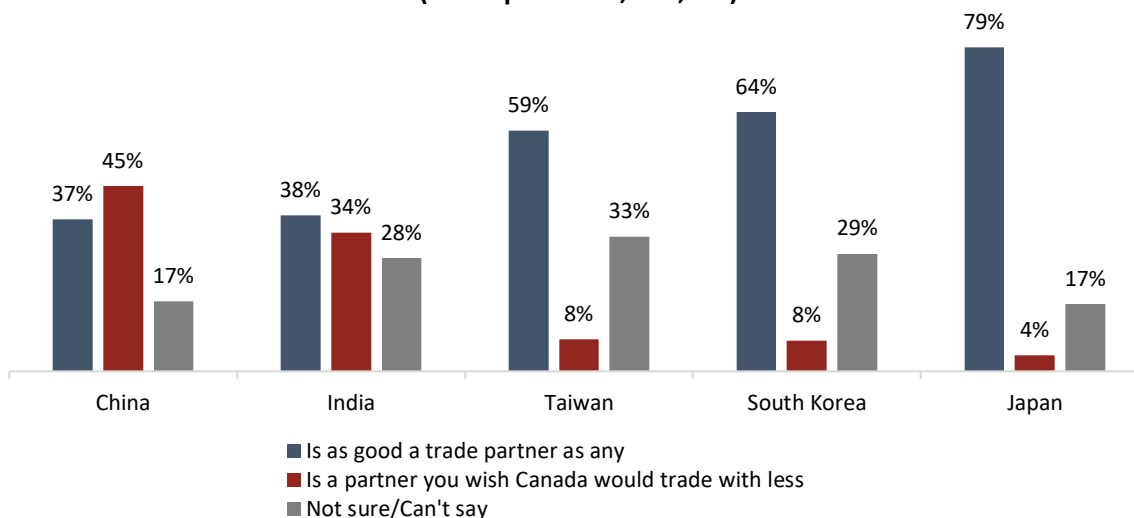
Canadians divided as to whether they view India as ‘good’ trade partner or one to avoid

Although there appears to be a desire from Canadians to rebuild diplomatic ties with India, one-third express hesitation when it comes to deepening economic ties. Two-in-five (38%) describe India as “good a trade partner as any,” but nearly as many Canadians (34%) say they wish Canada would trade less with the country. A significant segment, nearly three-in-ten, say they aren’t sure.

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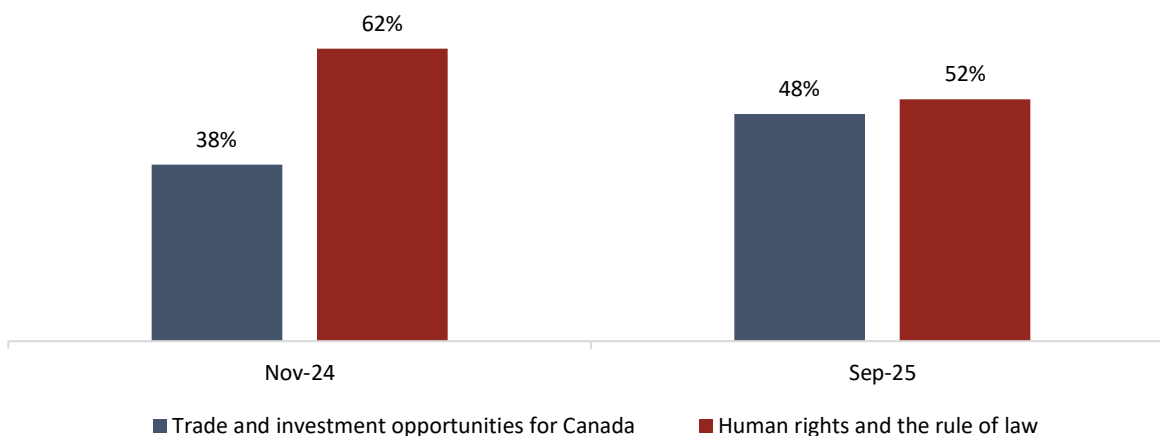
**When you specifically think about these regions, countries or economies as trade partners for Canada, would you say...
(All respondents, n=1,700)**



Shifting priorities on economic opportunities vs. the rule of law in dealings with India?

