Public Opinion Research Study on Electoral Matters – Wave 1

Prepared for Elections Canada

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Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français

This public opinion research report presents the results of an online survey conducted by Léger Marketing Inc. on behalf of Elections Canada. The quantitative research study was conducted with 2,582 Canadians who were eligible electors, residing in different regions of Canada, between April 1 and April 11, 2021.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sous le titre *Étude d'opinion publique sur des questions électorales*.

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Executive Summary

Léger is pleased to present Elections Canada with this report on its findings from a quantitative survey designed to learn about Canadians who are eligible electors residing in different regions of the country. This report was prepared by Léger Marketing Inc., which was contracted by Elections Canada (contract number 05005-200923/001/CY, awarded on February 26, 2021).

Background and Objectives

As per its mandate, Elections Canada must always be ready to organize elections, even in unusual contexts such as the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has had significant social and economic impacts, including repercussions for how Elections Canada administers electoral events that may be held during the pandemic.

In this particular context, Elections Canada wanted to gauge the general public's opinion, on various electoral issues and topics, at different points in time. This report presents the results of the first wave (T1) of the survey conducted. This study (T1) will serve as a baseline for measuring and identifying significant trends or changes in the opinions of Canadian electors.

This survey was carried out using a quantitative study.

The project aims, among other things, to improve understanding of Canadian electors':

- opinions on emerging issues that pertain to the administration of elections
- trust in electoral administration and other national institutions
- sources of information about elections and the electoral process

More specifically, Elections Canada wants to track any significant fluctuation in these measures over time.

Intended Use of the Research

The information provided in these research reports will be used to inform Elections Canada's strategic communications and to support the GE Delivery in Pandemic Circumstances Working Group (GEDPC-WG) and its sub–working groups in developing their recommendations.

Methodology

This public opinion research was conducted using online surveys and computer-assisted web interviewing technology. Fieldwork for the survey was carried out from April 1, 2021, to April 11, 2021. A total of 2,582 eligible Canadian voters with demographic characteristics reflective of the Canadian population were surveyed. The sample was drawn randomly from the Leger Opinion online panel, and the overall response rate for the survey was 16%.

Using data from the most recent Canadian census, the weighting was done in each region by gender and age to ensure the best possible representation of the sample in each region and overall. The weight of each region was adjusted to be equivalent to its actual weight in relation to the distribution of the Canadian population. The weighting factors are presented in detail in Appendix A of this report.

A pretest of 20 interviews was completed before launching data collection to validate the programming of the questionnaire in both English and French.

Léger adheres to the most stringent guidelines for quantitative research. The survey instrument was compliant with the *Standards for the Conduct of Government of Canada Public Opinion Research—Series D—Quantitative Research*.

A complete methodological description is provided in Appendix A .

Overview of the Findings

- Confidence in Elections Canada is high. More than three-quarters (78%) of respondents have confidence in this institution, including 27% who have a great deal of confidence. Trust in Elections Canada is higher than confidence in the police, the media and other levels of government.
- A strong majority of respondents (87%) say they believe that Elections Canada conducts fair elections. Respondents who do not believe that Elections Canada conducts fair elections are mainly concerned with the integrity and security of the process and the distribution of seats, do not trust governments and politicians or are dissatisfied with the conduct or results of elections. A large minority of those who do not believe that Elections Canada conducts fair elections (35%) say they have no particular reason for believing that Elections Canada runs elections somewhat or very unfairly.
- The spread of false information online is seen as one of the factors that can have the most impact on the upcoming election. More than three-quarters of respondents (78%) think so. Smaller majorities express concern about the influence of a foreign country through social media and other means (61%) as well as the hacking of voting systems by a foreign country (55%).
- Three-quarters of respondents think that the voting system in Canada is safe and reliable (74%), while 17% think the voting system in Canada is prone to fraud and 9% do not know. These proportions change when respondents consider only voting by mail. Half of Canadians think voting by mail is safe and reliable (51%), while one-third of Canadians (32%) think voting by mail is prone to fraud and 17% do not know.

- When asked about the frequency of different types of voter fraud, respondents were most likely to believe that an individual impersonating someone else happens sometimes or often (39%). Fewer respondents thought it was common for non-citizens to vote (35%), for someone to vote more than once (29%) or for someone to steal or tamper with ballots after they had been cast (25%).
- Respondents were presented with three conspiracy statements. Less than half of the respondents (42%) believe in none of the conspiracy theories presented in the survey, while 40% of the respondents have mixed conspiracy beliefs and 18% hold strong conspiracy beliefs. Indeed, 40% of respondents believe that "certain significant events have been the result of the activity of a small group who secretly manipulate world events." Three Canadians out of 10 (30%) believe that "experiments involving new drugs or technologies are routinely carried out on the public without their knowledge or consent." Finally, 17% of Canadians believe that "the government is trying to cover up the link between vaccines and autism."
- Television remains the most popular medium for news about current events (35%). It is followed by online news sites or mobile apps (29%). Other traditional news media are consulted by far fewer respondents: radio (8%) and newspapers or print magazines (3%).

Notes on the Interpretation of the Research Findings

The views and observations expressed in this document do not reflect those of Elections Canada. This report was compiled by Léger based on the research conducted specifically for this project. This research is not probabilistic: the results cannot be applied to the general population of Canada.

Comparisons with the results of the 2019 National Electors Study (NES) are included when possible, with the caveat that some part of the observable differences between the 2019 NES and this survey might be explained by differences in the research design, including the survey modes and samples used in each study and the timing of measurements. Future waves of the survey will be used to track these measures over time.

Since a sample drawn from an Internet panel is not probabilistic in nature, margins of sampling error cannot be calculated for this survey. Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who had volunteered to participate or registered to participate in online surveys. The results of such surveys cannot be described as statistically projectable to the target population. The data have been weighted to reflect the demographic composition of the target population.

Political Neutrality Statement and Contact Information

Léger certifies that the final deliverables fully comply with the Government of Canada's political neutrality requirements outlined in its *Policy on Communications and Federal Identity* and the *Directive on the Management of Communications*.

Specifically, the deliverables do not include information on electoral voting intentions, political party preferences, standings with the electorate or ratings of the performance of a political party or its leader.

Signed: 

Christian Bourque, Senior Researcher

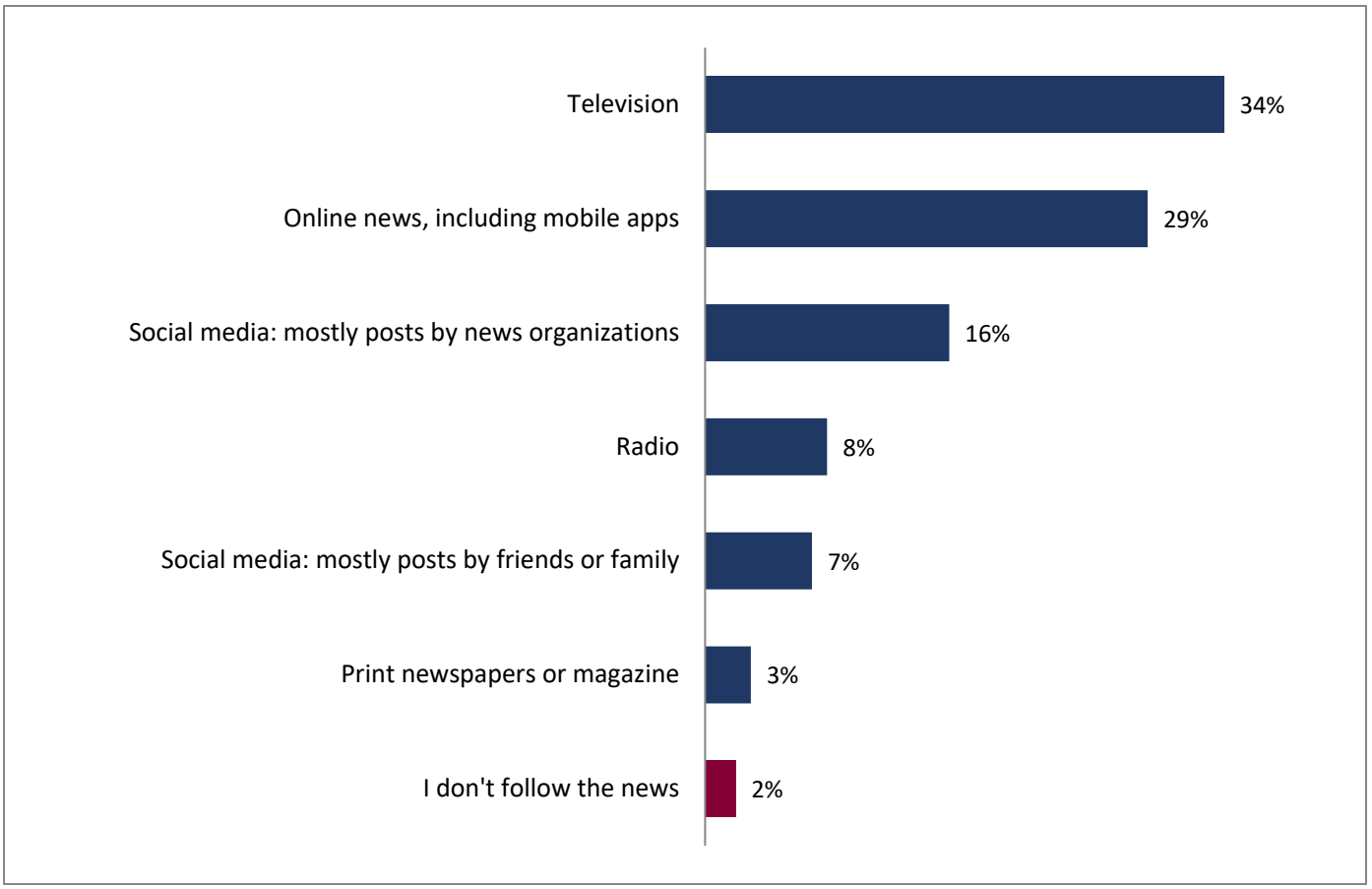
Léger

Detailed Survey Results

Main Sources of News

The results show that a large minority of Canadian electors turn to television first as their main source of news (34%). Almost three respondents out of 10 also turn to online news, including mobile apps, as one of their main sources of news (29%), and a little under one respondent out of five turns to social media, mostly news organizations pages (16%). In a lesser proportion, some respondents also turn to the radio (8%), friends' and family's social media posts (7%) and print newspapers or magazines (3%).

