



Young Adult Survey (Federal Election 2006)

December 6, 2005

Favourite Party and Likelihood to Vote

Vote differences in English and French Canada loom large among Canada's young adults

Jack Layton is the most favourable party leader across Canada among young adults

49 per cent of young adults, aged 18 to 24, in Quebec are voting for the Bloc Quebecois, while the Liberal Party holds a slim lead (28%) over the NDP (24%) and the Conservatives (23%) in the rest of the country among young adults, according to a new Democracy Project survey commissioned for the Globe and Mail, La Presse and the CBC by the Dominion Institute and Innovative Research Group. Ten percent of young adults in Canada, not including Quebec, are undecided in their vote preference as compared to only five per cent in Quebec.

Among young adults in Canada, not including Quebec, who say they will definitely vote, the Liberals are receiving 30 per cent of the vote, followed closely by the NDP at 27 per cent and the Conservatives at 24 per cent. Males are more likely than females to support the Liberal party, while females are more likely to support the NDP.

The Liberal party leads by nine points in Ontario at 32 per cent, with the NDP falling in second at 23 per cent and the Conservatives run third with 19 per cent. In Alberta, the Conservatives hold a wide lead (41%) over the second placed Liberals (20%). In British Columbia, the NDP (33%) lead the Liberals (23%) and Conservatives (17%).

Young adults in Canada view Jack Layton more favourably than any other leader. In Quebec, Gilles Duceppe is viewed slightly more favourable than Layton by eight per cent. In Quebec, Paul Martin is viewed the least favourably (75% unfavourable) followed by Stephen Harper (68%) unfavourable.

In the rest of Canada, not including Quebec, 51 per cent view both Martin and Harper unfavourably, while only 27 per cent view Jack Layton unfavourably.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Outside of Quebec, Harper viewed least favourably in Atlantic Canada

In Atlantic Canada, Harper receives his highest unfavourable rating (60%) among young adults aged 18 to 24. In Alberta, Harper receives his most favourable rating, (47% favourable vs. 40% unfavourable). The opposite is true for Jack Layton, with the exception of Quebec, where in Atlantic Canada he receives his most favourable rating (52% favourable vs. 19% unfavourable), and in Alberta his most unfavourable rating (34% favourable vs. 36% unfavourable).

Unlike the other two leaders, Paul Martin does not receive any net positive ratings in the country. Outside of Quebec, he is viewed least favourably in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (63% unfavourable) followed by Alberta (59% unfavourable).

Jack Layton seen best Prime Minister in Quebec, the rest of Canada is undecided

In Quebec Jack Layton (26%) leads Gilles Duceppe (24%) by two points as party leader who would make the best Prime Minister, with 18 per cent undecided. In the rest of Canada, 29 per cent are undecided in who would make the best Prime Minister, followed by 20 per cent saying Paul Martin, 19 per cent saying Jack Layton and 18 per cent choosing Stephen Harper.

Among young adults in Quebec who took the survey in French, 28 per cent chose Gilles Duceppe as best Prime Minister, followed closely by 23 per cent who chose Jack Layton. Among those who took the survey in English, 30 per cent chose Jack Layton as best PM, 17 per cent chose Paul Martin, and 10 per cent chose Gilles Duceppe. Among young adults in Alberta, Stephen Harper is seen as best Prime Minister (35%).

Large majority of young adults in Canada not alienated by the political system, they identify with a political party (70%).

Across Canada, 70 per cent of young adults, aged 18 to 24, identify with a political party. In Quebec, 41 per cent identify with the Bloc, while 15 per cent identify with the Liberals, 13 per cent with the NDP and 5 per cent with the Conservatives. There are no differences between males and females. University graduates in Quebec are more likely than other young Quebecers to identify with the Liberal Party, while young adults in Quebec with a post graduate degree are more likely than other young Quebecers to identify with the Bloc.

In the rest of Canada, not including Quebec, 26 per cent of young adults identify

with the Liberal Party, 19 per cent with the Conservative Party, and 16 per cent with the NDP. Men (24%) more than women (14%) are likely to identify with the Conservative Party, while women more than men identify with the NDP (18% women – 14% men). University grads are more likely than others to identify with the Liberal Party (28%).

Not having enough information about the candidates running is the main reason why young adults in Canada might not vote (38%)

Across Canada, not including Quebec, 40 per cent of young adults aged 18 to 24, say that if they end up not voting, that most likely it would be cause they do not have enough information about the candidates running. In Quebec, 29 per cent cite the same reason. The second reason given is that I don't have enough time in my busy life, with 26 per cent of young adults in Quebec giving this reason, and 18 per cent in the rest of the country.

Scandals and charges of corruption was only cited as a reason for not voting by 16 per cent of young adults outside of Quebec, and by 20 per cent in Quebec. Mudslinging and negative campaigning was cited by 10 per cent of young adults in Quebec, and by 11 per cent in the rest of the country.

December 13, 2005

Favourite Leaders and Sponsorship Scandal

Almost three quarters say that things like the sponsorship scandal is "politics as usual."

