



SENATE OF CANADA

CANADIANS' PERCEPTIONS ON VARIOUS

CURRENT AFFAIRS TOPICS

MARCH 2014

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Context and objectives

The Senate of Canada has appointed CROP to measure Canadians' perceptions on various current affairs topics.

The following pages display the results.

Methodology

Data collection

Online data collection was conducted from **March 12th to 16th, 2014** via web panel. A total of **1700 questionnaires** were completed among Canadian adults.

Weighting and representative nature of the sample

Quebec

Results were weighted in order to reflect the distribution of the adult population of Quebec according to respondents' gender, age, region of residence, mother tongue, and level of education. In addition, a series of questions from our major annual Panorama study (formerly known as 3SC) on personal values was added to the questionnaire. This allowed us to weight the sample based on respondents' personal values according to a probabilistic sample.

Canada

Results were weighted in order to reflect the distribution of the adult population of Canada according to respondents' gender, age, and region of residence.

Note that due to the non-probabilistic nature of the sample, calculation of margin of error does not apply.

How to read the data

Significant differences that are...

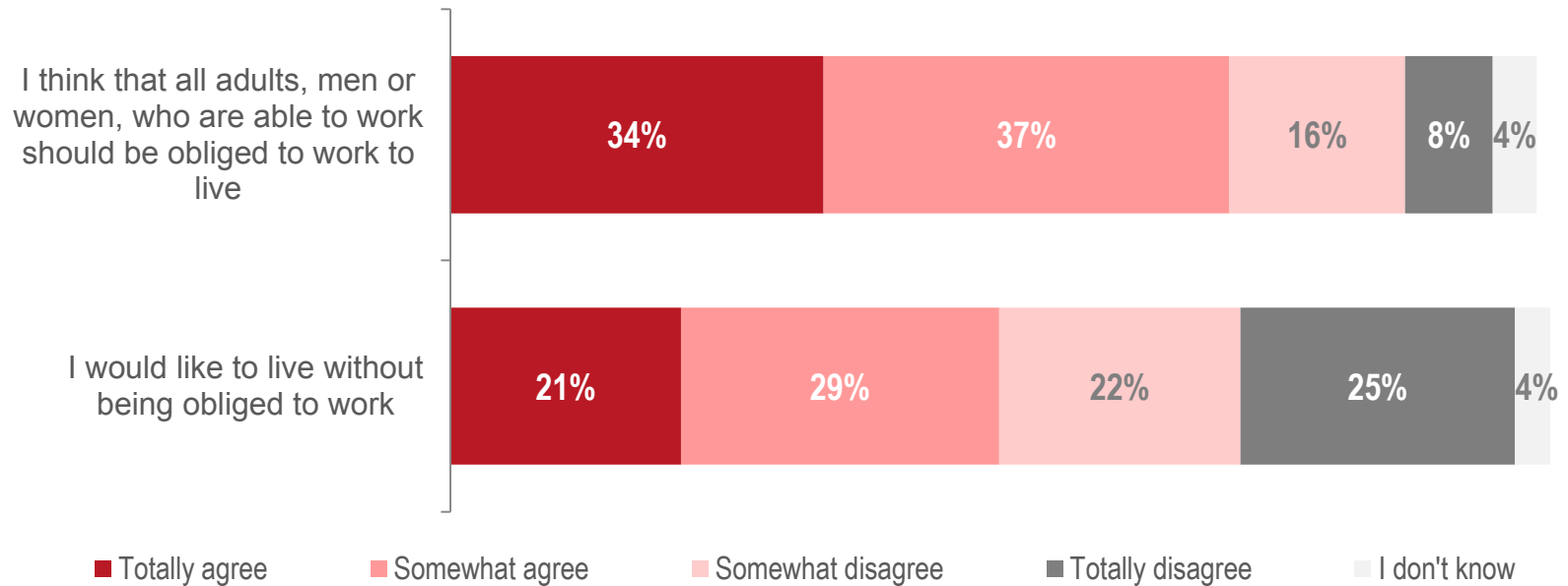
...higher are indicated **IN BLUE**

...lower are indicated **IN RED**

Perceptions about employment

Perceptions about the obligation to work

Sample: total respondents, n=1700



Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Perceptions about the obligation to work

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

		REGION					GENDER		AGE			
% TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL	MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD	
	n=	1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656
I think that all adults, men or women, who are able to work should be obliged to work to live	72%	83%	73%	73%	56%	78%	71%	72%	64%	72%	78%	
I would like to live without being obliged to work	50%	49%	36%	54%	59%	54%	53%	47%	61%	54%	37%	

More Canadians believe that all adults who are able to work should be obliged to work than people who would like to be able to live without being obliged to work.

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Most important aspect of job

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

		REGION					GENDER		AGE			SITUATION	
	TOTAL	MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD	ACTIVE POP.	INACTIVE POP.
	n= 1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656	1126	574
Earning a high salary	37%	37%	41%	27%	49%	41%	40%	34%	33%	32%	44%	34%	43%
Having a stable job	33%	28%	32%	42%	21%	26%	27%	38%	26%	38%	33%	34%	31%
Doing work that is interesting	13%	14%	11%	14%	12%	13%	18%	8%	21%	14%	5%	16%	4%
Having a flexible schedule	13%	13%	9%	14%	14%	14%	10%	16%	19%	13%	7%	15%	8%
None of these aspects	3%	5%	4%	2%	3%	6%	3%	4%	1%	1%	8%	1%	10%
I don't know	2%	3%	5%	1%	0%	0%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%

Doing work that is interesting and job stability are the two most important aspects for Canadians.

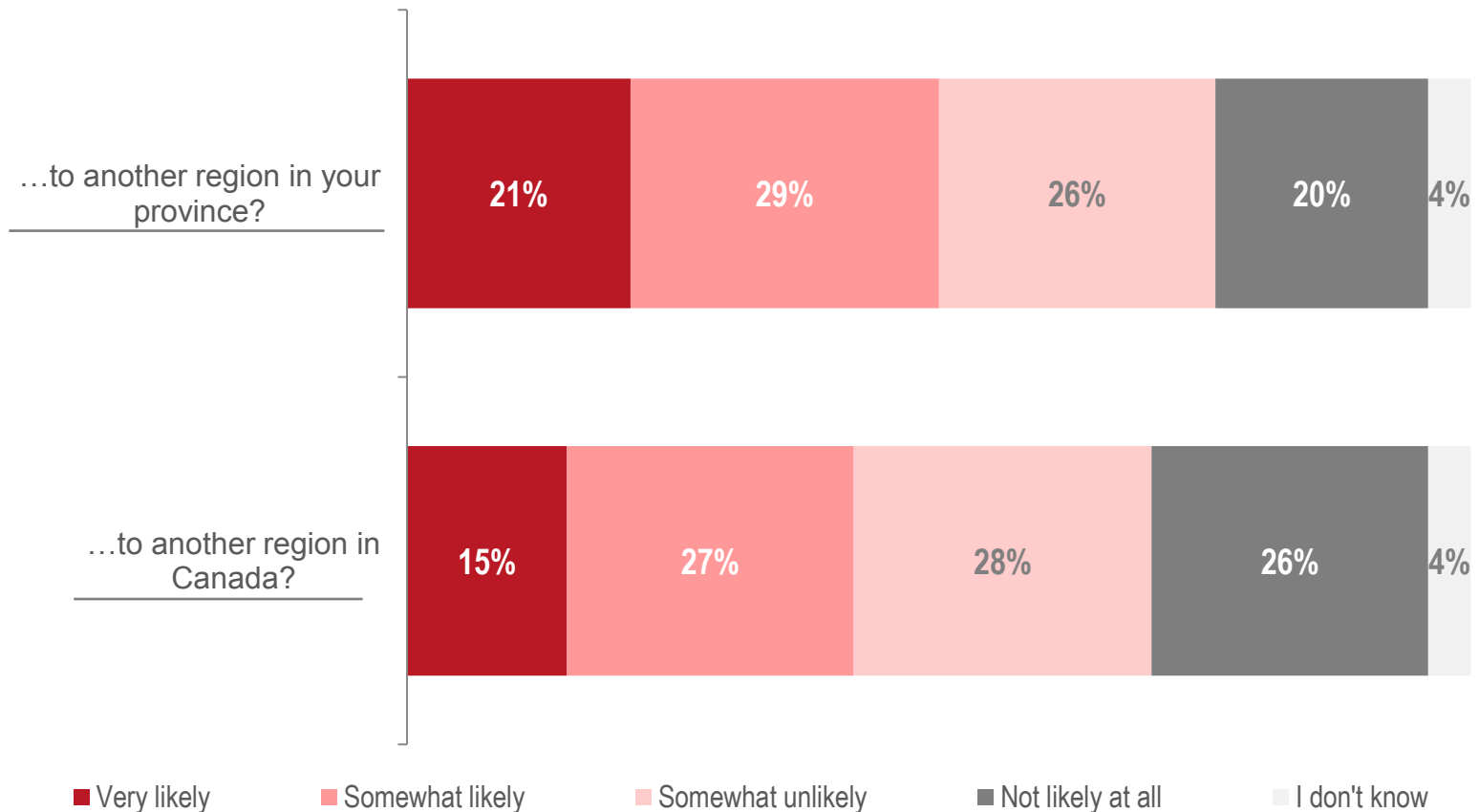
Young people tend to place more value on a high salary and a flexible schedule while older people place more importance on their level of interest in their work.

Note that men tend to place more importance on their level of interest in their work while women tend to favour stability.

Q2. Personally, which of the following aspects is/would be MOST IMPORTANT to you when it comes to your current job/if you had a job?

Likelihood of accepting a job that obliges them to move

Sample: total respondents, n=1700



Q3. If you are or were looking for a job, would you be willing to accept a job that would oblige you to move...

Likelihood of accepting a job that obliges them to move

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

% TOTAL PROBABLE	TOTAL n=	REGION						GENDER		AGE			SITUATION	
		MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA		MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD	ACTIVE POP.	INACTIVE POP.
	1700	151	1000	205	192	152		748	952	377	667	656	1126	574
...to another region <u>in your province</u>	50%	59%	44%	50%	45%	61%		58%	43%	53%	50%	48%	52%	44%
...to another region <u>in Canada</u>	42%	50%	33%	41%	52%	47%		50%	35%	49%	41%	38%	45%	36%

Half of Canadians would be willing to accept a job that would oblige them to move within their province. This likelihood goes down to 42% if the move were to another part of Canada.

Q3. If you are or were looking for a job, would you be willing to accept a job that would oblige you to move...

Likelihood of agreeing to take training courses

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

		REGION					GENDER		AGE			SITUATION		
	TOTAL	MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD	ACTIVE POP.	INACTIVE POP.	
	n=	1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656	1126	574
TOTAL YES	93%	92%	86%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	96%	94%	89%	94%	89%	
Yes, if the training courses were fully financed by my employer or the government	61%	61%	55%	64%	65%	60%	59%	63%	74%	61%	51%	64%	55%	
Yes, even if I had to share the costs with my employer or the government	31%	31%	31%	32%	30%	34%	34%	29%	22%	33%	38%	30%	34%	
No	4%	6%	7%	3%	3%	2%	5%	4%	2%	4%	6%	4%	6%	
I don't know	3%	2%	7%	1%	2%	4%	2%	4%	2%	2%	5%	2%	5%	

Almost all Canadians would be willing to take training courses to get a new job or to keep their current job.

Q4. To get a new job or keep the one you have, would you be willing to take training courses or not?

Level of interest in following a skills development training program

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

	TOTAL	REGION					GENDER		AGE		
		MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD
n=	1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656
TOTAL INTERESTED	83%	84%	73%	87%	85%	85%	83%	83%	92%	85%	73%
Very interested	47%	52%	40%	53%	41%	50%	43%	51%	53%	47%	44%
Somewhat interested	35%	32%	33%	34%	44%	34%	39%	32%	39%	38%	29%
TOTAL NOT INTERESTED	7%	8%	13%	4%	8%	3%	7%	7%	4%	5%	11%
Not very interested	3%	3%	8%	2%	3%	0%	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%
Not interested at all	4%	5%	5%	2%	5%	3%	3%	4%	0%	2%	8%
I don't think employment insurance should be used for this purpose	7%	6%	7%	7%	5%	8%	7%	6%	3%	5%	11%
I don't know	4%	2%	7%	2%	2%	4%	3%	4%	1%	4%	5%

The majority of Canadians would be interested in following a skills development training program if it was financed by the employment insurance program.

Q5A. Would you be interested in following a training program to develop skills related to your job if it was financed by the employment insurance program, like parental leave?

Maximum age to follow a skills development training program

Sample: interested in following a work-related training program, n=1344

	TOTAL	REGION					GENDER	
		MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN
n=	1344	123	767	173	155	126	595	749
Up to age 30	6%	8%	5%	7%	3%	7%	8%	5%
Up to age 40	17%	18%	15%	18%	21%	14%	20%	14%
Up to age 50	23%	22%	31%	17%	33%	18%	24%	22%
Up to age 60	33%	37%	29%	36%	27%	35%	31%	35%
I don't know	7%	5%	8%	8%	6%	6%	7%	7%
Does not apply to my situation	14%	11%	13%	13%	11%	20%	10%	17%

More than half of Canadians would be willing to participate in a skills development training program at least up to age 50.

Q5B. If yes, up to what age would you be willing to participate?

Determining factor in choice of career

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

	TOTAL	REGION					GENDER		AGE		
		MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD
	n= 1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656
Personal interest	38%	35%	41%	42%	31%	34%	35%	41%	36%	36%	42%
The employment opportunities	28%	29%	19%	29%	30%	34%	26%	29%	21%	29%	32%
The possibility of earning a high income	18%	23%	15%	19%	19%	15%	21%	15%	24%	21%	10%
The professional status of the job	6%	2%	10%	3%	8%	4%	8%	4%	8%	3%	6%
The number of years of education required	3%	6%	2%	4%	1%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%
Another factor	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%	5%	3%	2%	1%	4%	2%
I don't know	5%	4%	11%	0%	7%	4%	4%	6%	8%	3%	4%

For Canadians, personal interest, employment opportunities and the possibility of earning a high income are the most determining factors in their choice of career.

Note that women and older people accord a higher level of importance to their level of personal interest in their job while employment opportunities are more of a priority for British Columbians and older people. Also, note that men and younger people (54 years old or under) are more likely to prioritize a higher income.

Q6. What was/would be the determining factor in your choice of career?

Quality of information on employment opportunities and conditions

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

		REGION					GENDER		AGE		
	TOTAL	MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD
n=	1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656
TOTAL WELL INFORMED	61%	67%	57%	61%	64%	60%	65%	58%	59%	62%	61%
Very well	18%	21%	16%	20%	12%	20%	18%	17%	20%	16%	18%
Somewhat well	43%	47%	41%	41%	52%	40%	47%	40%	39%	46%	44%
TOTAL POORLY INFORMED	27%	26%	27%	30%	20%	32%	27%	28%	29%	28%	25%
Somewhat poorly	20%	15%	19%	23%	16%	19%	20%	20%	26%	19%	16%
Very poorly	7%	11%	8%	7%	3%	13%	7%	8%	3%	10%	9%
I don't know	2%	2%	6%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%
Does not apply to my situation	9%	5%	10%	8%	15%	7%	7%	12%	10%	6%	12%

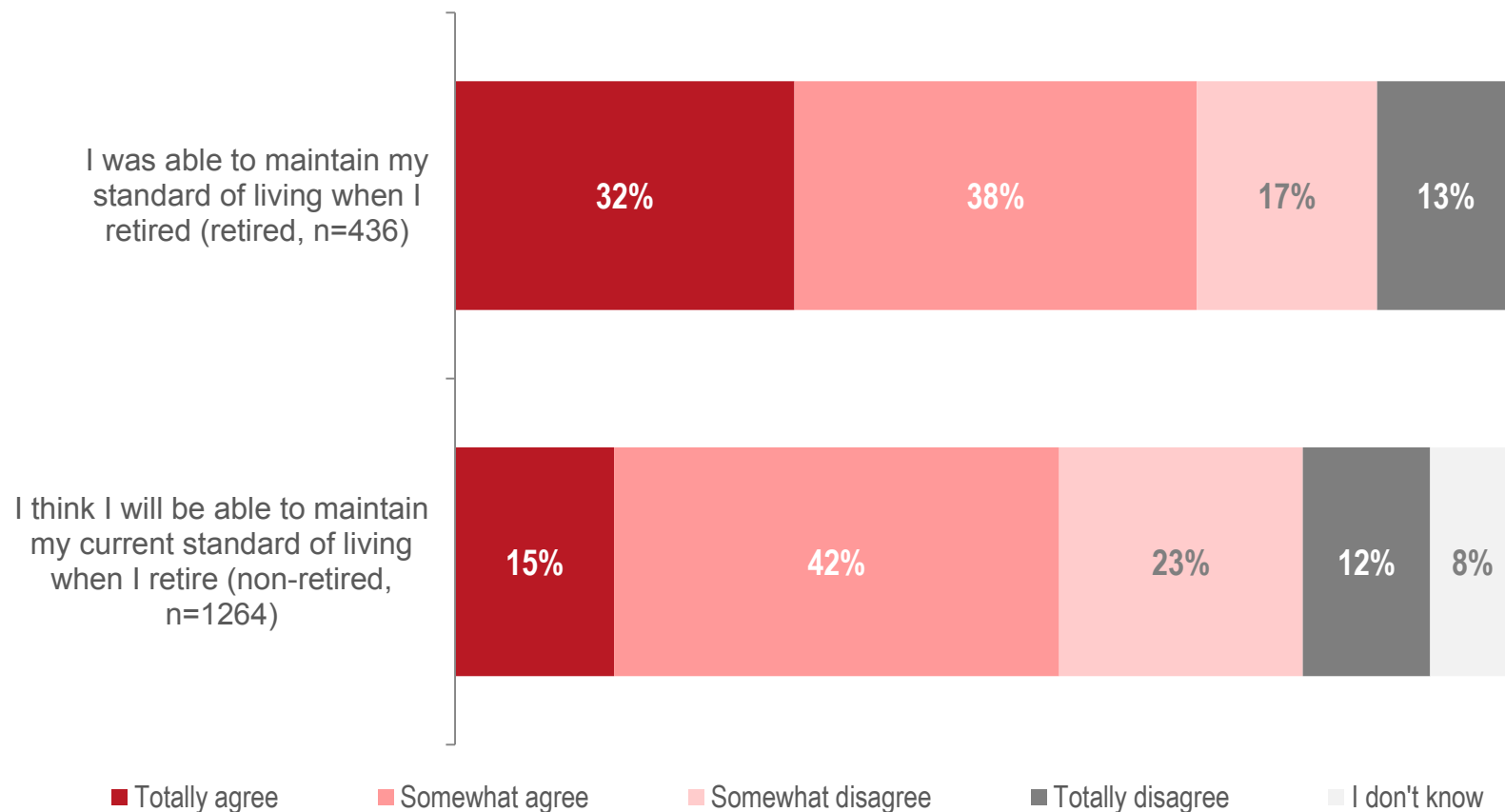
Close to two-thirds of Canadians believe that they were well-informed about employment opportunities and working conditions when they chose their career.

Q7. When you chose your career, to what extent do you think you were well-informed or not about the employment opportunities and conditions?

Retirement

Standard of living at retirement

Sample: total respondents, n=1700



Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Standard of living at retirement

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

% TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL	REGION					GENDER	
		MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN
	n=							
	436	38	262	48	45	43	207	229
I was able to maintain my standard of living when I retired (RETIRED, n=436)	70%	72%	59%	75%	83%	66%	66%	72%
	1264	113	738	157	147	109	541	723
I think I will be able to maintain my current standard of living when I retire (NON-RETIRED, n=1264)	57%	63%	46%	60%	57%	61%	62%	52%

In Canada, the majority of retired people state that they were able to maintain their standard of living when they retired. This is more common among residents in the Prairies and much less common among Quebecers.

On the other hand, more than half of non-retired people believe that they will be able to maintain their standard of living when they retire. Once again, Quebecers are less likely to share this opinion, while the opposite is observed among Canadian men.

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

* Small sample size

Main source of income for retirement

Sample: total respondents n=1700

	NON-RETRAITÉS	RETRAITÉS
n=	1264	436
Your personal savings (RRSP or other savings)	40%	18%
Public pension plans (Federal Old Age Security Pension, Canada Pension Plan and the Régime de rentes du Québec)	27%	27%
Your company's pension plan	21%	43%
Two of these answers or a combination of the three	1%	1%
Spouse's salary	-	4%
Other	1%	5%
I don't know	10%	1%

Non-retired people are more likely to envision using their personal savings to meet their needs when they retire while retired people are more likely to count on their company's pension plan.

Q9A. When you retire, what will be your main source of income?

Q9B. Since you retired, what has been your main source of income?

Main source of income for retirement

Sample: non-retired respondents, n=1264

NON-RETIRED PEOPLE

	TOTAL	REGION					GENDER		AGE		
		MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD
n=	1264	113	738	157	147	109	541	723	377	647	240
Your personal savings (RRSP or other savings)	40%	35%	29%	43%	51%	36%	46%	34%	45%	38%	32%
Public pension plans (Federal Old Age Security Pension, Canada Pension Plan and the Régime de rentes du Québec)	27%	33%	38%	24%	13%	33%	23%	31%	19%	28%	41%
Your company's pension plan	21%	26%	16%	23%	19%	19%	20%	22%	15%	25%	20%
Two of these answers or a combination of the three	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	4%	0%	2%	0%	1%	3%
Other	1%	0%	0%	1%	4%	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%	2%
I don't know	10%	5%	15%	9%	12%	7%	10%	11%	20%	6%	2%

Q9A. When you retire, what will be your main source of income?

Main source of income since retiring

Sample: retired respondents, n=436

RETIRED PEOPLE	REGION						GENDER	
	TOTAL	MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN
n=	436	38	262	48	45	43	207	229
Your company's pension plan	43%	58%	40%	46%	46%	34%	40%	46%
Public pension plans (Federal Old Age Security Pension, Canada Pension Plan and the Régime de rentes du Québec)	27%	34%	41%	16%	21%	25%	22%	30%
Your personal savings (RRSP or other savings)	18%	6%	9%	24%	24%	26%	26%	12%
Spouse's salary	4%	3%	1%	4%	3%	10%	2%	6%
Two of these answers or a combination of the three	1%	0%	2%	2%	2%	0%	1%	2%
Other	5%	0%	3%	8%	1%	5%	7%	3%
I don't know	1%	0%	4%	0%	2%	0%	2%	1%

Q9B. Since you retired, what has been your main source of income?

* Small sample size

Employment policies

Employment policies

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

Policies related to employment arise from...

		REGION					GENDER		AGE		
	TOTAL	MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD
	n= 1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656
The federal government only	13%	22%	13%	14%	8%	9%	16%	9%	13%	12%	13%
The provincial government only	12%	11%	17%	11%	11%	7%	13%	10%	18%	8%	10%
Coordinated by both levels of government according to their respective jurisdictions	59%	54%	52%	61%	64%	61%	58%	59%	39%	67%	66%
Initiated by one level of government or the other	4%	5%	3%	2%	6%	9%	3%	5%	3%	4%	6%
I don't know	13%	9%	15%	12%	11%	13%	9%	16%	26%	9%	5%

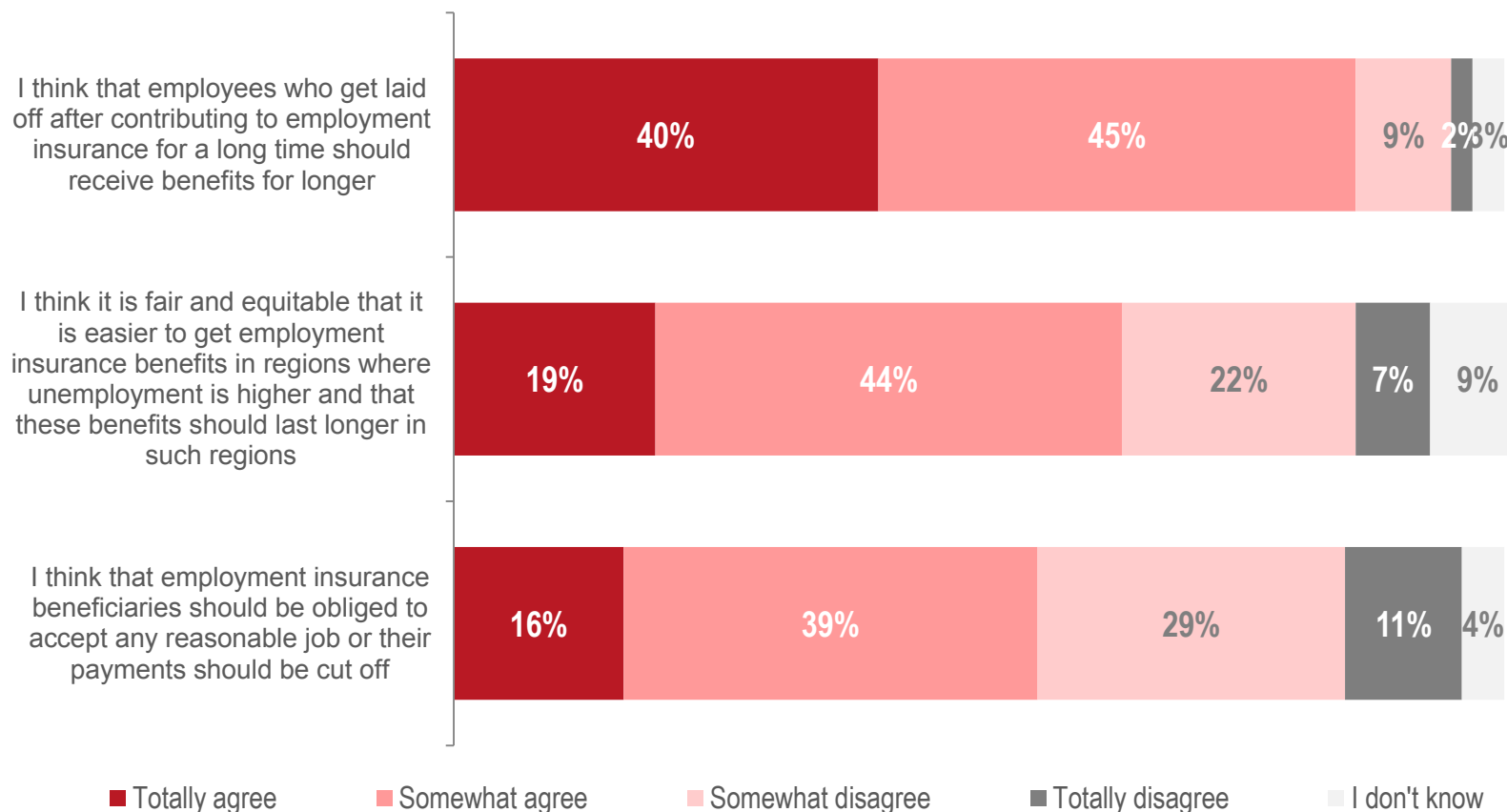
The majority of Canadians believe that policies related to employment are coordinated by both levels of government according to their respective jurisdictions.

Q10. In your opinion, which level of government do policies related to employment arise from?

Employment insurance and its beneficiaries

Employment insurance beneficiaries

Sample: total respondents, n=1700



Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Employment insurance beneficiaries

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

		REGION					GENDER		AGE			SITUATION	
% TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL	MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD	WORKERS	UNEMPLOYED
	n= 1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656	1050	76
I think that employees who get laid off after contributing to employment insurance for a long time should receive benefits for longer	85%	83%	85%	85%	82%	91%	85%	86%	85%	84%	87%	85%	90%
I think it is fair and equitable that it is easier to get employment insurance benefits in regions where unemployment is higher and that these benefits should last longer in such regions	63%	69%	77%	64%	44%	56%	65%	61%	59%	59%	70%	61%	71%
I think that employment insurance beneficiaries should be obliged to accept any reasonable job or their payments should be cut off	56%	56%	48%	58%	59%	59%	58%	53%	51%	51%	64%	55%	33%

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Activities performed by employment insurance beneficiaries

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

% YES	TOTAL	REGION						GENDER		AGE			SITUATION	
		MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA		MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD	WORKERS	UNEMPLOYED
	n=	1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656	1050	76
Active job search activities	89%	89%	83%	89%	90%	94%		85%	92%	82%	88%	95%	88%	65%
Participation in activities that aim to improve employability (skills profile)	82%	84%	77%	85%	81%	86%		81%	84%	71%	81%	92%	81%	61%

The vast majority of Canadians believe that it should be mandatory for employment insurance beneficiaries to engage in active job search activities and participate in activities that aim to improve employability. Note that this opinion is more common among working people.

Q12. Do you think that the following activities should be obligatory for employment insurance beneficiaries?

Social programs

Social programs

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

Canadians are somewhat divided when it comes to the purpose of social programs.

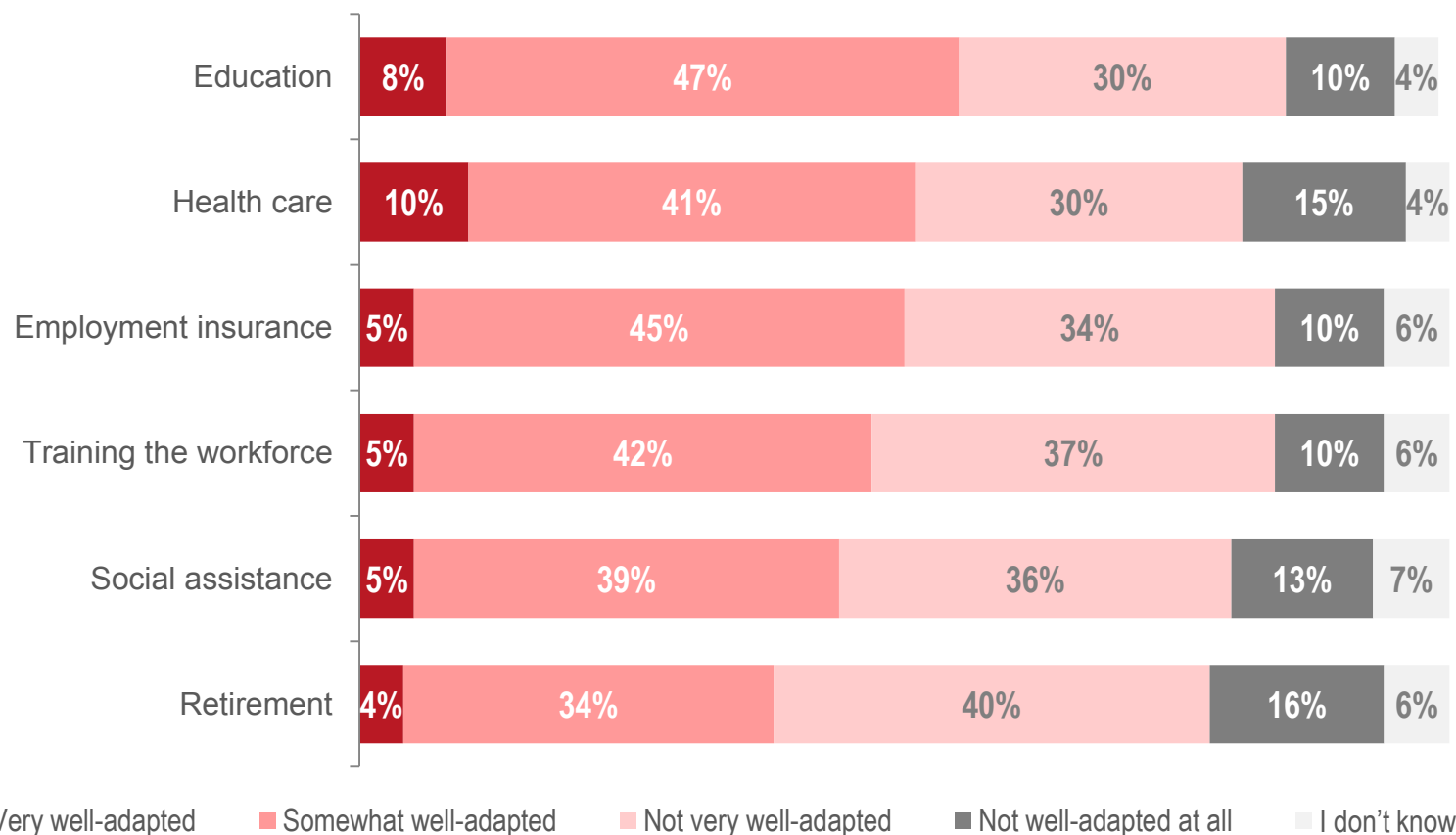
Social programs should mainly focus on...

	TOTAL	REGION					GENDER		AGE			SITUATION	
		MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD	WORKERS	UNEMPLOYED
n=	1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656	1050	76
...helping the poorest people (through social assistance)	33%	37%	26%	32%	47%	30%	37%	30%	42%	29%	31%	34%	27%
...protecting the standard of living of middle-class people through social insurance programs (employment insurance, Canada Pension Plan and the Régime de rentes du Québec, etc.)	35%	40%	44%	34%	24%	36%	35%	36%	29%	41%	35%	35%	39%
...ensuring a minimum income to everyone regardless if he or she participates in the job market	17%	15%	20%	18%	15%	18%	18%	17%	13%	16%	22%	16%	29%
I don't know	14%	8%	10%	16%	15%	16%	10%	17%	17%	13%	12%	14%	4%

Q13. Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion about social programs?

Adapting policies and public systems to the challenges of the 21st century

Sample: total respondents, n=1700



Q14. Considering everything you have read, seen or heard, would you say that, generally speaking, policies or public systems are well-adapted or not to the challenges of the 21st century in the following fields?

Adapting policies and public systems to the challenges of the 21st century

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

% TOTAL WELL-ADAPTED	TOTAL	REGION					GENDER		AGE		
		MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD
n=	1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656
Education	55%	55%	49%	59%	59%	50%	56%	54%	63%	51%	53%
Health care	51%	54%	29%	61%	57%	48%	53%	48%	63%	44%	48%
Employment insurance	50%	45%	41%	54%	59%	43%	50%	49%	65%	39%	49%
Training the workforce	47%	43%	48%	47%	53%	40%	47%	47%	64%	42%	39%
Social assistance	44%	39%	39%	46%	55%	37%	50%	39%	50%	39%	45%
Retirement	38%	43%	37%	37%	40%	37%	42%	35%	39%	33%	43%

Canadians are divided when it comes to adapting policies or public systems to the challenges of the 21st century.

Q14. Considering everything you have read, seen or heard, would you say that, generally speaking, policies or public systems are well-adapted or not to the challenges of the 21st century in the following fields?

Private health care

Use of private health care services

Sample: total respondents, n=1700

		REGION					GENDER		AGE		
	TOTAL	MARITIMES	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA	MEN	WOMEN	18 TO 34 YEARS OLD	35 TO 54 YEARS OLD	55+ YEARS OLD
	n= 1700	151	1000	205	192	152	748	952	377	667	656
Yes	54%	40%	49%	58%	52%	63%	53%	55%	46%	54%	60%
No	46%	60%	51%	42%	48%	37%	47%	45%	54%	46%	40%

More than half of Canadians have paid out of their own pockets for private health care services. Note that older people and British Columbians are proportionally more likely to have done so.

Q15. Have you ever paid out of your own pocket for private health care services?



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