

**Civil
Liberties
in
Canada**

**Institute for Social Research
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SECTION A

The following statements are about important issues facing Canada today. Indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement by writing the number that best represents how you feel in the space provided to the right of each statement.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
1	2	3	4	8

1. We must ensure an independent Canada even if that were to mean a lower standard of living for Canadians _____
2. People in the various provinces should put less emphasis on their regional identities and more emphasis on their Canadian identity _____
3. Our rights as Canadians must be balanced off against proper standards of decency and respect for others _____
4. While it is all well and good to celebrate one's heritage, it is more important for new immigrants to learn what it is to be Canadian than to cling to their old ways _____
5. Canada should have free trade with the United States _____
6. The Canadian way of life is being influenced too strongly by the United States _____
7. Canadians benefit a great deal from American investment in Canada _____
8. I am glad that I have a government that looks after me in so many ways _____
9. To preserve the French culture and heritage in Canada, the use of English in advertising should be prohibited in certain parts of the country ... _____
10. Doctors and hospitals should not be allowed to extra bill or charge patients more than what the government health plans pay them _____
11. Canadian Indians should be able to decide for themselves their way of life _____
12. Social insurance programs (like old age pensions and family allowances) should be based on family income, so people who don't need this type of assistance don't get it _____
13. We must encourage economic efficiency even if that means more small businesses will be replaced by big corporations _____

SECTION B

In this section of the questionnaire we are interested in how you feel about a number of more general issues. Check the answer that completes the sentence in a way that best reflects your opinion.

1. In general, it's better for people of different races:
 - 1 to keep to themselves as much as possible.
 - 2 to live and work together so that they can learn to understand each other.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
2. The poor are poor because:
 - 1 they don't try hard enough to get ahead.
 - 2 the wealthy and powerful keep them poor.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
3. Government regulation of business:
 - 1 usually does more harm than good.
 - 2 is necessary to keep industry from becoming too powerful.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
4. People who have made a lot of money:
 - 1 have usually done so at the expense of other people.
 - 2 are proof of what you get if you are willing to work and take advantage of the opportunities all of us have.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
5. Whom do you admire more?
 - 1 People who go their own way without worrying about what others think.
 - 2 People who learn to fit in and get along with others.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
6. In the matter of jobs and standards of living, the government should:
 - 1 see to it that everyone has a job and a decent standard of living.
 - 2 let each person get ahead on his own.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided

7. Which of these comes closer to your own view?

- 1 The government has no right to decide what should or should not be published.
- 2 To protect its moral values, a society sometimes has to forbid certain things from being published.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

8. Our laws should aim to:

- 1 enforce the community's standards of right and wrong.
- 2 protect a citizen's right to live by any moral standard he chooses.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

9. The laws guaranteeing equal job opportunities for blacks and other minorities:

- 1 should be made even stronger.
- 2 sometimes go too far.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

10. In society today, too little emphasis is placed on:

- 1 respect for established institutions.
- 2 the rights of the individual.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

11. If a society had to choose between making progress and keeping things stable and orderly, which should it choose?

- 1 Making progress.
- 2 Keeping things orderly.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

12. Competition, whether in school, work or business:

- 1 leads to better performance and a desire for excellence.
- 2 is often wasteful and destructive.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

13. Government by its nature:

- 1 threatens the rights of people and must not be trusted.
- 2 is the best instrument for promoting the general interests of society.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

14. Ideally Canadian society should be like:

- 1 a unified body pursuing a common goal.
- 2 a collection of people independently pursuing their own goals.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

15. In a fair economic system:

- 1 all people should earn about the same.
- 2 people with more ability should earn higher salaries.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

16. In our society today, too much emphasis is placed on:

- 1 conformity and obedience to the community.
- 2 individual freedom at the expense of the community's interest.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

17. Everyone would be better off if more women:

- 1 were satisfied to stay home and have families.
- 2 were encouraged to have careers of their own.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

SECTION C

Please express your views about the following issues by answering "yes" or "no" to the following questions.