Jack Layton chosen by "Under 25s" as the political leader that they would most like to have a beer with. Martin a close second.

71 per cent of Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 who are familiar with the sponsorship controversy that led to the Gomery inquiry, feel that the sponsorship controversy is the type of thing that goes on in most political parties, according to a new Democracy Project survey commissioned for Dominion Institute by Innovative Research Group.

The higher the education level, the more likely Canadian young adults were to feel that the sponsorship controversy is the type of thing that goes on in most political parties. Conservative (33%) and Bloc (23%) voters are more likely to say that the sponsorship controversy was a unique incident. A large majority of Liberal (76%), NDP (75%) and undecided (78%) voters are more likely to say that type of thing goes on in most political parties.

Among Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 who reside in the province of Quebec, 62 per cent say that the sponsorship controversy has made Quebec separation more likely, while 30 per cent say it has made no difference and only two per cent say it has made it less likely. In the rest of Canada, 48 per cent of young adults say the sponsorship controversy has made no difference to the likelihood of Quebec separating, while 30 per cent it has made it more likely.

Across Canada, Jack Layton was chosen by 23 per cent of Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 that they would be most interested to sit down and have a beer or coffee with. Paul Martin was a close second (21%) followed by Stephen Harper (17%) and Jim Harris (16%), Gilles Duceppe received 8 per cent. In Quebec, Gilles Duceppe is the top choice to sit down and have a beer or coffee with (35%). In Alberta, Stephen Harper is the top pick (31%), with Paul Martin (22%).

DETAILED FINDINGS

Three-in five Quebecers say the sponsorship scandal has made Quebec's separation more likely, only two-in-five in the rest of the country think so

Among Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 who reside in the province of Quebec, 62 per cent say that the sponsorship controversy has made Quebec separation more likely, while 30 per cent say it has made no difference and only two per cent say it has made it less likely. Quebecers with a higher level of education are more likely to say that the sponsorship controversy will have no difference to the likelihood of Quebec separating. NDP (64%) and Bloc (72%) voters in Quebec are more likely than Quebecers voting for other parties to say that Quebec's separation is more likely because of the sponsorship controversy.

Among young adults and students in the rest of Canada, 48 per cent say the sponsorship controversy has made no difference to the likelihood of Quebec separating, while 30 per cent it has made it more likely and five per cent say it has made it less likely. Males (50%) are more likely than females (45%) to say it has made no difference. Albertans (37%) are more likely to say that it has made it has increased the likelihood of Quebec separating. Residents of British Columbia are the most likely to admit they don't know (22%).

Across all of Canada, young adults and students who prefer Green Day (43%) are more likely to say the sponsorship controversy has increased the likelihood of Quebec separating. Toby Keith listeners are more likely than others to say they don't know the affect of the sponsorship controversy on Quebec separating (21%).

Almost 7-in-10 Canadian young adults agree the Green Party should have the opportunity to participate in the debates

Among Canadian young adults and students, aged 18 to 24, 67 percent agree that the Green Party of Canada should have an opportunity to participate in the televised debate, even though they do not have an elected member in the House of Commons. Conservative voters are the least likely to agree to including the Green Party in the debates (49% agree – 43% disagree). Not surprisingly Green Party voters are the most likely to agree (95% agree), followed by NDP voters (77%) and Bloc voters (74%).

Women are more likely to agree that the Green Party should be included in the debate (71%) than men (63%). Those with a high school or less education are more likely to disagree that the Green Party should be included (27% disagree).

Canadian young adults and student who live in British Columbia (72%) and Quebec (71%) are more likely to agree that the Green Party should be included in the debates.

Canadian young adults and students who prefer Gwen Stefani and Green Day are more likely to agree with the Green Party being included in the televised debates (both 70%). Those who prefer vintage (78%) or MEC (75%) clothing are also more likely to agree.

Conflict among young people in lowering the voting age, the older brother and sisters who are out of high school say no to lowering the voting age

Graduating from high school not only ends and changes ones phase of life, it also appears to dramatically reverse one's opinions. After walking out of high school for the last time, it appears as if young Canadians no longer care about lowering the voting age. In a survey conducted last year by Innovative Research Group for the Dominion Institute among 14 to 18 year old Canadians, it was found that among those surveyed there was a majority of support for lowering the voting age (78%).

http://www.dominion.ca/English/images/2004_Youth%20Vote_Survey.pdf

However, among Canadian young adults and students, aged 18 to 24, the opposite is true. Once graduating from high school and moving out of that environment Canadian young adults have a change of opinion and look back and realize that they were not aware enough to participate in the political process when they were 16 (62%). This reflection changes their opinion.

Sixty-six per cent of Canadian young adults and students, aged 18 to 24, disagree that people their age would be more likely to vote if they were allowed to participate in the election process at a young age of 16. Women (69%) are more likely than men (62%) to disagree that people their age would be more likely to vote if the voting age was lowered, as are Quebec residents (75%). Students are also more likely to disagree (67%) than others their age who are employed (59%).