Figure 1: Main Source of News



*Q5: In general, which of these would you say is your main source of news? MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED * Base: All respondents (n=2,582)*

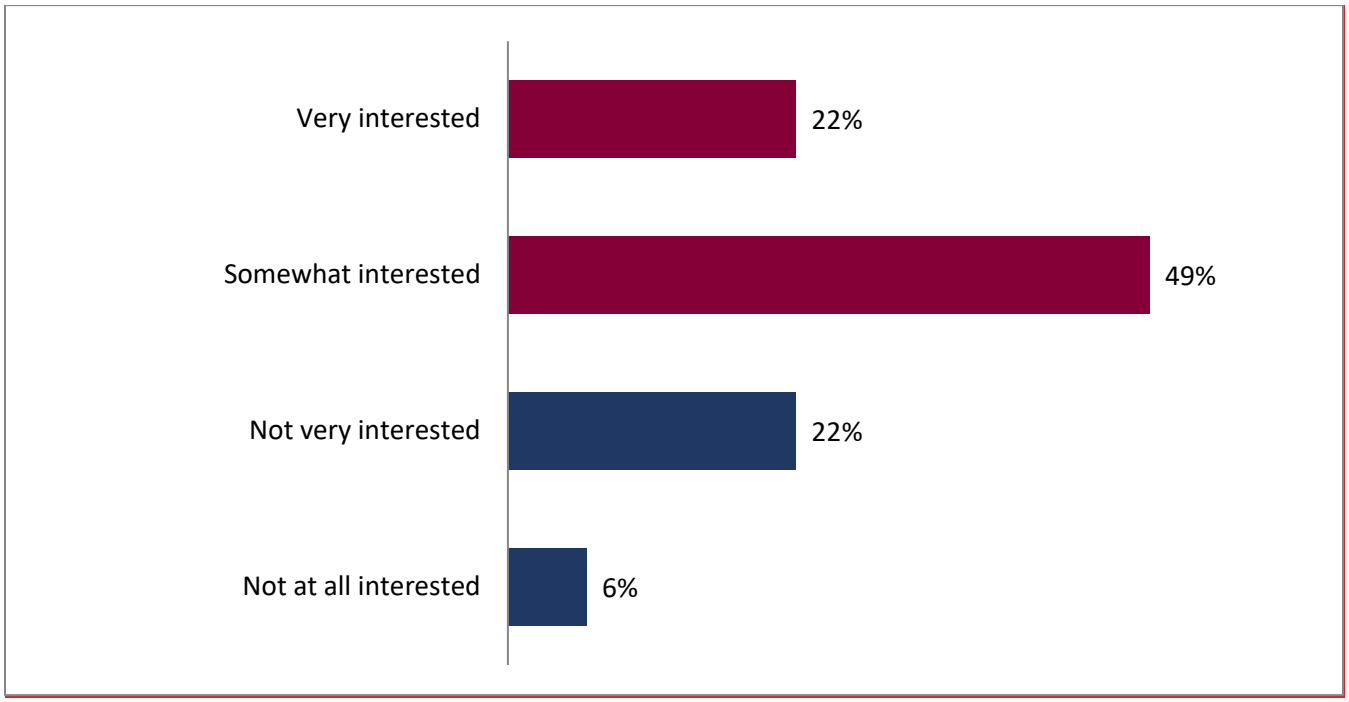
Notable subgroup differences regarding respondents' main source of news include the following:

- Men were more likely to turn to online news (36%) compared with women (22%). On the other hand, women were more likely to turn to social media posts by friends and family or by news organizations (28%) compared with men (17%).
- Electors aged 55 and older were more likely to turn to the television as their main source of news (52%) compared with electors aged 35–54 (31%) and 18–34 (13%). They were also less likely to turn to online news (21%) compared with those aged 18–34 (32%) and 35–54 (35%).
- Nearly half (47%) of younger respondents aged 18–34 mentioned social media as their main source of news, either posts by friends and family (16%) or by news organizations (31%). In comparison, 21% of respondents aged 35–54 and 8% of those 55+ said social media was their main source of news.
- Respondents with a university education were less likely (27%) to use television and more likely to use online news (35%) as their main source of news compared with respondents with a high school diploma or less (45% television, 16% online news) or with some college or trade education (40% television, 25% online news).
- Immigrant electors were more likely to use television as their main source of news (35%) compared with non-immigrant electors (28%).
- Habitual voters were more likely than infrequent voters to use television (37% vs. 26%) and print newspapers and magazines (4% vs. 1%) as their primary source of news.
- By contrast, infrequent voters were more likely than habitual voters to rely on social media posts from family and friends (13% vs. 6%) or social media posts by news organizations (20% vs. 15%) as their primary news sources.

Interest in Politics

A majority of electors say they are interested in politics (72%); this includes 22% who are very interested and 49% who are somewhat interested. On the other hand, 28% of electors admit they are not interested in politics: 22% who say they are not very interested and 6% who have no interest at all.

Figure 2: Interest in Politics



Q6: In general, how interested are you in politics? Base: All respondents (n=2,582)

The following subgroups were more likely to be interested in politics:

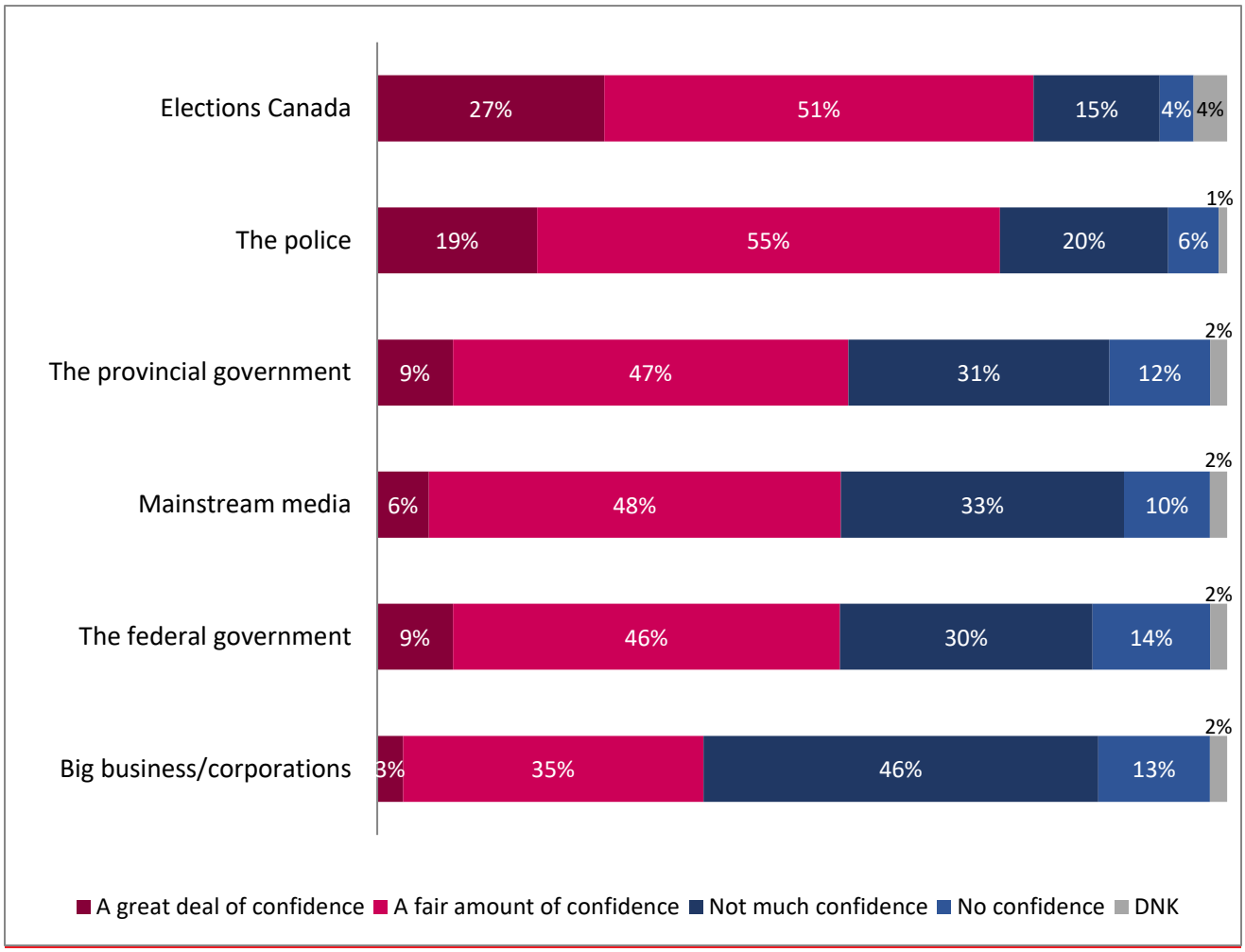
- Men (79%) compared with women (65%).
- Electors aged 55 and older (77%) compared with electors aged 35–54 (70%) and 18–34 (66%).
- Respondents with a university education (80%) compared with those with a high school diploma or less (59%) or those with some college or trade education (66%).
- Respondents living in Alberta (79%) compared with those living in the Atlantic region (66%), the Prairies (72%), Quebec (64%) and British Columbia (71%).
- Respondents living in Ontario (77%) compared with those living in the Atlantic region and Quebec.
- Electors with a disability (78%) compared with those without a disability (71%).
- Habitual voters (76%) compared with infrequent voters (56%).
- Electors who did not hold any conspiracy beliefs (77%) compared with those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (62%) and those with strong conspiracy beliefs (72%).

Confidence in Canadian Institutions

Respondents were asked to rate their confidence in a series of six Canadian institutions, which were presented at random. Among the institutions presented, Elections Canada was the one in which respondents expressed the most confidence. Indeed, a little over three-quarters of electors (78%) had a great deal of confidence (27%) or a fair amount of confidence (51%) in Elections Canada. Very few respondents expressed low confidence in Elections Canada (19%) compared with 26% to 60% for the other institutions.

Confidence was also high in the police (74%), but markedly lower for provincial governments (55%), the mainstream media (55%) and the federal government (54%). Big businesses and corporations were the least trusted institutions, with only a minority of respondents (38%) expressing a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in them.

Figure 3: Confidence in Canadian Institutions



Q7: How much confidence, if any, do you have in the following institutions in Canada? Base: All respondents (n=2,582)

The following subgroups were more likely to express confidence in Elections Canada[1]:

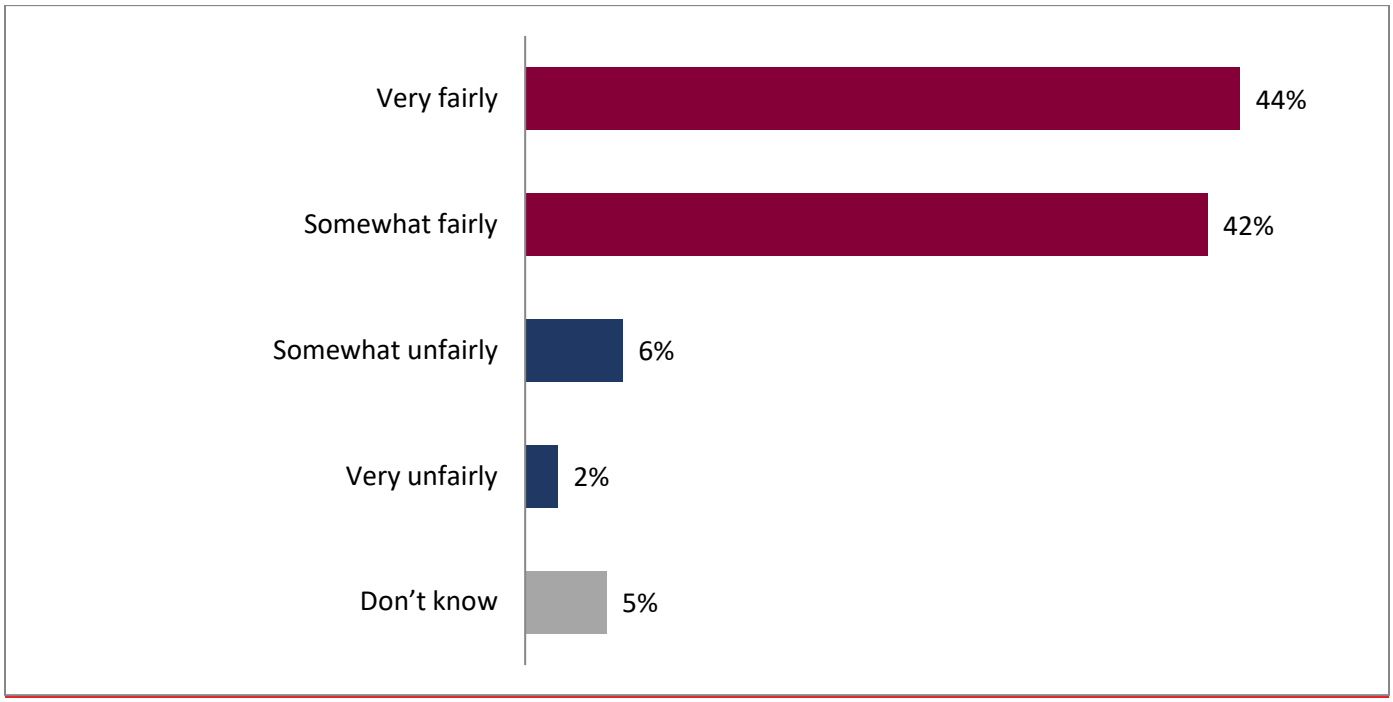
- Men (80%) compared with women (76%).
- Electors aged 55 and older (82%) compared with electors aged 35–54 (74%) and 18–34 (76%).
- Respondents with a university education (83%) compared with those with a high school diploma or less (70%) or those with some college or trade education (75%).
- Immigrant electors (83%) compared with non-immigrant electors (77%).
- Electors without a disability (79%) compared with those with a disability (70%).
- Habitual voters (82%) compared with infrequent voters (64%).
- Electors who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (90%) compared with those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (73%) and those with strong conspiracy beliefs (60%).

[1] Details of differences in trust in other institutions by subgroup are available in the banner tables published with this report.

Opinions on the Fairness of Running Federal Elections

Generally speaking, the majority of electors believe Elections Canada runs elections fairly (87%): 44% believe it does so very fairly, and 42% believe it does so somewhat fairly. Less than one elector in 10 believes Elections Canada runs elections unfairly (8%): 6% believe it does so somewhat unfairly, and 2% believe it does so very unfairly. Another 5% of electors were not able to decide the fairness of Elections Canada.

Figure 4: Fairness of Elections Canada



Q8: Thinking about federal elections in general, how fairly would you say Elections Canada runs the elections? Base: All respondents (n=2,582)

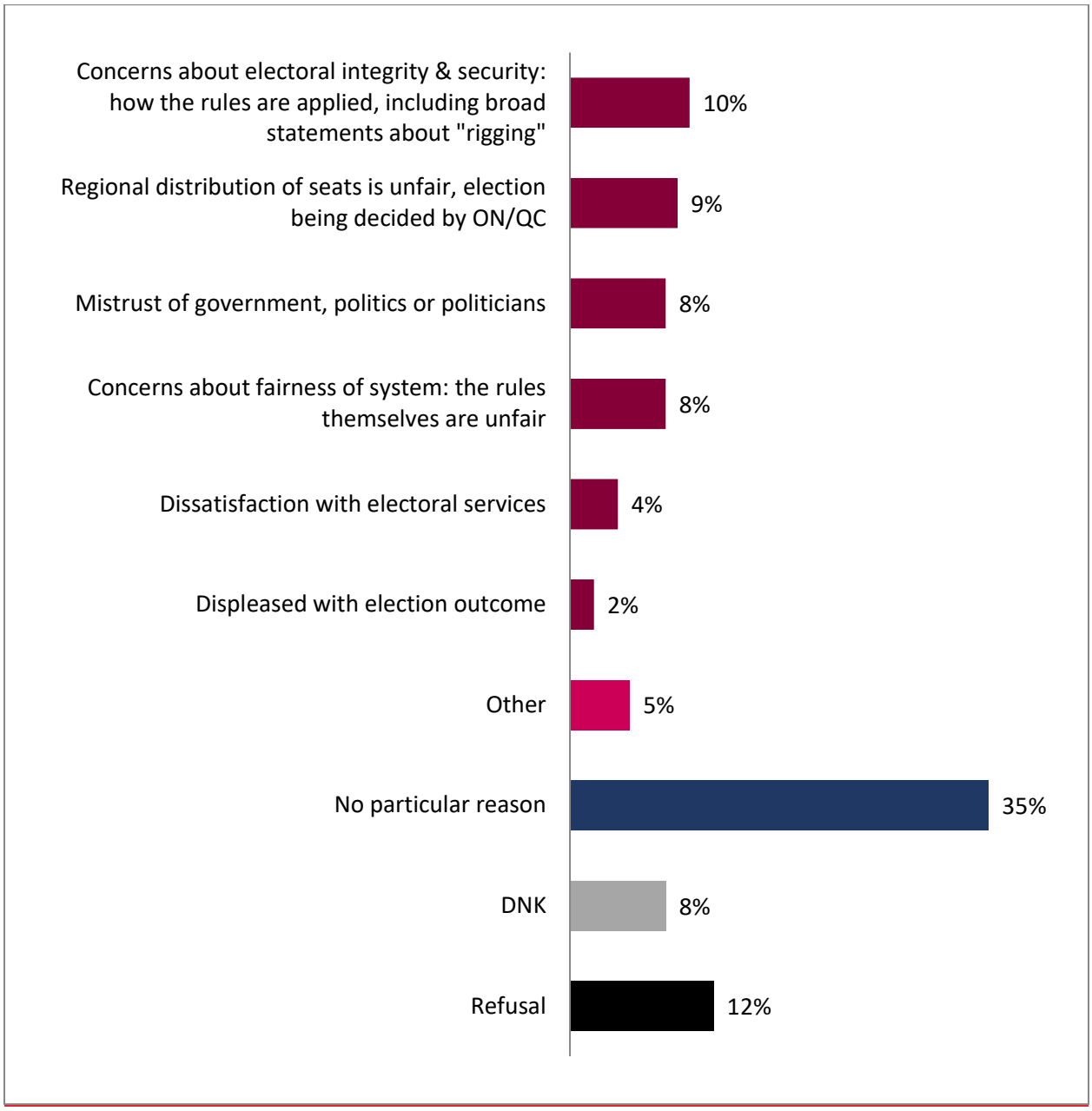
The following subgroups were especially likely to think that Elections Canada runs federal elections fairly in general:

- Electors aged 55 and older (90%) compared with electors aged 35–54 (85%) and 18–34 (84%).
- Respondents with a university education (91%) compared with those with a high school diploma or less (79%) or those with some college or trade education (85%).
- Respondents in Ontario (90%) compared with those in Quebec (85%) and Alberta (79%).
- Non-Indigenous electors (87%) compared with Indigenous electors (77%).
- Electors without a disability (87%) compared with those with a disability (82%).
- Habitual voters (90%) compared with infrequent voters (75%).
- Electors who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (95%) compared with those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (82%) and those with strong conspiracy beliefs (76%).

Reasons for Mistrust of Elections Canada

When asked whether they had a specific reason to think Elections Canada runs elections unfairly, one-third of the respondents who thought Elections Canada runs elections unfairly said they had no particular reason (35%). Among the ones who did have specific reasons, one in 10 said that they had concerns about electoral integrity and security (10%) and that the regional distribution of seats was unfair (9%). In a smaller proportion, some said they mistrusted governments, politics or politicians (8%), they had concerns about the fairness of the system (8%), they were dissatisfied with electoral services (4%) or they were displeased with election outcomes (2%).

Figure 5: Reasons to Think That Elections Are Not Conducted Fairly by Elections Canada



*Q9: Is there a specific reason you think Elections Canada runs elections unfairly? SPONTANEOUS MENTIONS * Base: Respondents who said Elections Canada runs elections somewhat unfairly or very unfairly (n=210) *Because respondents were able to give multiple answers, total mentions may exceed 100%.*

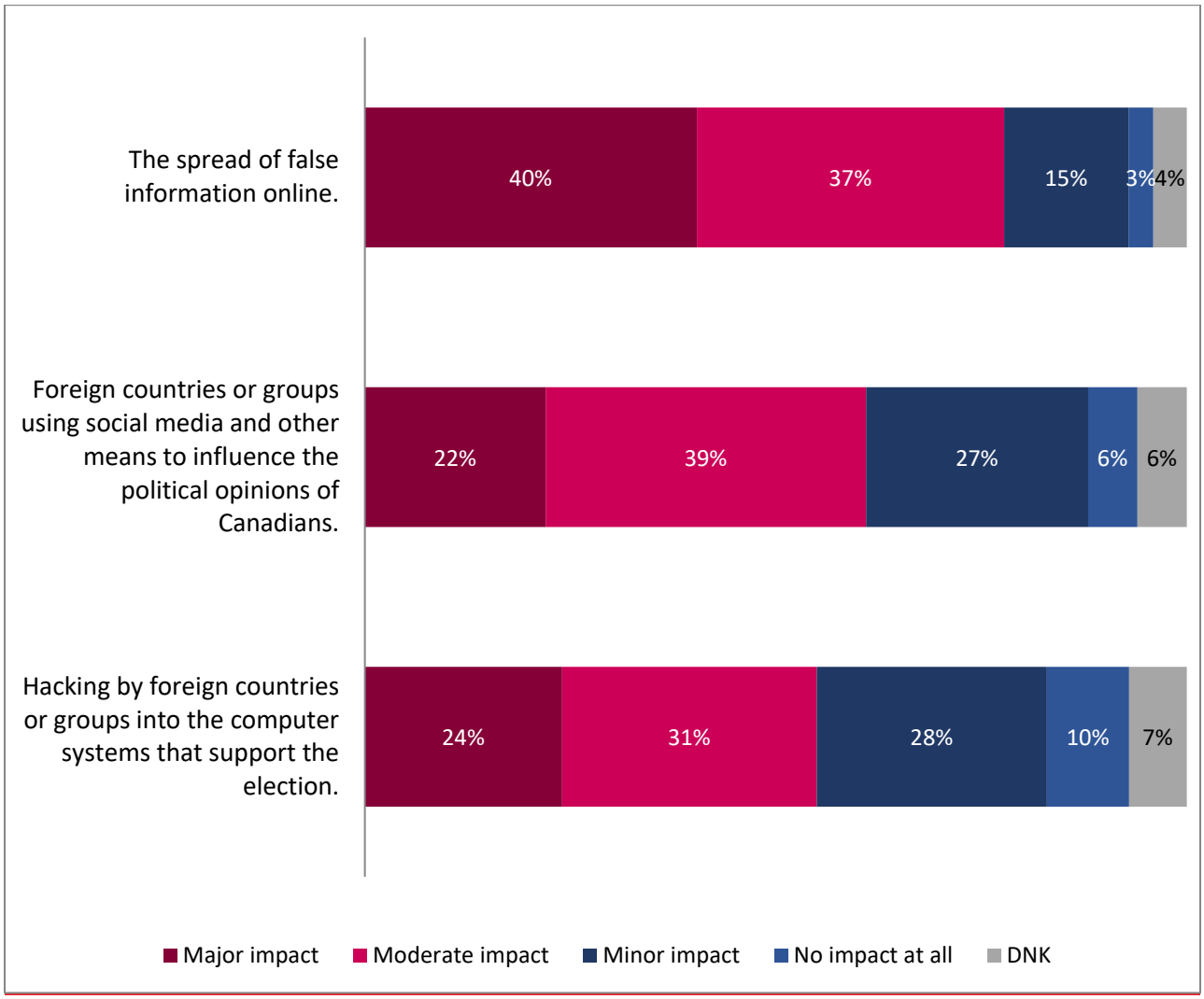
Notable subgroup differences regarding respondents' main reasons for thinking that elections are not conducted fairly by Elections Canada include the following:

- Electors aged 35–54 (43%) were more likely to indicate that there was no particular reason for them to think federal elections were run unfairly compared with electors aged 18–34 (27%). Electors living in Quebec (55%) were also more likely than those living in Ontario (20%) to mention that there was no particular reason for them to think that federal elections were generally run unfairly by Elections Canada. Electors with some college or trade education (47%) were more likely to not have any particular reason compared with those with a university degree (29%) or those with a high school diploma or less (28%).
- Respondents living on the Prairies (22%) were more likely than those living in Quebec (3%) and Ontario (5%) to explain their opinion because they thought the regional distribution of seats was unfair. Albertan respondents (17%) were also more likely than those in living in Quebec to explain their opinion about the fairness of the federal elections in the same way.
- Electors with a disability (13%) were more likely to explain their opinion by their dissatisfaction with electoral services compared with those without a disability (2%).
- Habitual voters were more likely to explain their opinion by their concerns about electoral integrity and security (14%) than infrequent voters (2%).
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (17%) were more likely than those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (4%) to explain their opinion with concerns about electoral integrity and security.
- For their part, respondents with mixed conspiracy beliefs (43%) were more likely to give no particular reason for their opinion compared with those with strong conspiracy beliefs (24%).

Electoral Interference

In general, respondents think the spread of false information online is what could have the biggest impact on the outcome of the next federal election in Canada. Indeed, three-quarters of Canadians (78%) think the spread of false information online could have a major (40%) or moderate (37%) impact on the outcome of the next federal election. Three Canadians out of five (61%) think foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians could also have a major (22%) or moderate (39%) impact on the outcome of the next federal election. Finally, more than half of the Canadians surveyed (55%) think hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election could also have a major (24%) or moderate (31%) impact on the outcome of the next federal election.

Figure 6: Impact of Different Factors on the Outcome of the Next Federal Election



Q10: Based on what you have seen or heard recently, what impact, if any, do you think the following could have on the outcome of the next federal election in Canada? Base: All respondents (n=2,582)

The following subgroups were more likely to think that "hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election" could have a moderate or major impact on the outcome of the next federal election:

- Respondents with some college or trade education (59%) compared with those with a university degree (52%).
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (73%) compared with those who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (48%) and those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (54%).

The following subgroup was more likely to think that "foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians" could have a moderate or major impact on the outcome of the next federal election:

- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (72%) compared with those who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (60%) and those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (58%).

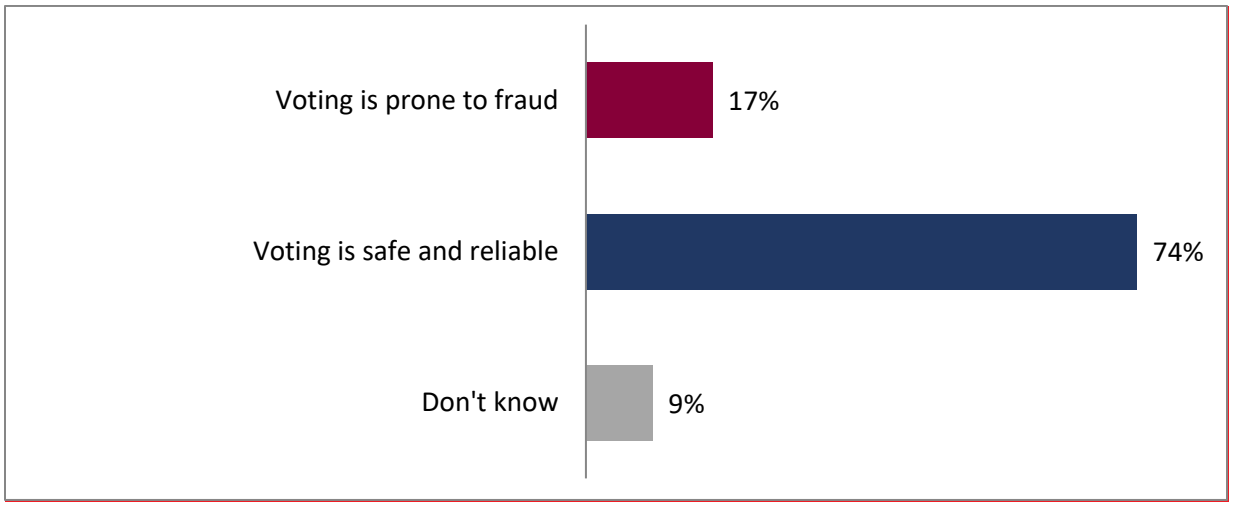
The following subgroups were more likely to think that "the spread of false information online" could have a moderate or major impact on the outcome of the next federal election:

- Women (79%) compared with men (76%).
- Electors aged 18–34 (84%) compared with electors aged 55 and older (76%) and electors 35–54 (75%).
- Respondents with a university degree (81%) compared with respondents with a high school diploma or less (69%).
- Electors who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (80%) and those with strong conspiracy beliefs (83%) compared with those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (73%).

Safety of the Voting System in Canada

Generally, three-quarters of electors think that the voting system in Canada is safe and reliable (74%), while 17% think the voting system in Canada is prone to fraud and 9% do not know.

Figure 7: Opinion Regarding the Voting System in Canada



Q11A: Which statement is closest to your opinion about the voting system in Canada? Base: All respondents (n=2,582)

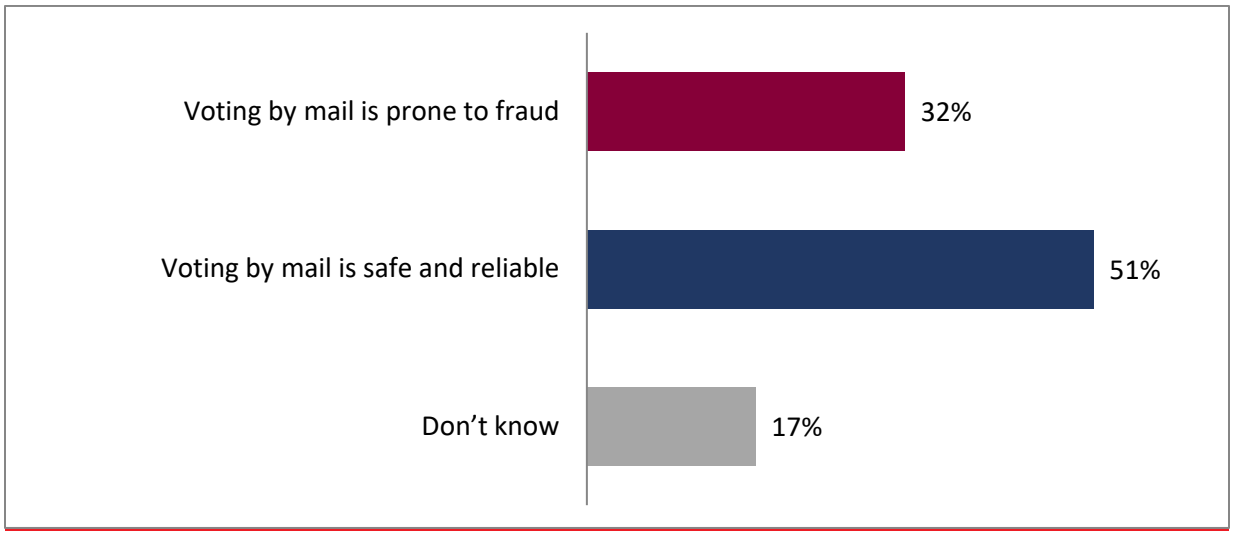
The following subgroups were more likely to believe that voting is safe and reliable:

- Men (77%) compared with women (72%).
- Electors aged 55 and older (81%) compared with electors aged 35–54 (70%) and 18–34 (71%).
- Respondents with a university degree (80%) compared with respondents with a high school diploma or less (66%) or those with some college or trade education (71%).
- Non-Indigenous electors (75%) compared with Indigenous electors (63%).
- Electors without a disability (75%) compared with those with a disability (69%).
- Habitual voters (79%) compared with infrequent voters (59%).
- Electors who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (88%) compared with those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (69%) and those with strong conspiracy beliefs (54%).

Safety of Voting by Mail in Canada

Half the respondents think voting by mail is safe and reliable (51%), while one-third of respondents think voting by mail is prone to fraud (32%) and 17% do not know.

Figure 8: Opinion Regarding Voting by Mail



Q11B: Which statement is closest to your opinion about voting by mail in Canada? Base: All respondents (n=2,582)

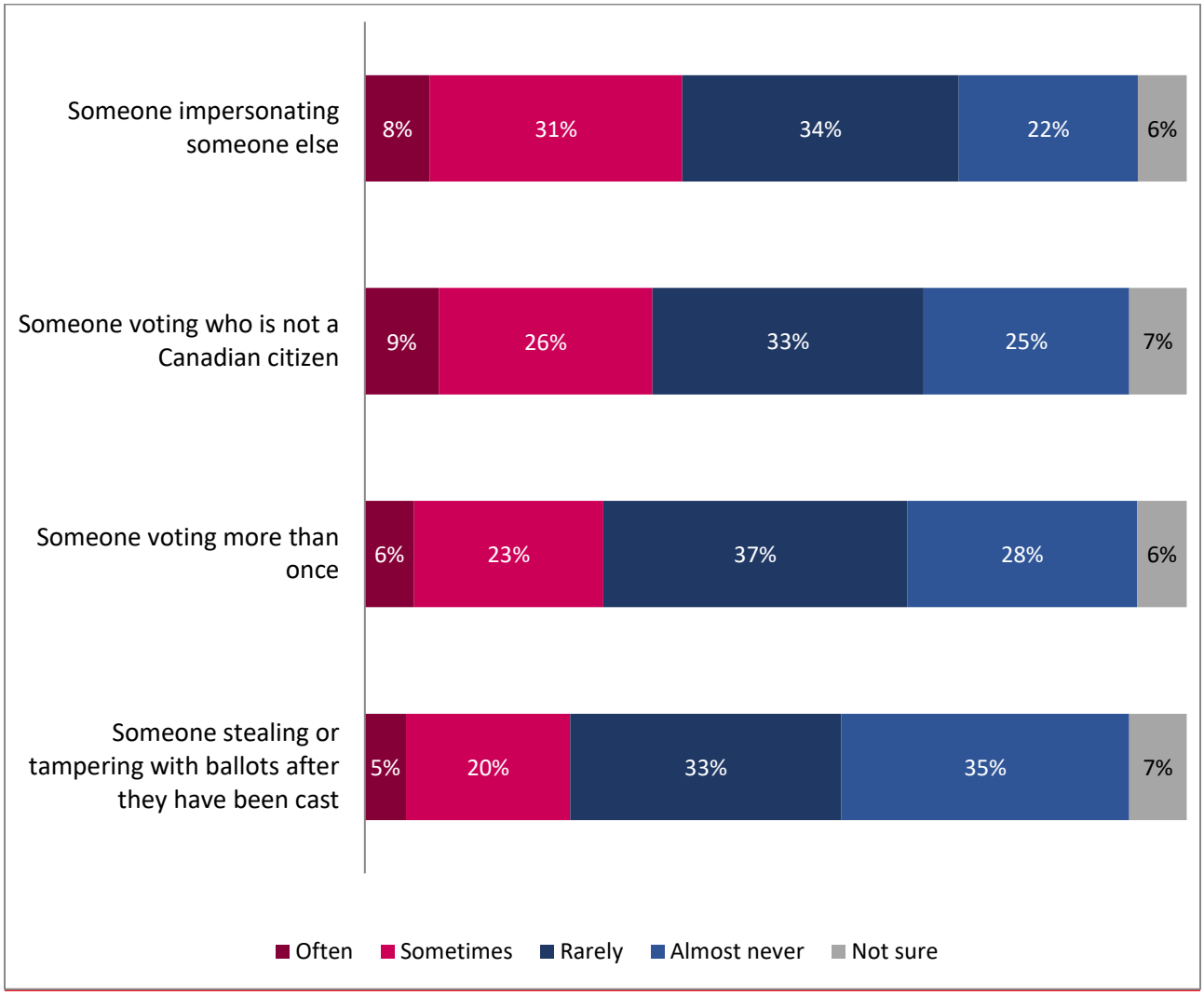
The following subgroups were more likely to believe that voting by mail is safe and reliable:

- Men (54%) compared with women (48%).
- Electors living in British Columbia (64%) compared with electors living in Quebec (42%), in Ontario (51%), on the Prairies (53%), in Alberta (46%) and in the territories (42%). Electors living in the Atlantic region (58%) were also more likely to believe that voting by mail is safe and reliable than electors from Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and the territories.
- Respondents with a university degree (58%) compared with respondents with a high school diploma or less (39%) or with some college or trade education (45%).
- Habitual voters (53%) compared with infrequent voters (40%).
- Electors who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (69%) compared with those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (40%) and those with strong conspiracy beliefs (32%).

Types of Voter Fraud

Two electors out of five believe that someone impersonating someone else is a type of voter fraud that happens in Canadian federal elections (39%). One elector out of three thinks that someone who votes but is not a Canadian citizen is a type of voter fraud that happens (35%). Three electors out of 10 think that someone voting more than once happens (29%), and one-quarter think someone stealing or tampering with ballots after they have been cast is a type of voter fraud that happens (25%).

Figure 9: Perception of the Frequency of Certain Types of Fraud



Q12: Overall, how often do you think the following types of voter fraud happen in Canadian federal elections? Base: All respondents (n=2,582)

The following subgroups were especially likely to think that "someone impersonating someone else" is a kind of fraud that happens often or sometimes in Canadian federal elections:

- Women (42%) compared with men (34%).
- Electors aged 18–34 (43%) compared with electors aged 55 and older (34%).

- Electors living in Alberta (47%) and Quebec (46%) compared with electors living in the Atlantic region (32%), in Ontario (37%), on the Prairies (34%), in British Columbia (30%) and in the territories (29%).
- Respondents with some college or trade education (44%) compared with those with a university degree (35%).
- Non-immigrant electors (40%) compared with immigrant electors (33%).
- Infrequent voters (47%) compared with habitual voters (36%).
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (66%) compared with those who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (24%) and those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (45%).

The following subgroups were especially likely to think that "someone voting who is not a Canadian citizen" is a kind of fraud that happens often or sometimes in Canadian federal elections:

- Electors living in Alberta (43%) compared with electors living in the Atlantic region (26%), Quebec (35%), Ontario (36%) and British Columbia (30%).
- Respondents with some college or trade education (38%) compared with those with a university degree (32%).
- Non-immigrant electors (36%) compared with immigrant electors (28%).
- Infrequent voters (39%) compared with habitual voters (34%).
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (62%) compared with those who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (21%) and those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (38%).

The following subgroups were especially likely to think that "someone voting more than once" is a kind of fraud that happens often or sometimes in Canadian federal elections:

- Electors aged 18–34 (34%) compared with electors aged 55 and older (25%).
- Electors living in Alberta (36%) and Quebec (35%) compared with electors living in the Atlantic region (23%), Ontario (28%), the Prairies (28%), British Columbia (23%) and the territories (8%).
- Respondents with a high school diploma or less (34%) and those with some college or trade education (32%) compared with those with a university degree (26%).
- Infrequent voters (38%) compared with habitual voters (27%).
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (58%) compared with those who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (14%) and those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (32%).

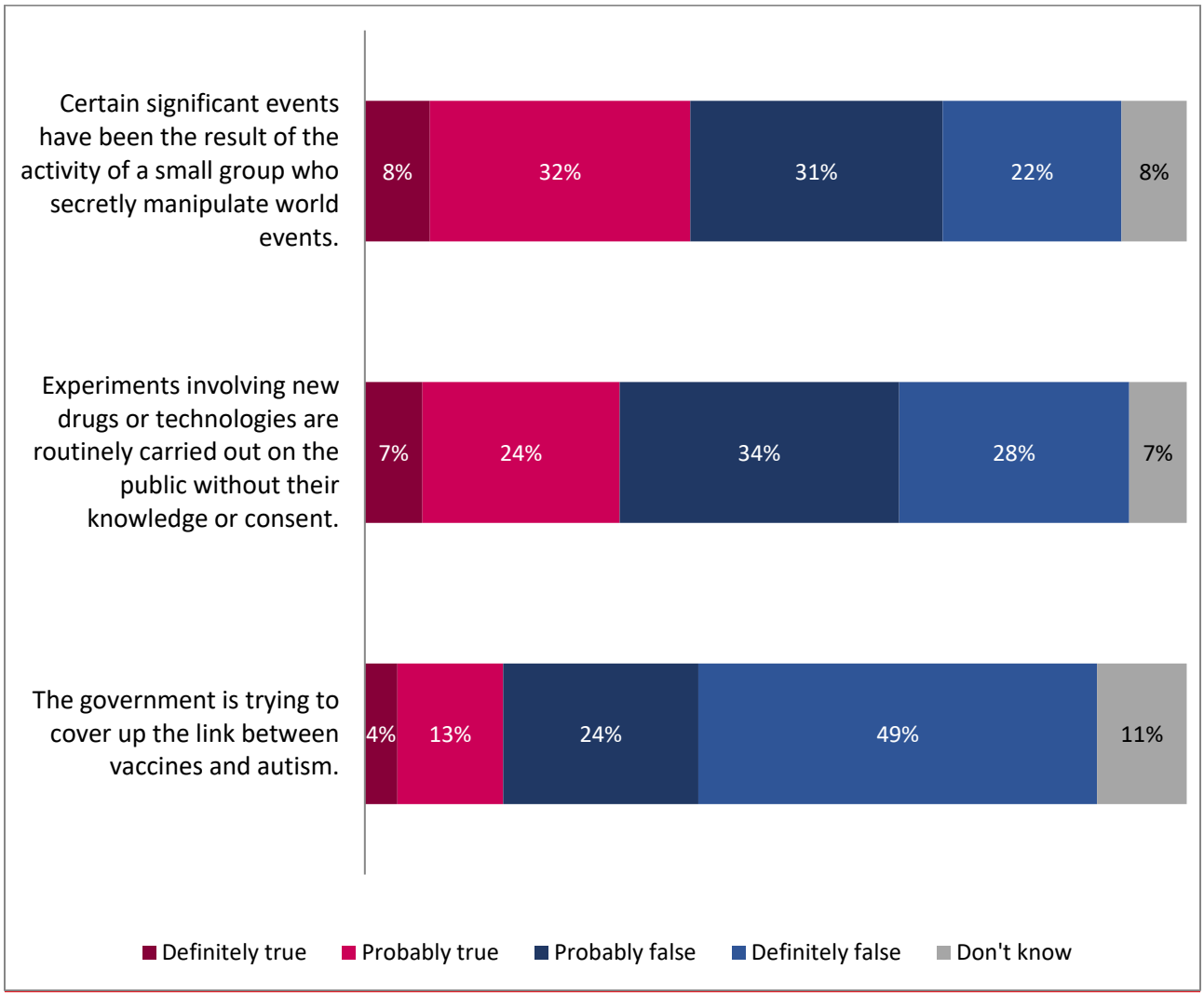
The following subgroups were especially likely to think that "someone stealing or tampering with ballots after they have been cast" is a kind of fraud that happens often or sometimes in Canadian federal elections:

- Electors aged 18–34 (34%) compared with electors aged 55 and older (15%) and electors 35–54 (28%).
- Respondents with a high school diploma or less (32%) compared with those with a university degree (21%).
- Infrequent voters (38%) compared with habitual voters (21%).
- Electors with strong conspiracy beliefs (55%) compared with those who did not hold conspiracy beliefs (10%) and those with mixed conspiracy beliefs (27%).

Conspiracy Mindset

Overall, less than half of respondents believe in each conspiracy theory presented. Indeed, two electors out of five believe that certain significant events have been the result of the activity of a small group that secretly manipulates world events (40%). Three electors in 10 believe that experiments involving new drugs or technologies are routinely carried out on the public without their knowledge or consent (30%). Finally, 17% of electors believe that the government is trying to cover up the link between vaccines and autism.

Figure 10: Belief in Conspiracy Theories



Q14: There is often debate about whether or not the public is told the whole truth about various important issues. Please indicate the degree to which you believe each statement is true or false. Base: All respondents (n=2,582)

The following subgroups were especially likely to think that the statement "Certain significant events have been the result of the activity of a small group who secretly manipulate world events" is definitely or probably true:

- Respondents with a high school diploma or less (51%) compared with those with some college or trade education (41%) and those with a university degree (35%).
- Indigenous electors (49%) compared with non-Indigenous electors (39%).
- Immigrant electors (47%) compared with non-immigrant electors (39%).
- Electors with a disability (46%) compared with those without a disability (39%).
- Infrequent voters (49%) compared with habitual voters (37%).

The following subgroups were especially likely to think that the statement "Experiments involving new drugs or technologies are routinely carried out on the public without their knowledge or consent" is definitely or probably true:

- Electors aged 18–34 (34%) and 35–54 (36%) compared with electors aged 55 and older (23%).
- Respondents with a high school diploma or less (37%) compared with those with some college or trade education (34%) and those with a university degree (26%).
- Indigenous electors (44%) compared with non-Indigenous electors (30%).
- Immigrant electors (40%) compared with non-immigrant electors (29%).
- Electors with a disability (41%) compared with those without a disability (29%).
- Infrequent voters (45%) compared with habitual voters (26%).

The following subgroups were especially likely to think that the statement "The government is trying to cover up the link between vaccines and autism" is definitely or probably true:

- Electors aged 35–54 (21%) compared with electors aged 18–34 (17%) and 55 and older (12%).
- Electors living in Ontario (19%) compared with electors living in Quebec (14%) and on the Prairies (14%).
- Respondents with a high school diploma or less (21%) compared with those with a university degree (14%).
- Indigenous electors (26%) compared with non-Indigenous electors (16%).
- Immigrant electors (23%) compared with non-immigrant electors (15%).
- Electors with a disability (22%) compared with those without a disability (16%).
- Infrequent voters (31%) compared with habitual voters (13%).

Scenarios of a Pandemic Election: Results from a Conjoint Analysis

Objectives of the Analysis

In the next section of the survey, each respondent was presented with a series of six hypothetical scenarios describing the days following the next general election, such that over 14,000 election scenarios were tested across all survey respondents. Conjoint analysis enables inference of a respondent's inclination by simulating real-life situations composed of many possible events.

Each scenario presented a narrative of an election that assumed high levels of voting by mail and included different events that could instill or undermine confidence in the election results. Each scenario used a random combination of events based on four attributes[2]:

1. **A delay in the results:** if the results of the election were to take three, five or seven days to be announced.
2. **Source of (dis)information:** if respondents heard an anecdote about people voting twice that might raise concerns about the integrity of voting by mail; the anecdote could either come from a neutral news story or be a negative social media rumour.
3. **Elections Canada messaging:** if respondents heard a simple, reassuring message from Elections Canada about the integrity of voting by mail, a more complex message or no message at all.
4. **Party reaction:** if the party the respondents voted for either accepted or challenged the results of the election.

After each scenario, respondents were asked to indicate their level of confidence in the accuracy of the results for that election using a four-point scale (a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not much confidence or no confidence).

A conjoint-based design and analysis based on multiple ordered logit models were used to examine which specific attributes had more or less impact on whether electors ultimately had confidence in the election results.

Overview of the Results

Overall, over two-thirds (69%) of all tested scenarios led to confidence in the election results, including 22% that led to a great deal of confidence. On the other hand, a quarter of the scenarios (25%) led to not much confidence and 6% to no confidence.

Notably, half of respondents (50%) expressed the same level of confidence, positive or negative, for all the scenarios presented, regardless of any changes in the attributes. This suggests that there is a certain floor in the level of confidence or lack of confidence that electors can be expected to have in the results

[2] For exact wording and details, see Question 13 in the survey questionnaire (Appendix B).

of an election. In aggregate, this base errs toward having confidence in the election results: among all survey respondents, 13% always expressed having a great deal of confidence, no matter the scenario, and 23% always had a fair amount of confidence; 9% always had not much confidence, and 3% always had no confidence at all.[3]

Respondents who expressed high confidence no matter the scenario tended to be older, male, more educated and less likely to hold any conspiracy beliefs. On the other hand, respondents who expressed no confidence in any scenarios tended to be younger, less educated and far more likely to believe in conspiracies (no significant difference in gender was found for this group).

Effects of Scenario Attributes on Confidence in the Election Results

When the individual attributes in each scenario are examined in isolation, only two out of four were found to have any impact on confidence in the election results: exposure to messages from Elections Canada and decisions from the party of choice.

Any message from Elections Canada was significantly better for confidence in the results than none: scenarios that had a reassuring message from Elections Canada resulted in a 4-percentage-point lift in net confidence compared with scenarios with no message at all. The simpler message had a greater impact than the more complex message, with a 5-percentage-point lift in net confidence compared with no message at all.[4]

Scenarios in which a respondent's political party of choice decided to accept the results of the election also led to greater confidence in the election results, with a 2.4-percentage-point lift in net confidence compared with a decision to challenge the results.[5]

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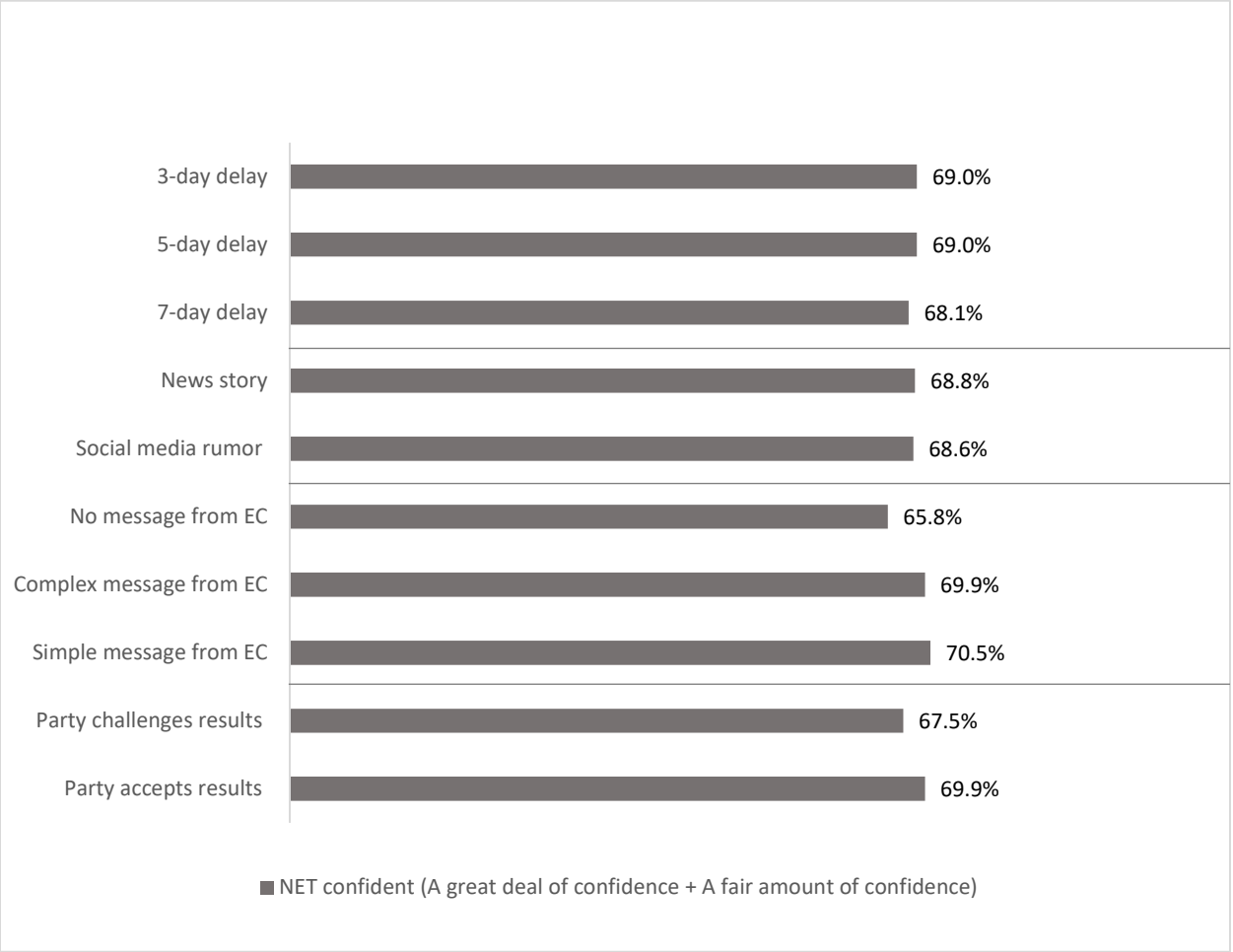
[3] These unwavering citizens are overly represented in those who gave extreme answers when asked about the fairness with which Elections Canada runs elections: half (51%) of those who said that it runs elections very fairly did not waver in their assessment of being confident in the results across all six scenarios; neither did 80% of those who said that it runs elections very unfairly. The answers to both questions are significantly correlated for unwavering respondents (r (7,334) = 0.58, $p < 0.001$). It is possible that some of them straight-lined their answers; however, their answers were not random, and they reflect the respondents' very high or very low opinion of Canadian electoral administration.

[4] A second order Rao-Scott test of independence (a generalization of Pearson's Chi-Square) highlighted a significant difference between the proportion of confident individuals ("a great deal of confidence" + "a fair amount of confidence") who received a message compared with no message, F (2, 14,761) = 23.74, $p < 0.001$. A significant difference was also discovered between the proportion of confident individuals ("a great deal of confidence" + "a fair amount of confidence") who received a simple message compared with those who received no message or a complex message, F (2, 14,761) = 8.71, $p = 0.003$.

[5] A second-order Rao-Scott test of independence highlighted a significant difference in the population between the proportion of confident individuals ("a great deal of confidence" + "a fair amount of confidence") whose political party of choice had decided that it accepted the results compared with those who received a message stating that the party had disputed the results, $F = 8.21$, $p = 0.004$.

In our exercise, delays in the reporting of the election results by three days or as much as a week had no significant impact on electors' confidence in the election results, nor did a rumour about the integrity of mail-in ballots, whether coming from social media or the news. Figure 11 illustrates these relationships.

Figure 11: Confidence in Election Results by Scenario Attributes



Q13: Overall, how much confidence do you have in the accuracy of results of this election? *Base: All respondents (n=2,582)*

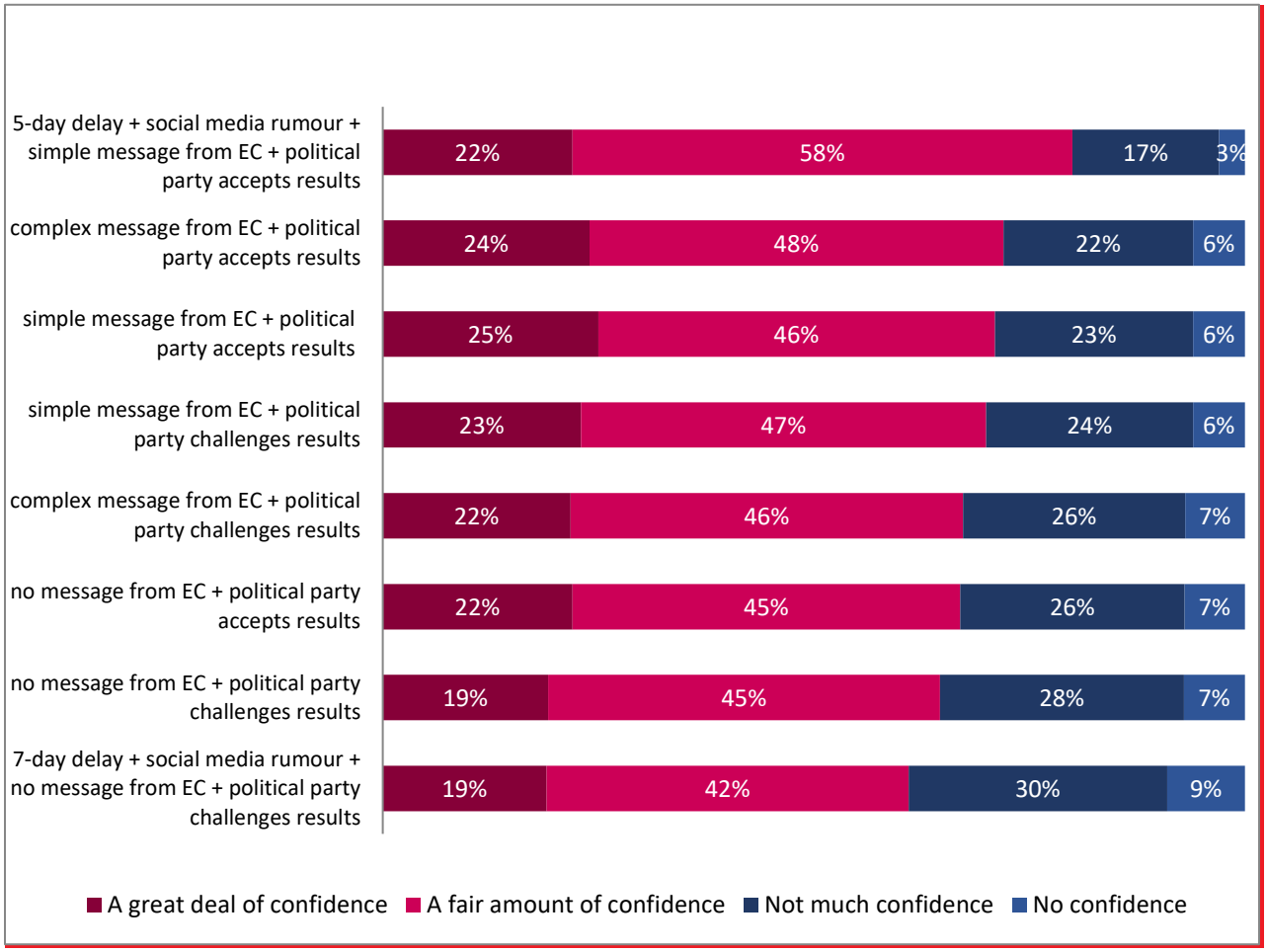
Messages from Elections Canada and political party decisions did not improve confidence in the election results for all subgroups. That is, none of the scenario attributes had an impact on confidence in the election results among respondents who did not already believe that Elections Canada conducts elections fairly. As a result, while Elections Canada messages can have a significant impact on electors' confidence in the results of a specific election, that impact is generally limited to individuals who already believe in Elections Canada's fair handling of elections (87% who said somewhat or very fairly).

In any case, among respondents whose confidence in the election results could be affected, the scenarios show that combining messages from Elections Canada with a political party's acceptance of the results has an added positive effect on confidence in the election results. As a corollary, scenarios

that included no message from Elections Canada, combined with a political party challenging the results, resulted in significantly smaller proportions of respondents having confidence in the results.

Figure 12 illustrates the range of confidence that respondents assigned to the results of the different election scenarios, from the scenario that obtained the overall greatest amount of confidence at the top down to the smallest amount of confidence at the bottom. Between these extremes are the six combinations of scenario attributes that impacted confidence (Elections Canada messaging and party reaction). The attributes that had no impact on confidence (delays and rumours) are presented only for the extreme scenarios.

Figure 12: Range of Scenarios That Had an Impact on Confidence in Election Results



*Q13: Overall, how much confidence do you have in the accuracy of results of this election? * Base: All respondents (n=2,582). Unless noted otherwise, the scenarios are presented by regrouping any delays and any types of rumour because these attributes did not impact respondents' confidence in the election results.*

Among all the scenarios presented, the one leading to the least amount of confidence yielded almost twice as many unconfident respondents, with 39% net unconfident, compared with the scenario leading to the most confidence (20% net unconfident).

Notably, the fact that the “best” scenario included a five-day delay in election results rather than a shorter three-day delay, and the fact that a rumour coming from social media was present in both the “best” and the “worst” scenarios, demonstrates how any changes in confidence in the results of a given scenario were not driven by the length of the delay or by the source of any rumour.

Appendix A: Methodology

Quantitative Methodology

Quantitative research was conducted using online surveys and computer-assisted web interviewing technology.

As a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council, Léger adheres to the most stringent guidelines for quantitative research. The survey was conducted in accordance with Government of Canada requirements for quantitative research, including the *Standards for the Conduct of Government of Canada Public Opinion Research—Series D—Quantitative Research*.

Respondents were assured of the voluntary, confidential and anonymous nature of this research. As with all research conducted by Léger, all information that could allow for the identification of participants was removed from the data, in accordance with the *Privacy Act*.

The questionnaire is available in Appendix B.

Sampling Procedure

Léger conducted a panel-based Internet survey with a sample of adult Canadians. A total of 2,582 respondents participated in the survey. The exact distribution is presented in the following section. Participants were selected randomly from the Leger Opinion online panel.

Léger operates a proprietary Internet panel of more than 400,000 Canadians from coast to coast. An Internet panel is made up of web users profiled based on certain socio-demographic variables. The majority of Léger's panel members (61%) have been recruited randomly over the phone over the past decade, making it highly similar to the actual Canadian population on many demographic characteristics.

Data Collection

Fieldwork for the survey was conducted from April 1, 2021, to April 11, 2021. The participation rate for the survey was 16%. A pretest of 65 interviews was completed on April 1, 2021.

To achieve data reliability in all subgroups, a total sample of 2,582 Canadians who are eligible voters were surveyed, in all regions of the country.

Since a sample drawn from an Internet panel is not probabilistic in nature, the margin of error for this survey cannot be calculated. Respondents were selected from among those who have volunteered to participate or registered to participate in online surveys. The results of such surveys cannot be described as being statistically projectable to the target population. The data were weighted to reflect the demographic composition of the target population. Because the sample was based on those who initially self-selected for participation, no estimates of sampling error could be calculated.

Based on data from Statistics Canada's 2016 national census, Léger weighted the results of this survey by age and gender in each region of the country.

The following table details the regional distribution of respondents. The baseline sample attempted to replicate as closely as possible the actual distribution of the Canadian population.

Table A1: Regional Distribution of Respondents

Region	Number of respondents
Atlantic	362
Quebec	412
Ontario	721
Prairies	362
Alberta	344
British Columbia	336
Territories	45
Total	2582

Participation Rate

Table A2 breaks down the calculation of the web survey's participation rate. The overall response rate for this study was 16%. The participation rate is calculated using the following formula: participation rate / response rate = R ÷ (U + IS + R).

Table A2: Participation Rate Calculation

Invalid cases	**153**
Invitations mistakenly sent to people who did not qualify for the study	153
Incomplete or missing email addresses	0
Unresolved (U)	**14,191**
Email invitations bounce back	128
Email invitations unanswered	14,063
In-scope non-responding units (IS)	**114**
Non-response from eligible respondents	0
Respondent refusals	0
Language problem	0
Selected respondent not available (illness; leave of absence; vacation; other)	0
Early breakoffs	114
Responding units (R)	**2,626**
Surveys disqualified – quota filled	44
Completed surveys disqualified for other reasons	0
Completed interviews	2,582
POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE (U + IS + R)	**16,931**

Participation rate	16%

Typical participation rates for web surveys are between 20% and 30%. A response rate of 16% may seem a bit low, but given the limited amount of time for fieldwork, we had to spread the invitations more widely among panel members to achieve our objectives; this had an impact on the participation rate.

Unweighted and Weighted Samples

A basic comparison of the unweighted and weighted sample sizes was conducted to identify any potential non-response bias that could be introduced by lower response rates among specific demographic subgroups (see tables below).

Table A3 presents the geographic distribution of respondents before and after weighting. The weighting adjusted for some discrepancies due to quotas that had been placed on certain regions, such as the Atlantic region and the Prairies, to obtain a sufficient sample. Therefore, the weighting minimized the weight of those regions and slightly increased the weight of Quebec and Ontario.

Table A3: Unweighted and Weighted Sample Distribution by Province

Region	Unweighted	Weighted
Atlantic	362	176
Quebec	412	604
Ontario	721	989
Prairies	362	168
Alberta	344	289
British Columbia	336	349
Territories	45	8
Total	**2,582**	**2,583**

Tables A4 and A5 present the demographic distribution of respondents according to gender and age.

First, regarding gender, we can see that weighting slightly adjusted the proportion of men and women. These adjustments are minor, and there is no reason to believe that the small differences observed in the effective samples could have introduced a non-response bias for either of these two sample subgroups.

Table A4: Unweighted and Weighted Sample Distribution by Gender

Gender	Unweighted	Weighted
Men	1,257	1,242
Women	1,314	1,328
Total	**2,571**	**2,570**

Regarding age, the weighting process corrected some minor discrepancies. The distribution of the sample generally follows the distribution of age groups in the actual population. In this case, it is unlikely

that the observed distributions introduced a non-response bias for a particular age group. Because the differences were so small, weighting allowed the weights to be corrected without further manipulation.

Table A5: Unweighted and Weighted Sample Distribution by Age Group

Age	Unweighted	Weighted
Between 18 and 34	657	704
Between 35 and 54	953	880
55 and over	972	998
Total	**2,582**	**2,582**

There is no evidence from the data that having achieved a different age or gender distribution before weighting would have significantly changed the results for this study. The relatively small weighting factors and differences in responses among the various subgroups suggest that data quality was not affected. The weighting that was applied corrected the initial imbalance for data analysis purposes, and no further manipulations were necessary.

Tables A6 and A7 present the weighting factors applied to the database according to the different respondent profiles.

Table A6: Weighting Factors by Profile

Label	Weighting
British Columbia, Yukon AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 18–24	0.0072
British Columbia, Yukon AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 25–34	0.0109
British Columbia, Yukon AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 35–44	0.0102
British Columbia, Yukon AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 45–54	0.0117
British Columbia, Yukon AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 55–64	0.0117
British Columbia, Yukon AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 65+	0.0141
British Columbia, Yukon AND Female AND 18–24	0.0068
British Columbia, Yukon AND Female AND 25–34	0.0111
British Columbia, Yukon AND Female AND 35–44	0.0108
British Columbia, Yukon AND Female AND 45–54	0.0125
British Columbia, Yukon AND Female AND 55–64	0.0125
British Columbia, Yukon AND Female AND 65+	0.0162
Alberta AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 18–24	0.0065
Alberta AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 25–34	0.0116

Alberta AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 35–44	0.0106
Alberta AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 45–54	0.0099
Alberta AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 55–64	0.009
Alberta AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 65+	0.0083
Alberta AND Female AND 18–24	0.0062
Alberta AND Female AND 25–34	0.0114
Alberta AND Female AND 35–44	0.0104
Alberta AND Female AND 45–54	0.0098
Alberta AND Female AND 55–64	0.0089
Alberta AND Female AND 65+	0.0096
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 18–24	0.004
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 25–34	0.0058
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 35–44	0.0053
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 45–54	0.0055
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 55–64	0.0055
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 65+	0.0059
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Female AND 18–24	0.0038
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Female AND 25–34	0.0058
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Female AND 35–44	0.0053
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Female AND 45–54	0.0055
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Female AND 55–64	0.0056
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories AND Female AND 65+	0.0072
Ontario, Nunavut AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 18–24	0.0223
Ontario, Nunavut AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 25–34	0.0306
Ontario, Nunavut AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 35–44	0.0292
Ontario, Nunavut AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 45–54	0.0346
Ontario, Nunavut AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 55–64	0.0316
Ontario, Nunavut AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 65+	0.0363
Ontario, Nunavut AND Female AND 18–24	0.0212
Ontario, Nunavut AND Female AND 25–34	0.0315
Ontario, Nunavut AND Female AND 35–44	0.0319
Ontario, Nunavut AND Female AND 45–54	0.0365
Ontario, Nunavut AND Female AND 55–64	0.0338

Ontario, Nunavut AND Female AND 65+	0.0441
Quebec AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 18–24	0.0121
Quebec AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 25–34	0.018
Quebec AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 35–44	0.0189
Quebec AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 45–54	0.0203
Quebec AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 55–64	0.0211
Quebec AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 65+	0.0239
Quebec AND Female AND 18–24	0.0118
Quebec AND Female AND 25–34	0.0181
Quebec AND Female AND 35–44	0.0189
Quebec AND Female AND 45–54	0.0203
Quebec AND Female AND 55–64	0.0217
Quebec AND Female AND 65+	0.0295
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 18–24	0.0034
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 25–34	0.0046
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 35–44	0.0049
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 45–54	0.0061
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 55–64	0.0065
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Male, Or please specify., Prefer not to say AND 65+	0.0076
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Female AND 18–24	0.0033
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Female AND 25–34	0.0047
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Female AND 35–44	0.0053
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Female AND 45–54	0.0065
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Female AND 55–64	0.0069
New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia AND Female AND 65+	0.0089

Table A7: Weighting Factors by Province and Territory

Newfoundland	0.015257
Prince Edward Island	0.004092
Nova Scotia	0.027016
New Brunswick	0.021775
Quebec	0.234007
Ontario	0.38285
Manitoba	0,.035029
Saskatchewan	0.029936
Alberta	0.111797
British Columbia	0.135321
Yukon	0.001011
Northwest Territories	0.001112
Nunavut	0.000797

Appendix B: Survey Questionnaire

Intro – Intro

Tracking Survey on Electoral Issues – W1

Please select the language in which you wish to complete the survey.

○ English/Anglais

○ French/*Français*

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this short survey being conducted on behalf of Elections Canada by Léger. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete, is voluntary, and completely confidential.

Any personal information collected is subject to the federal *Privacy Act* and will be held in strict confidence. By taking part in this survey, you consent to the use of your answers for research and statistical purposes. None of your opinions will be attributed to you personally in any way. The anonymous database of all responses may be shared with external researchers under the strict condition that no personal information is ever distributed or made public.

Click <here> if you wish to contact Elections Canada to verify the authenticity of this survey.

To view Léger's privacy policy, click <here>.

Q1 CITIZENSHIP

Are you a Canadian citizen?

01. Yes

02. No [TERMINATE]

Q2 YEAR BIRTH

In what year were you born?

Record year: [NUMBER]

99. Prefer not to say [TERMINATE]

[IF Q2>=2004, terminate]

[Show if Q2=2003]

Q3 18 YEARS OLD

Are you currently 18 years of age?

01. Yes

02. No [TERMINATE]

Q4 PROVINCE

In which province or territory do you live?

01. Alberta

02. British Columbia

03. Manitoba

04. New Brunswick

05. Newfoundland and Labrador

06. Northwest Territories

07. Nova Scotia

08. Nunavut

09. Ontario

10. Prince Edward Island

11. Quebec

12. Saskatchewan

13. Yukon

14. I live outside Canada [TERMINATE]

QSEXE.GENDER

For the purposes of this survey, could you please provide your gender? [READ LIST]

01. Female

02. Male

96. Or please specify. [TEXT]

99. Prefer not to say

Q5 MAIN SOURCE NEWS

In general, which of these would you say is your main source of news?

[RANDOM ROTATE]

01. Print newspapers or magazine
02. Online news, including mobile apps
03. Television
04. Radio
05. Social media: mostly posts by friends or family
06. Social media: mostly posts by news organizations
96. Other. Please specify: [TEXT]
97. I don't follow the news

Q6 INTEREST IN POLITICS

In general, how interested are you in politics?

01. Very interested
02. Somewhat interested
03. Not very interested
04. Not at all interested
98. Don't know

Q7 TRUST INSTITUTIONS

How much confidence, if any, do you have in the following institutions in Canada?

[GRID]

[ROWS; ROTATE ITEMS]

a. The provincial government
b. The federal government
c. The police
d. Big business/corporations
e. Elections Canada
f. Mainstream media

[COLUMNS]

01. A great deal of confidence
02. A fair amount of confidence
03. Not much confidence
04. No confidence
98. Don't know

Q8 ELECTIONS CANADA RUNS THINGS FAIRLY

Thinking about federal elections in general, how fairly would you say Elections Canada runs the elections?

01. Very fairly
02. Somewhat fairly
03. Somewhat unfairly
04. Very unfairly
98. Don't know

Q9 WHY UNFAIR – OPEN

[IF Q10 = 03, 04] Is there a specific reason you think Elections Canada runs elections unfairly?

[OPEN-ENDED]

97. No particular reason
98. Don't know
99. Refusal

Q10 IMPACT FOREIGN INFLUENCE/INTERFERENCE/FALSE INFORMATION

Based on what you have seen or heard recently, what impact, if any, do you think the following could have on the outcome of the next federal election in Canada?

[GRID]

[ROWS/ RANDOM ROTATE A–C]

a. Hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election.
b. Foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians.

c. The spread of false information online.

[COLUMNS]

01. Major impact

02. Moderate impact

03. Minor impact

04. No impact at all

98. Don't know

Q11 MAIL-IN VOTING & FRAUD

A. Which statement is closest to your opinion about the voting system in Canada?

[ROTATE 01 and 02]

01. Voting is prone to fraud

02. Voting is safe and reliable

98. Don't know

B. Which statement is closest to your opinion about voting by mail in Canada?

[ROTATE 01 and 02]

01. Voting by mail is prone to fraud

02. Voting by mail is safe and reliable

98. Don't know

Q12 TYPES OF FRAUD

Overall, how often do you think the following types of voter fraud happen in Canadian federal elections?

[GRID]

[ROWS; ROTATE]

01 Someone voting who is not a Canadian citizen

02 Someone voting more than once

03 Someone stealing or tampering with ballots after they have been cast

04 Someone impersonating someone else

[COLUMNS]

01. Often

02. Sometimes

03. Rarely

04. Almost never

98 Not sure

Q13 CONJOINT EXPERIMENT

PREAMBLE: The next federal election could be different due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the pandemic, more people are expected to vote by mail, so it could take longer than normal to count all the votes. Read the following short scenario and answer the question that follows.

Attribute 1: Time to results

Levels (3): 3 days vs. 5 days vs. 7 days

You are used to knowing the results of the election on election night, but this time it takes X days to count all the ballots and announce the results, because of how many people voted by mail.

Attribute 2: Rumours and disinformation

Levels (2): negative social media rumour vs. neutral news story

A friend on social media posts a story about people who were able to vote twice, once by mail and a second time in person.

You hear on the news that people who ordered a mail-in ballot and lost it can still vote in person.

Attribute 3: Elections Canada messaging simple vs. complex vs. NIL

Elections Canada says there are safeguards that ensure votes are not counted twice, but it takes a little longer to count.

Elections Canada says mail-in ballots take longer to count since they arrive in a double envelope and poll workers must perform individual checks to ensure votes are not counted twice.

Null (nothing from Elections Canada)

Attribute 4: Political parties accepting vs. challenging results

The party you voted for expresses concerns about the mail-in ballots, but they accept the results of the election.

The party you voted for expresses concerns about the mail-in ballots, and they will challenge the results of the election.

Overall, how much confidence do you have in the accuracy of results of this election?

01. A great deal of confidence

02. A fair amount of confidence

03. Not much confidence

04. No confidence

98. Don't know

Q14 CONSPIRACY BELIEFS

There is often debate about whether or not the public is told the whole truth about various important issues. Please indicate the degree to which you believe each statement is true or false.

[GRID]

[ROWS; ROTATE]

a. Certain significant events have been the result of the activity of a small group who secretly manipulate world events.

b. Experiments involving new drugs or technologies are routinely carried out on the public without their knowledge or consent.

c. The government is trying to cover up the link between vaccines and autism.

[COLUMNS]

01. Definitely true

02. Probably true

03. Probably false

04. Definitely false

98. Don't know

Q16 EDUCATION

What is the highest level of education that you have reached?

01. Some elementary

02. Completed elementary

03. Some high school

04. Completed high school

05. Some community college/vocational/trade school/commercial/CEGEP

06. Completed community college/vocational/trade school/ commercial/CEGEP

07. Some university (No degree or diploma obtained)

08. Completed university (Diploma or bachelor degree)

09. Post-graduate university/professional school (Master's, PhD, or any professional degree)

96. Other (specify)

98. Don't know

99. Prefer not to answer

Q17 EMPLOYMENT

What best describes your current employment status?

01. Working full-time (35 or more hours per week)

02. Working part-time (less than 35 hours per week)

03. Self-employed

04. Not currently working due to COVID-19 restrictions

05. Unemployed, and looking for work

06. A student attending school full-time

07. Retired

08. A caregiver or homemaker

96. Other [specify]

99. Prefer not to answer

Q18 INDIGENOUS

Are you First Nation, Métis, or Inuk (Inuit)?

01. No, not First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit)

02. Yes, First Nations

03. Yes, Métis

04. Yes, Inuit

99. Prefer not to answer

Q19 IMMIGRANT

Are you an immigrant to Canada?

01. No, I was born in Canada

02. Yes, I was born abroad and I became a citizen before 2016

03. Yes, I was born abroad and I became a citizen in or after 2016

99. Prefer not to answer

Q20 DISABILITY Y/N

Do you have a disability?

01. Yes

02. No

99. Prefer not to say

Q21 PAST VOTING BEHAVIOUR

In each election, many people don't or can't vote for a variety of reasons. Thinking about all elections (municipal, provincial and federal) since you have been eligible to vote, have you voted in none of them, some, most, or all of them?

01. None of them

02. Some of them

03. Most of them

04. All of them

98. Don't know/don't remember

ONLINE CLOSING PAGE

That concludes the survey. This survey was conducted on behalf of Elections Canada. Thank you very much for your thoughtful feedback. It is much appreciated.

If you have any reason to believe that your personal information is not being handled in accordance with the Privacy Act, you have a right to complain to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada:

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