The state of the international order has certainly changed during the second term of United States President Donald Trump, who has upset previous economic pathways, especially for Canada. Canadians are now divided between believing the rule of law should be the utmost concern in the Canada-India relationship (52%) and saying that Canada should be prioritizing trade opportunities (48%). Human rights and the rule of law was more likely to be the priority for Canadians in Canada's dealings with India last year, when three-in-five (62%) said that should be more important than investment opportunities.

Thinking about Canada's overall relationship with India, what should be more important:

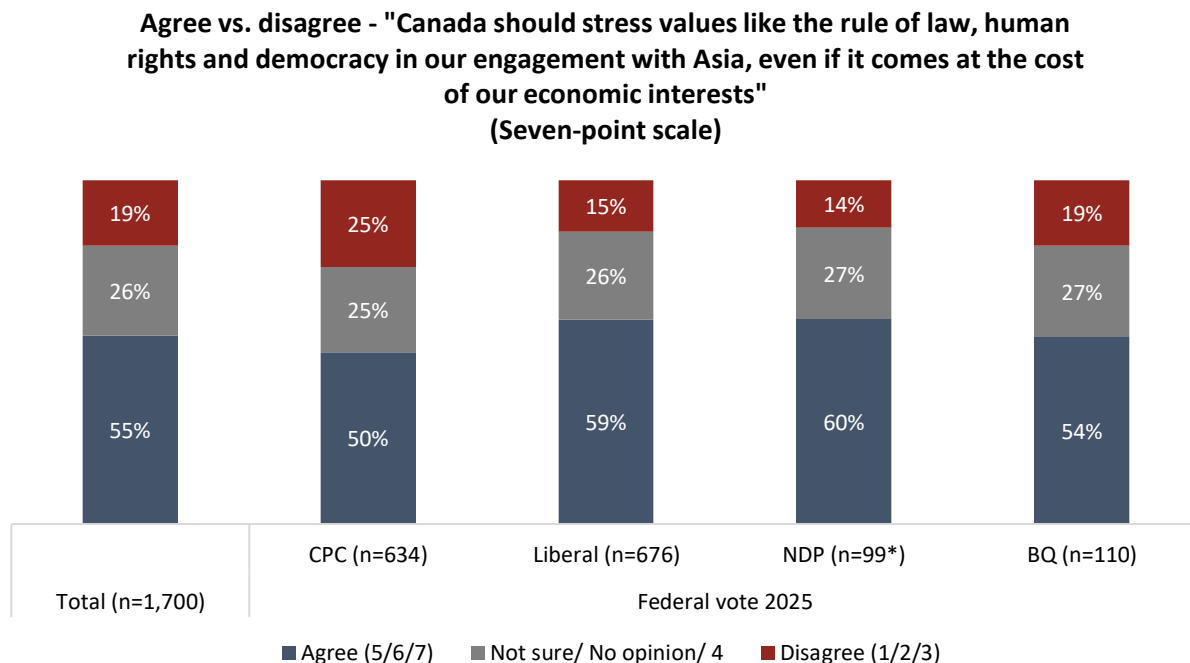


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The diplomatic freeze between India and Canada highlights the other concerns that often play into international relationships. The thaw happened even with those concerns – [the allegations of India's involvement in the murder of Nijjar and accusations of India's interference in Canadian elections](#) – still outstanding.

Generally, a majority (55%) of Canadians believe that “values like the rule of law, human rights and democracy in our engagement” should be stressed even at a potential economic cost. This belief is held by at least half of all groups of past voters:



For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, click [here](#).