Looking West 2001
Survey Questionnaire

Canada West Foundation
and
University of Calgary Research Unit for the Study of Civil Society (RUSCS)

Introduction/Preamble

Hello I am (FIRST AND LAST NAME) with ACCORD Research, the University of Calgary's public opinion research company. We are conducting a survey about issues facing western Canadians and their families. May I please speak to the person in your household who is 18 years of age or older and has the next birthday?

This survey takes about 20 minutes to complete.

Will you participate in this study?

○ yes
○ no → END/ARRANGE CALL BACK

You do not have to answer any questions if you do not wish and you may stop the interview at any time. Your answers will be kept completely confidential and your phone number will be kept separate from your survey responses. The survey is being conducted by a University of Calgary research group and the Canada West Foundation with funding provided by the Donner Canada Foundation and the Canada West Foundation. The survey data will be made available to other researchers interested in attitudes towards government and society.

Many of the questions in this survey explore issues important to western Canada, with western Canada defined as British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I am going to begin by asking some general questions about opinions you may have.

A. Mobility

A1. How long have you lived in [province]? *[do not read response categories] (note: years in total)*
1. less than 2 years
2. 2 -5 years
3. 6 -10 years
4. 11 - 20 years → *skip to A4*
5. over 20 years/all my life → *skip to A4*
6. DK/NA

A2. What brought you to [province]? *[do not read response categories; code multiple responses]*
1. employment opportunities
2. education opportunities
3. retirement
4. moved with family/spouse/partner
5. family/personal reasons
6. other *[record response]*
7. DK/NA

A3. Where did you reside prior to moving to [province]? *[do not read response categories]*
1. USA
2. Other country outside Canada
3. BC
4. Alberta
5. Saskatchewan
6. Manitoba
7. Ontario
8. Quebec
9. Atlantic Canada
10. the North (Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunuvut)
11. DK/NA

A4. When you think of your life 5 years from now, how likely is it that you will still be living in [province]?
1. very likely
2. somewhat likely
3. somewhat unlikely
4. very unlikely
5. DK/NA

A5. If you <u>were</u> to move away from **[province]** in the next 5 years, what would be the most likely reason for the move? *[record one answer, but probe for complete meaning.]*

A6. If you were offered a better job than the one you have now, but in another Canadian province, would you be very willing, somewhat willing, not very willing or not at all willing to consider moving to take the job?
1. very willing
2. somewhat willing
3. not very willing
4. not at all willing
5. *[do not read]* depends on which province
6. *[do not read]* *states* not employed
7. *[do not read]* retired → *skip to B1*
8. DK/NA

A7. If you were offered a better job than the one you have now, but in the United States, would you be very willing, somewhat willing, not very willing or not at all willing to consider moving to take the job? *[note: better job = as personally defined]*
1. very willing
2. somewhat willing
3. not very willing
4. not at all willing
5. *[do not read]* depends on which state
6. *[do not read]* *states* not employed
7. DK/NA

B. Identities

B1. Which of the following would you primarily identify yourself with?

1. Your City, town or rural area
2. [province]
3. Western Canada
4. Canada
5. North America
6. The world
7. DK/NA

B2. And what would you next identify yourself with?

1. Your City, town or rural area
2. [province]
3. Western Canada
4. Canada
5. North America
6. The world
7. DK/NA

I am going to read you a number of statements, and I would like you to rate your agreement as either strongly agree, somewhat agree, neutral, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

B3. The West is a distinct region, different in many ways from the rest of Canada.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/NA

B4. [Province] would be better off economically if it separated from Canada. *[if asked, in the long term]*.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/NA

B5. Canada should replace the existing senate with an elected senate with equal representation from each province.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/NA

B6. Canadian citizens should be able to initiate binding referendums on issues of their choice.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/NA

B7. Canada should replace the present electoral system with an electoral system based on proportional representation – that is, a system that distributes seats to each party according to its share of the popular vote

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/NA

C. Federalism and Political Institutions

The next set of questions deal with your opinions on the role of your province in Canada.

C1. In your opinion, is [province] treated with the respect it deserves in Canada or not?
1. Yes
2. No
3. DK/NA

C2. In your opinion, how much influence does [province] have on important national decisions in Canada?
1. More than its fair share.
2. Less than its fair share.
3. About its fair share.
4. DK/NA

C3. Thinking about all the money the federal government spends on different programs and on transfers to the provinces, do you think [province] receives:
1. More than its fair share.
2. Less than its fair share.
3. About its fair share.
4. DK/NA

C4. In your opinion, does the federal government have too much power, do the provincial governments have too much power, or is the balance between them about right?
1. Federal government has too much power.
2. Provincial governments have too much power.
3. Balance is about right.
4. DK/NA

C5. Thinking about the things that the municipal government in your city, town or rural district is responsible for, do you think that this government has enough power to carry out its responsibilities, does it have too much power, or does it have too little power?
[municipal = local]
1. Enough power
2. Too much power.
3. Too little power.
4. DK/NA

D. Regional Future

The next set of questions deals with your perceptions of the future.

D1. Five years from now, do you expect that you will <u>personally</u> be:
1. much better off than now
2. somewhat better off than now
3. somewhat worse off than now
4. much worse off than now
5. about the same as now
6. DK/NA

D2. Five years from now, do you expect that [province] will be:
1. much better off than now
2. somewhat better off than now
3. somewhat worse off than now
4. much worse off than now
5. about the same as now
6. DK/NA

E. Globalization

E1. As you may know, Canada has signed free trade agreements with the United States and Mexico and is a member of the WTO (World Trade Organization) that promotes trade between countries around the world. Do you think that increased global trade has been good for Canada?
1. Yes
2. No
3. *[do not read]* Mixed impact
4. DK/NA

E2. And do you think that increased global trade has been good for [province]?
1. Yes
2. No
3. *[do not read]* Mixed impact
4. DK/NA

Thinking about what governments can do to ensure that the West can compete successfully in the global economy, how would you rate the priority of the following… ?
rotate

E3. Lowering taxes. Should that be a…?
1. High priority
2. Medium priority
3. Low priority
4. DK/NA

E4. Investing in our system of public education. Should that be a…?
1. High priority
2. Medium priority
3. Low priority
4. DK/NA

E5. Attracting high-tech businesses to the region. Should that be a …?
1. High priority
2. Medium priority
3. Low priority
4. DK/NA

E6. Increasing the global profile of western Canadian cities. Should that be a …?
1. High priority
2. Medium priority
3. Low priority
4. DK/NA

E7. Promoting closer economic ties with the United States. Should that be a …?
1. High priority
2. Medium priority
3. Low priority
4. DK/NA

F. Public Policy Preferences

The next set of questions looks at your opinions about a number of key public policy issues.

F1. Do you think relations between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians are improving, deteriorating or staying about the same?
1. Improving
2. Staying about the same
3. Deteriorating
4. DK/NA

F2. In your opinion, have governments in Canada gone too far, have they not gone far enough or have they gone as far as they need to, in trying to reach an understanding with Aboriginal peoples?
1. Gone too far
2. Have not gone far enough
3. Have gone as far as they need to
4. DK/NA

F3. Do you think Canada should accept more immigrants, fewer immigrants, or about the same number as we accept now? *[interviewer note: currently accept 225,000 per year]*
1. Accept more
2. Accept fewer
3. Accept same number
4. DK/NA

I am going to read you a number of statements, and I would like you to rate your agreement as either strongly agree, somewhat agree, neutral, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

F4. The universities in western Canada are, on average, at least as good as those in central and eastern Canada.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/NA

F5. Instead of relying on government so much, people should take more responsibility for their own retirement plans.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/NA

F6. On the whole, allowing Aboriginal groups to run on-reserve casinos and other gambling would benefit Aboriginal communities.

1. Strongly agree
2. Somewhat agree
3. neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/NA

G. Activities and Information Technology

The next set of questions looks at your participation in a number of events and activities.

G1. On average, how many times do you attend a local arts or cultural event, such as live theatre or music, or a museum? Would that be… *[read list]*
1. Daily
2. a few times a week
3. a few times a month
4. once a month
5. less than once a month/a few times a year
6. never
7. DK/NA

G2. And about how many times do you use the Internet? *[read list]*
1. Daily
2. a few times a week
3. a few times a month
4. once a month
5. less than once a month/a few times a year
6. never → *skip to Section H*
7. DK/NA

G3. Do you use the Internet at work, outside work, or both? *[note: outside work = home, library, school, etc.]*
1. Work only
2. Outside work only
3. Both at work and outside work
4. DK/NA

G4. How often do you use the Internet to make purchases or to conduct business transactions?
1. Regularly
2. Occasionally
3. Rarely
4. Never
5. DK/NA

G5. How often do you use the Internet to interact with governments, such as reading government information or contacting politicians?
1. Regularly
2. Occasionally
3. Rarely
4. Never
5. DK/NA

G6. How often do you use the Internet to interact socially? *(e.g. such as participating in chat rooms, discussion forums or newsgroups; also includes ICQ, Amazon Messenger, Multiple Player Games; does NOT include email)*
1. Regularly
2. Occasionally
3. Rarely
4. Never
5. DK/NA

H. Demographics

Finally, I have some demographic questions that enable us to group responses and to sort the data we collect. All responses will be held in strict confidence and will not be attributed to any individual.

H1. What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?

1. less than grade 12
2. high school diploma
3. diploma, certificate or degree from community college, trade, technical or vocational school, or business college
4. bachelor degree
5. some university/college/technical school
6. graduate/professional degree *[professional degree, Masters, Ph.D.]*
7. Other *[record]*
8. DK/NA
9. refused

H2. For statistical purposes only, we need information about your income. All individual responses will be kept confidential. Please tell me which category applies to your total household income before taxes in 2000.

1. under $15,000
2. $15,000 - $29,999
3. $30,000 - $49,999
4. $50,000 - $69,999
5. $70,000 - $89,999
6. $90,000 - $149,999
7. $150,000 and over
8. DK/NA
9. refused

H3. Which of the following best describes your employment status?

1. full-time employed
2. part-time employed
3. retired
4. unemployed
5. student
6. homemaker
7. other
8. DK/NA
9. refused

H4. In what year were you born?
19____

H5. For which political party did you vote in the 2000 federal election? *[do not read]*
1. Liberal
2. Canadian Alliance
3. Progressive Conservatives
4. NDP
5. Green Party
6. Bloc Quebecois
7. Independent
8. Other
9. did not vote
10. not eligible to vote
11. DK/NA
12. refused

H6. For which political party did you vote in the most recent [province] election? *[do not read]*
1. Liberal
2. Progressive Conservatives
3. NDP
4. Saskatchewan Party
5. Social Credit
6. Reform
7. Independent
8. Other
9. did not vote
10. not eligible to vote
11. DK/NA
12. refused

H7. What are the first three digits of your postal code?
_____

H8. Record Gender *[do not read]*
1. male
2. female

Thank you for participating in the survey. Have a good day.