1. Should a person who does not want to join a union still have to pay union dues?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Undecided

2. Should workers have the right to stay out on strike indefinitely, even if the government believes continuation of the strike will cause hardship to the public?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Undecided

3. If the cabinet says there is a national emergency, and a majority in parliament agrees, is it alright to suspend the usual civil rights?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Undecided

4. Should a town or city be able to limit public demonstrations that city officials think might turn violent against persons and property?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Undecided

5. Should the press publish the names of juveniles charged with crimes?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Undecided

6. Do you think the RCMP needs to be subject to strong external control in order to protect civil liberties?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Undecided

7. Should Customs officers be able to conduct body searches without a warrant if they suspect someone is smuggling drugs into the country?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Undecided

7. I'd want to know that something would really work before I'd be willing to take a chance on it . ____

8. I do not like to see people carelessly dressed .. ____

9. Without respect for people and institutions, freedom is a sham ____

10. One can't really get very far in life without taking some risks ____

11. People should place more emphasis on working hard and doing a good job than on what gives them personal satisfaction and pleasure ____

12. It is having to compete with others that keeps a person on his toes ____

13. Our thinking would be a lot better off if we would just forget about words like "probably", "approximately" and "perhaps" ____

14. The trouble with many people is that they don't take things seriously enough ____

15. I often wish that people would be more definite about things ____

16. If you start trying to change things very much, you usually make them worse ____

17. I distrust people who try to be different from the rest of us ____

18. We shouldn't be tolerant of ideas that are wrong morally ____

19. There is something wrong with a woman who doesn't want to have children ____

20. Women don't get along with each other on the job as well as men do ____

21. When it comes to caring for babies and small children, men by nature are less patient and giving than women ____

22. Even if I fail, I would rather be free and stand on my own feet than have to depend on the government ____

SECTION D

Express your personal opinion by MAINLY AGREEING or MAINLY DISAGREEING to each statement. Indicate your opinion by placing the appropriate number in the space provided to the right of each statement.

Mainly Agree	Mainly Disagree	No Opinion
1	2	8

1. For most questions there is just one right answer, once a person is able to get all the facts ____

2. I feel sure that there is only one true religion .. ____

3. I don't like to work on a problem unless there's a possibility of coming out with a clear-cut and unambiguous answer ____

4. In the long run, I'll put my trust in the simple down-to-earth thinking of ordinary people rather than the theories of experts and intellectuals ... ____

5. It will always be necessary to have a few strong, able people actually running everything ____

6. If people get into trouble because of their unusual opinions about politics, religion, or sex, I am inclined to think it is their hard*luck ____

SECTION E

Now some statements about business issues, law and criminal matters. Complete the sentence by checking the answer that best represents how you feel.

1. When it comes to making decisions in industry:
 - 1 workers should have more say than they do.
 - 2 the important decisions should be left to management.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
2. Which presents the greater threat to individual liberty?
 - 1 Big unions.
 - 2 Big business.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
3. Getting ahead in the world is mostly a matter of:
 - 1 ability and hard work.
 - 2 getting the breaks.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
4. A person suspected of a serious crime:
 - 1 should have to answer questions from the police.
 - 2 should be able to remain silent.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
5. The profit system:
 - 1 often brings out the worst in human nature.
 - 2 usually teaches people the value of hard work and personal achievement.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
6. If a police officer stops a car for a traffic violation, he should:
 - 1 be allowed to search the car if he suspects it contains narcotics or stolen goods.
 - 2 be limited to dealing with the traffic violation and nothing else.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
7. Should government authorities be allowed to open the mail of people suspected of being in contact with fugitives?
 - 1 Yes, as it may help the police catch criminals they have been looking for.
 - 2 No, it would violate a person's right to correspond with his friends.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
8. In dealing with mugging and other serious street crimes, which is more important?
 - 1 To protect the rights of suspects.
 - 2 To stop such crimes and make the streets safe even if we sometimes have to violate the suspects' rights.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
9. Suppose Parliament passed a law you considered unjust, immoral or cruel. Would you still be morally bound to obey it?
 - 1 Yes, it's our duty to obey any law adopted under proper constitutional procedure.
 - 2 No, because we have a higher duty to our own conscience and to what we think is right and wrong.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
10. Should the crown be allowed to appeal if a jury finds a person innocent, or should it be like some other countries where the government can't appeal a finding of innocence?
 - 1 Crown should be able to appeal.
 - 2 Crown should not be able to appeal.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
11. Do you think that the quality of public services in a province should:
 - 1 be what each province can afford to provide from its own resources?
 - 2 be brought up to the same basic level using federal monies?
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided
12. In decisions coming from the Supreme Court of Canada:
 - 1 the general interests of Canadians are most often served.
 - 2 the particular interests of those bringing the case to court are most often served.
 - 3 Neither
 - 8 Undecided

SECTION F

Do you think the following statements are MOSTLY TRUE or MOSTLY FALSE?