Canadian young adults, aged 18 to 24, who are voting for the Bloc and the Conservatives are more likely than those voting for other parties to disagree that people their age would be more likely to vote if they were allowed to participate in the election process at a young age of 16, 76 per cent and 71 per cent respectively. In-fact those that say they might vote are also more likely than those who say they will vote or those who say they will not vote to disagree with the statement (70%).

Almost three-in-five Canadian young adults disagree with the statement 'when I was 16, I was aware enough to participate in the election process' (62%). Canadian young adults who live in Quebec (68%) and young female Canadians (70%) are more likely to disagree with the statement. Voters who are undecided in their vote preference are also more likely to disagree with the statement (73%).

A large majority of Canadian young adults, who prefer listening to 50 Cent or Destiny's Child, disagree with the statement that when they were 16 they were aware enough to participate in the election process, 72 per cent and 68 per cent respectively. Sixty-nine per cent of Canadian young adults who prefer Diesel Jeans clothing disagree with the statement, while 43 per cent of those who prefer vintage clothing agree with the statement.

Jack Layton is picked as the political leader to sit down and have a beer or coffee with

Across Canada, Jack Layton was chosen by 23 per cent of Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 that they would be most interested to sit down and have a beer or coffee with. Paul Martin was second (21%) followed by Stephen Harper (17%) and Jim Harris (16%), Gilles Duceppe received 8 per cent.

In Quebec, Gilles Duceppe is the top choice to sit down and have a beer or coffee with (35%) followed by Jack Layton (27%). In Alberta, Stephen Harper is the top pick (31%), with Paul Martin (22%).

Paul Martin is the top choice for sitting down with among 50 Cent listeners (31%) and Destiny's Child (26%), Jack Layton is number one among Green Day listeners (27%), and Stephen Harper is the top pick among Toby Keith listeners (28%).

December 20, 2005 Canada's Role in the World

Rising tide of Anti-Americanism among young adults – President Bush overwhelmingly disliked by Canadians 18 to 24 year olds.

Message to the Government from Canadian young adults: Focus on Canadian problems, not international issues.

82 per cent of Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24, have an unfavourable impression of President George W. Bush, while only 28 per cent have a favourable impression of Americans as individual peoples according to a new Democracy Project survey commissioned by the Dominion Institute and Innovative Research Group. Young adults have high a degree of ambivalence towards Americans as 33 per cent of young adults have neither a favourable nor unfavourable impression.

Americans are viewed least favourably in the province of Quebec (42% unfavourable), and are viewed the most favourably in British Columbia and the Atlantic provinces (both 34% favourable).

It is clear that while young adults still waver on their opinion of Americans, they do have a very clear opinion of President Bush, albeit a negative one. Among young adults, American President George W. Bush has a net favourable of negative 75 per cent, which is calculated by taking the percentage favourable minus the percentage unfavourable. Young adults in Quebec have the most negative impression of the President with 76 per cent saying they have a very unfavourable impression.

Does this rising anti-U.S. attitudes among young adults spell trouble in the future for Canada-US relations? When this generation leads the country, will Canadian policy go in another direction? Time will answer these questions, but it is something Canadians should think about and consider its effects.

When whether what the focus of the Canadian government should be domestic issues or international aid, a large majority of Canadian young adults said it is more important for the Canadian government to focus on Canadian problems like education, health care and jobs (85%), rather than helping solve international problems like helping people cope with natural disasters, poverty and civil war (15%).

DETAILED FINDINGS

Rising tide of Anti-U.S attitudes and strong "Anti-Bushism" among young adults

While Canadian young adults are not overly sure what to think about Americans, those who do hold an opinion, tend not to view them favourably. Americans are viewed least favourably in the province of Quebec (42% unfavourable), and are viewed the most favourably in British Columbia and the Atlantic provinces (both 34% favourable). Men (32%) are more likely than women (23%) to have a favourable impression of Americans. Conservative voters have a more favourable impression of Americans (43% favourable), while on the other hand Bloc voters (48% unfavourable) have the least favourable impression.

It is clear that while young adults still waver on their opinion of Americans, they do have a very clear opinion of President Bush, albeit a negative one. Women (85% unfavourable) are more likely than men (79%) to have an unfavourable view of President Bush. Students are more likely than their full-time employed peers to have an unfavourable impression (83% unfavourable). Young adults who are voting for the NDP, Bloc, or Green Party have the least favourable impression of President Bush (all 93% unfavourable). Conservative voters are more likely than voters from other parties to have a favourable impression (24% favourable).

Young Adults want Canada to keep the peace, not make the peace

Young adults who are residents of Ontario are more likely than those who live in other provinces to say that the Canadian government should focus on Canadian problems like education, health care and jobs. NDP voters (88%), Liberal voters (87%), and Conservative voters (86%) are more likely than Bloc and Green Party voters to feel that the Canadian government should focus on Canadian problems.

Canadian young adults want Canada to maintain its role as peacekeepers and not initiate making the peace. Seventy per cent of Canadian young adults feel that Canada should go in and maintain the peace using its military after the peace has been made in war torn countries, while the remaining thirty per cent feel that Canada should go in and help make the peace using its military force in war torn countries. Young adults who live in the Atlantic provinces or in British Columbia are more likely than those who live in other provinces to say that Canada should go in and maintain the peace after the peace has been made (both 74%). Residents of Quebec are the most likely to say that Canada should go in and help make the peace using its military force (33%).

Young adults with a post-graduate degree are more likely than others to say that Canada should maintain the peace (78%). Young adults voting for the Green Party (79%), NDP (75%) and Liberals (71%) are more likely than other voters to say that Canada should maintain the peace once peace has been made. Conservative voters (37%), undecided voters (34%) and Bloc voters (33%) are more likely than other voters to say that Canada should help make the peace. Young adults who say they will not vote are more likely than those who say they might feel that Canada should help make the peace (37%), while

those who say they might vote are more likely to say that Canada should help maintain the peace once it has been made (72%).

Canadian young adults clearly see Canada as having a role in keeping the peace, as the majority of Canadian young adults do not see the world's largest super power, the United States, as the only nation that has the ability to keep the peace (83%). Residents of Quebec (88%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (87%) and British Columbia (85%) are more likely to disagree that as the world's largest superpower the United States is the only nation that has the ability to keep the peace. Residents of the Atlantic Provinces and Alberta (both 21%) are more likely to agree with the statement. Women (86%) are more likely than men (81%) to disagree with the statement that the United States is the only nation that has the ability to keep the peace. Conservative voters (22%) are more likely than other voters to agree that the United States is the only nation that has the ability to keep the peace.

Canada's economic and foreign policy should focus on "Asian Tigers"

Canadian young adults realize that the world is changing and that Canada needs to diversify its economic alliances. A large majority of Canadian young adults agree with the statement that Canada should make the growing economic powers of China and India the main focus of their economic and foreign policy (71%). Men (74%) are more likely than women (67%) to agree with the statement, as are residents of Quebec (75%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (73%). Young adults who are employed (76%) are more likely than those who are unemployed (60%) or students (70%) to agree with the statement. Those with a high school education or less are more likely than those with a higher level of education to disagree that Canada should focus on growing economic powers (35% disagree). Voters who are undecided are the least likely of all voters to agree with the statement (37% disagree).

No support for joining star wars

A large majority of Canadian young adults agreed that Canada was right not to join the US missile defence shield (86%). Resident of Quebec and the Atlantic provinces are more likely to agree that Canada was right not to join the US missile defence shield (92% and 91% respectively). Young adults with a college (89%) university (87%) or post graduate degree (92%) are more likely than those with high school education or less to agree that Canada was right.

Conservative voters are the most likely to disagree that Canada was right (31% disagree), while Bloc voters are the most likely to agree Canada was right not to join the missile shield (94% agree).

December 27, 2005

Immigrant Young Adult Views

Immigrants, 18 to 24 years of age, are almost twice as likely to vote Liberal as their long settled counterparts.

Paul Martin is the favourite party leader among immigrants – by margin of almost two to one – to have a beer or coffee with.

There is a distinct difference between young adults who are immigrant or first generation Canadians and those that are more established in Canada on the vote preference and impression and preferences of the leaders of the political parties.

A new Democracy Project survey commissioned for the Globe and Mail, La Presse and the CBC and conducted by the Dominion Institute and the Innovative Research Group has found that while Canadian young adults who are immigrants (e.g. they were not born in Canada) and first generation Canadian citizens (e.g. they are born in Canada but their parents immigrated to Canada) are more likely to say they if the election were held today they would vote Liberal (37% and 31% respectively). Only 20% of second generation and longer settled young adults (e.g. their parents or grandparents or ancestors were born in Canada) would vote Liberal – this same group indicated they were more likely to vote NDP (19%) or Conservative (17%) than Liberal.

Not only do immigrants view Paul Martin more favourably than the other two generational groups, but they would also prefer to sit down and have a beer or coffee with him over the other party leaders (30%), their second choice is Jack Layton (18%) and Stephen Harper (17%) came in third. Second generation and longer settled young adults were more likely to say they would like to have a beer or coffee with Layton (24%) followed by a tie between Paul Martin (18%) and Stephen Harper (18%).

These findings suggest that among first generation and immigrant young adults the Liberals enjoy considerable support whereas the Conservatives and NDP have an uphill battle to win their votes.

However, come election day, the support the Liberal party could garner from immigrant first and generation young adults looks like it will be blunted by lower voting rates among these groups as opposed to second generation immigrants young adults and their longer settled counterparts.

Longer settled young adults are more likely to say they will definitely vote in the upcoming election (59%), as compared to young adults who are immigrants (43%) and first generation (54%). Young adults who are immigrants are more likely than others to say than the other two groups that the most likely reason

for not voting is that they don't have enough information about party candidates.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Immigrants and first generation Canadian young adults prefer the Liberals and Paul Martin more than established Canadian young adults

There is a distinct difference between young adults who are immigrant or first generation Canadians and those that are more established in Canada on the vote preference and impression and preferences of the leaders of the political parties. Immigrants and first generation Canadians are more likely to vote Liberal in the upcoming election (37% and 31% respectively), compared to 20 per cent of established Canadians voting Liberal. Immigrants and first generation Canadians in Quebec are less likely to vote for the Bloc (18% and 27% respectively) while 56 per cent of longer established Canadians are voting Bloc in Quebec.

However the distinct differences may be not have as large an effect on voting day, as longer settled young adult Canadians are more likely to say they will definitely vote in the upcoming election (59%), as compared to young adults who are immigrants (43%) and first generation (54%). Young adults who are immigrants are more likely than others to say that the most likely reason for not voting is that politics doesn't make a lot of difference in peoples' lives.

As mentioned above, there are differences among generation of Canadians on their views on the party leaders. The more recently someone is to Canada, the more likely they are to view Paul Martin favourably. Paul Martin is viewed more favourably among immigrants (43% favourable, 43% unfavourable) than he is among first generation (40% favourable, 51% unfavourable) and established Canadians (33% favourable 60% unfavourable).

Not only do immigrants view Paul Martin more favourably than the other two generational groups, but they would also prefer to sit down and have a beer or coffee with him over the other party leaders (30%), their second choice is Jack Layton (17%). First generation Canadian young adults are split between saying that they would prefer to sit down with Jack Layton (25%) or Paul Martin (25%), while establish Canadians are more likely to say Layton (24%) followed by a tie between Paul Martin (18%) and Stephen Harper (18%).

Among the other party leaders, the main finding is that immigrants either don't know what they impression of the party leader is, or else they do not recognize the name of the person. Almost 3-in-10 young adult immigrants do not have an impression of, or do not recognize Stephen Harper. Among those who do, their impression is more favourable (30% favourable, 42% unfavourable) than among first generation (27% favourable, 56% unfavourable) and establish (29% favourable, 56% unfavourable) Canadian young adults.

The findings on Jack Layton were similar. Thirty-seven per cent of young adult immigrant Canadians either do not have an impression of, or do not recognize his name. All three generations have a more favourable impression of Jack Layton than negative impression.

Although all three generational groups more undecided in their preference of which party leader would make the best Prime Minister of Canada, Paul Martin shows his strength among immigrant young adults. Twenty-five per cent of immigrant young adults say that Paul Martin would make the best prime minister. Among first generation Canadian young adults, Martin and Layton are statistically tied, with 21 per cent choosing Martin and 20 per cent picking Layton. Among established Canadian young adults, Layton leads with 21 per cent, followed by a tie between Martin and Harper at 16 per cent.

Newer Canadians less familiar with Sponsorship Scandal

Young adults who are immigrants (50% familiar) are less familiar with the sponsorship controversy that led to the Gomery inquiry than first generation Canadian young adults (58% familiar). and established Canadians (68% familiar) Yet there is no real difference between the generational groups on their opinion of whether the sponsorship controversy is a relatively unique incident or does that sort of thing go on in most political parties most of the time. At least 7-in-10 in all three generational groups feels that this type of thing goes on in most political parties. Only established Canadians are slightly more likely to feel that it was unique incidence (20%). Established Canadians are more likely than others to feel that the sponsorship controversy has made Quebec separation more likely (42%).

Lowering the voting age: no way, and the answer remains the same among immigrants, first generation and established Canadians

Regardless of generational group, at least 7-in-10 young Canadian adults feel that the voting age should not be lowered to 16. Although the majority disagree with the statement people my age would be more likely to vote if they were allowed to participate in the election process at a young age of 16, immigrants are more likely to agree with the statement than first generation and established Canadians (34%). No matter what generational group a Canadian young adult belongs to there is no difference, 6-in-10 say that when they were 16 years of age, they were not aware enough to participate in the election process.

Among generational groups there is consensus on what Canada's focus should be

Being a young adult who is an immigrant, first generation or established Canadian does not change the fact that 85 per cent say that the Canadian government should first focus on Canadian problems like education, health care and jobs. There is also no difference in the majority agree that Canada was right not to join the US missile defence shield, or that as the world's largest

superpower, the United States is the only nation that has the ability to keep the peace. There is also consensus among the three generational groups that Canada should focus on the growing economic powers of China and India as the main focus of their economic and foreign policy. Establish Canadian young adults are slightly more likely than immigrants and first generational young adults to have an unfavourable view of President George W. Bush, while first generation and established Canadian young adults are more likely to have a favourable view of Americans than immigrants.

January 3, 2006

Education and Healthcare

Career confidence runs high– but, one in three think they won't be able to afford to live in the neighbourhood they grew up in....

Health care is not just an older person's issue: today's young adults fearful health care may not be there when they need it....

Canadian young adults are remarkably career-oriented and confident in their ability to reach their goals. Sixty-five per cent of Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 say they have a pretty clear idea of what they want to do for their career, according to a new Democracy Project survey commissioned for the Globe and Mail, La Presse and the CBC and conducted by the Dominion Institute and Innovative Research Group. Women (70%) more than men (61%) are more likely to say they have a clear idea of what they want to do career wise. Conservative (70%) and Bloc (67%) voters are more likely than young adults voting for other parties to say they have a clear idea of what they want to do for their career. Eighty-eight per cent of young adults are confident they will find the sort of job they are looking for. Residents of the Atlantic Provinces (91%) and Alberta (90%) are more likely than residents of other provinces to feel this way.

Although confidence runs high, some young adults express reservations about not being able to take the job they want because of student debt, that student debt will prevent them from owning a suitable home, student debt will prevent them from getting further education and that they won't be able to afford to live in the neighbourhood they grew up in.

Health care, what is usually thought of as an older person's issue, has become one for Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24. Over 7-in-10 young adults are personally worried about their ability to get health care when they need it if our current universal Medicare system is not around (75%), while only 25 per cent say that they are confident they can take care of their own health

needs whether we have a universal Medicare system or not. Those who are personally worried are more likely to be voting for the NDP (85%), be undecided in their vote choice (83%), women (83%), live in Ontario (78%), or have a college education or less (78%).

One in four young adults believe that they will never be able to afford to live in the neighbourhood they grew up in. Men are more likely than women to agree with this statement (33% vs 28%). Residents of British Columbia (36% agree) and Ontario (30% agree) are more to agree than residents of other provinces that they will never be able to afford to live in the neighbourhood they grew up in.

The results of this survey are provided exclusively to the Globe and Mail, La Presse and CBC.

DETAILED FINDINGS

A poll of students finds that majority of students have or will have student loans, on the surface they don't see this affecting their financial security; but there are underlying fears

While at first glance it appears that students don't think that their accumulation of student loans will have an effect on their financial future, an underlying fear does exist. A majority of Canadian young adults and students who participated in this survey, say they have had to take out student loans from a bank or other financial institution in order to attend a post secondary program (58%). Among those who have taken out a student loan, 81 per cent have taken out \$19,999 or less, while another 12 per cent have had to take out between \$20,000 and \$29,999 to attend their program. When asked, 77 per cent of Canadian young adults and students who participated in this survey, say they expect to need to take out student loans in the future to attend a post secondary program. Even with eighty-four per cent of young adults in Canada having taken out student loans, or expecting to have to take out student loans, the majority disagree with the statement that they will not be able to afford to live in the neighbourhood they grew up in (70%), and that it will stop them from attending any further post secondary program (58% disagree).

However, the picture isn't entirely rosy, a slight majority of young adults agree that their student debt will prevent them from taking a job that they want (52%) and they are split on whether their accumulation of student debt will prevent them from owning a suitable home (47% agree – 47% disagree). However, regardless of this potential negative impact of student loans on the futures of young adults today, a majority (52%) agree that they expect to be able to manage their student debt without much difficulty. Yet as other answers have shown us, they expect that they will be making sacrifices to finance this debt. Almost two-in-five think that their student debt will stop them from attending any further post secondary program, and almost three-in-ten agree

that they will never be able to afford to live in the neighbourhood they grew up in.

Canadian young adults who live in the Atlantic Provinces (70%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (63%) or Ontario (60%) are more likely than others to have taken out a student loan. Women (79%) more than men (75%) anticipate taking out a student loan to attend a post secondary program.

Men are more likely than women to disagree that they will never be able to afford to live in the neighbourhood they grew up in (72% vs. 67%). Residents of British Columbia (36% agree) and Ontario (30% agree) are more to agree than residents of other provinces that they will never be able to afford to live in the neighbourhood they grew up in. Bloc (78%), Liberal (73%) and Conservative (71%) voters are more likely to disagree with the statement than voters for other parties.

Young adults voting for the Bloc (56%) and the Conservatives (55%) are more likely than other voters to disagree that their student debt will prevent them from owning a suitable home. Residents of British Columbia (61%) and Ontario (50%) are more likely than residents of other provinces to agree that their student debt will prevent them from owning a home.

Women are more likely than men to feel that their student debt will force them into taking a job they do not want (55% vs. 49%). As do residents of Ontario (58%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (58%) and British Columbia (57%). Young adults voting for the NDP (59%), Green party (59%), are undecided (59%) and the Liberals (54%) are more likely than voters of other parties to agree that their student debt will force them into taking a job they do not want.

Majority believe it is possible to have strong economy and protect the environment at the same time

A balance is possible, at least according to 79 per cent of Canadian young adults who participated in this survey, say that it is possible to build a strong economy and provide strong environmental protection. Twenty-one per cent say that you can't have it both ways, if you want a strong economy you pay an environmental price and if you want a clean environment, you pay an economic price. Men are more likely than women to say you can have it both ways with the economy and the environment (82% vs. 77%), as are residents of Quebec (89%) and the Atlantic Provinces (82%). Young adults who are voting for the Bloc (90%) are the most likely over other voters to feel you can have it both ways.

Health care resonates with young adult population: not sure Medicare will be around in 20 years and are concerned about health care costs for their parents

Canadian young adults are not sure if the universal Medicare system is going to be around in another 20 years (47% likely to be around, 46% unlikely to be

around). Men (54%) are more likely than women (41%) to feel that Medicare will be around in 20 years. Residents of Manitoba/Saskatchewan (55%), the Atlantic Provinces (54% likely) and (50% likely) are more likely than residents of other provinces to say that it is likely that Medicare will be around in 20 years. Liberal voters are more likely than those voting for other parties to feel that it is likely that Medicare will still be around (59%).

Regardless of whether Canadian young adults think the Medicare system will be around in 20 years, a large majority (76%) agree with the statement that they are personally worried about the future costs they will have to pay to take care of their parent's health care needs. Women (80%) more than men (72%) are likely to agree with the statement, as are residents of BC (80%), Alberta (78%), Ontario (78%), and the Atlantic Provinces (77%). Young adults voting for the NDP are more likely than other voters to agree that they are personally worried about the future costs of taking care of their parents' health care needs (81%).

Tories seen as wanting to dismantle universal health care, NDP seen as protecting it

The Conservative party is on the wrong side of the health care issue among young adults. Young adults are afraid of their ability to access health care in the future and 32 per cent of young adults feel that the Conservative party wants to dismantle our universal Medicare system. The Liberal party comes a distant second with 10 per cent. Men (37%) more than women (27%) are likely to think that the Conservative party wants to dismantle Medicare, as are residents of Ontario (37%) the Atlantic Provinces (36%) and young adults with a post graduate degree (47%). Interestingly, 51 per cent of those voting Conservative say they don't know who they believe wants to dismantle Medicare.

Three out of ten Canadian young adults feel that the NDP is the party most likely to protect our current universal Medicare system, (32%) although 32 per cent also say they don't know. Men (37%) are more likely than women (27%) to say that the NDP party is most likely to protect Medicare, while women are more likely to say they don't know (41% vs. 24%). Among Liberal voters 35 per cent say the Liberal party would be the most likely to protect Medicare, while 30 per cent say NDP. Conservative voters are split with both their own party and the NDP receiving 25 per cent support. NDP voters have a strong support for their own party with 64 per cent saying their own party is most likely to support universal health care.

Jack Layton is again perceived as the best, this time for understanding the concerns of Canadian young adults

Similar to the past couple of weeks Jack Layton has come out on top. More Canadian young adults pick him as the leader that would best understand their concerns (25%), although 34 per cent said they didn't know which leader would be best. Women (42%) are more likely than men (27%) not to know which

leader would be best, while Stephen Harper is the favourite in Alberta (27%) and Gilles Duceppe is the favourite in Quebec (41%).

Partisanship shows through, as those voting for a party choose that leader as the leader who would be best to understand their concerns. Among those who say they will vote, Jack Layton receives the most support (29%).

January 10, 2006

Sex, Drugs and Social Issues

**Majority of young adults in Canada want to raise the age of consent
young adults, Quebec wants to leave it as is**

**Overwhelming support among Canadian young adults for same-sex
marriage**

Fifty-four per cent of Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 support raising the age of consent, according to a new Democracy Project survey commissioned for the Globe and Mail, La Presse and the CBC by the Dominion Institute.

Another 36 per cent say the age of consent should be left where it is, with hardly any (2%) saying it should be lowered. The opposite is true in Quebec. Fifty-six per cent of young adults in Quebec say that the age of consent should remain as it is, while 32 per cent say it should be raised.

There is strong agreement among Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 that gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to marry the same as heterosexual couples (69%). Agreement is highest among women (75%), residents of Quebec (81%), young adults with a post graduate degree (77%) and established Canadians (73%). Disagreement is highest among residents of Manitoba/Saskatchewan (58%), Alberta (57%) and immigrant Canadians (51%).

The results of this survey are provided exclusively to the Globe and Mail, La Presse and CBC.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Strong support for same-sex marriage, but support not nearly as strong for redefining the definition of marriage

The debate on same-sex marriage has several facets to it. The first is whether or not homosexual couples should be allowed to marry like heterosexual couples, and the second is whether or not the definition of marriage should remain between a man and a woman. There is strong agreement among Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 that gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to marry the same as heterosexual couples (69%). Agreement is highest among women (75%), residents of Quebec (81%), young adults with a post graduate degree (77%) and established Canadians (73%). Disagreement is highest among residents of Manitoba/Saskatchewan (58%), Alberta (57%) and immigrant Canadians (51%). On the political side of things, agreement that gays and lesbian couples should be allowed to marry the same as heterosexual couples is highest among respondents who are voting for the Bloc (84%), Green Party (84%), and young adults who say they will be voting in the upcoming federal election (71%).

When posing a similar question in a different manner, with disagreement of the statement indicating one is open to gay marriage, there is less acceptance of the issue. When young adults were asked if they agree or disagree with the statement the definition of marriage should remain a union between a man and a woman only 55 per cent disagreed, while 40 per cent agreed. A similar story unfolds as it did up above, with women (61%), residents of Quebec (69% disagree), young adults with a post graduate degree (66% disagree) and established Canadians (60% disagree) being more open to the idea of the definition of marriage being more than just simply being between a man and a woman. Men (45% agree), residents of Alberta (50% agree), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (47% agree), and immigrant Canadians (65% agree) are more likely to agree that the definition of marriage should remain a union between a man and a woman.

A majority of Canadian young adults want the legal age of consent for sex to be raised

Fifty-four per cent of Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24, support raising the age of consent. Currently, under the Criminal Code, the age of consent is 14 years of age. Another 36 per cent say that it should be left where it is, with hardly any (2%) saying it should be lowered. Women (61% raise age) vs. men (47% raise age) are more likely to say to raise the age of consent, as are residents of Manitoba/Saskatchewan (70%) and Alberta (67%), while residents of Quebec are the most likely to say leave the age of consent where it is (56%). Young adults with a post graduate degree are more likely than others to say leave the age of consent where it is (47%).

Conservative and undecided voters are the most likely to prefer raising the age of consent (66% and 63% respectively) while 58 per cent of Liberal voters feel that the age of consent should be raised. Bloc voters are the most likely to say that the age of consent should remain where it is (61%).

Only a slight majority want marijuana legalized

Surprisingly, only a slight majority of Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 want smoking marijuana legalized (50%), compared with 42 per cent who say that it should not be legalized. Men (53%) are more likely than women (47%) to want smoking marijuana legalized, as are residents of British Columbia (57%), the Atlantic provinces (54%) and Quebec (53%). First Generation (53%) and established Canadians (52%) are more likely than immigrant Canadians to support legalizing the smoking of marijuana. Residents of Manitoba/Saskatchewan (55%) and Alberta (53%) are more likely to say no to legalizing the smoking of marijuana. Conservative (59%) and undecided voters (48%) are more likely to say no to legalizing the smoking of marijuana, while Green party (64%), Bloc (59%) and NDP (57%) voters are more likely to say yes to legalizing the smoking of marijuana.

Green Party leader seen as most likely to say he would have inhaled

Among all the party leaders, Jim Harris, leader of the Green Party is seen as the leader most likely to say he would have inhaled if they had experimented with drugs by Canadian young adults and students aged 18 to 24 (37%). Twenty-nine per cent admit they don't know which leader would be more likely (29%), followed by Jack Layton (14%). Men are more likely than women to say Jim Harris (39% vs. 35%), while women are more likely to say they don't know who would have said they had inhaled if they had experimented with drugs (36% vs. 21%). Residents of British Columbia (44%) and Alberta (42%) are more likely to say that Jim Harris would have been more likely to have said he inhaled. Residents of Quebec are more likely than residents of other provinces to say Jack Layton was more likely to say he had inhaled (16%).

Belief that a party leader may have been more likely to say they had inhaled does not deter Canadian young adults from voting for the party. Although vote intention doesn't change the respondents belief that Jim Harris would be the most likely to say he inhaled, it does change who they think would be the second most likely to admit this. This is particularly the case of Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc. Among young adults voting for the Bloc, 18 per cent believe that Duceppe would say he had inhaled if he had experimented with drugs, while undecided voters are undecided as to which leader would be most likely to say they had inhaled if they had experiment with drugs (64%).

About This Survey

The survey is an initiative of The Democracy Project (www.thedemocracyproject.ca), a national, non-partisan initiative to promote discussion of young people's issues by Canada's political parties and the media during the federal election. Through public opinion polling, all-candidates debates for young adults and an online consultation with young people about

how we could improve Canadian democracy, the Democracy Project aims to empower youth and encourage higher rates of voting.

For the survey, a representative sample of 2,979 Canadian youth and students, aged 18 to 24, interviewed using an on-line survey. The sample used has been weighted according to 2001 Census data to accurately reflect region, gender and age. With a sample of this size, the aggregated results are considered accurate to within ± 1.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had a representative cross-section of Canadian youth and student population of 18-to-24 year olds been polled. The margin of error will be larger within each sub-grouping of the survey population.

The survey was conducted by Innovative Research Group, Inc. (www.innovativeresearch.ca), a Toronto-based research firm, between Monday, November 28th and Thursday, December 1st, 2005.

The Democracy Project is an initiative of the Dominion Institute (www.dominion.ca), a registered charity dedicated to the promotion of Canadian history, and active and informed citizenship.

Attribution

In the first instance of mentioning the poll results should be identified as a "Democracy Project survey commissioned by the Dominion Institute and Innovative Research Group".

All subsequent mentions can use the convention "Democracy Project poll conducted by Innovative".

Referencing of the results in a slide or graphic: "Democracy Project poll: Dominion Institute / Innovative"

The website that can be given out for views and readers to access detailed information on the survey is "www.thedemocracyproject.ca".

Spokespersons

Rudyard Griffiths
Dominion Institute
rudyard@dominion.ca
Office Direct: 416 368 9627

Greg Lyle
Innovative Research Group Inc.
glyle@innovativeresearch.ca
Office Direct: 416 642 6429