1. You can't trust politicians to tell the truth.
 1 Mostly true.
 2 Mostly false.
 8 No opinion.
2. Sometimes, politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what is going on.
 1 Mostly true.
 2 Mostly false.
 8 No opinion.
3. Compromise and looking for a common ground are more important than competition and trying to win.
 1 Mostly true.
 2 Mostly false.
 8 No opinion.
4. No matter how we talk about it, political authority really comes not from us, but from some higher power.
 1 Mostly true.
 2 Mostly false.
 8 No opinion.
5. Most politicians can be trusted to do what they think is best for the country.
 1 Mostly true.
 2 Mostly false.
 8 No opinion.
6. Our society has become too permissive.
 1 Mostly true.
 2 Mostly false.
 8 No opinion.
7. If we respect government, it will pose no threat to our liberty.
 1 Mostly true.
 2 Mostly false.
 8 No opinion.

SECTION G

The final section of the questionnaire asks questions about different groups of people in Canadian society. Some of these questions may seem fair and sensible, others will strike you as extreme or even foolish. Since our purpose is to obtain a description of the beliefs and ideas of all Canadians we include answers that reflect a wide range of opinions.

For the first questions in this section check the answer that completes the sentence in a way that best reflects your view.

1. Mentally handicapped people:
 1 should be free to decide for themselves whether to have children.
 2 should be subjected to sterilization if their parents and doctors recommend it.
 3 Neither
 8 Undecided
2. Should groups like the Nazis and Ku Klux Klan be allowed to appear on public television to state their views?
 1 No, because they would offend certain racial or religious groups.
 2 Yes, should be allowed no matter who is offended.
 3 Neither
 8 Undecided
3. For the most part, local ordinances that guarantee equal rights to homosexuals in such matters as jobs and housing:
 1 damage Canadian moral standards.
 2 uphold the Canadian idea of human rights for all.
 3 Neither
 8 Undecided
4. A soldier in the Canadian Forces:
 1 should be able to wear a turban for religious reasons.
 2 should wear a soldier's cap or helmet like everyone else.
 3 Neither
 8 Undecided
5. Requiring professors to retire at age 65 is:
 1 an unjustified form of age discrimination.
 2 an acceptable way of making room for younger professors.
 3 Neither
 8 Undecided

6. The owner of an ethnic, for example Greek or Chinese, restaurant:

- 1 should be free to hire only members of his or her ethnic group.
- 2 should have to hire anyone who is qualified.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

7. Land claims settlements with native peoples:

- 1 should be reached before using their land for economic development purposes.
- 2 should not be a reason for postponing major development projects.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

8. Native peoples should be able to have a large amount of self government:

- 1 as long as their system of government conforms with the principles of Canadian democracy.
- 2 no matter what system of government they adopt.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

9. If a person has AIDS, and his fellow employees are genuinely afraid of getting the disease from him, would it be acceptable for his employer to fire him?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Undecided

10. Should people who cook for restaurants or schools be required to take a test to verify that they have not been exposed to AIDS?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Undecided

11. Which of these opinions about equality comes closer to what you believe?

- 1 No matter how we treat everyone, some people will turn out to be better than others.
- 2 If we really gave every person an equal chance, almost all of them would turn out to be equally worthwhile.
- 3 Neither
- 8 Undecided

For these questions indicate whether you MAINLY AGREE or MAINLY DISAGREE with each statement. Place the appropriate number to the right of each statement.

Mainly Agree	Mainly Disagree	No Opinion
1	2	8

12. Just as is true of a fine race horse, some breeds of people are just naturally better than others .. ____

13. The trouble with letting certain minority groups into a nice neighbourhood is that they gradually give it their own atmosphere ____

14. When it comes to the things that count most, all races are certainly not equal ____

15. We have to teach children that all men are created equal, but almost everyone knows that some are better than others ____

16. If minority groups hope to be liked better, they should first try to get rid of their harmful and irritating faults ____

17. Newspapers should refuse to publish research showing there are very high rates of alcoholism among Indians because this may encourage prejudice against them ____

18. In the long run, it would be best for native people to be completely assimilated into Canadian society .. ____

19. Universities should have special programmes and admission standards for native Canadians ____

20. Children who are non-Christians or non-believers should not be required to listen to prayers in school . ____

A FEW FACTS ABOUT YOURSELF

1. What is your sex?

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

2. What is your year of birth?

19 __ __

3. How many years of schooling did you complete?

__ __ years

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE