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# Continuous Qualitative Data Collection of Canadians' Views – June 2022

## Final Report

### **Prepared for the Privy Council Office**

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Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français.

Canada 

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This public opinion research report presents the results of a series of focus groups conducted by The Strategic Counsel on behalf of the Privy Council Office. The seventh cycle of the third year of the study included a total of twelve focus groups with Canadian adults (18 years of age and older) between June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sous le titre : Rapport final - Collecte continue de données qualitatives sur les opinions des canadiens – juin 2022.

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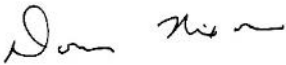
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## Political Neutrality Certification

I hereby certify as a Senior Officer of The Strategic Counsel that the deliverables fully comply with the Government of Canada political neutrality requirements outlined in the Policy on Communications and Federal Identity and the Directive on the Management of Communications – Appendix C – Mandatory Procedures for Public Opinion Research.

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 leaders.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: July 26, 2022

Donna Nixon, Partner  
The Strategic Counsel

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# Executive Summary

## Introduction

The Communications and Consultation Secretariat of the Privy Council Office (PCO) commissioned The Strategic Counsel (TSC) to conduct continuous cycles of focus group research across the country with members of the public on key national issues, events, and policy initiatives related to the Government of Canada.

The broad purpose of this ongoing qualitative research program is three-fold: to explore the dimensions and drivers of public opinion on the most important issues facing the country; to assess perceptions and expectations of the federal government's actions and priorities; and, to inform the development of Government of Canada communications so that they continue to be aligned with the perspectives and information needs of Canadians, while remaining both clear and easy-to-understand.

The research is intended to be used by the Communications and Consultation Secretariat within PCO in order to fulfill its mandate of supporting the Prime Minister's Office in coordinating government communications. Specifically, the research will ensure that PCO has an ongoing understanding of Canadians' opinions on macro-level issues of interest to the Government of Canada, as well as emerging trends.

This report includes findings from 12 online focus groups which were conducted between June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in multiple locations across the country including Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario,

Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. Details concerning the locations, recruitment, and composition of the groups are shown in the section below.

The research for this cycle of focus groups focused largely on the Government of Canada's priorities and performance on issues important to a wide range of subgroups and regions. These included Quebec Anglophones, the City of Toronto, Chinese diaspora in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), youth in Prince Edward Island (PEI), northern Ontario, Filipino Canadians, southwestern New Brunswick, and Indigenous peoples in Quebec.

The research explored a wide range of related issues in depth, including the Government of Canada's efforts to regulate firearms in Canada as well as discussions related to organizations such as the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD). Participants were also asked for their views on the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as topics related to the environment such as carbon pricing and the Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles (iZEV) program. Those residing in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia discussed housing affordability in their area, while those in the City of Toronto engaged in an in-depth discussion on various announcements related to housing that were included as part of Budget 2022. These included federal initiatives related to the construction of a significant number of new homes, actions to address housing affordability, and measures to better support and protect Canadians in the housing market.

Other topics discussed included Canada's relationship with China, seniors' issues, universal basic income, immigration, foreign credential recognition, issues pertaining to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) such as veteran homelessness, housing, military benefits, and supports, as well as local issues in Prince Edward Island and northern Ontario. Indigenous peoples residing in mid-size and major centres in Quebec also engaged in a discussion regarding Indigenous youth in care.

As a note of caution when interpreting the results from this study, findings of qualitative research are directional in nature only and cannot be attributed quantitatively to the overall population under study with any degree of confidence.

## Methodology

### Overview of Groups

#### Target audience

- Canadian residents, 18 and older.
- Groups were split primarily by location.
- Some groups focused on specific cohorts of the population including Anglophones residing in Quebec, Chinese diaspora, those aged 35-54, individuals who have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, youth aged 18-24, seniors aged 55 and older, Filipino diaspora, active military members and veterans, and Indigenous peoples.



## Detailed Approach

- Twelve focus groups across various regions in Canada.
- Three groups were conducted with the general population in the City of Toronto, northern Ontario, and southwestern New Brunswick.
- The other nine groups were conducted with key subgroups including:
  - Anglophones residing in Quebec;
  - Chinese diaspora residing the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) (excluding the City of Toronto);
  - Those aged 35-54 residing in small and mid-size centres in Alberta;
  - Those who have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine residing in the Lower Mainland region in British Columbia;
  - Youth, aged 18-24, residing in Prince Edward Island (PEI);
  - Seniors, aged 55 and up, residing in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region in Quebec;
  - Filipino diaspora residing in major centres in the Prairies;
  - Active military members and veterans residing in Vancouver Island; and
  - Indigenous peoples residing in mid-size and major centres in Quebec.
- 2 groups in Quebec were conducted in French. 1 group in Quebec was conducted in English. All other groups were conducted in English.
- All groups for this cycle were conducted online.
- A total of 8 participants were recruited for each group, assuming 6 to 8 participants would attend.
- Across all locations, 82 participants attended, in total. Details on attendance numbers by group can be found below.
- Each participant received an honorarium. The incentive ranged from \$100 to \$125 per participant, depending on the location and the composition of the group.

## Group Locations and Composition

LOCATION	GROUP	LANGUAGE	DATE	TIME (EST)	GROUP COMPOSITION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Quebec	1	English	June 1	6:00-8:00 pm	Anglophones	6
City of Toronto	2	English	June 7	6:00-8:00 pm	General Population	8
Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area (GTHA) (excl. City of Toronto)	3	English	June 8	6:00-8:00 pm	Chinese Diaspora	8
Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta	4	English	June 9	8:00-10:00 pm	Aged 35-54	6
Lower Mainland – British Columbia	5	English	June 14	9:00-11:00 pm	Received 2 Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine	8
Prince Edward Island	6	English	June 15	5:00-7:00 pm	Youth, aged 18-24	7

Bas-Saint-Laurent Region – Quebec	7	French	June 16	6:00-8:00 pm	Seniors, aged 55+	6
Northern Ontario	8	English	June 21	6:00-8:00 pm	General Population	7
Major Centres Prairies	9	English	June 22	8:00-10:00 pm	Filipino Diaspora	7
Vancouver Island	10	English	June 23	9:00-11:00 pm	Active Military Members/Veterans	5
Southwestern New Brunswick	11	English	June 28	5:00-7:00 pm	General Population	6
Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec	12	French	June 29	6:00-8:00 pm	Indigenous Peoples	8
<b>Total number of participants</b>						<b>82</b>

## Key Findings

### Government of Canada in the News (All Locations)

At the beginning of each group participants were asked what they had seen, read, or heard about the Government of Canada in recent days. Participants recalled a wide range of announcements and initiatives, including actions to address the perceived high rate of inflation and rising cost of living, the announcement by the federal government of new legislation (Bill C-21) to further strengthen gun control in Canada, lengthy travel delays at a number of Canadian airports, continued delays for those attempting to obtain or renew their passports, the suspension of the federal COVID-19 vaccine requirement to board a plane or train in Canada, the announcement of a \$1.3 billion land claim settlement between the federal government and the Siksika First Nation, and an upcoming 10% increase to Old Age Security (OAS) pension amounts for all seniors over the age of 75.

In addition to these items, a number of participants also mentioned having heard about recent actions by the Government of Canada on the international front. These included the ongoing provision of financial and military support to Ukraine in support of its defence effort against invading Russian forces, and the attendance of the Prime Minister and other federal officials at the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles as well as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda.

### Drug Decriminalization (GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Northern Ontario)

Three groups discussed the issue of drug decriminalization, including the recent federal approval of a request from the Government of British Columbia (B.C.) to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of illicit drugs in the province. Regionally, while most in the group from the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) believed the federal government had made the right decision in approving

this request, a large number in the group from British Columbia felt otherwise, believing it should not have been approved. Those in the group from northern Ontario were relatively mixed as to whether this represented a positive or negative development.

Among those in favour of this initiative, it was felt that by decriminalizing small amounts of these substances, drug users would face less stigma and may also be more likely to seek treatment with the knowledge that there would not be legal ramifications for doing so. It was also thought that by taking this action, British Columbia would be able to free up additional law enforcement resources as well as prevent recreational drug users from receiving criminal records for their drug use which may drastically limit their employment opportunities going forward.

For participants who felt the federal government should not have granted this request, many believed that in order for decriminalization to be effective, there needed to be a significant treatment component which was said to currently be missing. It was believed that while decriminalization may be helpful as one of many steps towards combating drug addiction, on its own it was likely to have little effect in curbing substance use and may actually increase the prevalence of this behaviour. A number of others were of the view that there was no 'safe' amount for highly potent substances (such as fentanyl and heroin) and believed the 2.5 gram threshold to be far too high.

Discussing this matter further, participants in the group in northern Ontario were asked whether they would support their province or municipality decriminalizing drug possession in a similar way. On balance, slightly more were against this idea than those who supported it. Asked what more could be done to address the issue of substance use and addiction in northern Ontario, many pointed to the need for more addictions and mental health resources, including the construction of new treatment facilities in the region. It was widely felt that there were not enough resources at present to accommodate the growing number of individuals seeking help for these issues, and that these challenges were even greater for those living in remote communities in Canada's North.

### **Open Net-Pen Salmon Farming (Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine)**

The group based in B.C.'s Lower Mainland briefly discussed the issue of open net-pen salmon farming in the province. No participants reported being previously aware of this issue. To facilitate conversation, participants were informed that the Government of Canada was working with the province of British Columbia and Indigenous communities to create a responsible plan for the transition from open net-pen salmon farming in coastal British Columbia waters by 2025. Though many expressed having only limited knowledge regarding this issue, most felt this to be a positive development and represented an important priority for the federal government. It was thought by several that current fish farming and aquacultural practices were often environmentally damaging and/or restricted the movement and quality of life of the province's fishing stocks, such as salmon. With this in mind, many felt positively about this transition and hoped it would assist in revitalizing the salmon population in British Columbia, which some believed had diminished in recent decades.

### **Public Mood (Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta)**

Participants residing in small and mid-size centres in Alberta discussed the current public mood in Canada as well as whether Canadians were more divided at present than in the past. While a small number felt Canadians were more or less united on the important issues facing the country, most believed the public had become considerably more divided as of late.

Asked which issues they felt Canadians remained mostly united on, participants identified areas such as healthcare, inflation and the high cost of living, housing affordability, gun control, and a greater focus on inclusivity and multiculturalism relative to other jurisdictions such as the United States. Discussing areas where the country was more divided, participants mentioned the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health requirements and vaccination mandates, issues concerning Canada's official languages, the regulation of online content (Bill C-11), climate change, and fundamental 'Charter values' such as the freedom of expression and the extent to which this needed to be balanced with reasonable limits regarding defamatory or obscene comments as well as those that could be considered 'hate speech'.

Discussing whether Canadians were more divided at present than in the past, most reiterated the belief that they were. While some were of the view that these divisions likely had always existed to some extent, it was felt they were far more salient in the minds of Canadians today and that social media had played a direct role in fostering this division.

Almost all participants were at least somewhat worried regarding these perceived increased divisions among Canadians. For some belonging to marginalized groups, increasingly negative rhetoric regarding social justice issues such as gender equality, racial equity, and sexual orientation was viewed as deeply concerning and not representative of what they believed Canada stood for. Discussing whether the Government of Canada should take action to address these divisions, participants were largely split in their views. While some believed more needed to be done to rein in hateful and derogatory speech as well as consider greater regulation of the content shared on social media platforms, a similar number felt differently, believing federal intervention would likely inflame tensions further.

### **Bill 96 (Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples)**

Two groups briefly discussed Quebec's recently enacted Bill 96. Only a few had heard about the Bill, and none were able to recall any specific details apart from their understanding that the legislation focused on language laws within the province of Quebec. To clarify, participants were informed that the Bill had recently been adopted by the Government of Quebec and that it represented an amendment to the provincial constitution which recognized Quebec as a distinct nation and French as the province's sole official language. Participants were largely mixed in their reactions to this Bill. Regionally, many in the group from the Bas-Saint-Laurent region felt positively about the Bill and its aims, with several being of the view that the French language needed to be protected within Quebec, especially given the perceived dominance of English in most other provinces/territories. For those in the group comprised of Indigenous peoples, it was felt that the Bill did not do enough to recognize

and support Indigenous languages and was solely focused on preserving French culture within the province.

### **Pre-Packaged Food Nutrition Warnings (Northern Ontario)**

Participants in the group from northern Ontario discussed the Government of Canada's plan to require packaged foods high in sugar, salt, or saturated fat to display a warning label, alerting Canadians to the potential health risks of consuming these products. Very few had heard about this. For those who were aware, it was recalled that these labels would be placed on certain products (such as ground meat) with high levels of saturated or trans-fat content. Discussing whether there should be an exemption for ground meat, a number of participants thought additional labelling was unnecessary, believing most were already aware of the associated health risks. It was widely felt that if the Government of Canada went forward with this plan that all products should be held to the same standard and that no specific food category should be exempted.

### **Access to Abortion (Southwestern New Brunswick)**

This group briefly discussed the issue of abortion as well as the accessibility of abortion services within Canada. Asked whether they had recently heard anything related to abortion access in the United States, only a few participants had. For those who were aware, it was said that the landmark *Roe v. Wade* ruling had recently been overturned by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), meaning there was no longer a U.S. federal constitutional right to abortion. This ruling was thought to have been incredibly divisive among Americans and had led to a number of public protests and outcry.

Slightly more participants indicated being concerned about this ruling as those who were not. Some reported feeling saddened by this development, strongly believing all women should have the freedom to make whatever medical decisions regarding their own bodies they deemed appropriate. A few were also worried that this would lead to more women seeking out potentially dangerous methods of obtaining abortion services now that legal avenues had been closed to them in many U.S. states.

Focusing on the availability of abortion services in Canada, most believed these to be readily available for those requiring these procedures. Discussing what actions, if any, the Government of Canada should take in response to this ruling, most felt there was little that could be done apart from reassuring Canadians it would continue to protect these services in Canada.

### **Government of Canada Priorities and Performance (Quebec Anglophones, City of Toronto, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Prince Edward Island Youth, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora, Southwestern New Brunswick, Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples)**

Eight groups engaged in discussions focusing on issues specific to their respective age groups, backgrounds, and local regions. Participants shared their perspectives regarding what they viewed as

the key factors driving these issues, as well as the degree to which the federal government had been successful in addressing them.

### **Anglophone Issues (Quebec Anglophones)**

Participants in the group comprised of Anglophones residing in Quebec discussed issues related to English-speakers living in predominately French-speaking communities. It was felt by many that Anglophones in Quebec were currently facing a number of challenges, especially given recent changes to language laws in the province. Many mentioned the provincial Bill 96, which was widely seen as further limiting the use of any language aside from French in Quebec. While a few participants reported feeling generally welcome in Quebec, several believed they were occasionally perceived in a negative light for primarily speaking English. For some, including recent immigrants to Quebec, their struggles to learn French had left them feeling isolated and separate from their larger local community.

Discussing whether challenges facing Anglophones had changed in recent years, several were of the view that it was easier now for Anglophones to get by compared to in the past. Given the widespread usage of English in the global business community, it was believed that many Quebec-based companies now sought to conduct their operations in English as well as French, increasing the opportunities for Anglophone workers in the province. In addition, it was felt that young Francophones today were more likely to communicate fluently in English, in part due to their exposure to a significant amount of English-language media.

Asked to identify the most significant issues currently facing Anglophones in Quebec, participants put forward a number of responses. These included the introduction of legislation such as Bill 96, a lack of English-language education options, difficulty receiving English-language healthcare services, and limited employment options for those who did not speak French.

Discussing the potential impacts of these issues, several worried about the potential of a mass exodus of Anglophones from Quebec if their ability to converse, work, and learn in English continued to be limited. Some were concerned in particular regarding younger Anglophones leaving the province, believing they would be more inclined to choose to work and study in other parts of Canada where English was more widely spoken. Many were also worried about the potential societal divide brought about by legislation such as Bill 96, reiterating the view that English-speakers were often unfairly stigmatized in communities where French was spoken by the vast majority of the population. Asked whether they felt the situation would improve or worsen over time, participants were mixed in their perspectives. While some expected the issue would continue to get worse given the perceived prioritization of the French-language by the provincial government, a roughly similar number of participants were more optimistic, believing that though this issue was contentious at present, the tensions surrounding it would likely recede in the years to come.

Virtually all participants believed the federal government had a role to play in addressing this issue. Several expressed the view that federal officials, including the Commissioner of Official Languages, should be more vocal in their support for bilingual services in Quebec and the protection of the language rights of Anglophones in the province.

### **City of Toronto (City of Toronto)**

The group based in the City of Toronto discussed a number of issues currently affecting their local community. Asked which areas were in greatest need of attention from the federal government, a number of responses were provided. These included housing affordability, the rising cost of living, public transportation systems, education, and violence involving firearms.

Discussing whether they were aware of any recent federal announcements or initiatives related to these issues, few participants could recall anything. Related to housing affordability, while some were aware of recent announcements such as a temporary two-year ban on non-Canadians buying residential housing property within Canada, it was widely felt that little in the way of tangible progress had been made by the federal government towards making housing more affordable. Focusing on other issues such as public transportation and gun crime, a few participants also recalled actions such as federal investments into the new Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (LRT) project as well as the recently announced national freeze on the buying and selling of handguns.

Asked whether they thought the Government of Canada was currently on the right track regarding these issues, very few felt this to be the case. It was widely believed that while federal officials appeared to recognize the importance of issues such as housing affordability and the rising cost of living, very little progress had been made in these areas. A small number felt differently, believing there was only so much the federal government could do to address these issues and that it was doing the best that it could at present.

### **Chinese Canadians (GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora)**

Participants in the group from the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) comprising members of the Chinese diaspora discussed a number of issues related to their local region as well as those facing Chinese Canadians more broadly. Discussing the top concerns currently facing their community as well as actions taken by the Government of Canada to address these issues, participants provided a range of responses. These included rising inflation and the high cost of living, housing affordability, perceived increasing crime rates, and anti-Asian racism.

Focusing on anti-Asian racism in particular, participants hoped greater attention would be placed on increasing the representation of those from Asian backgrounds at all levels of government. Related to this, some expressed feeling proud that Canada's current Chief Public Health Officer was of Asian descent, believing this to be a position of significant importance and a step in the right direction towards greater representation. In addition, it was suggested that the federal government could work to educate Canadians regarding the contributions made by those of Asian backgrounds throughout Canada's history as well as the challenges these groups had historically faced. It was thought that a greater national understanding and dialogue regarding Asian Canadians would go a long way towards reducing the stigma they currently encountered.

### **Youth Issues (Prince Edward Island Youth)**

Participants in this group (comprised of individuals aged 18 to 24 years old) discussed a number of issues of specific concern to younger Canadians. To begin, participants were asked to identify which



issues facing young people the federal government should be prioritizing. A number of responses were provided, including housing affordability, a lack of access to healthcare professionals such as family doctors and mental health specialists, limited employment opportunities, and growing concerns related to climate change.

Discussing the federal government's current level of engagement with younger Canadians, while most believed there had been increased efforts on this front in recent years, few felt these had been effective. To this end, many suggested an increased focus on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, believing these to be the most effective platforms on which to reach out to and connect with younger Canadians. Asked to assess the Government of Canada's current performance in utilizing social media to engage with young people, most were of the impression that the federal presence on these platforms was quite limited and relatively ineffective at present.

### **Northern Ontario (Northern Ontario)**

Participants residing in Northern Ontario discussed a number of issues specific to the region. Discussing the most pressing concerns currently facing their local communities, participants identified a number of responses. Many mentioned what they viewed as a drastic shortage of healthcare workers such as doctors, nurses, and other specialists. Stemming from this, several spoke of long wait times at emergency rooms and walk-in clinics as well as difficulties in finding a family doctor in their area. It was said that mental health challenges and addiction had become increasingly prominent in recent years and that further resources would need to be devoted towards this issue.

In addition to healthcare, a number of participants also mentioned issues related to housing affordability, high fuel costs, poor road conditions, and the high rate of inflation at present. Regarding this last issue, it was added that this increased cost of living would likely be especially difficult for seniors currently dependent on fixed-income pensions. Asked whether they were aware of any recent actions by the federal government related to these issues, few were. For those who had heard something, it was said that the Government of Canada had been working towards enhancing the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) in recent years, though no additional details could be recalled.

Discussing whether they had seen, read, or heard about any future initiatives proposed by the federal government towards addressing these issues, few participants had heard anything. Among those who were aware, it was believed that work was being done to expedite the foreign credential recognition process, making it easier for foreign workers to obtain the necessary certifications to practice in their fields of expertise in Canada. It was thought this would assist towards alleviating worker shortages, particularly in sectors such as healthcare which were believed to be in need of an influx of additional workers.

Very few felt the Government of Canada was currently on the right track in addressing the most pressing issues to their region. It was said that many Canadians, particularly those with middle-incomes, were currently falling behind due to rising prices while also being unable to access financial supports available to lower-income Canadians. It was felt not enough was being done at present to assist these individuals and that these challenges would likely continue to increase if action was not



taken. Asked what the federal government could do to better address the needs of Canadians, several suggested it focus on developing programs to assist Canadians struggling with the rising cost of living and high rate of inflation at present.

### **Filipino Canadians (Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

This group of individuals residing in the Prairies and part of the Filipino diaspora discussed a number of issues related to the Filipino community in Canada. Focusing on issues of importance to Filipino Canadians specifically, participants identified a number of areas which they believed required greater attention from the Government of Canada. Among participants, immigration was frequently pointed to as an area in which Filipinos faced a number of challenges. These included difficulties related to the process of obtaining permanent resident status, acquiring work or study visas, and challenges related to the recognition of their professional credentials. It was felt these processes could often be quite costly and time consuming.

Asked whether they were aware of any recent actions from the Government of Canada related to these issues, a number of participants mentioned initiatives related to immigration. These included a pledge to eliminate citizenship application fees, the development of a more expedient pathway from temporary residency to permanent residency, and reducing the backlog of immigration applications thought to be existing in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **New Brunswick (Southwestern New Brunswick)**

Participants residing in New Brunswick briefly discussed issues related to their province. Asked to identify the most pressing issues facing New Brunswick that the federal government should be prioritizing, a wide range of areas were mentioned. These included housing affordability, the increasing cost of living, perceived shortages of healthcare workers, and challenges related to fuel prices, which were felt to be exceptionally high at present. Focusing on the economy more specifically, participants identified areas such as agriculture, forestry, transportation, and natural resource development as the key areas requiring greater assistance from the Government of Canada. Few could recall any recent federal actions related to these issues.

Discussing agriculture, a number of participants shared concerns that family farms in particular were disappearing, leading to a greater dependence on large-scale agricultural corporations and fewer opportunities for smaller farms to operate in the sector. It was felt more should be done by the federal government to incentivize workers, especially younger Canadians, to pursue careers in the agricultural sector. Several also expressed the desire to see a larger emphasis placed on domestic development of non-renewable energy sources such as oil and gas. This was believed to be an important priority, particularly given the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia and its impact on the global energy market.

### **Indigenous Peoples (Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples)**

Participants identifying as Indigenous and residing in Quebec shared their perspectives regarding actions taken by the Government of Canada related to Indigenous issues as well as potential future initiatives on this front.

To begin, participants were asked to share what they viewed as the top issues facing Indigenous peoples. A wide range of concerns were cited. These included a lack of access to clean drinking water in some Indigenous communities, issues related to the Indian Act, the need to resolve conflicts amongst differing Indigenous groups, and increased supports towards the promotion of Indigenous language and culture.

Most were generally aware of efforts by the federal government related to Indigenous issues. These included initiatives such as Jordan's Principle, additional support for investigations into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and the provision of financial support for cultural events (such as Pow Wows). While acknowledging these actions, most did not believe the federal government to be on the right track in addressing the priorities most important to Indigenous peoples. Though many believed that some progress had been made in recent years, it was thought that Indigenous issues needed to be made a higher priority by the federal government. This included issues urgently facing individual Indigenous communities (such as a lack of potable drinking water), as well as continuing to build an ongoing relationship with Indigenous peoples more generally.

Participants also discussed the prevalence of systemic racism towards Indigenous people in Canada. Most believed that racism towards Indigenous people was widespread, especially across areas related to employment, justice, and education. They believed this stemmed from a lack of understanding and knowledge of their people and culture. Most were unaware of any actions taken by the federal government towards addressing this issue and most felt that it was on the wrong track when it came to combatting racism towards Indigenous people. To get on the right track, participants felt that more education and understanding about Indigenous values and culture was needed across Canada.

**Firearms (Quebec Anglophones, City of Toronto, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Southwestern New Brunswick)**

Seven groups discussed the subject of firearms and recent actions taken by the federal government related to gun crime in Canada. To begin, participants shared their impressions regarding the current level of gun crime and whether it had increased, decreased, or more or less remained the same in recent years. Most participants believed crimes involving firearms were generally quite low in Canada, especially compared to other jurisdictions such as the United States. It was thought by a number of participants that Canada had a far more rigorous screening and certification process for those seeking to become licenced to possess and use firearms and that this had played a major role in limiting the prevalence of gun crime in the country. Commenting further, some expressed the view that Canada was currently among the safest countries in the world when it came to firearms. A small number of participants felt differently, believing gun crime to have risen in recent years. It was said by these participants that crimes involving firearms had been covered in the media far more frequently as of late, providing the impression that these incidents were occurring on a more regular basis today than in the past.

Asked what they believed to be the primary factors contributing to gun crime in Canada, participants provided a number of responses. These included challenges related to mental health and addiction, as well as other factors such as poverty, homelessness, and gang activity.

Discussing the current laws in place regarding firearms in Canada, participants were asked if they felt these regulations were too strict, not strict enough, or sufficient at present. While most believed the current laws in place to be at an appropriate level, a smaller, yet still significant number felt these regulations should be increased. Very few felt gun laws in Canada were too strict at present. For many of those who desired to see stricter laws concerning firearms, it was believed that no person had a fundamental right to possess a firearm and that there needed to be greater consequences for those who committed crimes using these weapons. Among the larger number who felt Canadian gun regulations to be adequate at this time, many cited the perceived low incidence of firearms-related crimes as reasoning supporting their view. A number were also of the impression that most crimes involving guns were committed with illegally acquired firearms. Expanding upon this, it was said that further restrictions would unfairly impact those gun owners who were already abiding by the law.

Asked if they were aware of any recent actions by the federal government in this area, while most participants had not, a smaller number were able to recall the recent announcement of a freeze on the buying and selling of handguns in Canada. Informed that the Government of Canada had recently tabled firearm-control legislation on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, participants were shown a number of initiatives included within this proposed legislation. On balance, participants across all groups reacted largely positively to these initiatives. A number of participants expressed surprise that components of this legislation, particularly the taking away of gun licenses for those involved in domestic violence or criminal harassment, were not already in place. Discussing the initiatives, several spoke positively about the introduction of 'red flag' laws for those involved in intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, or at risk of self-harm.

While most reacted positively to the implementation of a national freeze on handguns, some expressed a desire for further details on what this would specifically entail and how long it would be expected to remain in place. Expanding upon this, a number of participants speculated that this action represented the first step by the federal government toward an eventual permanent ban on handgun ownership in Canada. Some also worried this would have a counter-active effect in that it may spur a rush on handguns by those who were ambivalent about purchasing a handgun and would now be encouraged to do so before the freeze was officially in place.

Discussing what more could be done by the federal government related to handguns, some identified the need for a greater emphasis to be placed on addressing underlying issues such as mental health, addiction, gangs and other factors which were believed to be contributing to gun crime in Canada. It was felt by a number of participants that regulation alone would likely not work and that if one was truly committed to obtaining a firearm for criminal use that individual would likely be able to do so, no matter how strict the laws in place were.

### **NORAD (Quebec Anglophones, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans)**

Seven groups engaged in brief discussions related to the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD). These included awareness and perspectives regarding the continued national security role of NORAD as well as recent investments by the Government of Canada into the organization.

### **NORAD Impressions (Quebec Anglophones, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors)**

Six groups shared their general perspectives on NORAD. Across all groups, participants reported a mixed awareness of NORAD, with roughly as many aware of the organization as those who were not. To aid in conversation, it was clarified that NORAD is a combined organization operated by Canada and the United States responsible for protecting the airspace above the two nations and providing warnings of any aerial threats targeting North America.

Upon receiving this clarification, almost all participants were of the view that NORAD played a role of critical importance to Canada's national security. It was felt that an ongoing partnership with the United States was necessary in order to protect Canadian airspace and that this relationship was an important component of Canada's overall security structure. In addition, several participants mentioned the ongoing hostilities between Ukraine and Russia and the potential of this conflict escalating further as additional reasons for NORAD's continued importance, believing Canada could not afford to leave its airspace undefended.

Discussing whether Canada should consider making changes to its management of air defence given the current global geopolitical environment, while none felt investments into NORAD should be scaled back, a number of participants put forward suggestions as to how Canada's national air defence could be enhanced going forward. These included increasing the amount spent on national defence, further research into newly emerging threats such as hypersonic missiles and drone technology, and a greater emphasis on defending Canada's North.

### **Recent NORAD Investments (Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans)**

This group, comprised of active military members and veterans, briefly discussed recent investments made by the Government of Canada towards NORAD. While all were aware of NORAD and its responsibilities, few recalled hearing about any recent federal announcements regarding the organization. To clarify, participants were informed that the federal government had recently announced that it would be allocating an additional \$4.9 billion over the next six years to bolster NORAD defence capabilities across the Arctic. Participants were mixed in their reactions to this information. While a number of participants felt this to be an important priority, many were pessimistic as to whether this amount was affordable for the federal government and/or believed this

funding could be better spent elsewhere. Several identified other issues related to Canada's defence such as equipment procurement and perceived shortages of CAF personnel. It was believed that these needed to be prioritized higher relative to increasing Canada's defence capacity in the Arctic. Asked what more the Government of Canada should do in terms of enhancing NORAD's defence capabilities, a number of participants suggested research into automated drone surveillance and missile defence systems. It was said these represented a viable option that would not require a massive influx of additional personnel to operate them.

### **COVID-19 Outlook and Vaccines (Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

Five groups discussed a range of issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These included participant outlooks on how the virus may progress going forward, perspectives regarding the Government of Canada's handling of the pandemic, views on past and present public health measures, and opinions related to the COVID-19 vaccine.

### **COVID-19 Forecast (Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors)**

Three groups shared their perspectives regarding how the COVID-19 virus would likely evolve in the months and years to come. While most expected there would likely be additional waves, it was widely felt that the worst of the pandemic had passed. Several believed that due to the additional protections provided by COVID-19 vaccines, Canadians were better prepared to live with the virus and move forward as best they could. While most were of the view that the virus would likely continue to spread, almost all felt it unlikely that any new public health requirements would be implemented at either the provincial/territorial or federal level. It was widely believed that additional measures were not necessary and that there would be little willingness among the general public to adhere to them.

### **Government of Canada Performance (Prince Edward Island Youth, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

Two groups discussed the Government of Canada's management of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, most felt positively about the federal response, especially in terms of reassuring Canadians during the early months of the pandemic when little was known about the virus. It was added that given how often the virus had evolved over the past two years, the Government of Canada had done the best it could to adapt to and manage the pandemic. Some also mentioned what they viewed as the highly effective roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, believing this had been an efficient process and had been a contributing factor to the relatively high rate of vaccination among Canadians compared to other countries such as the United States. A small number also said the federal government had done an effective job at working with governments at the provincial/territorial level. This was felt to be especially important given the wide range of approaches taken in these jurisdictions towards managing the pandemic.

While most felt the overall federal performance had been effective, several participants identified areas where they believed the response could have been improved. A number of participants were of the view that financial supports such as the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) should have been ended far earlier. It was said that the significant spending required for these assistance programs had been a contributing factor to the high rate of inflation and perceived labour shortage, both of which were seen as significant economic challenges at present.

### **Public Health Measures (Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

Four groups engaged in discussions regarding the various public health measures that had been implemented in their respective regions during the pandemic as well as those in place at the federal level. Overall, most viewed public health requirements as sufficient at present, though a smaller number of participants in areas where some restrictions remained hoped to see these measures removed as well; no participants expressed a desire for stricter public health requirements at present.

Regionally, many in the group based in Quebec felt it was reasonable to continue to have some measures (such as mask requirements) in place, especially under certain circumstances such as when riding public transit or in healthcare facilities. In the group from the Prairies (Saskatchewan and Manitoba), however, where provincial mask requirements in healthcare settings had been rescinded, no participants expressed concern regarding this decision. Among these participants, it was widely believed it was now a matter of personal responsibility when deciding whether to engage in public health measures such as mask-wearing and social distancing when ill. Several in the group comprised of younger Canadians residing in Prince Edward Island (PEI) shared the view that while some restrictions had likely been necessary at certain periods during the pandemic, they had also had negative consequences. These included growing mental health challenges, a lack of social opportunities for young people, economic struggles for small and medium-sized businesses, and a poorer quality of education for those who had been pursuing post-secondary studies. Among those residing in Alberta, most felt all restrictions should be removed, including those at the federal level requiring facemasks on airplanes and in airports, random testing for travellers entering Canada, and travel-related vaccine requirements.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Perspectives (Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta)**

Participants residing in small and mid-size centres in Alberta shared their experiences and perspectives regarding COVID-19 vaccines. To begin, participants were asked whether changing public health measures over the course of the pandemic had affected their opinions regarding the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination. No participants felt this to be the case, with many expressing the perception that knowledge regarding the virus was constantly being discovered and that it made sense that a public health response would adapt and evolve with these new developments.

Slightly more participants reported having gotten vaccinated than those who had not. Discussing whether they were worried about the potential long-term impacts of the COVID-19 vaccine, few participants were, with several believing that the benefits of receiving the vaccine outweighed any potential costs. A small number of participants expressed concerns about potential heart issues as well

as an overall weakening of their immune system due to the vaccine. While not concerned about their own health, a few were worried about the potential impacts the COVID-19 vaccine may have on their children, believing there were too many unknowns about the long-term impacts of the vaccine and how it may interact with their less-developed immune systems.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine ‘Booster Dose’ (Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine)**

This group, comprised of participants who had only received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, discussed their opinions related to the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, sometimes referred to as a ‘booster dose’. Asked what had contributed to their initial decision to get vaccinated, participants put forward a number of responses. These included concerns regarding the health of immunocompromised relatives and loved ones, the impression that the vaccine would assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19, and for several, fears regarding the potential impacts to their health of contracting the virus. While most remained comfortable with their decision to get vaccinated, a small number expressed regret, feeling they should have done more research regarding what they viewed as the potential long-term impacts of the vaccine prior to receiving it. No participants had an appointment scheduled to get an additional dose of the vaccine. While a few were adamantly opposed to receiving another dose, now believing the vaccine to be potentially harmful, most were of the view that there was no real point to getting a booster dose, feeling it provided little protection and would not assist in reducing the transmissibility of the virus.

Asked whether they had any outstanding questions regarding COVID-19 vaccines, some questioned whether it was now expected that Canadians would need to receive boosters on an annual or semi-annual basis. Many believed this to be untenable and expressed a general unwillingness to adhere to a regular booster campaign, especially given their perception that the vaccine had been relatively ineffective at preventing the spread of COVID-19.

### **Climate Change and Environment (City of Toronto, Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

Four groups engaged in discussions regarding initiatives and programs related to environmental sustainability and reducing the impacts of climate change. These included a focus on the federal government’s carbon pricing system as well as the Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles (iZEV) program.

### **Carbon Pricing (City of Toronto, Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

All four groups discussed the carbon pricing system which had been implemented by the Government of Canada in recent years. Asked whether they had heard of this initiative, while many had, few could recall any specific details regarding what a price on carbon entailed. For those who could offer some specifics, it was believed that carbon pricing had been put in place for businesses as well as individual households, and was tied to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions these individuals/corporations



produced during their day-to-day activities. A number of participants were of the impression that this price on carbon had been implemented by way of increased taxes on non-renewable energy sources such as gasoline.

On balance, most were supportive of the implementation of a federal price on carbon. It was expressed by several that climate change represented a major issue and that it was important to have a plan in place to mitigate its effects. A few expressed disappointment that a number of provinces were currently not meeting the emission standards set out by the federal government. Participants were mixed in their opinions regarding the incentive payments being returned to Canadians in their provinces. A large number were of the view that these amounts should not be returned to citizens, believing this reduced the impact of this policy as a disincentive for carbon emitting behaviours. Among others who felt these payments represented a positive development, many were pleased that these amounts were redistributed directly to individual households rather than utilized by the federal government for its own operations.

Informed that the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) found that 80% of households in affected provinces would be receiving more money back in the form of incentive payments than they spent on carbon pricing through their household purchases, participants were varied in their reactions. While a number of participants saw this as a sign of good faith that the carbon pricing system would not be unfairly punitive to most Canadians, many others were more skeptical. Several, including a large number in the groups from Alberta and northern Ontario, felt this may disproportionately impact those living in rural areas who may need to spend more on energy and fuel and would likely emit more greenhouse gases as a result.

### **Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles (iZEV) Program (Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

Participants in two groups discussed the Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles (iZEV) program. Asked whether they had heard of this program, though several had, few could recall any specific details. To aid in conversation, participants were informed that the iZEV Program offers point-of-sale incentives to consumers who buy or lease a ZEV that meets the program requirements. In addition, participants were informed that along with various other types of automobiles, this program also applies to pickup trucks where the base model Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) is less than \$60,000.

Asked for their perspectives on this program, specifically with respect to its inclusion of pickup trucks, many expressed a number of concerns related to the iZEV initiative. Even with the focus on larger classes of ZEVs such as pickups, few in northern Ontario felt the program was appealing while those in the group from the Prairies were more mixed in their opinions. A number of those in the group from northern Ontario were of the impression that ZEVs would not be able to operate in more rural or remote communities, especially given concerns regarding extreme snowfall in the winter months and the long distances those residing in these areas were frequently required to drive. Related to this, while a number of participants in both groups expressed interest in purchasing a ZEV, they did not believe these vehicles would be able to suit their needs at present. It was felt by several that prior to them purchasing a ZEV, there would need to be advancements towards ensuring longer battery life for these vehicles as well as greater investments into infrastructure such as charging stations.



Many also mentioned affordability as a primary concern related to this program. Several commented on what they perceived to be the general unaffordability of ZEVs at present, believing these vehicles to be prohibitively expensive for many lower and middle-income Canadians. Others also expressed that it would be difficult to find a pickup truck with an MSRP under \$60,000 and that the federal government may be underestimating the true cost of these vehicles. With this in mind, very few felt the pricing criteria outlined in this program would incentivize them.

Speaking about ZEVs more generally, participants were largely supportive of the environmental benefits these vehicles provided. While many expected a large number of Canadians would eventually make the transition to ZEVs it was said this may take a long time to achieve. Expanding upon this, it was felt that given concerns regarding affordability and a lack of charging stations, the current federal timeline requiring all car and passenger truck sales to be zero-emission by 2035 was generally seen as somewhat unrealistic.

### **Housing Affordability (City of Toronto, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine)**

Two groups discussed issues related to housing in Canada. These conversations focused both on housing affordability in general as well as specific initiatives related to housing that had been announced by the Government of Canada as part of the recent 2022 federal Budget.

### **Housing Perspectives (Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine)**

This group, based in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia (B.C.), engaged in a brief conversation regarding housing affordability in their region as well as on a national scale. Discussing the most pressing issues facing their region at present, almost all identified housing as a major problem. This was felt to be especially the case for low-income Canadians who struggled both to purchase a home as well as to find affordable rental options in their area. A number of participants were of the view that younger Canadians in particular were struggling with the current housing market. It was said that in most cases young people needed financial assistance from their parents to afford the high down payments necessary to purchase a home. Some also identified the difficulties faced by homeowners, indicating that amidst a trend of rising interest rates many would likely witness significantly higher mortgage payments in the months and years to come.

Asked what actions they felt the Government of Canada could take to assist those struggling to find affordable housing, a number of responses were provided. These included building more new homes, implementing a permanent ban on non-Canadian homebuyers, increased taxation on empty homes, enhanced public transit infrastructure to support new housing developments, and a greater focus on co-operative housing options.

### **Budget 2022 Housing Initiatives (City of Toronto)**

Participants in this group engaged in a discussion regarding a number of recent housing-related initiatives announced as part of Budget 2022. All participants identified housing as an issue of critical importance at present.

Engaging in a number of exercises discussing recent announcements and initiatives from the Budget, participants were asked to identify which they felt would be most effective towards addressing housing affordability. To begin, participants were presented with a number of specific initiatives developed to provide additional housing options for Canadians.

Among these initiatives, those related to increasing the number of housing options for low-income Canadians and marginalized populations received the highest level of support. Almost all participants identified the investment of an additional \$1.5 billion (over two years) towards new affordable housing units for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence as a particularly important initiative. It was said that in most cases, those experiencing these challenges had few places to go and that this often led to them remaining in dangerous situations. Some thought that homelessness in particular had become a more prevalent issue over the past two years, primarily due to the economic and mental health challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. A large number also reacted favourably to the announcement of an additional \$2.9 billion (over four years) for the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, focusing on creating new affordable housing options as well as repairing existing low-income housing. A number spoke positively regarding the commitment of an additional \$500 million towards expanding co-operative housing in Canada, including a pledge to provide an additional \$1 billion in loans for these types of projects. It was thought that co-operative housing represented a viable and realistic pathway towards home ownership for many as well as fostered a sense of community and shared responsibility among those living in these dwellings.

Participants next focused on a second set of priorities, this time specifically concerning the issue of housing affordability and creating additional pathways to homeownership for Canadians.

Of these initiatives, several focused on those initiatives related to first-time home buyers. A large number reacted positively to the creation of a new Tax-Free First Home Savings Account allowing prospective home buyers to save up to \$40,000 tax-free towards the purchase of their first home. In addition, many identified the expansion of the First-Time Home Buyers' Incentive which would allow for greater flexibility and easier access to the housing market for single Canadians.

A large number of participants also identified the allocation of an additional \$200 million towards rent-to-own housing options as a potentially helpful initiative. Many believed this represented a realistic pathway to homeownership, particularly for younger and low/middle income Canadians who may struggle to afford a down payment. It was said that this could provide greater autonomy for many Canadians, allowing the rent they pay to contribute towards the eventual goal of homeownership and giving them something to work towards. A number of participants felt this initiative could be potentially helpful to them personally. Several also mentioned the investment of \$562 million (over two years) towards funding organizations addressing homelessness, as well as an additional \$62 million specifically for veterans experiencing homelessness, as a positive initiative.

Participants were next shown an additional set of initiatives, this time focused on protecting Canadians in the housing market. On balance, all initiatives received a significant level of support, with a number of participants expressing that all of these actions would likely have a positive impact on helping Canadians navigate the housing market.

Almost all participants identified the creation of taxation penalties to prevent landlords from engaging in practices such as 'renovictions' as an important initiative. It was said that this was a frequent problem in many areas and represented a lack of fairness on the part of landlords. Some expressed having personally known individuals who had dealt with this issue. A large number also mentioned the pledge to end blind bidding as especially important. It was believed that in many cases this process had served to artificially drive up housing prices, with realtors exploiting the desperation of prospective home buyers to enter the housing market and encouraging higher bids than these individuals may be able to afford.

Several also reacted positively to the announcement of a two-year ban on all non-Canadians from buying residential properties in Canada, believing that foreign buyers had significantly contributed to the increase in Canadian home prices in recent decades. While almost all were in favour of this action, some clarified that they did not want to see those immigrating to Canada to live and work included in this ban, believing anyone seeking to contribute to the country should have the opportunity to purchase a home.

### **Seniors and Aging (Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Southwestern New Brunswick)**

Two groups engaged in discussions related to issues facing seniors as well as the impact of an aging population on Canada's economic and social future. Participants spoke about a number of concerns related to these issues, as well as potential actions the Government of Canada could take towards addressing them.

#### **Seniors' Issues (Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors)**

Participants in the group comprised of seniors from the Bas-Saint-Laurent region of Quebec, discussed a number of issues of importance to seniors in Canada. To begin, participants identified what they felt to be the most important issues facing Canadians at present. A wide range of responses were provided, including climate change and the environment, inflation and the rising cost of living, education, and perceived labour shortages in many vital sectors such as healthcare and the trades.

Focusing on areas of concern specifically related to seniors, participants mentioned a number of issues they believed required greater attention from the federal government. Many reiterated the view that the rising cost of living was an issue of paramount importance. It was believed that a large number of seniors were already struggling to make ends meet and that this loss of purchasing power due to rising inflation had only exacerbated this issue. A large number felt the amounts provided through pensions and other financial supports were no longer sufficient to meet their everyday needs. In addition, several also identified healthcare as an important issue for seniors. Related to this, some

expressed the desire to see an increase in healthcare transfers from the Government of Canada to support provinces/territories in improving the quality and accessibility of care in their jurisdictions.

Discussing the performance of the federal government related to addressing those issues most important to seniors, no participants felt it was currently on the right track. A number of participants expressed the view that the federal government needed to be doing far more to provide them with assistance. Focusing on potential ways the Government of Canada could improve on this front, participants put forward a number of suggestions. These included greater communication with seniors, assistance towards allowing seniors to remain in their homes as long as possible (rather than moving to a long-term care facility), and the provision of greater financial resources to the provinces/territories targeted towards increasing the quality of care received by seniors.

Asked whether they receive the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, several participants indicated that they did. Additionally, a smaller number reported that they were recipients of the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). Discussing these supports, many reiterated that these payments were not enough to meet their needs and needed to be adjusted to reflect rising costs and inflation. Discussing potential changes that could be made to the OAS or GIS, many were of the view that these supports should be indexed to inflation in order to account for the increased cost of living.

Focusing on potential actions that could be taken by the federal government related to seniors, participants evaluated a number of current and potential initiatives targeted towards addressing seniors' issues. Among these initiatives, the proposal to increase the GIS by \$500 for single seniors and \$750 for couples (beginning at age 65) received enthusiastic support from many participants. It was said this would help towards offsetting increased costs resulting from the present high rate of inflation.

A number of participants also reacted positively regarding initiatives that would allow seniors to remain in their homes as they age, including the initiative to assist community-based organizations in providing support assisting low-income and vulnerable seniors stay at home as long as possible. Many expressed a strong personal desire to remain in their own homes rather than transition to long-term care facilities, and felt this initiative would assist them in doing so. It was also suggested that these community organizations could develop more community-based programming and activities to help prevent seniors living alone from feeling isolated.

### **Ageing Population (Southwestern New Brunswick)**

Participants in the group from New Brunswick engaged in a brief conversation regarding the potential impact of an aging population on their province. Many were of the view that this issue had become increasingly prevalent as of late and would likely worsen going forward. Some were of the impression that in addition to the province's own aging population, many retirees from other parts of Canada had been relocating to New Brunswick due to perceived lower housing prices and cost of living in the region.

Informed that New Brunswick has one of the oldest populations in the country and that the number of seniors in the province was expected to double within the next 20 years, it was felt by many that this

would lead to a further increase in housing prices. Related to this, some were concerned this would compel younger people to leave New Brunswick in search of more affordable housing, further decreasing the available working population. A number of others expressed worry about the potential economic disruption this might cause, with a lack of younger workers available to replace those who are retiring or would soon be doing so. Several were also concerned about the potential impact this would have on the healthcare system, which was perceived to already be significantly strained in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Asked how the Government of Canada might address these issues, participants put forward a range of suggestions. A number believed the federal government should increase targeted immigration initiatives, prioritizing the recruitment of skilled workers who could work in areas of need, such as healthcare and the trades. Others felt this issue could be solved without increasing immigration, believing that the federal government should prioritize incentivizing those already living in Canada (and young people in particular) to work in vital sectors. A few suggested that the training and certification process in sectors such as healthcare be made less onerous going forward. It was believed that there was presently a significant need for doctors, nurses, and specialists throughout much of the country and that the large investment of time and financial resources required for training for these positions represented a significant barrier for many interested in working in the sector.

### **Relationship with China (GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora)**

Participants in the group comprising members of the Chinese diaspora within Canada discussed the Government of Canada's current relationship with China as well as their perspectives regarding how this relationship had evolved in recent years. Many characterized the present relationship as tense and occasionally adversarial. A number of participants were of the opinion that China's rise as a major economic power in recent decades had been a primary factor contributing to these increased tensions. It was felt that as China asserted itself to a greater extent on the global stage, Canada and its allies (such as the United States) had been compelled to take a closer look at their economic ties with China as well as the reported human rights abuses taking place within China's borders. Regarding this latter issue, some participants expressed the view that Canada was not currently doing enough to speak out against human rights issues in China and was exhibiting too much caution in its willingness to be critical of the Chinese government.

Discussing how they expected Canada-China relations to evolve going forward, several expected China to continue to grow as a global economic power and believed this could potentially lead to increasing tensions, especially if the perceived rivalry between China and the United States continued to deepen. While most felt the Government of Canada should continue to maintain an economic and trade relationship with China, very few wanted to see the development of stronger ties. Several felt that by doing so Canada would run the risk of alienating crucial allies such as the United States as well as potentially expose itself to security risks, particularly those related to cybersecurity and espionage.

### **Universal Basic Income (Northern Ontario)**

Participants in the group from Northern Ontario engaged in a brief discussion regarding their views on the potential introduction of a universal basic income (UBI) program in Canada. Many were familiar with the concept of UBI as well as its objective of providing individuals with a level of income ensuring they can meet their basic needs such as food, housing, and clothing. Discussing whether they felt UBI trial programs should be considered by the federal government, most were against such an initiative. Many expressed concern that some would take advantage of these programs, utilizing them as a way to meet their financial needs while also abstaining from working. It was suggested by some that the funds required to deliver a UBI program might be better directed toward economic development, job creation, or increasing the amount of affordable housing in their communities.

Focusing on potential implications of UBI programs, participants were informed that while some said this type of program would help Canadians struggling with the rising cost of living, others were worried that this additional influx of money into the economy would drive up prices and worsen inflation further. Asked which of these perspectives they felt was more realistic, all felt the introduction of a UBI would have a negative impact on Canada's economic situation. Some compared a UBI to pandemic-related financial supports such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), which they believed had been a major contributing factor towards rising inflation and overall price increases. It was suggested that a basic income program would likely be more impactful if, rather than being allocated universally, it was targeted primarily towards low-income Canadians, those living with disabilities, and other marginalized groups who may require additional assistance.

### **Immigration and Foreign Credential Recognition (Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

Participants in this group, comprised of members of the Filipino diaspora in Canada, engaged in a discussion concerning immigration and the challenges frequently faced by immigrants upon their arrival to Canada. Participants were largely mixed as to whether the Government of Canada was currently on the right or wrong track when it came to immigration. For those who felt positively about the federal government's performance on this front, the view was expressed that Canada's immigration policy had been beneficial in addressing critical labour shortages which several believed had occurred in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of others said that the Government of Canada had been helpful in its implementation and funding of non-profit and settlement organizations targeted towards assisting immigrants upon their arrival in Canada. For those who felt more negatively regarding the Government of Canada's performance related to immigration, most criticisms focused on the perceived backlog and wait times for important documents such as work or student visas.

Asked what the most pressing issues were related to Canada's immigration system, participants identified a wide range of concerns. Unprompted, many mentioned the foreign credential recognition process and underemployment of newly arriving immigrants as significant problems. Several were of the impression that in many circumstances skilled immigrants were not being hired into their sectors of expertise due to lacking the necessary credentials. It was said by a few participants that there were currently insufficient resources available for immigrants to upgrade their skills and receive the training and certification required to work in their fields of choice. Discussing how the Government of Canada

might respond to these problems and improve the immigration system in Canada going forward, participants offered a wide range of suggestions. Many felt that more could be done to support settlement organizations and programs, both in terms of increased funding as well as directly advertising these opportunities to new immigrants. It was believed that these organizations could play a crucial role in assisting new immigrants in finding employment, connecting with other immigrants, and accessing services at the federal and provincial/territorial level.

Focusing specifically on the foreign credential recognition process, many reiterated the view that this represented a prominent issue for immigrants. Related to this, a large number of participants identified underemployment and de-professionalization as additional challenges for immigrants. Discussing how the Government of Canada might address these issues, many expressed the view that immigrant training programs were currently overburdened. It was suggested that by allocating increased resources toward these programs, the federal government would be able to more effectively meet the needs of newly arriving immigrants. A number of others thought that incentivizing employers to hire new immigrants may be an effective way of reducing underemployment for these individuals and ensuring they were not being overlooked in the labour market.

### **Canadian Armed Forces (Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans)**

In this group, conducted among veterans and active members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), participants engaged in a conversation about the role of the CAF, key issues it was facing, as well as supports provided by the federal government to current and former CAF members.

On balance, participants expressed a strong sense of pride towards the CAF and their own contributions as serving members of the Forces. Though it was felt that Canada's military was well regarded internationally, a number of participants also believed that its allies had become increasingly critical of perceived underfunding and under-resourcing. While acknowledging improvements in several areas within the CAF (e.g., the purchase of purpose-built military equipment such as large transport aircraft and light armoured vehicles (LAVs), and addressing mental health issues and sexual harassment in the Forces), participants identified equipment procurement as an area in need of improvement. Many believed the equipment provided to CAF personnel to be out of date, obsolete, or inadequate at present.

Asked which issues facing the CAF should be prioritized by the federal government, participants focused on increased funding, replacing outdated military equipment, enhancing the capacity of the military, ensuring competent senior leadership, and improving efficiencies by reviewing and/or replacing civilian contracts (for maintenance of military equipment) with CAF personnel. Views were mixed as to whether the federal government was on the right or the wrong track in addressing these priorities.

During the remainder of the discussion, a series of specific topics were raised with participants:

- Racism and misconduct in the Canadian military – Most did not see this as a pressing issue, believing that these behaviours were not overly common in the Forces and that the CAF was



holding members to a higher standard today than it had in previous decades. Participants felt that the federal government had actively and appropriately addressed the issue of racism in the military through various initiatives, including offering more options and channels for CAF members to report an incident of harassment or file a grievance;

- Postings and career progression – Participants were generally of the view that career progression in the military should not require a member to accept postings in various locations. They felt that some might view the opportunity to stay in one location for the duration of their military career as a positive;
- Post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) – This was viewed as a significant issue by all participants, although they felt that the Department of National Defence (DND) had made significant progress in prioritizing the mental health of service members and veterans, and in providing needed treatment for those diagnosed with a mental health condition. Most also believed that the Government of Canada was generally on the right track when it came to addressing mental health challenges and PTSI among current and former CAF members;
- Housing and homelessness – The cost of housing was identified as a critical concern for service members based on Vancouver Island. Most felt that housing was well out of reach for the average member of the military, and that this issue should be a priority for the Government of Canada and CAF leadership. Homelessness among veterans was also seen as a serious issue and one that was getting worse. Several suggestions were put forward to address this issue more directly, including counselling to service members and veterans with a particular focus on their housing options, increasing the stock of private military/married quarters (PMQs), and implementing practical transition programs ahead of service members being released from the CAF;
- Benefits and services for veterans – Other than education grants and bursaries, participants were unaware of any federal government investments over the last five years in new benefits and services for veterans and their families. While some spoke positively regarding the perceived ease of access to benefits, others were more critical. These individuals cited challenges both in accessing information about programs and services, as well as financial hardship while awaiting approval for disability benefits; and
- Remembrance Day – Participants were asked for their views on commemorations which take place on Remembrance Day, and specifically whether they should be broadened to include greater focus on those who served after the Korean War (e.g., those who served during the Cold War, in Afghanistan, on peacekeeping missions, domestic missions, etc.). Most were comfortable with the current approach feeling that commemorations were broadly inclusive of those who had served in more recent missions as well as those having served in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Indigenous Youth in Care (Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples)**

One group, composed of Indigenous peoples in Quebec, discussed issues related to Indigenous youth in care, specifically relating to Bill C-92. When asked what they had seen, read, or heard about the Bill, few were aware of this legislation, and none were able to provide any specific details.



Upon receiving additional information, some expressed concern that, while a step in the right direction, the Bill did not recognize the individual realities of diverse Indigenous communities. Expanding upon this, it was felt that the federal government should develop laws in collaboration and continuous consultation with each Indigenous community in accordance with their specific needs. A number were also of the view that there would need to be greater collaboration between the federal and provincial governments as to how they could best support Indigenous communities going forward.

To further discussion, participants were informed of a number of possible outcomes that could be provided by this Bill. These included helping Indigenous children stay within their family and community, helping those currently in care return to their families, prioritizing the importance of Indigenous children staying connected to their language, culture, and community, and ensuring that children could not be removed from their families solely due to financial, health, or housing-related challenges.

Most participants reacted positively to the initiatives of assisting Indigenous children remaining with their family and in their community, as well as assisting those currently in care with returning to their families. Many felt that regardless of ethnic or cultural background, transferring a child from family to family causes unnecessary trauma and has lasting impacts that should not be taken lightly. Reactions to the prioritization of Indigenous children remaining connected to their language, culture, and community were more mixed. A number of participants believed this initiative to be somewhat vague, questioning how it would be carried out and what oversight would be provided to ensure it was occurring. While mostly positive regarding the commitment to not remove children from their families solely due to financial, health, or housing-related challenges, a number of participants were concerned that other reasons (such as substance abuse) often used to justify the removal of Indigenous children were not included in this list. Overall, most viewed the Bill's objectives as mostly positive, so long as the federal government followed through with its commitments to bring about meaningful legislative change and did so in a way that acknowledged the lived experiences of Indigenous peoples.

Participants next discussed a recent agreement related to support for child and family services reached by the federal government and Cowessess First Nation in southern Saskatchewan. None reported being previously aware of this agreement. To provide further clarification, participants were informed that as part of this agreement, the Government of Canada would be investing \$38.7 million over the next two years in support of the Cowessess First Nation implementing its own child and family services system. Participants reacted largely positively to this initiative, with several expressing that this was the type of specialized support they expected each Indigenous community to receive.

Discussing whether the Government of Canada should pursue similar agreements with other Indigenous communities, most reacted affirmatively. The view was added that Indigenous children represented the future and needed to be prioritized. Related to this, it was reiterated by some that the process for reaching these agreements would need to be equitable and that each negotiation be carried out in a respectful manner and with an aim towards identifying the unique needs of the specific community.

### **Local Issues (Prince Edward Island Youth, Northern Ontario)**

Participants in two groups discussed a number of issues specific to their local areas. These conversations focused both on economic needs more generally, as well as specific concerns related to sectors such as agriculture and mining.

#### **Prince Edward Island (Prince Edward Island Youth)**

Participants in the group from Prince Edward Island (PEI), aged 18-24, discussed a number of issues relevant to their province. To begin, participants were asked to share which industries/sectors they worked or studied in. For those who were currently working, many were employed in the food service/hospitality industry, though several clarified that they aspired to eventually transition to different industries in the future, such as healthcare or the public sector. A large number were currently attending post-secondary education. Many believed that there were a lot of opportunities in PEI, and stated their desire to remain in the province.

Discussing the most important sectors/industries for their local communities, many identified tourism, fishing, and agriculture as important economic drivers within PEI. Focusing on the fishing industry specifically, a number of participants believed it to be essential to the province's economy. Expanding upon this, it was said that the fishing sector had shown adaptability in recent years, working towards introducing more sustainable practices as well as working to create partnerships and opportunities with Indigenous peoples in the region. No participants, however, indicated that they would personally be interested in working in this sector, believing there to be many barriers to entry.

Focusing on the agriculture industry, many expressed their concerns about potato farms and farmers. Specifically, it was said that recent issues related to the U.S. suspension of PEI potato imports had been extremely damaging to agriculture in the province. While most participants identified agriculture as a critical sector to PEI's future, none expressed an interest in pursuing a career in this area.

Asked which sectors/industries in PEI were the most in need of assistance from the federal government, agriculture was again mentioned by a number of participants. Several were of the impression that farmers and other agriculture workers in the province were currently retiring at a rate faster than they were being replaced. It was felt that young people were less interested in working at farms and preferred professional opportunities in other fields.

Participants were next asked whether they had seen, read, or heard any recent news related to the trade of PEI potatoes. Many had heard that the export of potatoes had been temporarily halted in late 2021 due to the discovery of potato wart in some crops. Participants were largely of the view that potato wart was primarily an aesthetic issue and not harmful, and that even if the potatoes could not be exported, they still could have been used domestically. All participants were of the opinion that the U.S. halting imports of PEI potatoes had negatively impacted the province's agriculture industry, and represented an issue of vital importance to the province.

Discussing the actions taken by the federal government towards addressing this issue, participants were mostly negative in their views. Many felt that the federal government should have provided

potato farmers with financial support to compensate for lost earnings as well as worked with U.S. officials to resume trade sooner.

### **Northern Ontario (Northern Ontario)**

Participants residing in northern Ontario engaged in a brief discussion about important industries in their region, with a particular focus on mining and the Ring of Fire. Asked what the most important sectors/industries were in the region, many identified mining along with areas such as manufacturing, agriculture, and healthcare. Discussing what more the Government of Canada could do to support these industries, participants emphasized the need for a greater on-the-ground federal presence in northern Ontario as well as further financial assistance for these sectors.

Many were aware of the Ring of Fire, a mining opportunity located in the far northern region of the province. Though believing this to be a promising project from an economic perspective, several were of the impression that mining the Ring of Fire would require considerable costs, especially given the remoteness of the area. This being said, many believed that developing these resources could provide a number of important economic opportunities across the region's mining, construction, transportation, and manufacturing industries. Discussing concerns related to this project, participants identified a number of potential challenges. These included a perceived labour shortage in the region, the environmental impact of mining activity, the investment of funds into the project that might be better spent elsewhere, and the logistical difficulties and financial costs of infrastructure development in the region.

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### **MORE INFORMATION**

The Strategic Counsel

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## Detailed Findings

## Timeline of June Announcements

To help place the focus group discussions within the context of key events, below is a brief synopsis for the month of June 2022.

- June 1-7
  - June 1. The Government of Canada announced a \$21.6 million investment for 14 Indigenous energy champions and their communities to begin implementing clean energy projects, through the Indigenous Off-Diesel Initiative (IODI).
  - [Focus group was held with Anglophones in Quebec \(June 1\).](#)
  - June 2. The Government of Canada announced that Ukrainians arriving in Canada are able to apply to receive transitional financial assistance to help meet basic needs, such as transportation and longer-term housing. Each adult is eligible for a one-time payment of \$3,000, and each child \$1,500 (17 years and under).
  - June 3. The Government of Canada announced \$55 million in funding for Rogers and Xplornet to bring high-speed Internet to approximately 11,000 households in various rural, remote and Indigenous communities in New Brunswick.
  - June 3. The Government of Canada announced \$67.1 million to support projects by 959 organizations across Canada through the Enabling Accessibility Fund; \$10.3 million of this funding went to 159 organizations in Quebec.
  - [Focus group was held with the general population in the City of Toronto \(June 7\).](#)
  - June 7. The Government of Canada announced over \$3.24 million in funding through the 2 Billion Trees program (2BT) to Trees for Life, which will help them engage partners and collaborators on 34 different tree-planting projects.
  - June 7. The Governments of Canada and Nunavut announced \$6.6 million in joint funding to improve air quality in 45 schools across Nunavut.
  
- June 8-15
  - June 8. The Minister of Foreign Affairs announced additional sanctions on Russia to impose a ban on the export of 28 services vital for the operation of the oil, gas, and chemical industries.
  - June 8. The Government of Canada launched Canada's Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System, outlined in Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, which will give municipalities, foresters, farmers, etc. a market-based incentive to undertake innovative projects that reduce greenhouse gases by preventing emissions and removing them from the atmosphere.
  - June 8. The Minister of Seniors announced the launch of the Age Well at Home initiative, which aims to help seniors stay in their homes for as long as possible as they age by providing them with practical assistance for everyday tasks.
  - [Focus groups were held with members of the Chinese diaspora in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area \(GTHA\), excluding the City of Toronto \(June 8\) and those aged 35-54 in small and mid-size centres in Alberta \(June 9\).](#)

- June 10. The Government of Canada announced an investment of \$11.3 million over three years from Canada's Enhanced Nature Legacy to increase biodiversity conservation efforts in nineteen UNESCO biosphere reserves across Canada.
- June 10. The Government of Canada announced over \$200 million to help response and recovery efforts following the floods and wildfires in British Columbia.
- June 13. The Government of Canada announced an investment of \$8.6 million, provided through the Government of Canada's Mental Health Promotion Innovation Fund (MHP-IF), for 6 projects across Ontario to promote mental health and wellbeing.
- Focus groups were held with those who had only received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia (June 14) and youth, aged 18-24, in Prince Edward Island (June 15).
- June 15. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) announced the imposition of \$7.5 million in penalties on Bell Canada for three violations of the *Telecommunications Act*.
- June 16-22
  - June 16. The Government of Canada announced \$10 million in funding to the Canadian Red Cross, which will distribute the funding to various community-based organizations across Canada working to promote mental health and well-being in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery.
  - June 16. The Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, announced over \$175 million in funding to support 809 social sciences and humanities research projects across Canada.
  - June 16. The Government of Canada announced over \$2.4 million in funding, delivered by CanNor, to support three fisheries projects in Nunavut.
  - Focus group was held with seniors, aged 55 and older, in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region in Quebec (June 16).
  - June 20. The Minister of National Defence announced Canada's plan to modernize Canada's continental defence capabilities and protect Canadians from new and emerging threats. This plan will be supported by an investment of \$3 billion over six years as a result of existing Budget 2022 allocations, beginning in 2022-23, with \$1.9 billion in remaining amortization (or \$4.9 billion on a cash basis).
  - June 20. The Government of Canada published final regulations to prohibit single-use plastics, which will come into effect in December 2022. Such single-use plastics will include checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware made from or containing problematic plastics that are hard to recycle, ring carriers, stir sticks, and straws (with some exceptions).
  - Focus groups were held with the general population in northern Ontario (June 21) and members of the Filipino diaspora in major centres in the Prairies (June 22).
  - June 22. The Government of Canada announced \$200 million in funding for an initiative that aims to support vaccine delivery and distribution in 13 targeted countries. Canada's Global Initiative for Vaccine Equity (CanGIVE) will support efforts to enhance vaccine delivery and distribution, increase vaccine confidence and generate demand, as well as support local production of vaccines. This initiative also includes \$100 million for UNICEF to build up vaccine logistics and supply chains and to strengthen health care systems

while also undertaking surge vaccination campaigns and targeted programming to increase vaccine uptake.

- June 23-30
  - June 23. The Minister of Justice issued a statement on Bill C-28 receiving Royal Assent. This Bill ensures that individuals who consume drugs and/or alcohol in a criminally negligent manner will be held criminally responsible if they harm others while extremely intoxicated.
  - [Focus group was held with active military members and veterans in Vancouver Island \(June 23\).](#)
  - June 24. The Government of Canada announced amendments to the *Competition Act*, which will strengthen the Competition Bureau's ability to protect Canadian consumers, businesses and workers from anti-competitive conduct. The amendments are as follows:
    - Increase maximum fines and penalties for those who break the law;
    - Prohibit wage-fixing and no-poach agreements between employers;
    - Clarify that incomplete price disclosure—drip pricing—is a deceptive marketing practice;
    - Allow private access to the Competition Tribunal for those impacted by abuse of dominance; and
    - Enable more effective enforcement in today's digital economy.
  - June 27. The Government of Canada announced over \$221 million in funding to support Canadians living in long-term care in Quebec, following the signing of the Safe Long-Term Care Fund (SLTCF) agreement with Quebec.
  - June 27. The Government of Canada announced an investment of \$28.2 million for nine projects that address PTSD and trauma in frontline and essential workers, as well as others whose mental health has been impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - June 28. The Government of Canada announced over \$5.1 million in funding from the Sexual and Reproductive Health Fund for projects by the Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC), the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity (CCGSD), Egale Canada and Sherbourne Health. These projects will aim to improve sexual reproductive health services and develop tools and resources to support LGBTQ2 communities.
  - [Focus groups were held with the general population in southwestern New Brunswick \(June 28\) and Indigenous peoples in mid-size and major centres in Quebec \(June 29\).](#)
  - June 29. The Government of Canada announced over \$3.7 million in funding over three years for Indigenous communities to support 33 conservation projects across Canada.
  - June 29. The Minister of Transport announced approximately \$105 million for three new projects with NAV CANADA under the National Trade Corridors Fund, which will help improve supply chain efficiency for Canadian airlines.
  - June 29. The Government of Canada announced the extension of its current border measures for travellers entering Canada; these requirements are expected to remain in effect until at least September 30, 2022.
  - June 29. The Government of Canada announced \$12.3 million in funding from the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) for the City of Toronto to address gun violence.

## Government of Canada in the News (All Locations)

At the beginning of each group participants were asked what they had seen, read, or heard about the Government of Canada in recent days. Participants recalled a wide range of announcements and initiatives, including:

- Actions to address the high rate of inflation and rising cost of living throughout much of Canada. Related to this, a number of participants recalled the recent decision by the Bank of Canada to raise interest rates by an additional 0.50% on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. It was hoped that in addition to reducing inflation, these actions would have a cooling effect on housing prices, which were viewed as becoming increasingly unaffordable in many parts of the country;
- The announcement by the federal government of new legislation (Bill C-21) to further strengthen gun control in Canada and keep Canadians safe from violence involving firearms. A number of participants reacted positively to this news, with several specifically mentioning having heard about the implementation of a national freeze on handguns;
- Lengthy travel delays at Canada's major airports, including Lester B. Pearson International Airport in Toronto. Several were aware of this issue and had heard the Government of Canada was actively working with airport authorities to find ways to reduce wait times for both domestic and international travellers;
- Continued delays for those attempting to obtain or renew their passports. A number of participants had heard of issues at Service Canada locations throughout the country and believed this was, in part, due to an administrative backlog as well as a renewed desire among many Canadians to travel internationally following lifting of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The announcement that, as of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the federal government would be suspending the COVID-19 vaccination requirement to board a plane or train in Canada. Several reacted positively to this news, with a small number voicing the opinion that this requirement should have been removed much earlier;
- Ongoing efforts by the Public Order Emergency Commission to inquire into the circumstances that led to the declaration of a public emergency and deployment of the Emergencies Act (in place from February 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022) in response to the 'Freedom Convoy' protests which took place in Ottawa and several other parts of the country in February 2022;
- The announcement on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 of a \$1.3 billion land claim settlement between the Government of Canada and the Siksika First Nation in southern Alberta. Some participants in the group from Alberta recalled hearing that a number of federal officials, including the Prime Minister, had attended a signing ceremony for this agreement at the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park (located on the Siksika reserve); and
- A 10% increase to Old Age Security (OAS) pension amounts for all seniors aged 75 and over coming into effect as of July 2022. A number of those in the group comprised of seniors living in Quebec's Bas-Saint-Laurent region recalled having heard about this.



In addition to these items, some participants also mentioned having heard about recent actions by the Government of Canada on the international front. These included:

- The ongoing provision of financial and military support to Ukraine in support of its defence effort against invading Russian forces. Additionally, some had also heard about increased efforts by the federal government to prioritize settlement of and accommodations for Ukrainians fleeing the conflict via the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program (though this specific program was not mentioned by name);
- The attendance of the Prime Minister at the Summit of the Americas, which took place in Los Angeles between June 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022; and
- Participation by several federal officials, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda which took place from June 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The group comprising active military members and veterans based on Vancouver Island were asked an additional question as to whether they were aware of the federal government's Oceans Protection Plan. No participants had heard of this initiative.

### **Drug Decriminalization (GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Northern Ontario)**

Three groups discussed the issue of drug decriminalization, including recent federal approval of a request from the Government of British Columbia (B.C.) to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of illicit drugs in the province.

Most participants in the group from B.C.'s Lower Mainland recalled having heard about this initiative. In the groups residing in Ontario, roughly as many were aware of this plan as were not. Very few, however, could recall any specific details that had been announced. To aid in conversation, participants were informed that the Government of Canada had recently approved B.C.'s request to decriminalize small amounts (up to 2.5 grams) of illicit drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamines, MDMA, and opioids in efforts to reduce the stigma associated with drug use and help save lives. In addition, it was clarified that those who purchase or possess above the threshold limit would continue to be at risk of arrest and of having the drugs confiscated. Participants were largely mixed in their reactions to this initiative. Regionally, most in the group from the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) believed the federal government had made the right decision in approving this request. By contrast, a large number in the group from British Columbia felt otherwise, believing it should not have been approved. Those in the group from northern Ontario were relatively mixed as to whether this represented a positive or negative development.

Among those in favour of this initiative, it was felt that by decriminalizing small amounts of these substances, users would face less stigma and may also be more likely to seek treatment with the knowledge that there would not be legal ramifications for doing so. It was also thought that by taking this action, British Columbia would be able to free up additional law enforcement resources as well as

prevent recreational users from having a criminal record which it was felt would drastically limit their employment opportunities going forward.

For participants who thought the federal government should not have granted this request, many believed that for decriminalization to be effective a significant treatment component should be offered, which they felt was missing from the current approach. It was believed that while decriminalization may be helpful as one of many steps towards combating drug addiction, on its own it was likely to have little effect in curbing substance use and could potentially increase the prevalence of this behaviour. A number of others were of the view that there was no 'safe' amount for highly potent substances (such as fentanyl and heroin) and believed the 2.5-gram threshold to be far too high. A few participants also shared concerns about the growth of 'drug tourism', citing instances of people travelling from across Canada and around the world to B.C. with the knowledge that there would likely be fewer legal consequences associated with use of these types of drugs. Several participants in the group from the Lower Mainland believed those residing in the province should have been consulted to a greater extent during the approval process, feeling a significant portion of the population were likely not in favour of this decision.

Discussing this matter further, participants in the group in northern Ontario were asked whether they would support their province or municipality decriminalizing drug possession in a similar way. On balance, participants opposed this idea. After being informed, however, that in the case of British Columbia individuals found in possession of small amounts of these drugs would be redirected to healthcare addiction resources and that the B.C. plan would also increase funding for additional resources to assist with addiction, a number were more receptive to the notion of decriminalization. Some participants, however, remained intensely opposed to this plan, reiterating the belief that no amount of these drugs could be consumed safely and that legal consequences for possessing and using these drugs served as an important deterrent in some cases. Asked what more could be done to address the issue of substance use and addiction in the region, many pointed to the need for more addictions and mental health resources, including the construction of new treatment facilities in the region. It was widely felt that there were not enough resources at present to accommodate the growing number of individuals seeking help for these issues, and that these challenges were even greater for those living in remote communities in Canada's North. In addition, it was suggested by some that more efforts should be taken to monitor and regulate the prescribing practices of physicians, with a number of participants believing that substances such as opioids were currently being prescribed too readily by healthcare providers.

### **Open Net-Pen Salmon Farming (Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine)**

The group based in B.C.'s Lower Mainland briefly discussed the issue of open net-pen salmon farming in the province. No participants reported being previously aware of this issue. To facilitate conversation, participants were informed that the Government of Canada was working with the province of British Columbia and Indigenous communities to create a responsible plan for the transition from open net-pen salmon farming in coastal British Columbia waters by 2025. In addition,

it was clarified that this type of aquaculture involved the placement of large cages or nets in coastal waters or freshwater lakes to farm large amounts of fish, including salmon. Though many said they had a limited knowledge of the issue, most felt this to be a positive development and was an important priority for the federal government. Several thought that current fish farming and aquacultural practices were often environmentally damaging and/or restricted the movement and quality of life of the province's fish stocks, such as salmon. Given this, many felt positively about the proposed transition and hoped it would assist in revitalizing the salmon population in British Columbia, which some believed had diminished in recent decades. It was said that by facilitating this transition, federal, provincial, and Indigenous leaders were taking proactive steps to increase both the amount and quality of the province's salmon stock as well as working to ensure its continued viability moving forward.

### **Public Mood (Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta)**

Participants residing in small and mid-size centres in Alberta discussed the current public mood in Canada and shared their thoughts as to whether Canadians were more divided now than in the past. While a small number felt Canadians were mostly united on the important issues facing the country, many participants believed the public had become considerably more divided as of late.

Asked about the issues on which Canadians were united, participants identified areas such as healthcare, inflation and the high cost of living, housing affordability, gun control, and a greater focus on inclusivity and multiculturalism relative to other jurisdictions such as the United States. Discussing issues on which the country was viewed as more divided, participants mentioned the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically public health mandates and vaccination mandates, issues concerning Canada's official languages, the regulation of online content (Bill C-11), climate change, and fundamental 'Charter values' such as the freedom of expression and the extent to which this needed to be balanced with reasonable limits regarding defamatory or obscene comments as well as those that could be considered 'hate speech'.

Discussing whether Canadians were more divided at present than in the past, most reiterated the belief that they were. While some were of the view that these divisions likely had always existed to some extent, it was felt they were far more salient in the minds of Canadians today and that social media had played a direct role in fostering this division. It was said that platforms such as Facebook and Twitter had provided many individuals, particularly those with more extreme perspectives, an opportunity to reach a wider audience, exposing Canadians to a wide range of inflammatory comments with the intent of provoking further tension. Adding to this, many were of the impression that those interacting on these platforms often did so in a harsher and less respectful way than they would when conversing face-to-face, further heightening discord and limiting the ability of Canadians to find common ground with one another.

Almost all participants were at least somewhat worried about what they viewed as an increasing divide among Canadians. Moreover, for those who identified as a member of a marginalized group, the perceived heightened negative rhetoric regarding social justice issues such as gender equality, racial equity, and sexual orientation was viewed as deeply concerning and not reflective of Canadian values.

Discussing whether the Government of Canada should take action to address these divisions, participants were largely split in their views. While some believed more needed to be done to rein in the activities of individuals and groups espousing hateful or derogatory commentary and to enhance regulations pertaining to the content shared on social media platforms, a similar number felt differently, believing federal intervention would likely further inflame existing tensions. A small number were of the view that the federal government was partly responsible for these increased divisions, commenting that many Canadians felt they had been unfairly restricted by public health requirements and vaccine mandates during the COVID-19 pandemic. They believed that what they considered to be a suppression of individual freedoms had contributed to a lack of trust in public officials and other Canadians as a result.

### **Bill 96 (Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples)**

Two groups briefly discussed Quebec's recently enacted Bill 96. Only a few had heard about the Bill, and none were able to recall any specific details apart from their understanding that the legislation focused on language laws within the province of Quebec. To clarify, participants were informed that the Bill had recently been adopted by the Government of Quebec and that it represented an amendment to the provincial constitution which recognized Quebec as a distinct nation and French as the province's sole official language. Participants were largely mixed in their reactions to this Bill. Regionally, many in the group from the Bas-Saint-Laurent region reacted positively towards the Bill and its aims, with several espousing the view that the French language needs to be protected within Quebec, especially given the perceived dominance of English in most other provinces/territories. A small number in this group added that all residents of Quebec, including recently arrived immigrants, should be obligated to learn French. They believed a strong grasp of the French language was vital to maintaining the French culture. For those in the group comprised of Indigenous participants, it was felt that the Bill did not do enough to recognize and support Indigenous languages and was solely focused on preserving French culture within the province. While none in the group from Bas-Saint-Laurent felt the Government of Canada should involve itself in this matter, a few Indigenous participants said there should be greater efforts at both the federal and provincial levels to engage with those residing in Quebec to determine their needs and desired outcomes when it comes to language-related legislation such as this.

### **Pre-Packaged Food Nutrition Warnings (Northern Ontario)**

Participants in the group from northern Ontario discussed the Government of Canada's plan to require packaged foods which are high in sugar, salt, or saturated fat to display a warning label, alerting Canadians to the potential health risks of consuming these products. While relatively few had heard about this initiative, some recalled that labels would be placed on certain products with high levels of saturated or trans fat content (e.g., ground meat).

To assist participants' understanding, it was clarified that the Government of Canada was scheduled to publish its packaged food labelling plan in the coming weeks. Related to this, participants were informed that concern had been expressed among certain groups about requiring some ground meats to display a 'high-in-saturated fats' label and that an exemption for ground meat had been called for. Knowing this, several participants were firmly of the view that it was important to be completely transparent about the nutritional content of all food items as a means of allowing Canadian households to make informed decisions about the foods they purchase and consume.

Discussing whether there should be an exemption for ground meat, while some participants thought additional labelling was unnecessary (believing most Canadians were already aware of the associated health risks), it was widely felt that if the Government of Canada moved forward on this initiative all food items should then be held to the same standard and that no products should be exempted. Though no one felt the proposed warning labels would affect them personally, some believed additional labelling may be useful and could impact the purchase and dietary habits of households to positive effect.

### **Access to Abortion (Southwestern New Brunswick)**

This group briefly discussed the issue of abortion in general as well as the accessibility of abortion services within Canada. Few participants had recently heard much about the issue of abortion access in the United States. Those who had commented that overturning the landmark *Roe v. Wade* ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) meant that Americans no longer had a constitutional right to abortions. This ruling was thought to have been incredibly divisive among the American public and had led to public protests and a national outcry among abortion rights supporters.

The balance of participants indicated being concerned about this ruling, although some voiced their general opposition to abortion. Some reported feeling saddened by this development, strongly believing that women should have full freedom to make medical decisions regarding their own bodies as they deemed appropriate. A few were also worried that the ruling would close off legal avenues to abortion in many states, thereby forcing more women to seek out potentially dangerous methods of obtaining abortion services. Countering this perspective, a small number of participants felt that abortions should not be permitted under any circumstances and that this decision represented a positive development in the United States.

Most participants were of the view that abortions were readily available across Canada and that there were few barriers at present to those requiring this procedure. Discussing what actions, if any, the Government of Canada should take in response to this ruling, most felt there was little that could or should be done apart from reassuring Canadians that abortion rights would continue to be protected in Canada. It was felt that while the federal government should continue to speak out and defend access to abortion, there was not much it could do to influence what was ultimately a domestic issue for the United States. Reiterating their earlier views, a small number believed the Government of Canada should work to encourage other pathways, apart from abortion, saying that these services should only be used as a last resort and need not be as widely accessible as they are at present.

## Government of Canada Priorities and Performance (Quebec Anglophones, City of Toronto, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Prince Edward Island Youth, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora, Southwestern New Brunswick, Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples)

Eight groups engaged in discussions on issues specific to their respective age groups, backgrounds, and/or local regions. Participants shared their perspectives regarding what they viewed as the key factors driving these issues, as well as the degree to which the federal government had been successful in addressing them.

### **Anglophone Issues (Quebec Anglophones)**

Quebec Anglophones discussed issues regarding English-speakers who reside in predominately French-speaking communities. It was felt by many that Anglophones in Quebec were currently facing a number of challenges, especially given legislation such as Bill 96 which was seen as further limiting the use of any language apart from French in the province. While a few participants commented that they generally felt quite welcome as Anglophones in Quebec, several believed they were often perceived in a negative light as predominantly English speakers. For some, including recent immigrants to Quebec, their struggles to learn French had left them feeling isolated and separated from their larger local community. A few participants also expressed concern regarding their children, worried their ability to converse in any language other than French would be limited in the province going forward.

Discussing whether the challenges facing Quebec Anglophones had changed in recent years, several mentioned they found it easier now than in the past given widespread use of English in global commerce. It was believed that many Quebec-based companies conducted their operations in English and French, thereby increasing opportunities for Anglophone workers in the province. In addition, it was felt that young people today were more likely to communicate fluently in English, in part due to the dominance of English-language media and their regular exposure to it. Some remarked that many immigrants to the province tended to be more conversant in English than French and that this had further increased the prevalence of English-speakers in the province.

Asked to identify the most significant issues currently facing Anglophones in Quebec, participants put forward a series of responses. These included:

- The introduction of Bill 96 – A number of participants reiterated the view that the enacting of this legislation by the provincial government would impose further limitations for English-speakers in Quebec in terms of carrying out daily activities in the official language of their choosing;
- A lack of English-language education options – Some reported finding it difficult to access primary or secondary education conducted in English in their communities. This was felt to be unfair, especially given Canada’s official status as a bilingual country;
- Difficulty receiving English-language healthcare services – Finding healthcare providers who spoke English was also described as challenging across many areas of the province. It was felt that the inability to adequately communicate healthcare needs to physicians resulted in a risk of Anglophones receiving a lower quality of care compared to their French counterparts; and
- Limited employment options – Though some felt it was easier now than in the past to find work as an Anglophone in the province, it was believed that many English speakers continued to face difficulties with employers who prioritized prospective employees who have a high level of fluency in French.

Discussing the potential impacts of these issues, several worried about the possibility of a mass exodus of Anglophones from Quebec if their ability to converse, work, and learn in English continued to be limited. Some were particularly concerned about younger Anglophones leaving the province, believing they would be more inclined to choose to work and study in other parts of Canada where English was more widely spoken and accepted. Many were also worried about the potentially divisive nature of Bill 96, reiterating their view that English-speakers in many communities were often unfairly stigmatized in communities where French was the predominant language.

Asked whether they felt the situation would improve or worsen over time, participants’ responses were mixed. Some expected the issue would continue to get worse given the perceived prioritization of the French language by the provincial government. However, almost as many expressed a sense of optimism that the contentious nature of the issue and the tensions surrounding it would likely recede in the years ahead.

Virtually all participants thought the federal government had a role to play in addressing this issue. Several felt that federal officials, including the Commissioner of Official Languages, should be more vocal in their support for bilingual services in Quebec and the protection of the language rights of Anglophones in the province. Adding to this, a few were of the impression that while efforts were often taken to ensure the presence of French in predominately English-speaking provinces/territories, this same prioritization had not been given to the Anglophone minority community in Quebec.

While all participants believed this to be an important issue for the federal government, none were of the view that it should be prioritized over other pressing issues such as healthcare, housing affordability, and the increasing cost of living for many Canadians. Asked what they expected would happen if the Government of Canada did not work to address this issue, some felt it may eventually fade into the background while others anticipated a legal case would be brought before the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC). Many had difficulty predicting what would happen if the federal government did choose to intervene on this issue. While some felt this may encourage the provincial government



to reconsider its stance, others believed such action by the federal government would only serve to bring the issue more to the fore and further exacerbate tensions. Asked whether they had seen, read, or heard about any recent federal actions regarding this issue a small number said the Government of Canada may support a legal challenge to Bill 96, although they could not recall any further details. Discussing previous actions taken by the federal government to support English-speakers in Quebec, several recalled grants provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage towards minority-language speakers. It was felt these had a positive impact on the Anglophone community in Quebec, providing significant funding towards Anglophone-oriented research and cultural programming. In response to a question regarding what more could be done by the federal government to support English-speakers in the province a few suggested that greater resources should be allocated towards French-language education, providing those seeking to become bilingual with greater opportunities to do so.

### **City of Toronto (City of Toronto)**

The group comprising participants based in the City of Toronto discussed a number of issues currently affecting their local community. Asked which areas were in greatest need of attention from the federal government, the following were offered in response:

- Housing affordability – A number of participants identified housing as a key priority requiring greater federal attention. Participants commented that housing prices in the City were becoming increasingly unaffordable, both for prospective home buyers as well as renters. Related to this, a number of participants identified the need for greater federal regulation of the housing market, believing more should be done to create low-income housing options while also cracking down on actions by landlords such as ‘renovictions’ which were seen as unfair to existing tenants;
- Cost of living – Several also mentioned the rising cost of living and perceived high rate of inflation at present. Most believed costs had increased for a wide range of products and services, including essential goods such as groceries, gasoline, and other basic necessities;
- Public transportation – Participants remarked that many areas of Toronto currently had only limited access to public transportation and that this had contributed to greater congestion on busy roadways throughout the City as more residents were required to drive for their daily commutes. They expressed hope that both the federal and provincial governments would be able to work together towards resolving this issue;
- Education – Some voiced concerns about the quality and availability of primary and secondary education in Toronto, believing this had not kept pace with the City’s population growth in recent decades. In addition, participants said more should be done to focus on adult education options, particularly for new arrivals fleeing conflict zones and in need of additional training in order to work in their chosen field in Canada; and
- Gun violence – A few participants mentioned gun violence as an ongoing issue in Toronto, believing incidents involving firearms had been increasing in the City in recent years. Related to this, some identified the need to increase access to mental health resources for those in vulnerable communities, believing the issues of gun violence and mental illness are linked.



Discussing whether they were aware of any recent federal announcements or initiatives related to these issues, few participants could recall anything. With respect to housing affordability, while some were aware of recent announcements such as a temporary two-year ban on non-Canadians buying residential housing property within Canada, it was widely felt that little in the way of tangible progress had been made by the federal government on this issue. On the topic of public transportation, a few participants also recalled actions such as federal investments in the new Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (LRT) project. Regarding gun violence, some were aware that the federal government had recently announced a national freeze on the buying and selling of handguns. No participants could recall any recent actions or initiatives related to addressing the cost of living or education in Toronto.

Asked whether they thought the Government of Canada was currently on the right track regarding these issues, very few felt this to be the case. It was widely believed that while federal officials appeared to recognize the importance of issues such as housing affordability and the rising cost of living, very little progress had been made in these areas. A small number were less inclined to fault the Government of Canada, believing that it did not have a sufficient array of levers to fully address these issues, and emphasizing that it was doing the best it could under the circumstances.

### **Chinese Canadians (GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora)**

A group of Chinese Canadians living in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) engaged in a discussion about current issues and priorities within their region as well as those more directly affecting the Chinese Canadian community. When asked about the top concerns currently facing their community as well as actions taken by the Government of Canada to address these issues, participants provided a range of responses as follows:

- Cost of living and inflation – Several participants pointed to the high rate of inflation and rising cost of living as the most significant challenge facing them at present. They felt that prices for essential goods and services, such as groceries and gasoline, had risen steadily in recent months and that this trend was making it difficult for some to make ends meet financially. Participants could not recall any recent actions taken by the federal government to address these issues;
- Housing affordability – Several also mentioned the high cost of housing in the area, and across Canada, remarking that home ownership as well as finding reasonable rental accommodation were becoming increasingly unaffordable in the GTHA. Some were of the view that the primary driver behind this issue had been the commodification of housing and the speculative nature of investments in residential housing by wealthy individuals and corporations. To this end, several participants recalled the recent announcement by the federal government of a temporary two-year ban on the purchase of residential housing by non-Canadians. In addition, a few participants were also aware of other recent federal actions related to housing, such as the pledge to build a substantial number of new homes through the Housing Accelerator Fund (though the program itself was not mentioned by name) as well as the introduction of a new Tax-Free First Home Savings Account (FHSA) allowing prospective homebuyers to save up to \$40,000 tax-free towards the purchase of their first home;

- Crime – Some participants were also concerned about what they viewed as rising crime rates in the region and the City of Toronto more specifically. Their sense was that the number of violent crimes, including those involving firearms and carjackings, had increased substantially in recent years. Several participants commented that they no longer felt as safe in their communities as they had in the past. No participants could recall any recent actions taken by the Government of Canada towards addressing this issue; and
- Anti-Asian racism – Many participants felt that crimes against individuals of Asian backgrounds had also risen substantially in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic was pointed to as a major factor behind this trend – participants commented that Asians had been unfairly blamed for the initial outbreak and spread of the virus. While participants acknowledged that they had not personally been the target of racist behaviours, many had heard stories of such instances in the news or via their network of personal contacts. While some recalled the federal government condemning this behaviour, few were aware of any specific actions it had taken to address what they perceived as growing anti-Asian sentiment.

Discussing whether the federal government had been making progress on these fronts, most participants were uncertain. Many felt that they did not know enough about recent federal actions and initiatives on these fronts to determine whether the Government of Canada was on the right or wrong track when it came to handling these issues.

Focusing on anti-Asian racism in particular, participants hoped greater attention would be placed on increasing the representation of those from Asian backgrounds at all levels of government. Related to this, some spoke of their pride in having someone of Asian descent as the top public health official in Canada (the Chief Public Health Officer). In addition, it was suggested that the federal government should educate Canadians regarding the contributions of East Asians to building Canada and the challenges these groups had historically faced. It was thought that a greater national understanding and dialogue regarding Asian Canadians would help to reduce the stigma they currently encountered. A small number also commented on the tendency of Asians in Canada, and particularly newcomers, to engage primarily with their own community as a means of protecting themselves and given the challenges they confront associated with their integration into Canadian society. The perception was that greater efforts could be undertaken by the Government of Canada towards inclusivity and assisting those immigrating to Canada from Asia in adapting to their new communities. Some believed that a stronger focus on language skills for newcomers would be helpful, given a perception that an inability to communicate in either of Canada's official languages was, at least in part, contributing to feelings of isolation and separation from other Canadians.

### **Youth Issues (Prince Edward Island Youth)**

A group of participants between the ages of 18 and 24 and residing in P.E.I. discussed a number of issues of specific concern to younger Canadians. At the outset of the discussion, participants were asked to identify which issues facing young people the federal government should be prioritizing. Responses included issues such as housing affordability, access to healthcare professionals (e.g., family doctors and mental health professionals), employment opportunities, and climate change.

Asked if they could recall any recent actions taken by the Government of Canada regarding any of these issues, participants primarily focused on initiatives related to the environment and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Among the federal actions mentioned were the introduction of a national price on carbon, investments in green technologies, such as zero-emission vehicles, and rebates on home energy efficiency upgrades and/or retrofits to promote adoption of sustainable technology such as solar panels. A few participants also recalled recent actions related to housing, such as the introduction of a two-year temporary ban on non-Canadians purchasing residential property in Canada as well as a recent increase in the key lending rate by the Bank of Canada aimed at curbing inflation and rising housing prices. Very few participants said the Government of Canada was currently on the right track when it came to addressing these issues. While some believed that there had been greater efforts recently on issues such as mental health and a lack of affordable housing, most felt this had not been enough to sufficiently address these problems and that much more would need to be done going forward.

Discussing the federal government's current level of engagement with younger Canadians, while most believed there had been increased efforts on this front in recent years, few felt these had been highly effective. To this end, many suggested expanded utilization of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, seeing these channels as a more effective means of reaching out to and connecting with younger Canadians. In addition, a few commented on opportunities for the federal government to enhance transparency around its actions, specifically noting that younger Canadians tend to be less aware of and/or feel excluded from public debate and dialogue on the issues facing the broader public and the actions that are being taken to resolve them.

Focusing on social media more specifically, participants were asked whether they had ever seen, read, or heard any news related to the Government of Canada on their social media feeds. Several indicated that they had, specifically recalling information and/or news items on the environment and updates related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussing which of the various social media platforms and media outlets they typically rely on for news and information, many mentioned Facebook, Twitter, Apple News, and CBC. A few also mentioned frequently utilizing local news media such as the Guardian (based out of Charlottetown) along with special interest groups such as the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Asked to assess the Government of Canada's current performance in utilizing social media to engage with young people, most reiterated their view that the federal presence on these platforms appeared to be limited and was judged to be somewhat ineffective at present.

### **Northern Ontario (Northern Ontario)**

Participants residing in Northern Ontario discussed a number of issues specific to the region. Discussing the most pressing concerns currently facing their local communities, participants identified a number of responses. Many identified what they viewed as a drastic shortage of healthcare workers such as doctors, nurses, and other specialists. Stemming from this, several mentioned having encountered long wait times at emergency rooms and walk-in clinics as well as difficulties in finding a family doctor in their area. It was said that mental health challenges and addiction had become increasingly prominent in recent years and that further resources would need to be devoted towards

this issue. Along with healthcare, a number of participants also mentioned issues related to housing affordability, high fuel costs, poor road conditions, and the high rate of inflation at present. Regarding this last issue, it was added that a higher cost of living would likely be especially difficult for seniors who were dependent on fixed-income pensions. Asked whether they were aware of any recent actions by the federal government related to these issues, few were. For those who had heard something, it was said that the Government of Canada had been working towards enhancing the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) in recent years, though no additional details could be recalled.

Discussing whether they had seen, read, or heard about any future initiatives proposed by the federal government towards addressing these issues, few participants had heard anything. Among those who were aware, it was believed that work was being done to expedite the foreign credential recognition process, making it easier for foreign workers to obtain the necessary certifications to practice in their fields of expertise in Canada. It was thought this would assist towards alleviating worker shortages, particularly in sectors such as healthcare which were believed to be in need of an influx of additional workers. Though not by name, a small number of participants also mentioned having heard about the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot program, which focused on spreading the economic benefits of immigration to smaller communities in rural areas as well as those in Canada's North. Very few felt the Government of Canada was currently on the right track in addressing the most pressing issues to their region. It was said that many Canadians, particularly those with middle-incomes, were currently falling behind due to rising prices while also being unable to access financial supports available to lower-income Canadians. Many felt not enough was being done at present to assist these individuals and that these challenges would likely continue to increase if action was not taken. Some also reiterated the importance of addressing worker shortages and recognizing the credentials of foreign workers. It was suggested greater federal funding could be provided towards assisting new immigrants in completing any necessary certification courses or training programs they would need in order to work in their respective fields. It was believed this should be a top priority for the Government of Canada going forward. Asked what the federal government could do to better address the needs of Canadians, a number felt a closer look needed to be taken at the true cost of living at present as well as the development of ways to support those struggling during this period of high inflation. In addition, a small number believed more could be done to establish a dialogue and listen to the concerns of all Canadians. These participants were of the impression that at present a significant portion of the population felt they were currently not being heard by the federal government.

### **Filipino Canadians (Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

This group of individuals residing in the Prairies and part of the Filipino diaspora discussed a number of issues related to the Filipino community in Canada. To begin, participants were asked what sources they typically relied on to receive their news. Many reported continuing to use traditional media such as television (CBC and CTV) as well as radio to get their news. A large number of participants also mentioned digital media such as YouTube and social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Reddit. Asked whether they ever accessed news sources in a language other than English, none reported doing so. While most participants primarily relied upon Canadian sources for their news, a number reported also consuming news from outlets in the United States as well as the

Philippines. Several participants indicated that while they did not frequently watch Philippine-based news sources, they were of the impression that many older Filipino Canadians (such as their parents) frequently did so. Asked where they would likely go to find news regarding the Government of Canada, many mentioned social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, where they would look for updates directly posted by the Government of Canada. In addition, some also mentioned using websites such as Google to verify news items they had come across as well as official websites run by the federal government.

Focusing on issues of importance to Filipino Canadians, participants identified a number of areas which they believed required greater attention from the Government of Canada. Among participants, immigration was frequently pointed to as an area where Filipinos faced a number of challenges. These included difficulties related to the process of obtaining permanent resident status, acquiring work or study visas, and challenges related to the recognition of their professional credentials. It was felt these processes could often be quite costly and time consuming. Speaking more generally, a small number of participants said the Government of Canada should place a greater focus on establishing a deeper economic partnership with the Philippines. A few were of the impression that the economy of the Philippines was growing rapidly at present and represented a significant opportunity for investment for the federal government.

Asked whether they were aware of any recent actions taken by the Government of Canada related to these issues, a number of participants mentioned initiatives related to immigration. These included a pledge to eliminate citizenship application fees, the development of a more expedient pathway from temporary residency to permanent residency, and reducing the backlog of immigration applications thought to be existing in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While no participants could recall any federal initiatives specifically related to the Filipino community, a few mentioned provincial initiatives such as the Government of Saskatchewan's efforts to recruit full-time nursing and laboratory staff from the Philippines, bringing an influx of skilled healthcare workers to the province.

### **New Brunswick (Southwestern New Brunswick)**

Participants residing in New Brunswick briefly discussed issues related to their province. Asked to identify the most pressing issues facing New Brunswick that the federal government should be prioritizing, a wide range of areas were mentioned. These included housing affordability, the increasing cost of living, perceived shortages of healthcare workers, and challenges related to fuel prices, which were said to be exceptionally high at present. Focusing on the economy more specifically, participants identified areas such as agriculture, forestry, transportation, and natural resource development as the key areas requiring greater assistance from the Government of Canada. Few could recall any recent federal actions related to these issues. Discussing agriculture, a number of participants shared concerns that family farms in particular were disappearing, leading to a greater dependence on large-scale agricultural corporations and fewer opportunities for smaller farms to operate in the sector. It was felt more should be done by the federal government to incentivize workers, especially younger Canadians, to pursue careers in the agricultural sector. Several also expressed the desire to see a larger emphasis placed on domestic development of non-renewable

energy sources such as oil and gas. This was believed to be an important priority, particularly given the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia and its impact on the global energy market. Related to this, some also identified high fuel costs as a growing issue, particularly for those required to drive long distances for their work, including long-haul truck drivers. It was hoped increased oil and gas development would assist in alleviating fuel costs for Canadians. Related to the pandemic, a few also identified retail and tourism as sectors that had struggled significantly over the past two years and likely required further federal assistance to ensure their long-term viability.

### **Indigenous Peoples (Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples)**

Participants identifying as Indigenous were asked a series of questions regarding their awareness of actions taken by the federal government specifically related to Indigenous issues as well as potential future initiatives on this front.

To begin, participants were asked to identify the top issues facing Indigenous peoples. A wide range of concerns were mentioned, including:

- Access to basic necessities, specifically clean drinking water – The lack of access to clean drinking water, believed to be an issue for numerous Indigenous communities, was felt by several to be an urgent matter in need of further federal attention. Many believed this needed to be a key priority for the federal government. Also related to basic needs, some also referenced a perceived lack of access to affordable housing in many Indigenous communities;
- The Indian Act – Many felt that the federal government could do more in regards to revisiting the Indian Act, believing this legislation needed to be updated to address the present challenges faced by Indigenous peoples;
- Conflicts among Indigenous peoples – Some participants cited conflicts between different Indigenous peoples (First Nations and Métis) as well as between groups of Métis living in the eastern and western regions of Quebec. A few participants thought that the Government of Canada could be taking more action towards fostering alliances and promoting the unification of Indigenous peoples; and
- Support for Indigenous culture and languages – Participants discussed the importance of support from the federal government to help protect Indigenous languages, which was seen as an important part of Indigenous culture. Some participants also identified the need for further financial supports for traditional Indigenous building methods (such as for Tipis or Wigwams).

Asked if they could recall any actions previously undertaken by the federal government related to Indigenous Issues, participants mentioned a number of initiatives. These included the implementation of the Jordan's Principle, increased supports for investigations into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and financial assistance for cultural events (such as Pow Wows).

Discussing whether they were aware of any upcoming actions from the federal government related to Indigenous issues, few recalled having heard anything. While a small number were of the impression that Indigenous-related initiatives had been included as part of the recent 2022 federal Budget, none

could recall any specific details related to these initiatives. No participants felt the Government of Canada was on the right track when it came to addressing priorities related to Indigenous peoples. While there was a general belief that some progress had been made on addressing such issues, many felt there was more that could be done. It was widely thought that, compared to other priorities, those related to Indigenous issues were not as high of a priority for the federal government. In addition, some said that the Government of Canada was often reactionary rather than proactive when it came to taking action on urgent issues related to Indigenous peoples. A few also believed more could be done to promote greater representation of Indigenous peoples at all levels of government, including in key federal positions.

Shifting topics slightly, participants shared their perspectives regarding the prevalence of systemic racism towards Indigenous people in Canada. Most believed that racism towards Indigenous people was widespread and that this stemmed from a lack of understanding and knowledge of their history and culture. Participants described systemic racism spanning across a wide range of areas including education, justice, and employment. Related to this last area, a few participants recalled difficulties in finding employment, and believed this was at least in part due to their background.

Participants were not aware of any actions the federal government was currently taking to address this issue and most felt it was on the wrong track when it came to combatting racism towards Indigenous people. In terms of what the federal government could do to get on the right track, while few suggestions were provided, some reiterated the need for increased education and understanding on the part of non-Indigenous peoples regarding Indigenous values and culture as a critical step. Some also believed that more could be done in terms of creating a more proactive approach towards reducing assimilation and protecting Indigenous culture and traditions.

## Firearms (Quebec Anglophones, City of Toronto, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Southwestern New Brunswick)

Seven groups discussed the subject of firearms and recent actions taken by the federal government related to gun crime in Canada. To begin, participants shared their impressions regarding the current level of gun crime and whether it had increased, decreased, or more or less remained the same in recent years. Most believed crimes involving firearms were generally quite low in Canada, especially compared to other jurisdictions such as the United States. It was thought by a number of participants that Canada had a far more rigorous screening and certification process for those seeking to become licenced to possess and use firearms and that this had played a major role in limiting the prevalence of gun crime in the country. Commenting further, some expressed the view that Canada was currently



among the safest countries in the world when it came to firearms. A small number of participants felt differently, believing gun crime to have been on the rise in recent years. It was said by these participants that crimes involving firearms had been covered in the media far more frequently as of late, providing the impression that these incidents were occurring on a more regular basis today than in the past. Regionally, most in the group from New Brunswick, both groups in Quebec, and those in Alberta and B.C.'s Lower Mainland felt gun crime had neither increased or decreased in recent years and had consistently remained at a low level. Those from the Greater Toronto and Hamilton (GTAH) region (excluding the City of Toronto) were more mixed, with slightly more feeling it had remained the same as those who believed it had been increasing in recent years. Only those in the group based in the City of Toronto largely felt gun crime had risen as of late. This impression was primarily driven by a wave of recent reports in the media regarding gun-related crimes including assaults, robberies, and carjackings within their community.

Asked what they believed to be the primary factors driving gun crime in Canada, participants provided a number of responses. These included:

- Mental health – Several participants identified challenges related to mental health as a key factor contributing to gun violence. It was believed these issues had been exacerbated in recent years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated isolation and anxiety due to the virus and resulting public health requirements. Some also speculated that there may have been a rise in domestic violence involving firearms during this time, as households were forced to remain in close proximity with one another for extended periods of time. It was expressed by several that mental health supports were currently lacking in their communities, preventing those suffering from these issues from receiving the care they need;
- Substance use and addiction – Many also identified illicit drug use and addiction as prominent drivers of crimes involving firearms. Also thought to have increased during the pandemic, it was felt those suffering from addiction may be more willing to engage in crimes of desperation involving firearms as a way to secure further quantities of these substances;
- Poverty and homelessness – Believed to be interwoven with mental health and addiction, a number of participants also identified poverty and a lack of secure housing as contributors to this issue. It was said that those dealing with these challenges would be more likely to find themselves in vulnerable situations and would be more likely to be exposed to firearms as a result; and
- Gangs – Several pointed to activities involving gangs as a key motivator of gun crime in Canada. It was thought that firearms often played a prominent role in criminal activities committed by these groups including drug trafficking, territorial battles, and targeted shootings. Related to this, a few were of the view that more needed to be done to support those who had been previously convicted of crimes upon their re-entry into society. It was felt that at present the employment pathways for these individuals were considerably limited, and that this often led to them returning to gang life and criminal activity as a way to make ends meet financially.

Discussing the current laws in place regarding firearms in Canada, participants were asked if they felt these regulations were too strict, not strict enough, or sufficient at present. While on balance, most



believed the current laws in place were at an appropriate level, a smaller, but still significant number felt these regulations should be increased. Very few felt gun laws in Canada were too strict at present. Regionally, while those residing in Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, as well as the group comprised of Anglophones in Quebec felt the current laws were sufficient, most in the groups from the City of Toronto and the Bas-Saint-Laurent region of Quebec said they should be enhanced. The group from the GTA region were more mixed, with slightly more supporting the current level of firearms regulations related to those who wanted to see further legislation implemented. For many of those who desired to see stricter laws concerning firearms, it was believed that no person had a fundamental right to possess a firearm and that there needed to be greater consequences for those who committed crimes using these weapons. Some took a more nuanced perspective, believing that while increased gun laws would help, they would likely need to be accompanied by other supports such as economic assistance, safe and secure housing, and mental health and addictions treatment in order to be successful at combatting this issue. Among the larger number who felt Canadian gun regulations to be adequate at this time, many cited the perceived low incidence of firearms-related crimes as reasoning supporting their view. For some who identified as gun owners themselves, it was believed the certification and screening process for licensed firearm users was very thorough. A number were also of the impression that most crimes involving guns were committed with illegally acquired firearms. Expanding upon this, it was said that further restrictions would unfairly impact those gun owners who were already abiding by the law. Many of these participants were of the view that the gun laws themselves were not the issue but rather it was illegal activity such as the smuggling of these weapons from jurisdictions such as the United States that was the primary contributor to gun crimes.

Focusing on announcements or initiatives taken by the Government of Canada related to gun crime, participants were asked if they could recall any past federal actions on this front. A few mentioned hearing a few years ago about a prohibition on certain categories of 'assault-style' firearms, believing this had also involved a 'buyback' program of some sort. While unable to recall any specific actions, some were of the view that firearms regulations had gradually tightened in recent years and that this had been an ongoing priority for the federal government. Asked if they were aware of any recent actions by the federal government in this area, while most had not, a smaller number were able to recall a recent announcement to freeze the buying and selling of handguns in Canada. A few were of the impression that this action had been taken in response to a recent mass shooting which took place in Uvalde, Texas on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

To aid in conversation, participants were informed that the Government of Canada had recently tabled firearm-control legislation on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Groups were shown the following information detailing a number of components included in this proposed legislation:

- *Implementing a national freeze on handguns to prevent individuals from bringing newly-acquired handguns into Canada and from buying, selling, and transferring handguns within the country;*
- *Taking away the firearms licenses of those involved in acts of domestic violence or criminal harassment, such as stalking;*
- *Fighting gun smuggling and trafficking by increasing criminal penalties, providing more tools for law enforcement to investigate firearms crimes, and strengthening border security measures;*

- *Addressing intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, and self-harm involving firearms by creating a new “red flag” law that would enable courts to require that individuals considered a danger to themselves or others surrender their firearms to law enforcement, while protecting the safety of the individual applying to the red flag process, including by protecting their identity. In addition, the Government of Canada will invest \$6.6 million to help raise awareness of the new law and provide supports to vulnerable and marginalized groups to navigate the provisions; and*
- *Requiring magazines for long guns to be changed so they can't carry any more than five rounds; sales of larger magazines would be banned.*

On balance, participants across all groups reacted largely positively to the introduction of these initiatives. Many expressed the view that these initiatives all represented a step in the right direction and that all could potentially be effective in their own ways. While most felt these measures would likely be sufficient towards combatting gun crime in Canada, a small number thought they should be enhanced further. Among these participants, it was believed that firearms had no place in Canadian society and should be heavily restricted going forward. A number of participants expressed surprise that a number of these initiatives, particularly the taking away of gun licenses for those involved in domestic violence or criminal harassment, were not already in place. Discussing the initiatives, several spoke positively about the introduction of ‘red flag’ laws for those involved in intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, or at risk of self-harm. It was felt that removing firearms from these potentially dangerous situations would protect many who may otherwise find themselves at risk. A number of others spoke positively about the anti-trafficking initiatives aimed at preventing the smuggling of firearms into Canada from jurisdictions such as the United States. A number of participants considered this to be a major problem and a major contributor to the number of firearms currently in Canada. The initiative requiring magazines for long guns to allow for no more rounds as well as the prohibition of the sale of these larger magazines was also received positively among participants, with some believing the introduction of these limits could help limit the potential dangers posed by these firearms.

While most reacted positively to the implementation of a national freeze on handguns, some expressed a desire for further details as to what this would specifically entail and how long it was expected to remain in place for. Expanding upon this, a number of participants speculated that this action represented the first step by the federal government toward an eventual permanent ban on handgun ownership in Canada. Some also worried this would have a counter-active effect in that it may spur a rush on handguns by those who were ambivalent about purchasing a handgun and would now be encouraged to do so before the freeze was officially in place. Discussing the implementation of this measure, a few participants questioned how it would be regulated, believing it would be difficult to ascertain who currently owned handguns and how many they had in their possession. A small number felt this would be unfair to gun owners who had invested a great deal financially into these firearms and would now be unable to sell or trade them. Others were of the view that those who were gun collectors, using these firearms for sport, or required handguns to train for careers in sectors such as law enforcement should be exempt from this new measure.

Discussing what more could be done by the federal government related to handguns, some identified the need for a greater emphasis to be placed on addressing underlying issues such as mental health, addiction, gangs, and other factors which were believed to be contributing to gun crime in Canada. It was felt by a number of participants that regulation alone would likely not work and that individuals truly committed to obtaining a firearm for criminal use would likely be able to do so, no matter how strict the laws in place were. A small number were also concerned about how these would impact law-abiding gun owners, believing there should be a greater dialogue established between these individuals and the federal government regarding firearm use in Canada going forward.

NORAD (Quebec Anglophones, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans)

Seven groups engaged in brief discussions related to the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD). These included awareness and perspectives regarding the continued national security role of NORAD as well as recent investments by the Government of Canada into the organization.

**NORAD Impressions (Quebec Anglophones, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors)**

Six groups shared their general perspectives on NORAD. Across all groups, participants reported a mixed awareness of NORAD, with roughly as many aware of the organization as those who were not. Regionally, while most in the groups comprising residents of Alberta and Anglophones from Quebec and some in the group from the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) were aware of NORAD, few of those in the groups from British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, and the Bas-Saint-Laurent region of Quebec could recall any details about the organization. To aid in conversation, it was clarified for participants that NORAD is a combined organization operated by Canada and the United States responsible for protecting the airspace above the two nations and providing warnings of any aerial threats targeting North America.

Upon receiving this clarification, almost all participants were of the view that NORAD played a role of critical importance to Canada's national security. It was felt that an ongoing partnership with the United States was necessary in order to protect Canadian airspace and that this relationship was an

important component of Canada's overall security structure. In addition, several participants mentioned the ongoing hostilities between Ukraine and Russia and the potential of this conflict escalating further as additional reasons for NORAD's continued importance, believing Canada could not afford to leave its airspace undefended.

Discussing whether Canada should consider making changes to its management of air defence amidst the current global geopolitical environment, none felt investments into NORAD should be scaled back. A number of participants put forward suggestions as to how Canada's national air defence could be enhanced going forward. These included:

- Increased defence spending – A number of participants were of the view that the federal government should focus on increasing its financial support for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and defence spending in general. In addition to recruiting more personnel, participants also identified the need for the CAF to enhance its procurement efforts, ensuring Canadian defence personnel had access to top-of-the-line weapons and equipment;
- Greater research into newly emerging threats – Some also mentioned the need for further research into growing air-based threats such as hypersonic missiles and attacks carried out by drone technology. It was felt these posed some of the most significant concerns related to air defence in the years to come; and
- Northern defence – A few were also concerned about the potential incursion into Canada's airspace in the North. This was said to be an especially relevant concern given the recent aggressive actions taken by Russia against Ukraine and worries the former may at some point attempt a similar incursion into Canada's North.

### **Recent NORAD Investments (Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans)**

This group, comprised of active military members and veterans, briefly discussed recent investments made by the Government of Canada towards NORAD. While all were aware of NORAD and its responsibilities, few recalled hearing any recent federal announcements regarding the organization. To clarify, participants were informed that the federal government had recently announced that it will be allocating an additional \$4.9 billion over the next six years to bolster NORAD defence capabilities across the Arctic. Participants were mixed in their reactions to this information. While a number felt this to be an important priority, many were pessimistic as to whether this amount was affordable for the federal government and/or believed this funding could be better spent elsewhere. Several identified other issues related to Canada's defence such as equipment procurement and perceived shortages of CAF personnel. It was believed that these needed to be prioritized higher relative to increasing Canada's defence capacity in the Arctic. A small number thought that this increased spending should instead be allocated to other issues facing Canadians at present, including housing affordability, high grocery and gasoline prices, and concerns related to Indigenous peoples and communities. A few wanted to hear more about the specifics as to how this money would be spent before determining whether they thought this represented a positive or negative development. Asked what more the Government of Canada should do in terms of enhancing NORAD's defence capabilities, a number of participants suggested research into automated drone surveillance and missile defence

systems. It was said these represented a viable option that would not require a massive influx of additional personnel to operate them.

## COVID-19 Outlook and Vaccines (Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)

Five groups discussed a range of issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These included participant outlooks on how the virus may progress going forward, perspectives regarding the Government of Canada's handling of the pandemic, views on past and present public health measures, and opinions related to the COVID-19 vaccine.

### **COVID-19 Forecast (Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors)**

Three groups shared their perspectives regarding how the COVID-19 virus would likely evolve in the months and years to come. While most expected there would likely be additional waves, it was widely felt that the worst of the pandemic had passed. Several believed that due to the additional protections provided by the COVID-19 vaccine, Canadians were better prepared to live with the virus and move forward as best they could. A small number expressed concerns regarding the potential of the virus to continue to evolve and mutate, leading to the potential emergence of a more dangerous strain in the future. Very few participants expressed worry about the possibility of contracting COVID-19. A large number reported having already done so in the past and most believed it likely they would contract it at some point in the future. While many were of the view that the virus would likely continue to spread, almost all felt it unlikely that any new public health requirements would be implemented at either the provincial/territorial or federal level. It was widely felt that these measures were not necessary and that there would be little willingness among the general public to adhere to them.

### **Government of Canada Performance (Prince Edward Island Youth, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

Two groups discussed the Government of Canada's management of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, most felt positively about the federal response, especially in terms of reassuring Canadians during the early months of the pandemic when little was known about the virus. It was added that given how often the virus had evolved over the past two years, the Government of Canada had done the best it

could to adapt to and manage the pandemic. Some also mentioned what they viewed as the highly effective roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine, believing this had been an efficient process and had been a contributing factor to the relatively high rate of vaccination overall among Canadians compared to other countries such as the United States. A small number also said the federal government had done an effective job at working with governments at the provincial/territorial level. This was felt to be especially important given the wide range of approaches taken in these jurisdictions towards managing the pandemic.

While most felt the overall federal performance to have been effective, several identified areas where they believed the response could have been improved. A number of participants were of the view that financial supports such as the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) should have ended far earlier. It was felt that the significant spending required for these assistance programs had been a contributing factor to the current high rate of inflation and perceived labour shortage, both of which were seen as significant economic challenges at present. A few felt differently, believing these supports had been necessary and had represented an important source of income for those who found themselves out of work for prolonged periods of time during the pandemic.

### **Public Health Measures (Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

Four groups engaged in discussions regarding the various public health measures that had been implemented in their respective regions during the pandemic as well as those in place at the federal level. Overall, most viewed public health requirements as sufficient at present. A smaller number of participants (in areas where some restrictions remained) hoped to see these measures removed in the near future. No participants expressed a desire for stricter public health requirements to be implemented.

Regionally, many in the group based in Quebec felt it was reasonable to continue to have some measures (such as mask requirements) in place under certain circumstances such as when riding public transit or in healthcare facilities. In the group from the Prairies (Saskatchewan and Manitoba) where provincial mask requirements in healthcare settings had been rescinded, no participants expressed concern regarding this decision. Among these participants, it was widely believed it was now a matter of personal responsibility when deciding whether to practice public health measures such as mask-wearing and social distancing when ill. Several in the group comprised of younger Canadians residing in Prince Edward Island (PEI) shared the view that while some restrictions had likely been necessary at certain periods during the pandemic, they had also had negative consequences. These included growing mental health challenges felt to be experienced by many due to the isolation and anxiety brought on by the pandemic, a lack of social opportunities for young people, economic challenges for small and medium-sized businesses, and a poorer quality of education for those who had been pursuing post-secondary studies. Among those residing in Alberta, most felt all restrictions should be removed, including those at the federal level requiring facemasks on airplanes and in airports, random testing for travellers, and travel-related vaccine requirements. A small number felt differently, believing these measures represented an important component of protecting against COVID-19 and

should remain in place, while a few expressed support for continuing to require non-Canadian travellers to be fully vaccinated.

Engaging in a slightly longer discussion, the group from PEI was also asked for their perspectives regarding a recent announcement by the Government of Canada stating that, as of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, it would be suspending vaccination requirements for domestic and outbound travel, federally regulated transportation services, and for federal employees. All supported the decision. Expanding further, a number of participants expressed the impression that vaccination status did not appear to have much of an impact on the spread of COVID-19 and, as such, vaccine requirements were no longer effective in mitigating the impact of the virus. A few were of the view that these requirements had been very divisive among Canadians and believed they should never have been implemented in the first place.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Perspectives (Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta)**

Participants residing in small and mid-size centres in Alberta shared their experiences and perspectives regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. To begin, participants were asked whether changing public health measures over the course of the pandemic had affected their opinions regarding the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination. No participants felt this to be the case, with many expressing the perception that knowledge regarding the virus was constantly being discovered and that it made sense that the public health response would adapt and evolve with these new discoveries. Several added that they did not feel the two issues to be related to one another. While most felt it was beneficial to be vaccinated against COVID-19, participants were mixed as to whether they were concerned about becoming infected with the virus. Where some expressed the belief that they would likely contract COVID-19 at some point (or had already done so in the past) others were concerned about the possible long-term effects of an infection, including lasting damage to their respiratory system and overall health.

Slightly more participants reported having gotten vaccinated than those who had not. Discussing whether they were worried about the potential long-term impacts of the COVID-19 vaccine, few participants were, with several believing that the benefits of receiving the vaccine outweighed any potential costs. A small number of participants expressed concerns about potential heart issues as well as an overall weakening of their immune system related to the vaccine. While not concerned about their own health, a few others were worried about the potential impacts the COVID-19 vaccine may have on their children, believing there were too many unknowns about the long-term impacts of the vaccine and how it may interact with their less-developed immune systems. Asked whether they were comfortable with their respective decisions as to whether or not to receive the vaccine, most participants were. A small number felt differently, recalling that they had only gotten the vaccine due to work-related requirements and had experienced a great deal of apprehension in doing so.



### **COVID-19 Vaccine 'Booster Dose' (Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine)**

This group, comprised of participants who had only received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, discussed their opinions related to the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, otherwise known as the 'booster dose'. Asked what had contributed to their initial decision to get vaccinated, participants put forward a number of responses. These included concerns regarding the health of immunocompromised relatives and loved ones, the impression that the vaccine would assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19, and for several, fears regarding the potential impacts to their health due to contracting the virus. While most remained comfortable with their decision to get vaccinated, a small number expressed regret, feeling they should have done more research regarding what they viewed as the potential long-term impacts of the vaccine prior to receiving it. No participants had an appointment scheduled to get an additional dose of the vaccine. While a few were adamantly opposed to receiving another dose, now believing the vaccine to be potentially harmful, most were of the view that there was no real point to getting a booster dose, feeling it provided little protection and would not assist in reducing the transmissibility of the virus. Several reported that they were taking a 'wait and see' approach, wanting to ensure there were no adverse reactions among those who had already gotten one or multiple boosters before doing so themselves.

Asked whether they had any outstanding questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, some questioned whether it was now expected that Canadians would need to receive boosters on an annual or semi-annual basis. Many believed this to be untenable and expressed a general unwillingness to adhere to a regular booster campaign, especially given their perception that the vaccine had been relatively ineffective at providing protection against and preventing the spread of COVID-19. Focusing on the potential long-term impacts of the COVID-19 vaccine, while several expressed a small amount of concern regarding their personal health or that of their children, most were not overly worried and had not experienced any negative side-effects to date.

## Climate Change and Environment (City of Toronto, Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)

Four groups engaged in discussions regarding initiatives and programs related to environmental sustainability and reducing the impacts of climate change. These included a focus on the federal government's carbon pricing system as well as the Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles (iZEV) program.



### **Carbon Pricing (City of Toronto, Small and Mid-size Centres Alberta, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

All four groups discussed the carbon pricing system which had been implemented by the Government of Canada in recent years. Asked whether they had heard of this initiative, while many had, few could recall any specific details regarding what a price on carbon entailed. For those who could offer some details, it was believed that carbon pricing had been put in place for both businesses as well as individual households, and was tied to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions these individuals/corporations produced during their day-to-day activities. A number of participants were of the impression that this price on carbon had been implemented by way of increased taxes on non-renewable energy sources such as gasoline. Related to this, while a few speculated the price on carbon was a contributing factor to perceived high fuel prices at present, others were less certain, believing this rise in costs had been primarily due to other factors such as disruptions caused by the ongoing conflict in eastern Europe.

To aid in discussion, groups were provided with additional information regarding the federal carbon pricing system. The information shown to participants varied somewhat among the groups, depending on the province in which they resided:

*In 2016, the Government of Canada announced a plan to ensure a price on carbon pollution across the country, giving each province and territory the flexibility to develop a system that works for their circumstances, provided it meets the federal standard. In the five provinces that currently do not meet this standard – Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Alberta – the federal pricing system is in place.*

*Ontario: All proceeds collected from the federal system in Ontario stay in Ontario – 90% is returned directly to residents in the form of an incentive payment, with a typical household receiving about \$745. Until now, individuals have received this in their annual tax return. Starting this July, individuals will be receiving these payments 4 times a year.*

*Prairies (Manitoba/Saskatchewan): All proceeds collected from the federal system in Manitoba and Saskatchewan stay in each respective province – 90% is returned directly to residents in the form of an incentive payment, with a typical household receiving between roughly \$830 and \$1,100 depending on the province. Until now, individuals have received this in their annual tax return. Starting this July, individuals will be receiving these payments 4 times a year. The remaining 10% is invested in projects across communities, like making schools more energy efficient, that reduce the province's overall carbon emissions. There is also carbon pricing in place for industries. Heavy emitters have to reduce emissions or risk paying extra for carbon pollution if they exceed their sector's emissions limit. The more the industry pollutes, the more it pays, which has proven to be the most efficient way to drive down emissions. A typical Manitoba household receives \$832 and a typical Saskatchewan household receives \$1101.*

*Alberta: All proceeds collected from the federal system in Alberta stay in Alberta – 90% is returned directly to residents in the form of an incentive payment, with a typical household receiving about*

*\$1,079. Until now, individuals have received this in their annual tax return. Starting this July, individuals will be receiving these payments 4 times a year.*

On balance, most were supportive of the implementation of a federal price on carbon. It was expressed by several that climate change represented a major issue and that it was important to have a plan in place to mitigate its effects. A few expressed disappointment that a number of provinces were currently not meeting the emission standards set out by the federal government. Participants were mixed in their opinions regarding the incentive payments being returned to Canadians in their province. A large number were of the view that these amounts should not be returned to citizens, believing this reduced the impact of this policy as a disincentive for carbon emitting behaviours. Among others who felt these payments represented a positive development, many were pleased that these amounts were being redistributed directly to individual households rather than utilized by the federal government for its own operations. A number in the group from northern Ontario reacted positively upon learning that all the money collected as a result of carbon emitting activities within Ontario would remain in the province and not be redistributed on a national level. Some of those residing in the City of Toronto were of the view that those in urban centres (such as Toronto) experiencing higher levels of pollution should be compensated to a greater extent than those in more rural areas, given the higher perceived danger to their health of living in these environments. While still in favour of a federal price on carbon, some in the group from Alberta felt there should be a greater emphasis placed on large corporations rather than individual Canadians, believing the former were responsible for a significant amount of the greenhouse gas emissions currently being produced. A few participants were of the opinion that given high gasoline prices at present the federal government should temporarily suspend the carbon pricing system until these costs had returned to a more 'normal' level.

Informed that the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) found that 80% of households in affected provinces would be receiving more money back in the form of incentive payments than they spent on carbon pricing through their household purchases, participants were varied in their reactions. While a number of participants saw this as a sign of good faith that the carbon pricing system would not be unfairly punitive to most Canadians, many others were more skeptical. Several, including many in the groups from Alberta and northern Ontario, felt this may disproportionately impact those living in rural areas who may need to spend more on energy and fuel and would likely emit more greenhouse gases as a result. Some, who were of the impression that they paid more towards the price on carbon than they received in return, expressed surprise upon hearing this information, assuming this suggested they were among the 20% of highest emitting households.

Discussing whether they believed this policy was fair, most in the groups based in the City of Toronto, northern Ontario, and the Prairies felt that it was while those in Alberta were more mixed. For those in support of the implementation of a federal price on carbon, it was reiterated that climate change remained a pressing issue and that by introducing economic deterrents, the federal government was likely taking the most straightforward approach towards addressing this issue. For those in the group from Alberta, while some felt this to be a necessary initiative, others reiterated concerns regarding the disproportionate impact this may have on those living in rural communities or those whose livelihoods necessitated driving long distances and thus required them to pay more in fuel costs. A few in the

group from the Prairies expressed concerns regarding the effect this may have on small or medium-sized farms who may have high energy costs yet would not have as many financial reserves to pay the extra costs added by the carbon pricing system.

Asked an additional question as to whether they believed this program was affordable, most in the two groups based in Ontario felt that it was not. Many were of the view that rather than being redistributed to Canadians, the amounts collected through the carbon pricing system should be reinvested into sustainable and environmentally-oriented programs and initiatives designed by the federal government. Expanding upon this, some felt the money collected could be used to finance the expansion of public transit systems across Canada, providing alternative modes of transportation for Canadians other than personal automobiles. A small number reiterated the view that this program should be suspended while gas prices and the general cost of living remained high, believing many were struggling financially at present and that a price on carbon did not make things any easier.

### **Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles Program (Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)**

Participants in two groups discussed the Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles (iZEV) program. Asked whether they had heard of this program, while several participants had, few could recall any specific details. To aid in conversation, participants were informed that the iZEV Program offers point-of-sale incentives to consumers who buy or lease a ZEV that meets the program requirements. In addition, participants were informed that along with various other types of automobiles, this program also applies to pickup trucks where the base model Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) is less than \$60,000. It was clarified that only new ZEVs would be eligible for this incentive.

Asked for their perspectives on this program, specifically with respect to its inclusion of pickup trucks, many expressed a number of limitations related to the iZEV initiative. Even with the focus on larger classes of ZEVs such as pickups, most in northern Ontario felt the program had little appeal while those in the group from the Prairies were more mixed in their opinions. A number of those in the group from northern Ontario were of the view that while this program may be beneficial for those in the southern part of the province or urban centres, it was unlikely to be helpful to those in their region. Many were of the impression that ZEVs would not be able to operate in more rural or remote communities, especially given concerns regarding extreme snowfall in the winter months and the long distances those residing in these areas were frequently required to drive. Related to this, while a number of participants in both groups expressed interest in purchasing a ZEV, they did not believe these vehicles would be able to suit their needs at present. It was felt by several that prior to them purchasing a ZEV, there would need to be advancements towards ensuring longer battery life for these vehicles as well as greater investments into infrastructure such as charging stations.

Many also mentioned affordability as a primary barrier related to this program. Several commented on what they perceived to be the general unaffordability of ZEVs at present, believing these vehicles to be prohibitively expensive for many lower and middle-income Canadians. Others also expressed that it would be difficult to find a pickup truck with an MSRP under \$60,000 and that the federal

government may be underestimating the true cost of these vehicles. With this in mind, very few felt the pricing criteria outlined in this program would incentivize them.

Speaking about ZEVs more generally, several were supportive of the environmental benefits these vehicles provided. While many expected a large number of Canadians would eventually make the transition to ZEVs it was said this may take a long time to achieve. Expanding upon this, it was felt that due to concerns regarding affordability and a lack of charging stations, the current federal timeline requiring all car and passenger truck sales to be zero-emission by 2035 may be somewhat unrealistic.

## Housing Affordability (City of Toronto, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine)

Two groups discussed issues related to housing in Canada. These conversations focused both on housing affordability in general as well as specific initiatives related to housing that had been announced by the Government of Canada as part of the recent 2022 federal Budget.

### **Housing Perspectives (Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine)**

This group, based in the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia (B.C.), engaged in a brief discussion regarding housing affordability in their region as well as throughout Canada as a whole. Asked if they could recall any recent initiatives or announcements from the federal government related to housing, while some recalled the announcement of a new Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) specifically for first-time home buyers, few could recall anything else. Discussing the most pressing housing issues facing their region at present, almost all felt housing affordability to be a major problem. This was felt to be especially the case for low-income Canadians who struggled both to purchase a home as well as to find affordable rental options in their area. A number of participants were of the view that younger Canadians in particular were struggling with the housing market at present, believing that in most cases young people needed financial assistance from their parents to afford the high down payments necessary to purchase a home. Some also identified the difficulties now being faced by homeowners, believing that amidst rising interest rates many would likely face significantly higher mortgage payments in the months and years to come.

Asked what actions they felt the Government of Canada could take to assist those struggling to find affordable housing, a number of responses were provided. These included:

- Building more new homes – A number of participants thought a lack of supply to be a key issue related to housing at present and believed the federal government needed to place an additional emphasis on constructing new homes. Related to this, some suggested ideas such as renovating abandoned or derelict existing housing as well as the establishment of new ‘social housing’ projects developed and operated by the federal government itself;

- Implementing a permanent ban on non-Canadian (non-resident) homebuyers – While some had heard about the announcement of a recent temporary two-year prohibition of non-Canadians purchasing residential housing in Canada, several did not believe this went far enough. It was said this ban should be made permanent and that additional efforts be taken to address perceived ‘loopholes’ that they suspected some foreign buyers (such as students) would likely use to try and get around these new rules;
- Increased taxation on empty homes – Some also suggested the implementation of additional tax penalties for homeowners leaving their properties vacant rather than living in them or renting them out. This was thought to be a growing issue at present and one that needed serious attention from governments at both the provincial and federal level. In addition, it was suggested the federal government should consider introducing legislation placing limits on the number of properties an individual or company could potentially own. Some were of the view that far too many were using Canadian housing as investment vehicles rather than actual homes in which they planned to live;
- Enhanced public transit infrastructure – A few participants also suggested investments be made into public transit and expanding the reach of these systems to a greater number of areas within the Lower Mainland. It was thought that by doing so, housing options in suburban areas would become more accessible for those working in larger cities such as Vancouver allowing them to consider more affordable options outside of the City; and
- A greater focus on co-operative housing options – A small number also felt there should be increased financing allocated to the development of co-operative housing projects. This was believed to represent an alternative pathway to homeownership for those who may not be able to afford to purchase a home on their own.

### **Budget 2022 Housing Initiatives (City of Toronto)**

Participants in this group engaged in a discussion regarding a number of recent housing-related initiatives announced as part of Budget 2022. All participants identified housing as an issue of critical importance at present. When asked how the federal government was performing on this front, however, many were uncertain, feeling they did not know enough about recent federal activities to determine whether it was currently on the right or wrong track in addressing this issue.

The group next engaged in a number of exercises discussing recent announcements and initiatives from the Budget, and were asked to identify which they felt would be most effective towards addressing housing affordability. Focusing first on the challenge of providing additional housing options for Canadians, participants were presented with the following initiatives:

- *A new Housing Accelerator Fund providing money to municipalities to build 100,000 new homes;*
- *Repurposing existing infrastructure budgets to prioritize the construction of additional new homes;*
- *Providing \$750 million in new public transit funding to municipalities that commit their own money to building new housing;*

- *An additional \$1.5 billion investment over two years for new affordable housing units for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence;*
- *An additional \$2.9 billion over four years for the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, which creates new low-income housing and repairs existing low-income housing;*
- *An additional \$216 million to incentivize developers to build new rental units that charge less than the average rent in the areas they are built in;*
- *An additional \$500 million investment to expand co-operative housing in Canada, with a pledge to give an additional \$1 billion in loans to co-op housing projects; and*
- *An additional \$150 million over two years for housing in the northern territories.*

Among these initiatives, those related to increasing the number of housing options for low-income Canadians and marginalized populations received the highest level of support. Almost all participants identified the investment of an additional \$1.5 billion (over two years) towards new affordable housing units for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence as a particularly important initiative. It was said that in most cases, those experiencing these challenges had few places to go and that this often led to them remaining in dangerous situations. It was thought that homelessness in particular had become a more prevalent issue over the past two years, primarily due to the economic and mental health challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most also expressed support regarding the announcement of an additional \$2.9 billion (over four years) for the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, focusing on creating new affordable housing options as well as repairing existing low-income housing. It was said that low-income Canadians were likely the most in need of assistance with housing and that by taking these actions, the Government of Canada could play a pivotal role in ensuring these individuals had a safe and secure place to live.

Several also expressed support for the commitment of an additional \$500 million towards expanding co-operative housing in Canada, including a pledge to provide an additional \$1 billion in loans for these types of projects. It was thought that co-operative housing represented a viable and realistic pathway towards home ownership for many and, additionally, fostered a sense of community and shared responsibility among those living in these dwellings. Some also reacted positively to the creation of a new Housing Accelerator Fund providing funding to municipalities to build 100,000 new homes throughout Canada. It was said that limited supply remained a major driver behind rising housing prices and this initiative may assist towards alleviating this issue.

Very few identified the proposal to repurpose existing infrastructure budgets to prioritize the construction of additional new homes as well as the allocation of an additional \$216 million incentivizing developers to build new affordable rental units as particularly promising initiatives. Additionally, no participants mentioned the provision of \$750 million in new public transit funding to municipalities that commit their own money to housing or the pledge of an additional \$150 million over two years for housing in Northern communities.

Participants next focused on a second set of priorities, this time specifically concerning the issue of housing affordability and creating additional pathways to homeownership for Canadians. Groups were shown the following initiatives:

- *A Tax-Free First Home Savings Account allowing prospective first-time home buyers to save up to \$40,000 tax-free to put towards their purchase;*
- *Doubling the existing First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit from \$5,000 to \$10,000;*
- *A one-time \$500 payment to Canadians facing housing affordability challenges;*
- *Expanding the First Time Home Buyers' Incentive to allow more flexibility and making it easier for single Canadians to access;*
- *An additional \$200 million to increase rent-to-own housing options; and*
- *A \$562 million investment over two years in funding organizations addressing homelessness, plus \$62 million specifically to address homelessness among veterans.*

Of these initiatives, several participants focused on those related to first-time home buyers as particularly promising. A large number mentioned the initiatives to create a new Tax-Free First Home Savings Account allowing prospective home buyers to save up to \$40,000 tax-free towards the purchase of their first home. In addition, many also identified the expansion of the First-Time Home Buyers' Incentive which would allow for greater flexibility and easier access for single Canadians. It was felt first-time home buyers, especially younger Canadians, often had few options towards saving up for and affording the down payments necessary for home ownership, and that these initiatives could go a long way towards assisting on this front. Related to these initiatives, the pledge to double the existing First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit from \$5,000 to \$10,000 only received limited support.

A large number of participants also identified the allocation of an additional \$200 million towards rent-to-own housing options as a potentially helpful initiative. Many believed this represented a realistic pathway forward, particularly for younger and low and middle income Canadians who were believed to frequently struggle with saving up enough to afford a down payment. It was said that this could provide greater autonomy for many Canadians, allowing the rent they pay to contribute towards the eventual goal of homeownership and giving them a goal to work towards. A number of participants felt this initiative could be potentially helpful to them personally. Several also mentioned the investment of \$562 million (over two years) towards funding organizations addressing homelessness, as well as an additional \$62 million specifically for veterans experiencing homelessness, as a positive initiative. In addition to this being seen as a prevalent issue in many regions of the country, a number of participants were of the view that this was the right thing to do from a moral perspective. Very few felt the provision of a one-time \$500 payment to those experiencing housing affordability challenges to be helpful, with many of the opinion that this amount was far too low to make any tangible difference in the housing situation of those receiving it and could be better spent elsewhere.

Participants were next shown an additional set of initiatives, this time focused on protecting Canadians in the housing market. The list of initiatives shown to each group included:

- *Ending blind bidding (blind bidding is where home buyers don't know how much others are bidding);*
- *Creating taxation penalties to stop landlords from doing 'renovictions' (a renoviction occurs when a landlord evicts a tenant by claiming they will complete major renovations);*
- *A ban on all non-Canadians buying residential properties in Canada for two years;*
- *New taxation rules to deter house flipping; and*



- *Making assignment sales of new and renovated housing taxable to deter speculators from buying homes and leaving them vacant (an assignment sale is when a seller sells their interest in a property before they take possession).*

On balance, all initiatives received a significant level of support, with a number of participants expressing the view that each of the above priorities would likely have a positive impact on helping Canadians navigate the housing market.

Almost all participants identified the creation of taxation penalties to prevent landlords from engaging in practices such as 'renovictions' as an important initiative. It was said that this was a frequent problem in many areas and represented a lack of fairness on the part of landlords. Some expressed having personally known individuals who had dealt with this issue. A large number also mentioned the pledge to end blind bidding as especially important. It was believed that in many cases this process had served to artificially drive up housing prices, with realtors exploiting the desperation of prospective home buyers to enter the housing market and encouraging higher bids than these individuals may be able to afford.

Several also reacted positively to the announcement of a two-year ban on all non-Canadians from buying residential properties in Canada. It was thought that foreign buyers had significantly increased Canadian home prices in recent decades and that, in many cases, the housing units they purchased were often left vacant and primarily served as investment vehicles rather than homes. While almost all were in favour of this action, some clarified that they did not want to see those immigrating to Canada to live and work included in this ban, believing anyone seeking to contribute to the country should have the opportunity to purchase a home. Only a small number identified tax-related initiatives such as the introduction of new rules to deter house flipping and taxation of assignment sales of new and renovated housing (to deter speculation) as the actions they felt would be most effective towards addressing housing affordability in Canada.

## Seniors and Aging (Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Southwestern New Brunswick)

Two groups engaged in discussions related to issues facing seniors as well as the impact of an aging population on Canada's economic and social future. Participants spoke about a number of concerns related to seniors and aging, as well as potential actions the Government of Canada could take to address these issues.

### **Seniors' Issues (Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors)**

Participants in this group, comprised of seniors from the Bas-Saint-Laurent region of Quebec, discussed a number of issues of importance to seniors in Canada. To begin, participants were asked to identify what they felt to be the most important issues facing Canadians at present. A wide range of responses were shared, including:



- Climate change and the environment – A large number mentioned the environment as a key area of concern, and were worried about the potential impacts of climate change and how these may affect their children and grandchildren in the future. While many were aware of a number of federal announcements and initiatives on this front, participants were generally of the impression that the Government of Canada had typically fallen short of meeting its climate-related objectives;
- Inflation and the rising cost of living – Several also were worried about the perceived high rate of inflation and rising cost of living at present, with some indicating they were currently struggling to afford essentials such as groceries, gasoline, and electricity for their homes. This was said to be a particular issue for those on fixed incomes which were not keeping pace with rising inflation;
- Education – Others also mentioned education as an important area of focus, believing tuition and related post-secondary costs had become exorbitant in recent decades. It was suggested that the federal government needed to prioritize the implementation of more affordable and accessible post-secondary education to a greater extent going forward; and
- Potential labour shortages – A small number were also concerned about what they viewed as growing labour shortages in critical fields, such as healthcare. It was suggested that a greater emphasis be placed on expediting the foreign credential recognition process for non-Canadian workers, believing this would assist in alleviating this shortage of skilled workers at present.

Asked to focus on areas of concern specifically related to seniors, participants mentioned a number of issues they believed required greater attention from the federal government. Many reiterated the view that the rising cost of living was an issue of paramount importance. It was believed that a large number of seniors were already struggling to make ends meet and that a loss of purchasing power due to rising inflation had only exacerbated this issue. A large number felt the amounts provided through pensions and other financial supports were no longer sufficient to meet their everyday needs. In addition, several also identified healthcare as an important issue for seniors. Related to this, some expressed the desire to see an increase in healthcare transfers from the Government of Canada to support provinces/territories in improving the quality and accessibility of care in their jurisdictions.

Discussing the performance of the federal government related to addressing those issues most important to seniors, no participants felt it was currently on the right track. A number of participants expressed the view that the federal government needed to be doing far more to provide them with assistance. Focusing on potential ways the Government of Canada could improve on this front, participants put forward a number of suggestions. These included greater communication with seniors, assistance towards allowing seniors to remain in their homes as long as possible (rather than moving to a long-term care facility), and the provision of greater financial resources to the provinces/territories targeted towards increasing the quality of care received by seniors. Asked whether they felt Government of Canada makes an effort to reach out to seniors and/or prioritizes them in its decision making, no participants believed this to be the case.

Focusing on the sources they would typically use to receive their news, many indicated that they often relied upon social media and digital platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube. Several also

reported continuing to rely upon traditional media such as television and radio, identifying channels/stations such as Radio-Canada, TVO, Press Plus, and L'Actualité. While few indicated they would be likely to actively seek out information related to the Government of Canada, those who did reported they would typically utilize websites such as Google or websites run directly by the federal government to verify any news items they had heard.

Asked whether they receive the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, several participants indicated that they did. Additionally, a smaller number reported that they were recipients of the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). Discussing these supports, many reiterated that these payments were not enough to meet their needs at present, and had not adjusted quickly enough to reflect rising costs and inflation. Though participants shared that the payments were helpful, a large number indicated that they frequently had to resort to other sources of income to sustain themselves. Asked about potential changes that could be made to the OAS or GIS, many were of the view that these supports should be indexed to inflation in order to account for the increased cost of living.

Focusing on potential actions that could be taken by the federal government related to seniors, participants evaluated a number of current and potential initiatives targeted towards addressing seniors' issues. Participants were shown the following list of initiatives:

- *Assist community-based organizations in providing support that helps low-income and vulnerable seniors stay at home for as long as possible;*
- *Establish an expert panel to provide recommendations for establishing an aging in place benefit (the goal would be to help seniors stay in their own home as they get older);*
- *Continue leading work on seniors' programming including the New Horizons for Seniors Program (this program provides funding for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and in their communities);*
- *Ensure seniors' eligibility for the GIS is not negatively impacted if they received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB);*
- *Improve the quality and availability of long-term care homes and beds (this includes working with provinces and territories to improve infection prevention and control measures, identify shared principles, and develop national standards to ensure seniors get the care they deserve);*
- *Increase the GIS by \$500 for single seniors and \$750 for couples (per year) starting at age 65;*
- *Provide seniors with a single point of access to a wide range of government services and benefits (This could include calling a single 1-800 number to obtain information on a program, like CPP or OAS, without having to separately search for information on each); and*
- *Strengthen Canada's approach to elder abuse (this includes finalizing the national definition of elder abuse, investing in better data collection and establishing new offences and penalties in the Criminal Code related to elder abuse).*

Among these initiatives, the proposal to increase the GIS by \$500 for single seniors and \$750 for couples (beginning at age 65) received enthusiastic support from many participants. It was said this would help a great deal towards offsetting increased costs resulting from the present high rate of inflation. Participants stressed that this benefit was used to meet essential needs, rather than for luxury purposes, and that this increase would likely be of critical importance to some.

A number of participants also reacted positively regarding initiatives that would allow seniors to remain in their homes as they age, including the initiative to assist community-based organizations in providing support assisting low-income and vulnerable seniors stay at home as long as possible. Many expressed a strong personal desire to remain in their own homes rather than transition to long-term care facilities, and felt this initiative would assist them in doing so. It was also suggested that these community organizations could develop more community-based programming and activities to help prevent seniors living alone from feeling isolated. Also related to allowing seniors to remain in their homes, the plan to establish an expert panel to provide recommendations for establishing an aging in place benefit received similarly positive reactions. Along with this support, however, a small number expressed concerns that the panel would add an additional layer of bureaucracy that might impede the ability of seniors to remain in their homes rather than assist them. Others were worried that the panel could be expensive, and that the funding it required could be better deployed to target other issues.

The initiative to ensure seniors' eligibility for the GIS would not be negatively impacted due to their receipt of pandemic-related supports such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) received a moderate level of support from participants. So too did the plan to strengthen Canada's approach to elder abuse. While several were of the view that these programs might be helpful, it was felt the benefits would not be as valuable as increasing GIS benefits or providing more options to age in their own homes.

The plan to provide seniors with a single point of access to a wide range of federal services and benefits received only limited support. Many participants reported being mostly satisfied with the existing options they had to access information that was relevant to them. No participants selected the initiative to continue leading work on seniors' programming including the New Horizons for Seniors Program. Participants were largely unfamiliar with this program and did not know how it would help address seniors' issues. Many also worried the plan to improve the quality and availability of long-term care homes and bed went against the priority of allowing seniors to age at home. Despite this lack of support, however, no participants felt this initiative should not be pursued. It was said that while they may not be interested, other seniors could potentially benefit from these improvements to long-term care.

### **Aging Population (Southwestern New Brunswick)**

Participants in the group from New Brunswick engaged in a brief conversation regarding the potential impact of an aging population within their province. To begin this discussion, participants were asked to evaluate how relevant they believed this issue to be in New Brunswick. Many were of the view that this issue had become increasingly prevalent as of late and would likely continue to worsen going forward. Some were of the impression that in addition to the province's own aging population, many retirees from other parts of Canada had been relocating to New Brunswick due to the perceived lower housing prices and cost of living in the region.

Provided further information on this issue, participants were informed that (according to the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data, and Training) New Brunswick has one of the oldest populations

in the country and that the number of seniors in the province was expected to double within the next 20 years. Asked to identify the biggest challenges that might arise from having an aging population, participants shared a number of concerns. It was felt by many that this would lead to a further increase in housing prices, especially given the perceived influx of retirees for other parts of the country. Related to this, some were worried this would compel younger people to leave New Brunswick in search of more affordable housing, further aggravating the issue of an aging population in the province. A number of others expressed worry about the potential economic disruption this issue could cause, with a lack of younger workers available to replace those who are retiring or would soon be doing so. This was felt to be a particularly prominent concern in sectors such as construction, agriculture, and other trades which were believed to be less popular among young people today. Several were also concerned about the potential impact this would have on the healthcare system, which was perceived to already be significantly strained in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was said that New Brunswick's aging population may result in increased healthcare expenses and longer wait times in emergency rooms and walk-in clinics. A small number mentioned the erosion of the tax base as an issue of concern, questioning how the provincial government would be able to fund public programs in the decades to come.

Asked how the Government of Canada might address the issues presented by an aging population, participants put forward a number of suggestions. It was said by some that the federal government should increase targeted immigration initiatives, prioritizing the recruitment of skilled workers who could work in areas of need, such as healthcare and the trades. Others felt this issue could be solved without increasing immigration, believing that the federal government should prioritize incentivizing those already living in Canada (and young people in particular) to consider working in these sectors. A small number also suggested that the training and certification process in sectors such as healthcare be made less onerous going forward. It was believed that there was presently a significant need for doctors, nurses, and specialists throughout much of the country and that the large investment of time and financial resources required for training for these positions represented a significant barrier for many interested in working in the sector.

## Relationship with China (GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora)

Participants in the group comprising members of the Chinese diaspora within Canada discussed the Government of Canada's current relationship with China as well as their perspectives regarding how this relationship had evolved in recent years. Many characterized the present relationship as tense and occasionally adversarial. A number of participants were of the opinion that China's rise as a major economic power in recent decades had been a primary factor contributing to these increased tensions. It was felt that as China asserted itself to a greater extent on the global stage, Canada and its allies (such as the United States) had been compelled to take a closer look at their economic ties with China as well as the reported human rights abuses taking place within China's borders. Regarding this latter issue, some expressed the view that Canada was not currently doing enough to speak out against human rights issues in China and was exhibiting too much caution in its willingness to be critical of the

Chinese government. In addition to China's growing economic power, some also identified the events surrounding the extradition of the chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies as a key factor in the deterioration of the Sino-Canadian relationship.

Discussing how they expected Canada-China relations to evolve going forward, several expected China to continue to grow as a global economic power and believed this could potentially lead to increasing tensions, especially if the perceived rivalry between China and the United States continued to deepen. While most felt the Government of Canada should continue to maintain an economic and trade relationship with China, very few wanted to see the development of stronger ties. Several felt that by doing so Canada would run the risk of alienating crucial allies such as the United States as well as potentially expose itself to security risks, particularly those related to cybersecurity and espionage. While the Sino-Canadian economic relationship continued to be viewed as important, a number of participants expressed the need to balance this with the Government of Canada's ongoing commitment to human rights. It was felt these were important principles to stand up for, even if it ran the risk of increasing the tension with China further.

## Universal Basic Income (Northern Ontario)

Participants in the group from Northern Ontario engaged in a brief discussion regarding their views on the potential introduction of a universal basic income (UBI) program in Canada. Many were familiar with the concept of UBI as well as its objective of providing individuals with a level of income ensuring they can meet their basic needs such as food, housing, and clothing. Only a small number, however, were aware of a previous basic income trial program that had been tested in Thunder Bay. Among those who had heard about this, few details could be recalled.

Discussing whether they felt future UBI trial programs should be considered, most were against such an initiative. Many expressed concern that some would take advantage of these programs, utilizing them as a way to meet their financial needs while also abstaining from working. Expanding upon this, it was felt by several that the implementation of these programs would be unfair to those who would continue to have to work. A small number were also concerned that the introduction of a UBI program would result in additional dependency on the federal government, which they viewed as a negative development. It was also suggested by some that the funds required to deliver a UBI program might be better directed toward economic development, job creation, or increasing the amount of affordable housing in their communities. While sentiments regarding new UBI programs were generally negative, a few expressed a willingness to reconsider their positions if evidence could be produced that the results of previous initiatives (such as the Thunder Bay program) had been demonstrably positive.

Focusing on potential implications of UBI programs, participants were informed that while some said this type of program would help Canadians struggling with the rising cost of living, others were worried that this additional influx of money into the economy would drive up prices and worsen inflation further. Asked which of these perspectives they felt was more realistic, all felt the introduction of a UBI would have a negative impact on Canada's economic situation. Some compared UBI to pandemic-related financial supports such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), which

they believed had been a major contributing factor towards rising inflation and overall price increases. It was suggested that a basic income program would likely be more impactful if, rather than being allocated universally, it was targeted primarily towards low-income Canadians, those living with disabilities, and other marginalized groups who may require additional assistance.

## Immigration and Foreign Credential Recognition (Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora)

Participants in this group, comprised of members of the Filipino diaspora in Canada, engaged in a discussion concerning immigration and the challenges frequently faced by immigrants upon their arrival to Canada. Participants were largely mixed as to whether the Government of Canada was currently on the right or wrong track when it came to immigration. For those who felt positively about the federal government's performance on this front, the view was expressed that Canada's immigration policy had been beneficial in addressing critical labour shortages which several believed had occurred in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of others said that the Government of Canada had been helpful in its implementation and funding of non-profit and settlement organizations targeted towards assisting immigrants upon their arrival in Canada. Focusing on their personal experiences, many expressed gratitude at having had the opportunity to immigrate to Canada in the first place. In addition, it was said that the federal government had done an excellent job in its efforts to accommodate Ukrainians who had fled their homeland following the invasion of Russian forces. For those who felt more negatively regarding the Government of Canada's performance related to immigration, most criticisms focused on the perceived backlog and wait times for important documents such as work or student visas. A number of participants expressed the view that the processing times for these applications frequently took far longer than expected, and that applicants often received limited communication from the federal government regarding the status of their application or the reason for any delays.

Asked what the most pressing issues were related to Canada's immigration system, participants mentioned a wide range of concerns. Unprompted, many mentioned the foreign credential recognition process and underemployment of newly arriving immigrants as significant problems. Several were of the impression that in many circumstances, skilled immigrants were not being hired into their sectors of expertise as a result of lacking necessary credentials to practice in Canada. It was believed by a few participants that there were currently insufficient resources in Canada for immigrants to upgrade their skills and receive the training and certification necessary to work in their fields of choice.

Discussing how the Government of Canada might respond to these problems and improve the immigration system in Canada going forward, participants provided a wide range of suggestions. Many felt that more could be done to support settlement organizations and programs, both in terms of increased funding as well as directly advertising these opportunities to new immigrants. It was

believed that these organizations could play a crucial role in assisting new immigrants in finding employment, connecting with other immigrants, and accessing services at the federal and provincial/territorial level. In addition, it was felt the federal government could do more to offer mental health supports to newly arriving immigrants who may be experiencing feelings of isolation or loneliness in their new country.

Focusing specifically on the foreign credential recognition process, many reiterated the view that this represented a prominent issue for immigrants. Several had experienced difficulties firsthand in this regard or had heard first-hand accounts from friends and family members who had encountered these barriers. Related to this, a large number of participants identified underemployment and de-professionalization as additional challenges for immigrants. Discussing how the Government of Canada might address these issues, many expressed the view that immigrant training programs were currently overburdened. It was suggested that by allocating increased resources toward these programs, the federal government would be able to more effectively meet the needs of newly arriving immigrants. A number of others thought that incentivizing employers to hire new immigrants may be an effective way of reducing underemployment for these individuals and ensuring they were not being overlooked in the labour market. A small number also believed that Canadian post-secondary institutions and employers should be more open to recognizing courses completed at foreign colleges and universities, increasing the ability of immigrants to study and work in their areas of expertise. A number of participants recalled having personally worked in low-paying service, domestic, or manufacturing jobs as a result of their educational credentials not being recognized in Canada.

## Canadian Armed Forces (Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans)

One focus group was held among veterans and active members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) residing on Vancouver Island. The discussion in this group was wide-ranging, eliciting participants' views on the role of the CAF and federal government support to current and former CAF members.

Participants took pride in their service and in the institution itself, both with respect to what they viewed as the CAF's longstanding tradition of serving Canadians at home as well as its contribution to international peace and security. The point was made by some participants that Canada's military, while smaller in comparison to the armed forces of other G7 and NATO nations, has been able to play a significant role in international engagements and, in fact, to have an outsize impact relative to its size. Participants generally felt that the CAF's international contribution was appreciated around the world. At the same time, some concerns were expressed that perceived underfunding and under-resourcing in the Canadian military was leading to some criticism among Canada's allies. Participants also remarked on the need for a well crafted and relevant defence plan along with effective high-level leadership at the top, viewing these as key to the success of Canadian military operations.

When asked whether the CAF could do more in some areas and less in others, participants felt there were opportunities to shift priorities to some extent. While of the view that the CAF was generally doing the best it could with current resources, there was a sense that the CAF could engage more



actively on domestic issues. By way of example, specific mention was made of access to safe, clean drinking water on First Nations reserves, with some participants suggesting that army engineers could offer their skills and expertise to resolve this. The issue was described by some as a national crisis, and it was felt that military assets should be deployed in response.

Later in the discussion participants shared their views on the role of the military in helping residents of Vancouver Island to fight climate-related impacts. Many concurred that Canadians and the Canadian military should be better prepared to address domestic issues, such as wildfires, which they felt would become more commonplace as a result of climate change and global warming. However, they were concerned that the military lacked the personnel, resources and capability to respond. Others were not confident that the CAF was adequately prepared to combat climate-related disasters or that any plans had been put in place to address large scale weather events and climate hazards.

Participants engaged in a conversation about what they felt was currently working well in the CAF, identifying the following in response:

- C-17 aircraft – The purchase of these large military transport aircraft was viewed favourably. Participants commented that they work well for the purpose for which they were intended;
- LAV IIIs – Participants were enthusiastic about the purchase and delivery of Light Armoured Vehicles (LAV), which have subsequently been upgraded to LAV 6.0, and viewed these as an important improvement in Canadian infantry carrier capability;
- Mental health services – General comments were made to the effect that there have been substantial improvements with respect to access to and the quality of mental health care services for active CAF members and veterans; and
- Addressing sexual harassment in the military – Some believed that progress in this area was being made, although it was also acknowledged that there was considerably more work to be done.

On the question as to what could be improved, participants focused primarily on personal equipment. Situations were recounted by some participants whereby uniforms for the Canadian military were purchased via fundraising events, rather than being provided by the Government of Canada. Others commented on deployments where they had been equipped with gear, including weaponry, considered to be vastly out of date or obsolete. For example, some recalled using a Korean War era Browning 9 mm semi-automatic weapon which had been in service since 1935, although it was their understanding that newer Sig Sauer side arms were in use by other Canadian units. There was general agreement among participants that these issues could be attributed to a faulty procurement process, which some felt focused less on what the military needed and more on the least expensive options.

Participants did not feel that the Government of Canada had proactively addressed these issues, describing the current approach to procurement as reactive and one which demonstrates a lack of foresight. They felt the federal government did not place a sufficient priority on ensuring the Canadian military is properly equipped, describing the equipment as antiquated and the procurement process as slow and inefficient. A major issue was seen to be the lengthy procurement timeframe from issuance of a bid to receipt of the goods, which some noted took a decade or more. Others commented on the

role of civilians in the procurement process, remarking that the turnover of assigned military personnel resulted in a lack of continuity and a loss of knowledge.

As the conversation progressed, participants were asked about the top issues impacting the CAF which the federal government should prioritize. Some concerns which had been raised earlier were reiterated in response, with a particular focus on the following:

- Increasing funding for the Canadian military;
- Replacing outdated and/or inoperable military equipment;
- Enhancing the capacity of the military with additional personnel and resources;
- Ensuring competent leadership at the helm of the organization; and
- Cutting costs and improving efficiencies by replacing civilian contracts with military personnel.

On the last point, several participants felt that the Canadian military had lost important skill sets by outsourcing maintenance contracts to civilian-led companies. They were concerned that it would be difficult to rebuild these capabilities but also believed that doing so might offer opportunities and a career path for service members who become disabled or were unable to perform active duties.

Few participants were aware of any work the Government of Canada had been doing or was planning to do to address any of the above-noted issues with two exceptions: expanding Canada's northern defence capability within NORAD and promoting ethnic diversity within the CAF. Views were split as to whether the federal government was on the right or the wrong track with respect to the priorities participants had listed. Participants felt that defence-related procurement decisions were influenced by political considerations and felt that to move in a more positive direction, the Government of Canada needed to depoliticize its approach and make a stronger effort to retain service members by ensuring they get the equipment they need.

### **Racism and Misconduct in the Canadian Military**

Most participants believed that racism is not as common today in the Canadian military as it may have been in the past, although they also acknowledged that the standard regarding what constitutes racism and what is considered racist behaviour has evolved over time. Comments offered by veterans in the focus group suggested that racist slurs which were overlooked in the past, both by leadership and the victims or recipients of such slurs, would not be acceptable now. Others remarked that, while they did not see many examples of racist behaviour and believed most members of the military would stand up to any displays of racism, it may still be happening in ways that are not readily apparent. They questioned whether racism might be seen as a more prevalent issues from the perspective of various equity-deserving groups in the CAF. Nevertheless, most were of the view that racism or racial bias in the military was not a particularly pressing problem.

Participants felt that the federal government had actively and appropriately addressed the issue of racism in the military through various initiatives, including offering more options and channels for CAF members to report an incident of harassment or file a grievance. Specifically, participants were supportive of the ability of service members to contact someone outside their chain of command, and

in some cases outside the military, if they had a complaint. It was felt that this would allow individuals to come forward in a more secure environment which would protect their identity and reduce any possible repercussions from superior officers.

### **Postings and Career Progression**

Participants engaged in a brief discussion regarding postings and career progression. When asked whether it was reasonable for those who want to progress in their military careers to accept postings or whether CAF members should be able to progress through their careers in one location, most opted for the latter. Indeed, some felt that service members should have the ability to opt out entirely of promotions and/or postings in order to be able to put down roots in one location on a more permanent basis. Others mentioned that non-commissioned members (NCMs), up to a certain rank, were generally not required to move although they nevertheless have opportunities to gain leadership experience and move up the ranks of the military. A few commented that the requirement to move likely depends more on the position than on the person or service member.

### **Post-Traumatic Stress Injury**

Post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) was viewed as a significant issue by all participants, and they commented that the way in which this issue was being addressed within the military has changed markedly and in a mostly positive way over the years. Several made the point that stress can be caused by a wide range of factors and that PTSI can affect CAF members on active duty in conflict zones as well as those on lengthy tours, regardless of the level of danger to which they are personally exposed. The common view was that the symptoms of PTSI may not arise until years or decades later, often once individuals have left active service. In this context, the importance of providing veterans with counselling on the transition to civilian life was emphasized.

All participants felt that the Department of National Defence and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) had made significant progress both in prioritizing the mental health of service members and veterans respectively and in providing needed treatment for those diagnosed with a mental health condition. Most also believed that the Government of Canada was generally on the right track in addressing mental health challenges and PTSI among current and former CAF members. At the same time, they saw some room for improvement, specifically with respect to programs targeting active service members in a timely fashion. There was a sense among some that mental health services are not offered until the issues are acute, and that preventive treatment should be provided earlier in order to have a more beneficial effect and lead to more positive outcomes.

### **Housing and Homelessness**

Participants viewed the cost of housing, and cost of living in general, as extremely important issues of concern for current and former CAF members. Veterans and active service members alike were critical of housing and accommodation in the military, commenting that some CAF members posted to this

area are living in tents due to lack of availability and/or the high cost of housing on Vancouver Island. There were also reports that new arrivals to the Comox base were being encouraged to contact Habitat for if they were unable to find affordable housing alternatives. Further, any available housing was generally described as expensive and poorly maintained.

Most felt that housing was well out of the reach of the average service member and that the issue should be a priority for the Government of Canada and CAF leadership.

Homelessness among veterans was also seen to be a serious issue. Some participants recounted personal experiences, including one veteran in the group who spoke of being homeless for a 9-month period and of housing himself, his spouse and children in a van during that time. Participants commented positively on the help received from VAC, but felt that the issue of homelessness among veterans was getting worse. They recommended improvements in the following areas:

- Guidance counselling with a particular focus on housing options – Some felt that this should include access to services from real estate agents and other professionals who can assist in the transition to civilian life;
- Increasing the stock of private military/married quarters (PMQs) for those currently serving; and
- Implementation of practical transition programs for military members who are retiring or being released from the CAF.

When explicitly asked about their awareness of support from the Government of Canada for veterans who are transitioning to civilian life, participants mainly referenced peer-driven programs offered by groups and organizations external to government. Their suggestions for improving transition support centered on offering services such as the Second Career Assistance Network (SCAN) on an annual basis to those who are interested and regardless of rank, rather than just before their departure. They also felt this type of program was overly generic and would be more useful if it was customized to the individual and their circumstances.

### **Benefits and Services for Veterans**

Other than education grants and bursaries, participants were unaware of any federal government investments over the last 5 years in new benefits and services for veterans and their families.

Several participants had accessed disability benefits and rehabilitation services offered through Veterans Affairs Canada and spoke about their experience. For some the experience had been mostly a positive one, citing the ease with which they were able to access disability benefits from VAC. Others were more critical saying that the information on programs and services was difficult to locate, and that the process to obtain treatment for an injury had been long and arduous. Veterans spoke about financial strain and hardship while awaiting approval for disability benefits and/or assistance with housing, and the toll this took on them both financially and emotionally. While some expressed gratitude for the monies received through the Service Income Security Insurance Plan (SISIP), they remarked that the combination of disability and homelessness depletes the savings of many veterans.

They also stressed that veterans often cannot participate in the housing market and build home equity towards their retirement in the same way that other Canadians can.

### Remembrance Day

Participants were asked for their views on commemorations which take place on Remembrance Day, and specifically whether they should be broadened to include more about those who served after the Korean War (e.g., those who served during the Cold War, in Afghanistan, on peacekeeping missions, domestic missions, etc.). Most were comfortable with the current approach to Remembrance Day. They were of the opinion commemorations were broadly inclusive of those who had served in more recent missions as well as those having served in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, participants felt that Remembrance Day services and commemorations tended to be more community-based. As such, they felt that shifting the nature of such commemorations was less an issue for the federal government and more for those overseeing such events at the community level.

## Indigenous Youth in Care (Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples)

One group, composed of Indigenous peoples in Quebec, discussed issues related to a new Government of Canada law to reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in care and improve child and family services (Bill C-92). When asked what they had seen, read, or heard about the law, few were aware of this legislation, and none were able to provide any specific details. To clarify, participants were informed that the law was co-developed with Indigenous, provincial and territorial partners, and were provided with the following details regarding its objectives:

- *Affirms the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to have authority over child and family services;*
- *Establishes national principles such as the best interests of the child, preserving historical cultural traditions and addressing inequalities;*
- *Contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and*
- *Provides an opportunity for Indigenous peoples to choose their own solutions for their children and families.*

Upon receiving this additional information, some expressed concern that, while a step in the right direction, this law did not recognize the individual realities of diverse Indigenous communities. Expanding upon this, it was felt that the federal government needed to do more to develop laws in collaboration and continuous consultation with each Indigenous community in accordance with their specific needs. A number were also of the view that there would need to be greater collaboration between the federal and provincial governments as to how they could best support Indigenous communities going forward.

To further discussion, participants were shown a list of four possible outcomes that the act would aim to work toward:

- *It can help Indigenous children stay with their family and community;*
- *For children currently in care, it can help return them to their families;*
- *It prioritizes the importance of Indigenous children staying connected to their language, culture and community; and*
- *Children cannot be removed from their families only because of financial, health or housing challenges.*

Most participants reacted positively to the initiatives of assisting Indigenous children in staying with their family and within their community, as well as assisting those currently in care with returning to their families. Many felt that regardless of ethnic or cultural background, transferring a child from family to family causes unnecessary trauma and has lasting impacts that should not be taken lightly. Some shared personal experiences with having their children taken away and expressed frustration with how they felt they had been treated by social services. Participants were largely of the view that this was the result of systemic discrimination towards Indigenous parents and felt strongly that systemic change was necessary on this front.

Reactions to the prioritization of Indigenous children remaining connected to their language, culture, and community were more mixed. A number of participants believed this initiative to be somewhat vague, questioning how it would be carried out and what oversight would be provided in ensuring it was occurring. As such, participants emphasized the need for tangible effort on this front, such as providing Indigenous children with the appropriate resources and programming to ensure these connections were maintained.

While mostly positive regarding the commitment to not remove children from their families solely due to financial, health, or housing-related challenges, a number of participants were concerned that other reasons (such as substance abuse) often used to justify the removal of Indigenous children were not included in this list. It was expressed by some that past traumas and experiences with federal authorities had hindered the confidence and trust of many in their communities towards the federal government. Related to this, many identified an underlying level of doubt when hearing about federal initiatives such as this. While participants largely recognized this as a step in the right direction, several added that it would require careful execution and ongoing oversight to ensure that meaningful change was being made.

Overall, most participants viewed the act's objectives as mostly positive, so long as the federal government followed through with its commitments to bring about meaningful legislative change and did so in a way that acknowledged the lived experiences of Indigenous peoples. A few were of the view that they would need to learn more about the act and better understand it before determining whether it represented a positive or negative development. For the small number who were more negative in their views, it was expressed that Indigenous communities should be provided the autonomy to develop their own child protective services rather than the federal government doing so.

While it was largely believed that this legislation would improve child and family services, it was felt that a number of factors would determine whether the act would ultimately be successful. These included:

- Developing approaches tailored to the needs of each Indigenous community – Many opposed the notion of an ‘umbrella solution’ and reiterated that each community required a custom approach and thoughtful follow-up. Some vocalized that past historical grievances were at the root of the traumas in their community, and felt that these services and agreements should reflect this;
- Ensuring active collaboration between the federal government and Indigenous peoples – Some emphasized the value of developing a harmonious relationship between both parties to go hand in hand with funding. In this way, participants felt that funding alone would not be enough to improve these services and that the terms of these agreements needed to be determined in collaboration with Indigenous communities; and
- Maintaining a sustainable relationship between the federal government and Indigenous communities – Participants explained that ensuring a stable and productive relationship between both parties was in the best interest of future generations of Indigenous peoples.

Others also recognized the perceived value in Indigenous communities uniting to advocate to have their needs met. They explained that presenting themselves in this way would make it more likely for the federal government to hear and address their needs.

Participants next discussed a recent agreement related to support for child and family services reached by the federal government and Cowessess First Nation in southern Saskatchewan. None reported being previously aware of this agreement. To provide further clarification, participants were informed that as part of this agreement, the Government of Canada would be investing \$38.7 million over the next two years in support of the Cowessess First Nation implementing its own child and family services system. Participants reacted largely positively to this initiative, with several expressing that this was the type of specialized support they expected each Indigenous community to receive. A small number were more concerned about this agreement, worried there may be additional stipulations as to how this financial support could be utilized. A few expressed the view that given the challenges facing other Indigenous communities related to basic necessities (such as potable drinking water), the funding for this program may have been better spent elsewhere.

Discussing whether the Government of Canada should pursue similar agreements with other Indigenous communities, most participants reacted affirmatively. The view was added that Indigenous children represented the future and needed to be prioritized. Related to this, it was reiterated by some that the process for reaching these agreements would need to be equitable and that each negotiation be carried out in a respectful manner and with an aim towards identifying the unique needs of the specific community. Others expressed concern that some communities may be prioritized over others and therefore suggested that the federal government should ensure consistency regarding these negotiations and the agreements that are reached.



## Local Issues (Prince Edward Island Youth, Northern Ontario)

Participants in two groups discussed a number of issues specific to their local areas. These conversations focused both on economic needs more generally, as well as specific concerns related to sectors such as agriculture and mining.

### Prince Edward Island (Prince Edward Island Youth)

Participants in the group from Prince Edward Island (PEI), aged 18-24, discussed a number of issues relevant to their province. To begin, participants were asked to share which industries/sectors they worked or studied in. For those who were currently working, many were employed in the food service/hospitality industry, though several clarified that they aspired to eventually transition to different industries in the future, such as healthcare or the public sector. A large number were currently attending post-secondary education. Of these students, some intended to enter into the healthcare and veterinary care fields upon completion of their programs, while others were more uncertain as to which sector they hoped to work in. Many believed that there were a lot of opportunities in PEI and stated their desire to remain in the province. A small number, however, felt differently, stating that they would likely eventually leave PEI to pursue opportunities elsewhere.

Discussing the most important sectors/industries for their local communities, many identified tourism, fishing, and agriculture as important economic drivers within PEI. Focusing on the fishing industry specifically, a number of participants believed it to be an essential part of the province's economy. Expanding upon this, it was said that the fishing sector had shown adaptability in recent years, working towards introducing more sustainable practices as well as working to create partnerships and opportunities with Indigenous peoples in the region. No participants, however, indicated that they would personally be interested in working in this sector, believing there to be many barriers to entry. These included the necessity of family connections in the sector, the high costs related to boats, equipment, and crew, and the small window of time each year in which the sector was active. Focusing on the agriculture industry, many expressed their concerns about potato farms and farmers. It was felt that recent issues related to the U.S. suspension of PEI potato imports had been extremely damaging to the agriculture sector in the province. While most participants identified agriculture as a critical sector to PEI's future, none expressed an interest in pursuing a career in this area. High costs and the necessity of family connections were again cited as barriers to entry, as well as the perceived volatility of the sector, especially given the looming threat of climate change.

Asked which sectors/industries in PEI were the most in need of assistance from the federal government, agriculture was mentioned by a number of participants. Several were of the impression that farmers and other agriculture workers in the province were currently retiring at a rate faster than they were being replaced. It was suggested that young people were less interested in working at farms and preferred professional opportunities in other fields. Some were also aware of the impact of the U.S. potato import suspension, which they believed had cost PEI farmers tens of millions of dollars.

Discussing other areas in need of support, some also mentioned the tourism and hospitality sector. It was felt many businesses in this sector had been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and would need additional assistance to recover.

Participants were next asked whether they had seen, read, or heard any recent news related to the trade of PEI potatoes. Many were under the impression that the export of potatoes had been temporarily halted in late 2021 due to the discovery of potato wart in some crops. Resulting from this, a large number believed that the provincial government had responded by destroying large amounts of these affected crops. Participants were largely of the view that potato wart was primarily an aesthetic issue and not harmful, and that even if the potatoes could not be exported, they still could have been used domestically. Some had heard that potato wart had only been found in a small number of fields and that the resulting (U.S.) decision to completely halt imports of PEI potatoes had been a disproportionate response. A very small number reported being entirely unaware of any news related to PEI potatoes. To aid in the discussion, participants were provided the following information:

*Last October, the United States requested that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), a Government of Canada agency, suspend issuing export certificates for potatoes from PEI following the most recent detections of potato wart. On November 22, 2021, the United States instructed their border officials to deny entry of shipments of PEI potatoes, regardless of certification by the CFIA. In April 2022, potato exports to the U.S. resumed.*

After receiving this clarification, while pleased to hear exports of PEI potatoes had resumed, all participants were of the opinion that the potato export ban had negatively impacted the province's agriculture industry and represented an issue of vital importance. Many emphasized the importance of the potato crop to the overall provincial agricultural industry and economy.

Discussing the actions taken by the federal government towards addressing this issue, participants were mostly negative in their views. Many felt that the federal government should have provided potato farmers with financial support to compensate for lost earnings. They were unaware of any actions the Government of Canada had taken to address the U.S. cessation of imports and felt it should have worked with U.S. officials to resume trade sooner. A small number shared that their opinion had changed upon learning that the United States had been responsible for the decision to halt trade and believed this was not the fault of either the federal or provincial government. However, it was also felt among these participants that the federal government could have been more resourceful in identifying domestic opportunities for the potatoes that could not be exported.

### **Northern Ontario (Northern Ontario)**

Participants residing in northern Ontario engaged in a brief discussion about important industries in their region, with a particular focus on mining and the Ring of Fire. Asked what the most important sectors/industries were in the region, many identified mining along with other areas such as manufacturing, agriculture, and healthcare. Discussing what more the Government of Canada could do to support these industries, participants emphasized the need for a greater federal presence in northern Ontario. Many expressed the view that the majority of support for these industries was

provided by the provincial government, rather than the Government of Canada. No participants were aware of any current supports being provided to northern Ontario industries by the federal government.

Participants next focused on the Ring of Fire, a mining development opportunity located in the far northern region of the province. Many recalled having heard about this, identifying it as an area with significant deposits of valuable minerals. A number of participants were of the impression that mining projects in the Ring of Fire would require considerable investment due to infrastructural challenges related to the remote location of this area. To provide additional clarification, participants were shown the following:

*The Ring of Fire is located about 500 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay and covers about 5,000 square kilometres. The region has long-term potential to produce the following minerals: chromite, cobalt, nickel, copper and platinum.*

Many reacted positively upon receiving this information, believing this could provide a number of important economic opportunities across the region's mining, construction, transportation, and manufacturing industries. A smaller number were of the view that the economic impact of the Ring of Fire could extend beyond northern Ontario and serve as an economic driver for the entire province.

Discussing concerns related to this project, participants identified a number of potential challenges. Many felt as though there was already a labour shortage in northern Ontario and wondered who would work in the new jobs necessary for the development of these resources. Other responses focused on the potential negative environmental impact of mining activity, the investment of funds into this project that might be better spent elsewhere, and the logistical difficulties and financial costs of infrastructure development in the region. Others mentioned the importance of consultation with Indigenous stakeholders in planning the project and expressed the desire to see ongoing cooperation with Indigenous leaders and tangible benefits for Indigenous communities as a result of this partnership. Many felt that the challenges arising from the scope and scale of this project would necessitate the involvement of the federal government, and likely require increased cooperation and coordination amongst the federal and Ontario governments, as well as local and Indigenous leaders.

# Appendix A – Recruiting Scripts

# English Recruiting Script

## Privy Council Office Recruiting Script – June 2022 English Groups

### Recruitment Specifications Summary

- Groups conducted online.
- Each group is expected to last for two hours.
- Recruit 8 participants.
- Incentives will be \$100 per person and will be sent to participants via e-transfer following the group.

Specifications for the focus groups are as follows:

GROUP	DATE	TIME (EDT)	TIME (LOCAL)	LOCATION	COMPOSITION	MODERATOR
1	Wed., June 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:00-8:00	6:00-8:00 (EDT)	Quebec	Anglophones	MP
2	Tues., June 7 <sup>th</sup>	6:00-8:00	6:00-8:00 (EDT)	City of Toronto	General Population	DN
3	Wed., June 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:00-8:00	6:00-8:00 (EDT)	Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (excluding City of Toronto)	Chinese Diaspora	DN
4	Thurs., June 9 <sup>th</sup>	8:00-10:00	6:00-8:00 (MDT)	Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta	Aged 35-54	TBW
5	Tues., June 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:00-11:00	6:00-8:00 (PDT)	Lower Mainland – British Columbia	Received 2 Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine	TBW
6	Wed., June 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:00-7:00	6:00-8:00 (ADT)	Prince Edward Island	Youth, aged 18-24	TBW
8	Tues., June 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00-8:00	6:00-8:00 (EDT)	Northern Ontario	General Population	TBW
9	Wed., June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00-10:00	6:00-8:00 (CST) 7:00-9:00 (CDT)	Major Centres Prairies	Filipino Diaspora	TBW
10	Thurs., June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00-11:00	6:00-8:00 (PDT)	Vancouver Island	Active Military Members/Veterans	DN
11	Tues., June 28 <sup>th</sup>	5:00-7:00	6:00-8:00 (ADT)	Southwestern New Brunswick	General Population	DN

## Recruiting Script

### INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is **[RECRUITER NAME]**. I'm calling from The Strategic Counsel, a national public opinion research firm, on behalf of the Government of Canada. / Bonjour, je m'appelle **[NOM DU RECRUTEUR]**. Je vous téléphone du Strategic Counsel, une entreprise nationale de recherche sur l'opinion publique, pour le compte du gouvernement du Canada.

Would you prefer to continue in English or French? / Préférez-vous continuer en français ou en anglais?  
**[CONTINUE IN LANGUAGE OF PREFERENCE]**

### RECORD LANGUAGE

English **CONTINUE**  
French **THANK AND END**

On behalf of the Government of Canada, we're organizing a series of online video focus group discussions to explore current issues of interest to Canadians.

The format is a "round table" discussion, led by an experienced moderator. Participants will be given a cash honorarium in appreciation of their time.

Your participation is completely voluntary and all your answers will be kept confidential. We are only interested in hearing your opinions - no attempt will be made to sell or market you anything. The report that is produced from the series of discussion groups we are holding will not contain comments that are attributed to specific individuals.

But before we invite you to attend, we need to ask you a few questions to ensure that we get a good mix/variety of people in each of the groups. May I ask you a few questions?

Yes **CONTINUE**  
No **THANK AND END**

### SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Have you, or has anyone in your household, worked for any of the following types of organizations in the last 5 years?

A market research firm	<b>THANK AND END</b>
A marketing, branding or advertising agency	<b>THANK AND END</b>
A magazine or newspaper	<b>THANK AND END</b>
A federal/provincial/territorial government department or agency	<b>DO NOT END FOR GROUP 10</b>
A political party	<b>THANK AND END</b>
In public/media relations	<b>THANK AND END</b>
In radio/television	<b>THANK AND END</b>

No, none of the above

**CONTINUE**

1a. **IN ALL LOCATIONS, EXCEPT GROUP 10:** Are you a retired Government of Canada employee?

Yes      **THANK AND END**  
 No        **CONTINUE**

2. In which city do you reside?

LOCATION	CITIES	
Quebec	Cities/municipalities/towns include (but are not limited to):  Higher populations of Anglophones in the following: <u>Montreal:</u> Montreal, Cote-Saint-Luc, Pointe-Claire, Mont-Royal, Westmount, Kirkland, Beaconsfield, Dorval, Hampstead, Montreal-Ouest, Montreal-Est, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. <u>Pontiac:</u> Mansfield-et-Pontefract, Shawville, l’Isle-aux-Allumettes, Clarendon, Bristol. <u>Estrie/Eastern Townships:</u> Bromont, Compton, Cowansville, Granby, Lac-Megantic, Lambton, Magog, North Hatley, Orford, Richmond, Saint-Camille, Sherbrooke.  <b>NO MORE THAN 4 IN GMA. NO MORE THAN 1 PER BOROUGH/MUNICIPALITY/NEIGHBOURHOOD. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES ACROSS THE REGION. INCLUDE THOSE RESIDING IN LARGER AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES.</b>	<b>CONTINUE – GROUP 1</b>
City of Toronto	City includes: City of Toronto.  <b>PARTICIPANTS SHOULD RESIDE IN THE ABOVE-NOTED CENTER PROPER.</b>	<b>CONTINUE – GROUP 2</b>
Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (excluding City of Toronto)	Cities include:  Higher Chinese populations in York Region in Markham and Richmond Hill.  <u>City of Hamilton.</u> <u>Region of Halton:</u> Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Halton Hills. <u>Region of Peel:</u> Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon.	<b>CONTINUE – GROUP 3</b>



	<p><u>Region of York:</u> Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Stouffville, Aurora, King, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, Georgina.</p> <p><u>Region of Durham:</u> Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Clarington, Scugog, Uxbridge, Brock.</p> <p><b>AT LEAST 1 PARTICIPANT FROM EACH REGION. NO MORE THAN ONE PER CITY. NO MORE THAN 4 FROM YORK REGION. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES ACROSS THE REGION.</b></p>	
<p>Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta</p>	<p>Cities include (but are not limited to):</p> <p>Small population = &lt;50,000 Spruce Grove, Leduc, Lloydminster (AB), Fort Saskatchewan, Chestermere</p> <p>Mid-size population = &lt;100,000 Red Deer, Lethbridge, Wood Buffalo, Airdrie, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie</p> <p><b>NO MORE THAN TWO PER CITY. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF SMALL/MID-SIZE CENTRES. INCLUDE THOSE RESIDING IN LARGER AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES.</b></p>	<p><b>CONTINUE – GROUP 4</b></p>
<p>Lower Mainland</p>	<p>Cities include: Vancouver, Abbotsford, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Richmond, Surrey, Delta, Langley, White Rock, Chilliwack, Mission Hope, Maple Ridge, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody.</p> <p><b>NO MORE THAN TWO PER CITY. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES ACROSS THE REGION. INCLUDE THOSE RESIDING IN LARGER AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES.</b></p>	<p><b>CONTINUE – GROUP 5</b></p>
<p>Prince Edward Island</p>	<p>Cities could include (but are not limited to): Charlottetown, Summerside, Stratford, Cornwall.</p> <p><b>MAX 4 PARTICIPANTS FROM CHARLOTTETOWN. NO MORE THAN TWO PER OTHER CITY. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES ACROSS THE REGION. INCLUDE THOSE RESIDING IN LARGER AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES.</b></p>	<p><b>CONTINUE – GROUP 6</b></p>
<p>Northern Ontario</p>	<p>Cities could include (but are not limited to): Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Timmins, Kenora, West Nipissing, Elliot Lake, Temiskaming Shores, Kapuskasing, Dryden</p>	<p><b>CONTINUE – GROUP 8</b></p>

	<b>NO MORE THAN 2 PER CITY. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES ACROSS THE REGION. INCLUDE THOSE RESIDING IN LARGER AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES.</b>	
Major Centres Prairies	Cities include: <u>Manitoba</u> : Winnipeg, Brandon. <u>Saskatchewan</u> : Saskatoon, Regina.  <b>ENSURE 4 PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH PROVINCE. NO MORE THAN TWO FROM EACH CITY. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES ACROSS THE REGION.</b>	<b>CONTINUE – GROUP 9</b>
Vancouver Island	Cities could include (but are not limited to): Esquimalt, Comox, NanOOSE Bay, Victoria, Nanaimo, Courtenay, Campbell River, Parksville, Duncan, Port Alberni, Lady Smith, Sooke.  <b>NO MORE THAN TWO PER CITY. ENSURE A GOOD MIX ACROSS THE REGION. INCLUDE THOSE RESIDING IN LARGER AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES.</b>	<b>CONTINUE – GROUP 10</b>
Southwestern New Brunswick	Cities/towns include (but are not limited to): Saint John, Quispamsis, Rothesay, Hampton, Sussex, St. Andrews, Saint George, Saint Stephen.  <b>MAX 5 PARTICIPANTS FROM SAINT JOHN. NO MORE THAN ONE FROM EACH OTHER CITY/TOWN. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES/TOWNS SURROUNDING SAINT JOHN.</b>	<b>CONTINUE – GROUP 11</b>

2a. How long have you lived in [INSERT CITY]? **RECORD NUMBER OF YEARS.**

Less than two years	<b>THANK AND END</b>
Two years or more	<b>CONTINUE</b>
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	<b>THANK AND END</b>

**ENSURE A GOOD MIX BY NUMBER OF YEARS IN CITY. NO MORE THAN 2 PER GROUP UNDER 5 YEARS.**

3. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 1** What language did you first learn as a child and still speak proficiently today?

English **CONTINUE**  
 French **THANK AND END**  
 Other **THANK AND END**  
**VOLUNTEERED** Prefer not to answer **THANK AND END**

4. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 3** Do you identify your primary cultural and/or ethnic heritage to be Chinese?

- Yes **CONTINUE TO Q.4a**
- No **THANK AND END**
- VOLUNTEERED** Prefer not to answer **THANK AND END**

4a. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 3** Where did you and/or your family immigrate from?

- Hong Kong **CONTINUE**
- Mainland China **CONTINUE**
- Taiwan **CONTINUE**
- Singapore **CONTINUE**
- Malaysia **CONTINUE**
- Vietnam **CONTINUE**
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ **CONTINUE**
- VOLUNTEERED** Prefer not to answer **THANK AND END**
- ENSURE A GOOD MIX BY COUNTRY/REGION OF IMMIGRATION.**

5. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 9** Do you identify your primary cultural and/or ethnic heritage to be Filipino?

- Yes **CONTINUE TO Q.6**
- No **THANK AND END**
- VOLUNTEERED** Prefer not to answer **THANK AND END**

6. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 3 or 9** Were you born in Canada?

- Yes **SKIP TO Q.9= GROUP 3 or 9**
- No **CONTINUE TO Q.6a**
- VOLUNTEERED** Prefer not to answer **THANK AND END**

6a. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 3 or 9** How many years have you lived in Canada?

Less than 5 years	<b>CONTINUE – GROUP 3 or 9</b>
5 to <10 years	
10 to <20 years	
20 to <30 years	
30 or more years	
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	<b>THANK AND END</b>

**ENSURE A GOOD MIX BETWEEN THOSE WHO WERE NOT BORN IN CANADA AND THOSE BORN IN CANADA. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF TIME LIVED IN CANADA FOR THOSE NOT BORN IN CANADA.**

7. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 5** Which of the following statements best describes your current COVID-19 vaccination status?

- I have not received any doses of a COVID-19 vaccine yet **THANK AND END**

I have received my first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine	<b>THANK AND END</b>
I have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine	<b>CONTINUE</b>
I have received three or more doses of a COVID-19 vaccine	<b>THANK AND END</b>
Prefer not to answer	<b>THANK AND END</b>

8. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 10** Are you currently, or were you previously, a member of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)?

Yes, I am currently an active member of the Canadian Armed Forces	<b>CONTINUE</b>
Yes, I am a veteran	<b>CONTINUE</b>
No	<b>THANK AND END</b>
<b>VOLUNTEERED</b> Prefer not to answer	<b>THANK AND END</b>

**ENSURE A GOOD MIX BY ACTIVE MEMBERS AND VETERANS.**

9. Would you be willing to tell me in which of the following age categories you belong?

Under 18 years of age	<b>IF POSSIBLE, ASK FOR SOMEONE OVER 18 AND REINTRODUCE. OTHERWISE THANK AND END.</b>
18 – 24	<b>IF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND = GROUP 6 IF SMALL/MID-SIZE CENTRES ALBERTA = THANK AND END ALL OTHER LOCATIONS, CONTINUE</b>
25 – 34	<b>IF SMALL/MID-SIZE CENTRES ALBERTA = THANK AND END IF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND = THANK AND END ALL OTHER LOCATIONS, CONTINUE</b>
35 – 44	<b>IF SMALL/MID-SIZE CENTRES ALBERTA = GROUP 4 IF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND = THANK AND END ALL OTHER LOCATIONS, CONTINUE</b>
45 – 54	<b>IF SMALL/MID-SIZE CENTRES ALBERTA = GROUP 4 IF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND = THANK AND END ALL OTHER LOCATIONS, CONTINUE</b>
55+	<b>IF SMALL/MID-SIZE CENTRES ALBERTA = THANK AND END IF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND = THANK AND END ALL OTHER LOCATIONS, CONTINUE</b>
<b>VOLUNTEERED</b> Prefer not to answer	<b>THANK AND END</b>

**ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF AGES WITHIN EACH GROUP WHERE APPLICABLE.  
ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF THOSE BETWEEN 35-44 AND 45-54 FOR GROUP 4.**

10. **[DO NOT ASK]** Gender **RECORD BY OBSERVATION.**

Male	<b>CONTINUE</b>
Female	<b>CONTINUE</b>

**ENSURE A GOOD MIX BY GENDER IN EACH GROUP WHERE APPLICABLE.**

11. **ASK ALL GROUPS EXCEPT GROUP 3 & GROUP 9** Which of the following racial or cultural groups best describes you? (multi-select)

White/Caucasian  
 South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)  
 Chinese  
 Black  
 Latin American  
 Filipino  
 Arab  
 Southeast Asian (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai)  
 Korean or Japanese  
 Indigenous  
 Other (specify)  
**VOLUNTEERED** Prefer not to answer **THANK AND END**  
**ENSURE A GOOD MIX.**

12. **ASK ALL GROUPS EXCEPT GROUP 10** Which of the following best describes the industry sector in which you are currently employed?

Accommodation and Food Services  
 Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services  
 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting  
 Arts, Entertainment and Recreation  
 Construction  
 Educational Services  
 Finance and Insurance  
 Health Care and Social Assistance  
 Information and Cultural Industries  
 Management of Companies and Enterprises  
 Manufacturing  
 Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction  
 Other Services (except Public Administration)  
 Professional, Scientific and Technical Services  
 Public Administration  
 Real Estate and Rental and Leasing  
 Retail Trade  
 Transportation and Warehousing  
 Utilities  
 Wholesale Trade  
 Unemployed  
 Full Time Student  
 Retired  
 Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTINUE FOR ALL. ENSURE A GOOD MIX BY TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR EACH GROUP. NO MORE THAN TWO PER SECTOR. NO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.**

13. Are you familiar with the concept of a focus group?

Yes **CONTINUE**

No **EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING** “a focus group consists of six to eight participants and one moderator. During a two-hour session, participants are asked to discuss a wide range of issues related to the topic being examined.”

14. As part of the focus group, you will be asked to actively participate in a conversation. Thinking of how you engage in group discussions, how would you rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means ‘you tend to sit back and listen to others’ and 5 means ‘you are usually one of the first people to speak’?

1-2 **THANK AND END**  
3-5 **CONTINUE**

15. As this group is being conducted online, in order to participate you will need to have high-speed Internet and a computer with a working webcam, microphone and speaker. **RECRUITER TO CONFIRM THE FOLLOWING. TERMINATE IF NO TO ANY.**

Participant has high-speed access to the Internet  
Participant has a computer/webcam

16. Have you used online meeting software, such as Zoom, Webex, Microsoft Teams, Google Hangouts/Meet, etc., in the last two years?

Yes **CONTINUE**  
No **CONTINUE**

17. How skilled would you say you are at using online meeting platforms on your own, using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means you are not at all skilled, and 5 means you are very skilled?

1-2 **THANK AND END**  
3-5 **CONTINUE**

18. During the discussion, you could be asked to read or view materials on screen and/or participate in poll-type exercises online. You will also be asked to actively participate online using a webcam. Can you think of any reason why you may have difficulty reading the materials or participating by video?

**TERMINATE IF RESPONDENT OFFERS ANY REASON SUCH AS SIGHT OR HEARING PROBLEM, A WRITTEN OR VERBAL LANGUAGE PROBLEM, A CONCERN WITH NOT BEING ABLE TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY, ANY CONCERNS WITH USING A WEBCAM OR IF YOU AS THE INTERVIEWER HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT THE PARTICIPANT’S ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY.**

19. Have you ever attended a focus group discussion, an interview or survey which was arranged in advance and for which you received a sum of money?

Yes **CONTINUE**  
No **SKIP TO Q.23**

20. How long ago was the last focus group you attended?

Less than 6 months ago **THANK AND END**  
More than 6 months ago **CONTINUE**

21. How many focus group discussions have you attended in the past 5 years?

0-4 groups **CONTINUE**  
5 or more groups **THANK AND END**

22. On what topics were they and do you recall who or what organization the groups were being undertaken for?

**TERMINATE IF ANY ON SIMILAR/SAME TOPIC OR GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IDENTIFIED AS ORGANIZATION**

#### **ADDITIONAL RECRUITING CRITERIA**

Now we have just a few final questions before we give you the details of the focus group, including the time and date.

23. What is the highest level of formal education that you have completed?

Grade 8 or less  
Some high school  
High school diploma or equivalent  
Registered Apprenticeship or other trades certificate or diploma  
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma  
University certificate or diploma below bachelor's level  
Bachelor's degree  
Post graduate degree above bachelor's level

**VOLUNTEERED** Prefer not to answer **THANK AND END**

**ENSURE A GOOD MIX.**

**EDUCATION LEVEL WILL SKEW LOWER FOR GROUP 6.**

24. Which of the following categories best describes your total household income in 2021? That is, the total income of all persons in your household combined, before taxes?

Under \$20,000  
\$20,000 to just under \$40,000  
\$40,000 to just under \$60,000  
\$60,000 to just under \$80,000  
\$80,000 to just under \$100,000  
\$100,000 to just under \$150,000  
\$150,000 and above

**VOLUNTEERED** Prefer not to answer **THANK AND END**

**ENSURE A GOOD MIX.**



25. The focus group discussion will be audio-taped and video-taped for research purposes only. The taping is conducted to assist our researchers in writing their report. Do you consent to being audio-taped and video-taped?

Yes

No **THANK AND END**

#### INVITATION

I would like to invite you to this online focus group discussion, which will take place the evening of **[INSERT DATE/TIME BASED ON GROUP # IN CHART ON PAGE 1]**. The group will be two hours in length and you will receive \$100 for your participation following the group via an e-transfer.

Please note that there may be observers from the Government of Canada at the group and that the discussion will be videotaped. By agreeing to participate, you have given your consent to these procedures.

Would you be willing to attend?

Yes

**CONTINUE**

No

**THANK AND END**

May I please have your full name, a telephone number that is best to reach you at as well as your e-mail address if you have one so that I can send you the details for the group?

**Name:**

**Telephone Number:**

**E-mail Address:**

You will receive an e-mail from **The Strategic Counsel** with the instructions to login to the online group. Should you have any issues logging into the system specifically, you can contact our technical support team at [support@thestrategiccounsel.com](mailto:support@thestrategiccounsel.com).

We ask that you are online at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the session in order to ensure you are set up and to allow our support team to assist you in case you run into any technical issues. We also ask that you restart your computer prior to joining the group.

You may be required to view some material during the course of the discussion. If you require glasses to do so, please be sure to have them handy at the time of the group. Also, you will need pen and paper in order to take some notes throughout the group.

This is a firm commitment. If you anticipate anything preventing you from attending (either home or work-related), please let me know now and we will keep your name for a future study. If for any reason you are unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible at **[1-800-xxx-xxxx]** so we can find a replacement.

Thank you very much for your time.



**RECRUITED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE RECRUITED:** \_\_\_\_\_

# French Recruiting Script

**Bureau du Conseil privé  
Questionnaire de recrutement – juin 2022  
Groupes en français**

**Résumé des consignes de recrutement**

- Groupes tenus en ligne.
- Durée prévue de chaque rencontre : deux heures.
- Recrutement de huit participants.
- Incitatifs de 125 \$ par personne, versés aux participants par transfert électronique après la rencontre.

Caractéristiques des groupes de discussion :

GROUPE	DATE	HEURE (HAE)	HEURE (LOCALE)	LIEU	COMPOSITION DU GROUPE	MODÉRATEUR
7	16 juin	18 h-20 h	18 h-20 h	Région du Bas-Saint-Laurent – Québec	Aînés de 55 ans ou plus	M. Proulx
12	29 juin	18 h-20 h	18 h-20 h	Grandes villes et villes de taille moyenne du Québec	Peuples autochtones	M. Proulx

## Questionnaire de recrutement

### INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is **[RECRUITER NAME]**. I'm calling from The Strategic Counsel, a national public opinion research firm, on behalf of the Government of Canada / Bonjour, je m'appelle **[NOM DU RECRUTEUR]**. Je vous téléphone du Strategic Counsel, une entreprise nationale de recherche sur l'opinion publique, pour le compte du gouvernement du Canada.

Would you prefer to continue in English or French? / Préférez-vous continuer en français ou en anglais?  
**[CONTINUER DANS LA LANGUE PRÉFÉRÉE]**

### NOTER LA LANGUE ET CONTINUER

Anglais **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

Français **CONTINUER**

Nous organisons, pour le compte du gouvernement du Canada, une série de groupes de discussion vidéo en ligne afin d'explorer des questions d'actualité qui intéressent les Canadiens.

La rencontre prendra la forme d'une table ronde animée par un modérateur expérimenté. Les participants recevront un montant d'argent en remerciement de leur temps.

Votre participation est entièrement volontaire et toutes vos réponses seront confidentielles. Nous aimerions simplement connaître vos opinions : personne n'essaiera de vous vendre quoi que ce soit ou de promouvoir des produits. Notre rapport sur cette série de groupes de discussion n'attribuera aucun commentaire à une personne en particulier.

Avant de vous inviter à participer, je dois vous poser quelques questions qui nous permettront de former des groupes suffisamment diversifiés. Puis-je vous poser quelques questions?

Oui **CONTINUER**

Non **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

### QUESTIONS DE SÉLECTION

1. Est-ce que vous ou une personne de votre ménage avez travaillé pour l'un des types d'organisations suivants au cours des cinq dernières années?

Une société d'études de marché

**REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

Une agence de commercialisation, de marque ou de publicité

**REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

Un magazine ou un journal

**REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

Un ministère ou un organisme gouvernemental fédéral, provincial ou territorial

**REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

Un parti politique

**REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

Dans les relations publiques ou les relations avec les médias

**REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

Dans le milieu de la radio ou de la télévision

**REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

Non, aucune de ces réponses

**CONTINUER**

1a. **POUR TOUS LES LIEUX** : Êtes-vous un ou une employé(e) retraité(e) du gouvernement du Canada?

Oui **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**  
 Non **CONTINUER**

2. Quelle est la première langue que vous avez apprise lorsque vous étiez enfant et que vous parlez toujours couramment aujourd’hui?

Anglais **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**  
 Français **CONTINUER**  
 Autre [Préciser ou non la langue, selon les besoins de l’étude] **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**  
 Préfère ne pas répondre **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

3. Dans quelle ville habitez-vous?

LIEU	VILLES	
Région du Bas-Saint-Laurent	<p>Ces villes peuvent notamment comprendre :</p> <p>La Pocatière, Métis-sur-Mer, Pohénégamook, Rimouski, Dégelis, Trois-Pistoles, Rivière-du-Loup, Témiscouata-sur-le-Lac, Amqui, Causapscal, Mont-Joli, Saint-Pascal, Matane, Saint-Antonin.</p> <p><b>PAS PLUS DE DEUX PARTICIPANTS PAR VILLE. ASSURER UNE BONNE REPRÉSENTATION DES VILLES DANS CHAQUE LIEU. RECRUTER DES RÉSIDENTS DE GRANDES ET DE PETITES COLLECTIVITÉS.</b></p>	<b>CONTINUER – GROUPE 7</b>
Grandes villes et villes de taille moyenne du Québec	<p>Ces villes peuvent notamment comprendre :</p> <p>Grandes villes = Population 100,000+  <u>Pour les grandes villes</u> : Montréal, Gatineau, Quebec City, Saguenay, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières, Saint-Jérôme, Chicoutimi – Jonquière.</p> <p>Taille moyenne = Population 50,000-100,000  <u>Pour les villes de taille moyenne</u> : Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Chateauguay,</p>	<b>CONTINUER – GROUPE 12</b>

	Drummondville, Granby, Saint-Hyacinthe.  <b>ASSURER UNE BONNE REPRÉSENTATION DES VILLES DE LA RÉGION. RECRUTER QUATRE PERSONNES POUR LES GRANDES VILLES ET QUATRE PERSONNES POUR LES VILLES DE TAILLE MOYENNE.</b>	
Autre lieu	-	<b>REMERCIER ET CONCLURE</b>
<b>RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE</b> Préfère ne pas répondre	-	<b>REMERCIER ET CONCLURE</b>

3a. Depuis combien de temps habitez-vous à [INSÉRER LE NOM DE LA VILLE]? **NOTER LE NOMBRE D'ANNÉES.**

Moins de deux ans	<b>REMERCIER ET CONCLURE</b>
Deux ans ou plus	<b>CONTINUER</b>
Ne sais pas/Préfère ne pas répondre	<b>REMERCIER ET CONCLURE</b>

**ASSURER UNE BONNE REPRÉSENTATION EN FONCTION DU NOMBRE D'ANNÉES DE RÉSIDENCE DANS LA VILLE. PAS PLUS DE DEUX PAR GROUPE DOIVENT Y VIVRE DEPUIS MOINS DE 5 ANS.**

4. Seriez-vous prêt/prête à m'indiquer votre tranche d'âge dans la liste suivante?

Moins de 18 ans	<b>SI POSSIBLE, DEMANDER À PARLER À UNE PERSONNE DE 18 ANS OU PLUS ET REFAIRE L'INTRODUCTION. SINON, REMERCIER ET CONCLURE.</b>
18 à 24	<b>SI RÉGION DU BAS-SAINT-LAURENT = REMERCIER ET CONCLURE TOUS LES AUTRES LIEUX, CONTINUER</b> <b>ASSURER UNE BONNE REPRÉSENTATION DES ÂGES DANS CHAQUE GROUPE.</b>
25 à 34	
35 à 44	
45 à 54	
55 ans ou plus	<b>+ RÉGION DU BAS-SAINT-LAURENT = GROUPE 7 (AÎNÉS) TOUS LES AUTRES LIEUX, CONTINUER</b>
<b>RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE</b> Préfère ne pas répondre	<b>REMERCIER ET CONCLURE</b>

**ASSURER UNE BONNE REPRÉSENTATION DES ÂGES DANS CHAQUE GROUPE, S'IL Y A LIEU.**

5. **DEMANDER SEULEMENT POUR LE GROUPE 12** Vous identifiez-vous comme étant une personne autochtone?

Oui **POSER LA Q6a**  
 Non **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**  
**RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE** Préfère ne pas répondre **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

5a. **DEMANDER SEULEMENT POUR LE GROUPE 12** Vous identifiez-vous comme étant une personne...?

Des Premières Nations **CONTINUER**

Métisse **CONTINUER**

Inuite **CONTINUER**

Aucune des réponses qui précèdent **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

6. **[NE PAS DEMANDER]** Sexe **NOTER SELON VOTRE OBSERVATION.**

Homme

Femme

**ASSURER UNE PROPORTION ÉGALE D'HOMMES ET DE FEMMES DANS CHAQUE GROUPE.**

7. Parmi les choix suivants, lequel décrit le mieux le secteur d'activité dans lequel vous travaillez?

Administrations publiques

Agriculture, foresterie, pêche et chasse

Arts, spectacle et loisirs

Autres services, sauf les administrations publiques

Commerce de détail

Commerce de gros

Construction

Extraction minière, exploitation en carrière, et extraction de pétrole et de gaz

Fabrication

Finance et assurances

Gestion de sociétés et d'entreprises

Hébergement et services de restauration

Industrie de l'information et industrie culturelle

Services administratifs, services de soutien, services de gestion des déchets et services d'assainissement

Services d'enseignement

Services immobiliers et services de location et de location à bail

Services professionnels, scientifiques et techniques

Services publics

Soins de santé et assistance sociale

Transport et entreposage

Sans emploi

Aux études à temps plein

À la retraite – **DEMANDER : « DANS QUEL SECTEUR TRAVAILLIEZ-VOUS AVANT? » ET NOTER LA RÉPONSE.**

Autre situation ou autre secteur; veuillez préciser : \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTINUER POUR TOUS LES RÉPONDANTS. ASSURER UNE BONNE REPRÉSENTATION DES TYPES D'EMPLOI DANS CHAQUE GROUPE. PAS PLUS DE DEUX RÉPONDANTS PAR SECTEUR D'ACTIVITÉ. PAS D'ÉTUDIANTS ÉTRANGERS.**

**LES AÎNÉS DU GROUPE 7 POURRAIENT ÊTRE PLUS SOUVENT RETRAITÉS.**

8. Est-ce que vous connaissez le concept du « groupe de discussion »?

Oui **CONTINUER**

Non **EXPLIQUER QUE** : « *un groupe de discussion se compose de six à huit participants et d'un modérateur. Au cours d'une période de deux heures, les participants sont invités à discuter d'un éventail de questions reliées au sujet abordé* ».

9. Dans le cadre du groupe de discussion, on vous demandera de participer activement à une conversation. En pensant à la manière dont vous interagissez lors de discussions en groupe, quelle note vous donneriez-vous sur une échelle de 1 à 5 si 1 signifie « j'ai tendance à ne pas intervenir et à écouter les autres parler » et 5, « je suis habituellement une des premières personnes à parler »?

1-2 **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

3-5 **CONTINUER**

10. Étant donné que ce groupe se réunira en ligne, vous aurez besoin, pour participer, d'un accès Internet haut débit et d'un ordinateur muni d'une caméra Web, d'un microphone et d'un haut-parleur en bon état de marche. **CONFIRMER LES POINTS CI-DESSOUS. METTRE FIN À L'APPEL SI NON À L'UN DES TROIS.**

Le participant a accès à Internet haut débit

Le participant a un ordinateur avec caméra Web

11. Avez-vous utilisé des logiciels de réunion en ligne tels que Zoom, Webex, Microsoft Teams, Google Hangouts/Meet, etc., au cours des deux dernières années?

Oui **CONTINUER**

Non **CONTINUER**

12. Sur une échelle de 1 à 5 où 1 signifie que vous n'êtes pas du tout habile et 5 que vous êtes très habile, comment évaluez-vous votre capacité à utiliser seul(e) les plateformes de réunion en ligne?

1-2 **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

3-5 **CONTINUER**

13. Au cours de la discussion, vous pourriez devoir lire ou visionner du matériel affiché à l'écran, ou faire des exercices en ligne comme ceux qu'on trouve dans les sondages. On vous demandera aussi de participer activement à la discussion en ligne à l'aide d'une caméra Web. Pensez-vous avoir de la difficulté, pour une raison ou une autre, à lire les documents ou à participer à la discussion par vidéo?

**CONCLURE L'ENTRETIEN SI LE RÉPONDANT SIGNALE UN PROBLÈME DE VISION OU D'AUDITION, UN PROBLÈME DE LANGUE PARLÉE OU ÉCRITE, S'IL CRAINT DE NE POUVOIR COMMUNIQUER EFFICACEMENT, SI L'UTILISATION D'UNE CAMÉRA WEB LUI POSE PROBLÈME, OU SI VOUS, EN TANT QU'INTERVIEWEUR, AVEZ DES DOUTES QUANT À SA CAPACITÉ DE PARTICIPER EFFICACEMENT AUX DISCUSSIONS.**

14. Avez-vous déjà participé à un groupe de discussion, à une entrevue ou à un sondage organisé à l'avance en contrepartie d'une somme d'argent?



Oui **CONTINUER**  
Non **PASSER À LA Q.18**

15. À quand remonte le dernier groupe de discussion auquel vous avez participé?

À moins de six mois, **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**  
À plus de six mois, **CONTINUER**

16. À combien de groupes de discussion avez-vous participé au cours des cinq dernières années?

0 à 4 groupes, **CONTINUER**  
5 groupes ou plus **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

17. Quel était leur sujet, et vous rappelez-vous pour qui ou pour quelle organisation ces groupes étaient organisés?

**TERMINER SI LE SUJET EST SEMBLABLE OU IDENTIQUE, OU SI L'ORGANISATION NOMMÉE EST LE GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA**

#### **CRITÈRES DE RECRUTEMENT SUPPLÉMENTAIRES**

Il me reste quelques dernières questions avant de vous donner les détails du groupe de discussion, comme l'heure et la date.

18. **NE PAS DEMANDER POUR LE GROUPE 12** Lequel ou lesquels des groupes raciaux ou culturels suivants vous décrivent le mieux? (plusieurs choix possibles)

Blanc  
Sud-asiatique (p. ex., indien, pakistanais, sri-lankais)  
Chinois  
Noir  
Latino-américain  
Philippin  
Arabe  
Asiatique du sud-est (p. ex., vietnamien, cambodgien, thaïlandais)  
Coréen ou japonais  
Autochtone  
Autre groupe racial ou culturel (préciser)

**RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE** : Préfère ne pas répondre

**ASSURER UN BON MÉLANGE.**

**LES AUTOCHTONES DU GROUPE 12 SERONT AUTOCHTONES.**

19. Quel est le niveau de scolarité le plus élevé que vous avez atteint?

École primaire  
Études secondaires partielles

Diplôme d'études secondaires ou l'équivalent  
Certificat ou diplôme d'apprenti inscrit ou d'une école de métiers  
Certificat ou diplôme d'un collège, cégep ou autre établissement non universitaire  
Certificat ou diplôme universitaire inférieur au baccalauréat  
Baccalauréat  
Diplôme d'études supérieur au baccalauréat

**RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE** : Préfère ne pas répondre

**ASSURER UN BON MÉLANGE.**

20. Laquelle des catégories suivantes décrit le mieux le revenu annuel total de votre ménage en 2021 – c'est-à-dire le revenu cumulatif de l'ensemble des membres de votre ménage avant impôt?

Moins de 20 000 \$  
20 000 \$ à moins de 40 000 \$  
40 000 \$ à moins de 60 000 \$  
60 000 \$ à moins de 80 000 \$  
80 000 \$ à moins de 100 000 \$  
100 000 \$ à moins de 150 000 \$  
150 000 \$ ou plus

**RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE** : Préfère ne pas répondre

**ASSURER UN BON MÉLANGE, S'IL Y A LIEU.**

21. La discussion sera enregistrée sur bandes audio et vidéo, strictement aux fins de la recherche. Les enregistrements aideront nos chercheurs à rédiger leur rapport. Est-ce que vous consentez à ce qu'on vous enregistre sur bandes audio et vidéo?

Oui

Non **REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

## INVITATION

J'aimerais vous inviter à ce groupe de discussion en ligne, qui aura lieu le **[DONNER LA DATE ET L'HEURE EN FONCTION DU N° DE GROUPE INDIQUÉ DANS LE TABLEAU, PAGE 1]**. La discussion durera deux heures et vous recevrez 125 \$ pour votre participation. Ce montant vous sera envoyé par transfert électronique après la tenue du groupe de discussion.

Veuillez noter que des observateurs du gouvernement du Canada pourraient être présents au groupe et que la discussion sera enregistrée sur bande vidéo. En acceptant de participer, vous donnez votre consentement à ces modalités.

Est-ce que vous accepteriez de participer?

Oui

**CONTINUER**

Non

**REMERCIER ET CONCLURE**

Puis-je avoir votre nom complet, le numéro de téléphone où vous êtes le plus facile à joindre et votre adresse électronique, si vous en avez une, pour vous envoyer les détails au sujet du groupe?

**Nom :**

**Numéro de téléphone :**

**Adresse courriel :**

Vous recevrez un courrier électronique du **Strategic Counsel** expliquant comment rejoindre le groupe en ligne. Si la connexion au système vous pose des difficultés, veuillez en aviser notre équipe de soutien technique à : [support@thestrategiccounsel.com](mailto:support@thestrategiccounsel.com).

Nous vous prions de vous mettre en ligne au moins 15 minutes avant l'heure prévue, afin d'avoir le temps de vous installer et d'obtenir l'aide de notre équipe de soutien en cas de problèmes techniques. Veuillez également redémarrer votre ordinateur avant de vous joindre au groupe.

Vous pourriez devoir lire des documents au cours de la discussion. Si vous utilisez des lunettes, assurez-vous de les avoir à portée de main durant la rencontre. Vous aurez également besoin d'un stylo et de papier pour prendre des notes.

Ce rendez-vous est un engagement ferme. Si vous pensez ne pas pouvoir participer pour des raisons personnelles ou professionnelles, veuillez m'en aviser dès maintenant et nous conserverons votre nom pour une étude ultérieure. Enfin, si jamais vous n'êtes pas en mesure de participer, veuillez nous prévenir le plus rapidement possible au [1-800-xxx-xxxx] pour que nous puissions trouver quelqu'un pour vous remplacer.

Merci de votre temps.

**RECRUTEMENT FAIT PAR :** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE DU RECRUTEMENT :** \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B – Discussion Guides

# English Moderator's Guide

## MODERATOR'S GUIDE – June 2022 MASTER

### **INTRODUCTION (10 minutes)** All Locations

- Moderator or technician should let participants know that they will need pen and paper in order to take some notes, jot down some thoughts around some material that we will show them later in the discussion.

### **GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IN THE NEWS (5-25 minutes)** All Locations

- What have you seen, read, or heard about the Government of Canada in the last few days?
  - Quebec Anglophones What other news have you seen, read, or heard concerning English speakers in Quebec?

### **Drug Decriminalization** GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Northern Ontario

- Has anyone heard anything about drug decriminalization in [British Columbia/Canada]?

PROMPT AS NECESSARY: The Government of Canada has approved [B.C.'s request/a request from British Columbia] to decriminalize possession of small amounts of drugs, [in an effort to reduce stigma associated with drug use and help save lives/and has left the door open for other provinces to do the same if they choose to]. Drug users who purchase above the threshold limit [are at risk of arrest and having their drugs confiscated/would continue to be arrested and have their drugs confiscated].

ONLY IF ASKED:

- The exemption is from January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2026.
- People in B.C. possessing under 2.5g of cocaine, meth, MDMA, and opioids will not be arrested or charged.
- What are your reactions to this news?

- **GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine** What impacts do you expect this to have?
- **GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine** Should the Government of Canada have approved this request? Is this the right approach to take?
- **Northern Ontario** Would you support your province or city decriminalizing possession in a similar way?
- **Northern Ontario** In the case of British Columbia, individuals who are found possessing small amounts of drugs are re-directed to healthcare or addiction resources instead of being arrested, and the plan includes increased funding for these resources to help with addiction. Does knowing this change your impression of the plan to decriminalize?
- **Northern Ontario** Are there other things the Government of Canada should do to help with addiction and drug use issues in northern Ontario?

**Unity/Divisions in Canada Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta**

- Are Canadians mostly divided or mostly united on the important issues facing our country?
  - What are some important issues that Canadians mostly agree on?
  - What are some important issues you think Canadians are mostly divided on?
    - How do you know?
- Are Canadians more divided today than in the past? Why?
  - IF YES: When did these divisions first become worse?
  - What are the main causes of these divisions?
    - IF NOT MENTIONED: Has the pandemic made divisions worse? Why/why not? How?
- Are divisions in Canada concerning to anyone? Why/why not?
- Should the Government of Canada do anything to address divisions within Canada? If yes, what?

**Open Net-Pen Salmon Farming Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine**

- Has anyone heard anything about any Government of Canada actions related to open net-pen salmon farming?

PROMPT AS NECESSARY: The Government of Canada has indicated it is working with the province of British Columbia and Indigenous communities on a responsible plan to transition from open net-pen salmon farming in coastal British Columbia waters by 2025.

- Has anyone heard about this?

NOTE TO MODERATOR: Open net-pen fish farms are an aquacultural method where large cages or nets are placed in coastal waters or freshwater lakes to farm large amounts of fish, including salmon.

- How important of an issue is this? That is, do you think this should be a priority for the Government of Canada?
  - IF NO: Why do you think it should not be a priority for the Government of Canada?

#### **Social Media Prince Edward Island Youth**

- Has anyone ever seen, read, or heard any news about the Government of Canada over social media platforms before? Do you remember what the news was and where you saw it?
- Which social media platforms, if any, do you use for news (any news, not just related to the Government of Canada)?
  - Do any of you follow any news outlets on social media?
    - IF YES: Which ones?

#### **Quebec Bill 96 Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples**

- Has anyone seen, read, or heard anything recently about Bill 96, adopted by the provincial government of Quebec, or as some may know as the amendment of the Constitution to recognize Quebec as a nation and French as its only official and common language?
  - IF YES: What do you think of this Bill?
    - How should the Government of Canada respond, if at all?

#### **Packaged Foods Labelling Plan Northern Ontario**

- Has anyone heard anything about the Government of Canada’s plan to require packaged foods high in sugar, salt, or saturated fat to display a warning label?
  - How about this kind of warning label specifically for ground meat?

PROMPT AS NECESSARY:

The Government of Canada is scheduled to publish its packaged food labelling plan in the coming weeks. Some are concerned that some ground meat would require a “high-in-saturated fats” label and are calling for an exemption for ground meat, while others say it’s important to be transparent about the nutritional content of items so households can make informed choices.

- What do you think about this?
- Do you think ground meat should be exempt from the packaged food labelling plan? What makes you say that?

**News Sources Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora**

- What are your primary sources for news? (e.g., TV news, radio, social media, friends/family)
  - Do you mostly get news from English language sources or in another language? Which languages?
    - How often do you turn to sources in other languages?
  - Do you mostly get news from Canadian media or media from another country? Which countries?
    - How often do you turn to media from another country?
- If you were looking for federal government news, where would you go to first? Why?

**Military Announcements Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans**

- Has anyone heard about anything related to the Government of Canada’s Oceans Protection Plan?
  - IF YES: What do you think of this?
- Has anyone heard of any recent Government of Canada announcements related to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD)?

CLARIFY AS NEEDED:



The Government of Canada recently announced that it will spend \$4.9 billion over the next six years to bolster NORAD defence capabilities across the Arctic.

- What do you think of this?
- Is there anything else the Government of Canada should do in terms of ensuring we have strong NORAD capabilities?

### **Abortion Southwestern New Brunswick**

- Have you heard anything recently about abortion access in Canada or the U.S.?
  - IF YES: What have you heard?

IF NECESSARY: Recently the United States Supreme Court overruled the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, holding that there is no longer a (U.S.) federal constitutional right to an abortion.

- Is this an issue that concerns you? What makes you say that?
- What are the biggest challenges related to reproductive rights or abortion access in Canada?
  - What about in New Brunswick?
- What ideally, should the Government of Canada do, if anything related to reproductive rights or abortion access?

**PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE [- YOUTH] (15-55 minutes) Quebec Anglophones, City of Toronto, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Prince Edward Island Youth, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora, Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans, Southwestern New Brunswick, Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples**

### **Challenges Facing Anglophones in Quebec Quebec Anglophones**

- What is it like, or how does it feel, to live as an English-speaker in a predominantly French-speaking province? Has this feeling ever changed?
  - IF YES: How so and what caused this to change?
- In your opinion, what is the single top issue affecting English-speakers living in Quebec today?
  - Can you please explain what this issue is? Why is it an issue?

- Why is this issue the most important? What are you most concerned about?
- What impacts, if any, will this issue have on you? What about your community? Province? What about your country?
  - Are there any other impacts this issue could have?
    - IF YES: What are they?
  - As things are going now, do you expect this issue to get better or worse over time? Why?
- Who is responsible for addressing this issue? Does the federal government have a role in addressing this issue?
  - IF YES: What role? What would you like to see the federal government do?
- Is this an issue the federal government should prioritize above other major issues (like cost-of-living, housing, or healthcare)? Why/why not?
- What would happen if the federal government did not address this issue?
- What would happen if the federal government did try and address this issue?
- What news have you recently seen, read, or heard about what the Government of Canada is currently doing to address this issue? What work, if any, is the federal government planning to do on this issue?
  - Does this go far enough? Why/why not?

**Top Priorities** Quebec Anglophones, City of Toronto, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Prince Edward Island Youth, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora, Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans, Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples

- City of Toronto, Prince Edward Island Youth, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora, Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans In your opinion, what are the top issues [in the City of Toronto/young people are facing/in northern Ontario/impacting the Filipino community/impacting CAF] that the federal government should be prioritizing?
- What news have you ever seen, read, or heard about the Government of Canada's past work on any [of these] issues [impacting English-speakers living in Quebec]?

- **City of Toronto, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Prince Edward Island Youth, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora, Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans, Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples** What work, if any, is the federal government planning to do on these files?
- **Quebec Anglophones, City of Toronto, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Prince Edward Island Youth, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora, Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples** Are you aware of any other work the Government of Canada has done, or is planning to do, to help [English-speakers in Quebec/the City of Toronto/Chinese Canadians/young people/northern Ontario/the Filipino community/Indigenous Peoples living in Quebec]?
- On these priorities, is the federal government generally on the right track or wrong track? Why [./why not]?
  - For those who say they are on the wrong track, what could the federal government do to get on the right track?

**The Aging Population Southwestern New Brunswick**

- IF NOT MENTIONED: What about the aging population – is this a big issue in New Brunswick?

According to the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training, New Brunswick has one of the oldest populations in the country, and in the next 20 years, the number of seniors in the province is expected to double.

- What are the biggest challenges, if any, that come with an aging population?
- Is having an aging population currently having an impact in New Brunswick?
  - IF YES: In which ways?
- What, if anything, would you like to see the Government of Canada do to address challenges related to an aging population?

**Racism GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples**

- In your opinion, what are the top issues [Chinese Canadians/Indigenous Peoples] are facing that the federal government should be prioritizing?
- IF NOT MENTIONED: What about [anti-Asian racism/systemic racism towards Indigenous peoples]? How prevalent is [anti-Asian racism/this] in Canada?
- What work, if any, is the federal government doing to address [anti-Asian racism/systemic racism towards Indigenous Peoples]?
- When it comes to combating [anti-Asian racism/systemic racism towards Indigenous Peoples], is the federal government generally on the right or wrong track? Why?
  - For those who say they are on the wrong track, what could the federal government do to get on the right track?
- When it comes to engaging with [Chinese Canadians/Indigenous Peoples], would you say the federal government is generally on the right or wrong track?
  - What are better ways for the federal government to engage with [Chinese Canadians/Indigenous Peoples]?

#### **Youth** Prince Edward Island Youth

- When it comes to engaging with young people, would you say the federal government is generally on the right or wrong track?
  - What are better ways for the federal government to engage with young people?
    - IF NOT MENTIONED: What about using social media? Is social media a good tool to reach young people? What about TikTok?
    - How would you describe the Government of Canada's current performance of using social media as a tool to engage young people?

#### **Canadian Armed Forces** Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans

Now I'd like to focus on issues affecting those currently serving or who have previously served in the CAF...

- Thinking about recent environmental events on the west coast, how concerned, if at all, are you about climate change?

- Do you think the CAF needs to do more or less to help Vancouver Island residents respond to climate-related impacts, or do you think the CAF is doing either too much or not enough?
- What about postings and career progression? For example, for those posted to Vancouver Island – do you think it’s reasonable for those who want a promotion to be posted somewhere else, or do you think CAF members should be able to progress through their career in one location?
- In your opinion, what kind of issue is post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) among current and former CAF members – is it a big issue?
- What work, if any, has the federal government done to address this issue?
- Overall, is the Government of Canada generally on the right track or the wrong track in addressing PTSI among current and former CAF members? What makes you say that?
- What should the Government of Canada do to address this issue?

**FIREARMS (25-35 minutes)** Quebec Anglophones, City of Toronto, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Southwestern New Brunswick

- How would you describe the level of gun crime in Canada?
- Based on what you may have read, seen, or heard, would you say that gun violence has been increasing, decreasing, or staying the same in your community?
  - IF GOING UP: Why do you think it’s been going up?
  - What’s behind gun crime? What are some of its causes?
- In general, based on what you know, do you feel the laws covering guns in Canada are strict enough, too strict, or not strict enough? Why?
- Has the Government of Canada ever done anything to address gun crime? Are they doing anything now?
  - Has anyone heard about proposed new firearm legislation?
    - IF YES: What have you heard?

**CLARIFY AS NEEDED/SHOW ON SCREEN:**

The Government of Canada has tabled new firearm-control legislation. The proposed legislation includes the following:

- **Implementing a national freeze on handguns** to prevent individuals from bringing newly-acquired handguns into Canada and from buying, selling, and transferring handguns within the country.
  - **Taking away the firearms licenses** of those involved in acts of domestic violence or criminal harassment, such as stalking.
  - **Fighting gun smuggling and trafficking** by increasing criminal penalties, providing more tools for law enforcement to investigate firearms crimes, and strengthening border security measures.
  - **Addressing intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, and self-harm involving firearms** by creating a new “red flag” law that [requires individuals considered a danger to themselves or others to surrender their firearms to law enforcement/would enable courts to require that individuals considered a danger to themselves or others surrender their firearms to law enforcement, while protecting the safety of the individual applying to the red flag process, including by protecting their identity. In addition, the Government of Canada will invest \$6.6 million to help raise awareness of the new law and provide supports to vulnerable and marginalized groups to navigate the provisions.
  - **Requiring magazines for long guns to be changed** so they can't carry any more than five rounds; sales of larger magazines would be banned.
- Quebec Anglophones, City of Toronto, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors What’s your reaction to this? Would any of these measures have positive impacts?
    - Are there any measures that the federal government should not be pursuing? Why?
    - Would any of these measures affect you personally?
  - Thinking specifically about the freeze on handguns, do you have any questions or concerns about how this policy might be implemented?
  - Do you think the measures included in this legislation go far enough in seeking to address gun crime, or should more be done to control access to guns in Canada?
    - IF YES: What else should the federal government be doing?
  - Southwestern New Brunswick I’d like to go through each of these measures.

**Southwestern New Brunswick** *MODERATOR TO GO THROUGH AND ASK FOR EACH MEASURE:*

- **Southwestern New Brunswick** What's your reaction to this measure?
  - Is there anything you like about it?
  - Is there anything you dislike about it?
- **Southwestern New Brunswick** Would any of these measures affect you personally?

**NORAD (10 minutes)** **Quebec Anglophones, GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora, Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors**

- Is anyone aware of an organization called NORAD?
  - To the best of your knowledge, what is NORAD responsible for?

**CLARIFY AS NEEDED:**

NORAD, or the North American Aerospace Defense Command, is a combined organization of the United States and Canada responsible for protecting the airspace above the two nations and providing warnings of any aerial threats targeting North America.

- Do you feel like these are important roles? Why or why not?
- Are there any changes that you think the Government of Canada should consider making when it comes to how to manage air defense in the current global environment?

**CARBON PRICING (15 minutes)** **City of Toronto, Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta, Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora**

- Have you heard anything about the Government of Canada's plan on pricing carbon pollution? What can you tell me about carbon pricing?

**CLARIFY AS NEEDED/SHOW ON SCREEN:**

In 2016, the Government of Canada announced a plan to ensure a price on carbon pollution across the country, giving each province and territory the flexibility to develop a system that works for their circumstances, provided it meets the federal standard. In the five provinces that currently do not meet this standard – Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Alberta – the federal pricing system is in place.

All proceeds collected from the federal system in [Ontario/Alberta/Manitoba and Saskatchewan] stay in [Ontario/Alberta/each respective province] – 90% is returned directly to residents in the form of an incentive payment, with a typical household receiving [about/between roughly] [\$745/\$1,079/\$830 and \$1,100 depending on the province]. Until now, individuals have received this in their annual tax return. Starting this July, individuals will be receiving these payments 4 times a year.

**Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora** The remaining 10% is invested in projects across communities, like making schools more energy efficient, that reduce the province's overall carbon emissions.

**Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora** There is also carbon pricing in place for industries. Heavy emitters have to reduce emissions or risk paying extra for carbon pollution if they exceed their sector's emissions limit. The more the industry pollutes, the more it pays, which has proven to be the most efficient way to drive down emissions.

- **Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora** IF NEEDED: A typical Manitoba household receives \$832 and a typical Saskatchewan household receives \$1101.
- What do you think about this plan?

CLARIFY AS NEEDED:

The Parliamentary Budget Officer found that 80% of households in affected provinces get more money back, in the form of incentive payments, than they spend on carbon pricing through their household purchases – for example, fuel for cars, gas to heat the home, etc.

- What are your reactions when you hear this?
- Does this approach seem fair?
- Does the carbon pricing system seem affordable?

**HOUSING (20-30 minutes)** **City of Toronto, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine**

**Housing Initiatives** **City of Toronto**



- Budget 2022 has housing as a priority area. How important an issue is housing affordability?
- On housing affordability, has the Government of Canada generally been on the right track or wrong track? What makes you say that?

I'm now going to show you various housing initiatives included in the budget. There are a few different categories, and we'll go through each category individually.

**POLL:** Here is the first set. I'd like you to select the ones that you think will have the most positive impact on the housing market in Canada. You can select up to 3. If you don't think any will have a positive impact, don't select any.

### **Building New Homes**

- A new Housing Accelerator Fund providing money to municipalities to build 100,000 new homes.
- Repurposing existing infrastructure budgets to prioritize the construction of additional new homes.
- Providing \$750 million in new public transit funding to municipalities that commit their own money to building new housing.
- An additional \$1.5 billion investment over two years for new affordable housing units for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence.
- An additional \$2.9 billion over four years for the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, which creates new low-income housing and repairs existing low-income housing.
- An additional \$216 million to incentivize developers to build new rental units that charge less than the average rent in the areas they are built in.
- An additional \$500 million investment to expand co-operative housing in Canada, with a pledge to give an additional \$1 billion in loans to co-op housing projects.
- An additional \$150 million over two years for housing in the northern territories.

### *MODERATOR TO GO THROUGH SELECTIONS*

- Would any of these personally impact you?
- Is there anything in this section that the Government of Canada should not be doing?

**POLL:** Here is the second set. Again, select the ones that you think will have the most positive impact on the housing market in Canada. (REPEAT INSTRUCTION AS NEEDED: You can select up to 3. If you don't think any will have a positive impact, don't select any).

#### **Housing Affordability**

- A Tax-Free First Home Savings Account allowing prospective first-time homebuyers to save up to \$40,000 tax-free to put towards their purchase.
- Doubling the existing First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- A one-time \$500 payment to Canadians facing housing affordability challenges.
- Expanding the First Time Home Buyers' Incentive to allow more flexibility and making it easier for single Canadians to access.
- An additional \$200 million to increase rent-to-own housing options.
- A \$562 million investment over two years in funding organizations addressing homelessness, plus \$62 million specifically to address homelessness among veterans.

#### *MODERATOR TO GO THROUGH SELECTIONS*

- Would any of these personally impact you?
- Is there anything in this section that the Government of Canada should not be doing?

**POLL:** And here is the final set. Again, select the ones that you think will have the most positive impact on the housing market in Canada. (REPEAT INSTRUCTION AS NEEDED: You can select up to 3. If you don't think any will have a positive impact, don't select any).

#### **Protecting Canadians**

- Ending blind bidding (*blind bidding is where home buyers don't know how much others are bidding*).
- Creating taxation penalties to stop landlords from doing 'renovictions' (*a renovation occurs when a landlord evicts a tenant by claiming they will complete major renovations*).
- A ban on all non-Canadians buying residential properties in Canada for two years.
- New taxation rules to deter house flipping.
- Making assignment sales of new and renovated housing taxable to deter speculators from buying homes and leaving them vacant (*an assignment sale is when a seller sells their interest in a property before they take possession*).

*MODERATOR TO GO THROUGH SELECTIONS*

- Would any of these personally impact you?
- Is there anything in this section that the Government of Canada should not be doing?

**Top Housing Issues Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine**

Now I'd like to talk about housing...

- Has the Government of Canada done anything to address housing issues?
  - IF YES: What has it done?
- What are the top housing issues in the Lower Mainland?

FOR EACH ISSUE MENTIONED:

- And what are the solutions for this issue? What would you like to see the Government of Canada do to address this?

**RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA (20 minutes) GTHA (excluding City of Toronto) Chinese Diaspora**

- How would you describe Canada's current relationship with China?
- How has this relationship changed?
- How do you expect this relationship to develop?
- What would you like to see Canada do with this relationship?
  - Should Canada try to build closer ties? Why/why not?
  - Should Canada try to deepen its trading relationship with China? Why/why not?

**COVID-19 OUTLOOK/VACCINES (15-30 minutes) Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora**

I'd like to talk about COVID-19 now...

- **Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta, Prince Edward Island Youth, Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors** Do you think that the worst of COVID-19 is behind us, or do you think we can expect another wave?
    - **Prince Edward Island Youth** How concerned, if at all, are you about catching COVID-19?
  - **Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta** And thinking ahead to a year from now, do you think we'll no longer be in a pandemic, or do you think COVID-19 will still be an issue?
  - **Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta** With things opening up and the arrival of summer, more and more Canadians are traveling. Do you think the various COVID-19 travel requirements are still needed (these are things like proof of vaccination, masking at airports and on planes, random COVID-19 testing upon entry to Canada)? What makes you say that?
  - **Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta** Various public health measures have changed over the course of the pandemic (like mask mandates or capacity limits). Do changing public health measures affect your opinions about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination? What makes you say that?
  - **Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta** Do you think it's important to prevent infection and serious illness through vaccination and boosters, or are you comfortable with the possibility of becoming infected?
  - **Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta** What safety concerns do you have about the COVID-19 vaccine, if any?
  - **Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta, Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine** Are you concerned about the potential long-term impacts of vaccines?
    - PROBE FOR: What concerns you the most?
  - **Small/Mid-size Centres Alberta** In retrospect, are you comfortable with your decision to be vaccinated or not to be vaccinated? What makes you say that?
- Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine** When we invited you to this group, all of you indicated you had received 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine** What made you decide to get vaccinated?

- **Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine** Overall, are you comfortable with your decision to be vaccinated with 2 doses? What makes you say that?
- **Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine** Do any of you have an appointment to get a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?
  - IF YES: Why did you decide to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose?
  - IF NOT: Do you plan to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose or not?
    - IF YES: When do you plan on getting the third dose? Is there a reason why you are holding off/haven't booked your appointment yet?
    - IF NO: What hesitations do you have about getting a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose?
- **Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine** For those of you who are holding off or hesitant about getting a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose, are there questions about COVID-19 vaccines in general, or about the third dose specifically, that you would like answers to?
- **Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine** What other information, if any, do you need to help you decide about getting a third dose?
- **Lower Mainland British Columbia Received Two Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine** Whether you have plans to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose or not, what safety concerns do you have about the COVID-19 vaccine, if any?
- **Prince Edward Island Youth** How would you describe the Government of Canada's handling of the pandemic?
- **Prince Edward Island Youth** Do you think COVID-19 travel requirements are still needed (e.g., proof of vaccination or masking at airports and on planes)? Why/why not?
- **Prince Edward Island Youth** How would you describe the impacts public health measures have had in Canada?
- **Prince Edward Island Youth** Would you support or oppose re-introducing public health measures if there were another outbreak?
- **Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors** Do you think COVID-19 is generally under control at this point, or not?

- **Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora** What do you think of current public health measures that are in place in your region?
  - Should they all be lifted, should more measures be in place, or are the current measures about right?
- **Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora** Overall, has the Government of Canada generally been on the right track or wrong track in its management of the pandemic? What makes you say that?
- **Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora** In 2020, public health measures such as hand washing, mask-wearing and social distancing were introduced to help control the spread of COVID-19. What kind of impact do you think these public health measures have had?
- **Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora** In the future, if public health measures were to be reintroduced in the event of another outbreak of COVID-19, would you support or oppose re-introducing these measures? Why/why not?

**LOCAL ISSUES (15-20 minutes)** **Prince Edward Island Youth, Northern Ontario, Southwestern New Brunswick**

**Prince Edward Island Youth, Southwestern New Brunswick** Now I'd like to focus on your local community.

- **Prince Edward Island Youth** What are the sectors and industries you currently work in or are planning/studying to work in?
  - Are there jobs in these sectors/industries you could get in PEI or would you need to move?
- What are the most important sectors and industries for [your local community/northern Ontario/New Brunswick]?
  - **Prince Edward Island Youth** How about fishing?
    - How would you describe the current state of the fishing industry in PEI?
    - Would you consider working in the fishing industry? Why/why not?
  - **Prince Edward Island Youth** How about agriculture?
    - How would you describe the current state of the agriculture industry in PEI?
    - Would you consider working in the agriculture industry? Why/why not?

- **Prince Edward Island Youth, Southwestern New Brunswick** Which [local] sectors and industries [in New Brunswick] do you feel need the most help?
- **Prince Edward Island Youth** Which sectors and industries would you like to see the Government of Canada prioritize?

**Southwestern New Brunswick** NOTE TO MODERATOR: For two or three major sectors named, probe if the Government of Canada has done anything to support these sectors. What else can the Government of Canada do to support these sectors?

### **Mining Northern Ontario**

- Which sectors and industries in northern Ontario do you feel need the most help?

NOTE TO MODERATOR: For two or three major sectors named, probe if the Government of Canada has done anything to support these sectors. What else can the Government of Canada do to support these sectors?

- IF NOT MENTIONED: Now thinking about mining in northern Ontario, are you aware of anything the Government of Canada has done to support this sector?
  - What else should the Government of Canada do to support the mining sector?
- Have you heard anything about the Ring of Fire?
  - IF YES: What have you heard? Can you explain what it is?

CLARIFY AS NEEDED:

The Ring of Fire is located about 500 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay and covers about 5,000 square kilometres. The region has long-term potential to produce the following minerals: chromite, cobalt, nickel, copper and platinum.

- What are your thoughts on the Ring of Fire?
  - Do you see any benefits to developing the Ring of Fire?
  - Do you have any concerns?

### **PEI POTATO ISSUE (20 minutes) Prince Edward Island Youth**

- What have you heard, seen, or read about any recent developments related to the trade of PEI potatoes?

CLARIFY AS NEEDED:

Last October, the United States requested that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), a Government of Canada agency, suspend issuing export certificates for potatoes from PEI following the most recent detections of potato wart. On November 22, 2021, the United States instructed their border officials to deny entry of shipments of PEI potatoes, regardless of certification by the CFIA. In April 2022, potato exports to the U.S. resumed.

- Who was aware of this issue?
- How big of an impact, if any, did this have in PEI?
- How important an issue, if it all, is this in PEI today?
- Was anyone personally impacted by the suspension of exports?
- Based on what you know, how did the Government of Canada handle this issue?

**SENIORS' ISSUES (45 minutes) Quebec Bas-Saint-Laurent Region Seniors**

Now I'd like to focus on another topic.

- What is the most important issue for you personally that you think the Government of Canada should be focusing on the most? What makes you say that?
- And what's the most important issue facing seniors more broadly right now that the Government of Canada should be paying more attention to? What makes you say that?
- Have you heard anything the Government of Canada has done recently to support seniors?
- Would you say the federal government is generally on the right track with seniors? Why/why not? What would put them on the right track?
- Where do you normally hear about news first?



- And now thinking about Government of Canada information in general, including policies it implements or measures it implements, do you actively seek out this kind of information?
  - IF YES: Where do you seek it out?
- Overall, do you feel that the Government of Canada makes an effort to reach out to seniors? Do you feel they prioritize seniors when making decisions? Why or why not?
  - What could the Government of Canada do to more effectively connect with seniors?
- Do any of you receive the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, which is a monthly payment you can get if you are 65 and older?
  - NOTE TO MODERATOR: This is different from the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), which replaces part of your income when you retire from work.
  - IF YES: How about the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)? This is a monthly payment available to some individuals who receive the OAS.

**FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVE GIS AND/OR OAS:**

- What has been your experience with the GIS and/or the OAS? Are the monthly payments enough?
- If you could make changes to either the GIS or the OAS, what would you change, if anything?
  - IF NEEDED: For example, would you change who qualifies for these benefits, would you change the monthly payment amounts, etc.

**POLL:** I'm going to show you a list of current and potential measures for seniors that the Government of Canada could consider. I'd like you to select the ones you feel are the most important. You can select up to 3; if you don't think any are important, then don't select any.

**SHOW ON SCREEN:**

- Assist community-based organizations in providing support that helps low-income and vulnerable seniors stay at home for as long as possible.
- Establish an expert panel to provide recommendations for establishing an aging in place benefit (*the goal would be to help seniors stay in their own home as they get older*).
- Continue leading work on seniors' programming including the New Horizons for Seniors Program (*this program provides funding for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and in their communities*). (NOTE TO MODERATOR: Projects that can receive funding include those that support healthy ageing, prevent senior abuse, celebrate diversity and promote inclusion, and help seniors age in place).

- Ensure seniors' eligibility for the GIS is not negatively impacted if they received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB).
- Improve the quality and availability of long-term care homes and beds (*this includes working with provinces and territories to improve infection prevention and control measures, identify shared principles, and develop national standards to ensure seniors get the care they deserve*).
- Increase the GIS by \$500 for single seniors and \$750 for couples (per year) starting at age 65.
- Provide seniors with a single point of access to a wide range of government services and benefits (NOTE TO MODERATOR: This could include calling a single 1-800 number to obtain information on a program, like CPP or OAS, without having to separately search for information on each).
- Strengthen Canada's approach to elder abuse (*this includes finalizing the national definition of elder abuse, investing in better data collection and establishing new offences and penalties in the Criminal Code related to elder abuse*).

#### MODERATOR TO GO THROUGH SELECTIONS

- Are there any measures that the federal government should not be pursuing? Why?

#### **iZEV PROGRAM (15 minutes)** Northern Ontario, Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora

- Has anyone heard of the Government of Canada's Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles (iZEV) Program?

#### CLARIFY AS NEEDED:

The iZEV Program offers point-of-sale incentives for consumers who buy or lease a Zero-Emission Vehicle that meets the program requirements. As well as various passenger cars, minivans and so on, the program also applies to pickup trucks where the base model Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) is less than \$60,000. Only new ZEVs are eligible for the federal incentive.

- What do you think of this program, specifically with respect to pickup trucks?
- What do you think about the pricing criteria (i.e., less than MSRP of \$60,000)?
  - Do you think there are reliable ZEV pickup trucks within this price range?
  - Does this kind of program appeal to you?
  - Would you ever consider buying a zero-emission pickup truck? Why or why not?

### **UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME (10 minutes) Northern Ontario**

- Are any of you familiar with universal basic income? What is it?

#### CLARIFY AS NEEDED:

Universal basic income (UBI) is a government program in which every adult citizen receives a set amount of money regularly. The idea is to provide everyone with a level of income to ensure they can meet basic needs such as food, housing, and clothing.

- Have you heard anything about the provincial basic income trial program that previously existed in Thunder Bay?
- Do you think additional basic income trials should be considered? Why or why not?
- Some say this type of income supplement would help Canadians who are currently struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living, while others worry the additional injection of money into the economy would drive up prices and make inflation worse. Which of these positions do you think would be more true?

### **IMMIGRATION (15 minutes) Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora**

Now I'd like to talk about our immigration system...

- In general, is the Government of Canada generally on the right track or wrong track on immigration? What makes you say that?
- What are the biggest issues with immigration?
  - IF NOT RAISED: What about processing times – is this an issue?
- What should the Government of Canada do to improve the immigration system?

### **FOREIGN CREDENTIAL RECOGNITION (15 minutes) Major Centres Prairies Filipino Diaspora**

I'd like to talk about employment issues...

- Have you heard of any of the following terms: de-professionalization, underemployment, or foreign credential recognition?
  - In particular, how would you explain what foreign credential recognition is?

CLARIFY AS NEEDED:

Foreign credential recognition means that newcomers to Canada must have their foreign licenses and certificates recognized to work in some Canadian jobs. Each province and territory can give licenses to people who meet their occupational standards. The requirements can be different across Canada.

Examples of jobs in regulated occupations include accountants, architects, carpenters, doctors, electricians and welder jobs.

- Is foreign credential recognition a big issue?
  - Is anyone here personally impacted or have family members impacted?
- What about underemployment more broadly? Is this a big issue?
  - IF NEEDED: Underemployment includes workers who are highly skilled but working in low-paying or low-skilled jobs, and part-time workers who would prefer to be full time.
- What should the Government of Canada do, if anything to address these issues?

**CANADIAN ARMED FORCES (20 minutes) Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans**

I'd like to shift to a discussion about the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)...

- How do you feel about the CAF's contributions to the world and domestically?
  - PROMPT AS NEEDED: Do you feel proud? Do you think Canada needs to do more in general, do less in general, or more in some areas and less in others?
- What is currently working well in the CAF?
- What needs to improve?
  - IF NOT MENTIONED: What about military equipment?

FOR MAIN ISSUES RAISED:

- What makes this an issue?

- What has the federal government done to address this issue?
- What should the Government of Canada do to address this issue?
- What about racism and misconduct in the CAF – is this a big issue?
- What work, if any, has the federal government done to address this issue?
- In your opinion, are things improving on this front?
  - IF NO: Do you think things will improve?

**VETERAN HOMELESSNESS/HOUSING (15 minutes)** Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans

Now I'd like to focus on housing...

- When thinking about various issues, how top-of-mind is the cost of living and housing costs for current and former CAF members?
- Do you think the Government of Canada or CAF leadership needs to do more on this front?

Now I'd like to focus on issues potentially affecting veterans specifically...

- In your opinion, what kind of issue is homelessness for veterans – is it a big issue?
- What has the federal government done to address this issue?
- What should the Government of Canada do to address this issue?

**MILITARY BENEFITS AND SUPPORTS (15 minutes)** Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans

- Are you aware of any federal government investments in new benefits and services for veterans and their families over the last 5 years or so?
  - PROMPT AS NEEDED: These could be things like disability benefits, financial benefits, rehabilitation, pension advocacy, education, and training supports.
- Has anyone tried accessing any benefits or services?
  - IF YES: What has your experience been like with the application process?

- Is anyone aware of support from the Government of Canada for veterans who are transitioning into civilian life?
  - IF YES: What kind of support is available?
- Do you have any suggestions on how to improve transition support?

**REMEMBRANCE DAY (5 minutes)** Vancouver Island Active Military Members and Veterans

And lastly, I'd like to talk about Remembrance Day for a bit...

Some have said that the focus of Remembrance Day should be broadened to include a lot more about those who served after the Korean War, including those who served during the Cold War, on peacekeeping missions, domestic missions, and so on.

- What do you think about this?

**INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN CARE (45 minutes)** Mid-size and Major Centres Quebec Indigenous Peoples

- Has anyone seen, read, or heard anything in the last couple of years related to a new Government of Canada law to reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in care and improve child and family services (also known as Bill C-92)?
  - IF YES: What have you heard?

**SHOW ON SCREEN:**

This law was co-developed with Indigenous, provincial and territorial partners; it:

- Affirms the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to have authority over child and family services;
  - Establishes national principles such as the best interests of the child, preserving historical cultural traditions and addressing inequalities;
  - Contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
  - Provides an opportunity for Indigenous peoples to choose their own solutions for their children and families.
- What do you think about this?
    - Do you think this act will help Indigenous children and youth? What makes you say that?

Now I'm going to show you some things the act is meant to do, and get your reactions...

**SHOW ON SCREEN:**

1. It can help Indigenous children stay with their family and community.
2. For children currently in care, it can help return them to their families.
3. It prioritizes the importance of Indigenous children staying connected to their language, culture and community.
4. Children cannot be removed from their families only because of financial, health or housing challenges.

*MODERATOR TO GO THROUGH EACH ITEM INDIVIDUALLY AND ASK IF THEY THINK THIS WILL OCCUR AND WHY/WHY NOT.*

- Are you aware of an agreement between the Government of Canada and Cowessess First Nation (in southern Saskatchewan) related to support for child and family services? What have you heard?

**CLARIFY AS NEEDED:**

As part of the agreement, the Government of Canada will invest \$38.7 million over the next two years to support Cowessess First Nation in the implementation of its own child and family services system.

- What do you think about this agreement?
- Do you think the Government of Canada should continue with this approach – that is, should it try and reach agreements with other Indigenous communities to implement their own child and family services systems? What makes you say that?
  - Do you think that this approach is a way to ensure that the new law succeeds in improving child and family services? What makes you say that?

**CONCLUSION (5 minutes) All Locations**

- Before we close, is there anything else you would like to say to the federal government? It can be an additional point related to anything we discussed today or it could be something you think is important but wasn't discussed.

# French Moderator's Guide

## GUIDE DU MODÉRATEUR – JUIN 2022 DOCUMENT MAÎTRE

### **INTRODUCTION (10 minutes)** Tous les lieux

- Le modérateur ou la personne responsable du soutien technique doit faire savoir aux participantes et aux participants qu'un stylo et du papier seront nécessaires afin de prendre des notes et d'écrire quelques réflexions au sujet des pièces de communication que nous leur montrerons plus tard au cours de la discussion.

### **LE GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA DANS L'ACTUALITÉ (5-25 minutes)** Tous les lieux

- Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu au sujet du gouvernement du Canada au cours des derniers jours ?
  - **Anglophones du Québec** Quelles autres nouvelles avez-vous vues, lues ou entendues concernant les anglophones au Québec ?

### **Décriminalisation des drogues** Diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique, Nord de l'Ontario

- Est-ce que quelqu'un a entendu quelque chose au sujet de la décriminalisation des drogues [en Colombie-Britannique/au Canada] ?

PRÉCISER AU BESOIN : Le gouvernement du Canada a approuvé [la/une] demande de la Colombie-Britannique visant à décriminaliser la possession de petites quantités de drogues [dans le but de réduire la stigmatisation associée à la consommation de drogues et de contribuer à sauver des vies/et a laissé la porte ouverte aux autres provinces pour qu'elles fassent de même si elles le souhaitent]. Les personnes qui consomment des drogues et qui en achètent une quantité supérieure au seuil fixé [risquent d'être arrêtées et voir leurs drogues saisies/continueraient d'être arrêtées et voir leurs drogues saisies].

SEULEMENT SI ON LE DEMANDE :

- L'exemption sera en vigueur du 31 janvier 2023 au 31 janvier 2026.



- Les personnes en C.-B. qui possèdent moins de 2,5 gr de cocaïne, de méthamphétamines, de MDMA et d’opioïdes ne seront pas arrêtées ni inculpées.
- Quelles sont vos réactions à cette nouvelle ?
  - **Diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique** Quels en seront les impacts, selon vous ?
  - **Diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique** Le gouvernement du Canada aurait-il dû approuver cette demande ? Est-ce la bonne approche à prendre ?
- **Nord de l’Ontario** Seriez-vous favorable à ce que votre province ou votre ville décriminalise la possession de manière similaire ?
- **Nord de l’Ontario** Dans le cas de la Colombie-Britannique, les personnes trouvées en possession de petites quantités de drogue sont réorientées vers des soins de santé ou des ressources en dépendances plutôt que d’être arrêtées, et le plan prévoit une augmentation du financement de ces ressources pour aider dans le traitement des dépendances. Est-ce que le fait de savoir cela change votre impression sur le projet de décriminalisation ?
- **Nord de l’Ontario** Y a-t-il d’autres choses que le gouvernement du Canada devrait faire pour aider avec les questions de dépendance et de consommation de drogues dans le Nord de l’Ontario ?

**Unité/Divisions au Canada Centres de petite et moyenne taille de l’Alberta**

- Les Canadiens sont-ils plutôt divisés ou plutôt unis sur les enjeux importants auxquels notre pays est confronté ?
  - Quels sont certains des enjeux importants sur lesquels les Canadiens s’entendent le plus ?
  - Quels sont certains des enjeux importants sur lesquels, selon vous, les Canadiens sont le plus divisés ?
    - Comment le savez-vous ?
- Les Canadiens sont-ils plus divisés aujourd’hui que par le passé ? Pourquoi ?
  - SI OUI : À partir de quand, ces divisions se sont-elles aggravées ?

- Quelles sont les principales causes de ces divisions ?
  - SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : La pandémie a-t-elle fait en sorte que les divisions se sont aggravées ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ? De quelle façon ?
- Est-ce que quelqu'un est préoccupé par les divisions au Canada ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?
- Le gouvernement du Canada devrait-il faire quelque chose pour s'attaquer aux divisions qui existent au sein du pays ? Si oui, quoi ?

**L'élevage du saumon en parcs en filet Personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique**

- Est-ce que quelqu'un a entendu parler d'actions quelconques de la part du gouvernement du Canada concernant l'élevage du saumon en parcs en filet ?

PRÉCISER AU BESOIN : Le gouvernement du Canada a indiqué qu'il travaillait avec la Province de la Colombie-Britannique et les communautés autochtones sur l'élaboration d'un plan responsable d'abandon de l'élevage du saumon en parcs en filet sur les côtes de la province d'ici 2025.

- Est-ce que quelqu'un en a entendu parler ?

NOTE AU MODÉRATEUR : Les exploitations piscicoles en parcs en filet sont une méthode d'aquaculture où de grandes cages ou des filets sont placés dans des eaux côtières ou des lacs d'eau douce pour faire l'élevage de grandes quantités de poissons, dont le saumon.

- Dans quelle mesure cet enjeu est-il important ? Autrement dit, pensez-vous que cela devrait être une priorité pour le gouvernement du Canada ?
  - SI NON : Pourquoi pensez-vous que cela ne devrait pas être une priorité pour le gouvernement du Canada ?

**Médias sociaux Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard**

- Est-ce que quelqu'un a déjà vu, lu ou entendu des nouvelles concernant le gouvernement du Canada sur des plateformes de médias sociaux dans le passé ? Vous souvenez-vous quelle était cette nouvelle et où vous l'avez vue ?

- Quelles plateformes de médias sociaux, le cas échéant, utilisez-vous pour vous informer sur les actualités (toutes les actualités, pas seulement celles qui concernent le gouvernement du Canada) ?
  - Y en a-t-il parmi vous qui suivent des médias d'information sur les médias sociaux ?
    - SI OUI : Lesquels ?

**Projet de loi 96 Personnes âgées de la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent du Québec, peuples autochtones des centres de taille moyenne et grande du Québec**

- Y en a-t-il qui ont vu, lu ou entendu quelque chose récemment au sujet de l'adoption du projet de loi 96 par le gouvernement du Québec, autrement connu comme l'amendement à la Constitution pour reconnaître le Québec comme une nation et le français comme sa seule langue officielle et commune ?
  - SI OUI : Que pensez-vous de cette loi ?
    - Comment le gouvernement du Canada devrait-il réagir, le cas échéant ?

**Plan en matière d'étiquetage des aliments emballés Nord de l'Ontario**

- Est-ce que quelqu'un a entendu quelque chose concernant le projet du gouvernement du Canada d'exiger que les aliments emballés riches en sucre, en sel ou en graisses saturées portent une étiquette de mise en garde ?
  - Qu'en est-il de ce type d'étiquette de mise en garde spécifique à la viande hachée ?

**PRÉCISER AU BESOIN :**

Le gouvernement du Canada doit publier son plan en matière d'étiquetage des aliments emballés dans les prochaines semaines. Des voix se préoccupent du fait que certaines viandes hachées devront porter l'étiquette « riche en graisses saturées » et demandent une exemption pour la viande hachée, tandis que d'autres disent qu'il est important d'être transparent sur le contenu nutritionnel des aliments afin que les ménages puissent faire des choix éclairés.

- Qu'en pensez-vous ?
- Pensez-vous que la viande hachée devrait être exemptée du projet d'étiquetage des aliments emballés ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?

**Sources de nouvelles Diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies**

- Quelles sont vos principales sources d'actualités ? (Par exemple, nouvelles télévisées, radio, médias sociaux, amis ou famille)
  - Obtenez-vous principalement des nouvelles de sources en langue anglaise ou dans une autre langue ? Quelles langues ?
    - Avec quelle fréquence vous tournez-vous vers des sources dans d'autres langues ?
  - Obtenez-vous principalement des nouvelles des médias canadiens ou des médias d'un autre pays ? Quels pays ?
    - Avec quelle fréquence vous tournez-vous vers les médias d'un autre pays ?
- Si vous cherchiez des nouvelles du gouvernement fédéral, vers quelle source vous tourneriez-vous en premier ? Pourquoi ?

#### **Annonces militaires Militaires actifs et vétérans de l'île de Vancouver**

- Est-ce que quelqu'un a entendu quelque chose au sujet du Plan de protection des océans du gouvernement du Canada ?
  - SI OUI : Qu'en pensez-vous ?
- Est-ce que quelqu'un a entendu de récentes annonces du gouvernement du Canada concernant le Commandement de la défense aérospatiale de l'Amérique du Nord (NORAD) ?

#### **ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN :**

Le gouvernement du Canada a récemment annoncé qu'il investira 4,9 milliards de dollars au cours des six prochaines années pour renforcer les capacités de défense du NORAD dans l'Arctique.

- Qu'en pensez-vous ?
- Y a-t-il autre chose que le gouvernement du Canada devrait faire pour s'assurer qu'on a de solides capacités dans le cadre du NORAD ?

#### **L'avortement Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick**

- Avez-vous entendu quelque chose récemment au sujet de l'accès à l'avortement au Canada ou aux États-Unis ?
  - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous entendu ?

SI NÉCESSAIRE : La Cour suprême des États-Unis a récemment annulé la décision historique Roe c. Wade, estimant qu'il n'existe plus de droit constitutionnel fédéral (américain) à l'avortement.

- Est-ce un enjeu qui vous préoccupe ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela?
- Quels sont les plus grands défis liés aux droits reproductifs ou à l'accès à l'avortement au Canada ?
  - Qu'en est-il au Nouveau-Brunswick ?
- Idéalement, que devrait faire le gouvernement du Canada, le cas échéant, en matière de droits reproductifs ou d'accès à l'avortement ?

**PRIORITÉS ET PERFORMANCE [— JEUNES] (15-55 minutes)** Anglophones du Québec, ville de Toronto, diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Nord de l'Ontario, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies, militaires actifs et vétérans de l'île de Vancouver, Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick, peuples autochtones des centres de taille moyenne et grande du Québec

**Les défis auxquels sont confrontés les anglophones au Québec** Anglophones du Québec

- À quoi cela ressemble-t-il ou comment se sent-on, de vivre en tant que personne d'expression anglaise dans une province à prédominance francophone ? Avez-vous déjà connu un changement dans ce sentiment ?
  - SI OUI : Comment ? Qu'est-ce qui a provoqué ce changement ?
- À votre avis, quel est l'enjeu numéro un qui touche les personnes d'expression anglaise vivant au Québec aujourd'hui ?
  - Pouvez-vous nous expliquer en quoi consiste cet enjeu ? Pourquoi est-ce un enjeu ?
  - Pourquoi est-ce l'enjeu le plus important ? Qu'est-ce qui vous préoccupe le plus ?
  - Quels impacts, le cas échéant, cet enjeu aura-t-il sur vous ? Qu'en est-il de votre communauté ? Votre province ? Qu'en est-il de votre pays ?
    - Quels autres impacts cet enjeu pourrait-il avoir ?
      - SI OUI : Que sont-ils ?
    - Dans l'état actuel des choses, vous attendez-vous à ce que cet enjeu s'améliore ou s'aggrave au fil du temps ? Pourquoi ?

- À qui incombe la responsabilité de traiter cet enjeu ? Le gouvernement fédéral a-t-il un rôle à jouer dans le traitement de cet enjeu ?
  - SI OUI : Quel rôle ? Que souhaiteriez-vous que fasse le gouvernement fédéral ?
- Est-ce un enjeu que le gouvernement fédéral devrait traiter en priorité par rapport à d'autres enjeux majeurs (comme le coût de la vie, le logement ou les soins de santé) ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?
- Que se passerait-il si le gouvernement fédéral ne traitait pas cet enjeu ?
- Que se passerait-il si le gouvernement fédéral essayait effectivement de remédier à cet enjeu ?
- Quelles nouvelles avez-vous vues, lues ou entendues récemment sur ce que le gouvernement du Canada fait actuellement pour remédier à cet enjeu ? Quel travail, le cas échéant, le gouvernement fédéral prévoit-il de faire pour remédier à cet enjeu ?
  - Est-ce que cela va assez loin ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?

**Les priorités absolues** Anglophones du Québec, ville de Toronto, diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Nord de l'Ontario, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies, militaires actifs et vétérans de l'île de Vancouver, peuples autochtones des centres de taille moyenne et grande du Québec

- Ville de Toronto, jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Nord de l'Ontario, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies, militaires actifs et vétérans de l'île de Vancouver À votre avis, quels sont les principaux enjeux [dans la ville de Toronto/auxquels sont confrontés les jeunes/dans le Nord de l'Ontario/qui affectent la communauté philippine/qui affectent les FAC] et dont le gouvernement fédéral devrait traiter en priorité ?
- Quelles nouvelles avez-vous déjà vues, lues ou entendues au sujet du travail effectué par le gouvernement du Canada dans le passé sur [l'un de ces/des] enjeux [qui affectent les anglophones qui vivent au Québec] ?
- Ville de Toronto, diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Nord de l'Ontario, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies, militaires actifs et vétérans de l'île de Vancouver, peuples autochtones des centres de taille moyenne et grande du Québec Quel travail, le cas échéant, le gouvernement fédéral prévoit-il de faire dans ces dossiers ?

- Anglophones du Québec, ville de Toronto, diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Nord de l'Ontario, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies, peuples autochtones des centres de taille moyenne et grande du Québec  
Êtes-vous au courant de tout autre travail que le gouvernement du Canada a fait ou qu'il prévoit de faire pour aider [les anglophones du Québec/la ville de Toronto/les Sino-Canadiens/les jeunes/le Nord de l'Ontario/la communauté philippine/les peuples autochtones qui vivent au Québec] ?
- En ce qui concerne ces priorités, le gouvernement du Canada est-il généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie ? Pourquoi [/pourquoi pas] ?
  - Pour les personnes qui disent qu'il est sur la mauvaise voie, que pourrait faire le gouvernement fédéral pour se mettre sur la bonne voie ?

**La population vieillissante Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick**

- SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Qu'en est-il de la population vieillissante — est-ce un enjeu important au Nouveau-Brunswick ?

Selon le New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training, le Nouveau-Brunswick a l'une des populations les plus âgées du pays et au cours des 20 prochaines années, le nombre de personnes âgées dans la province est prévu de doubler.

- Quels sont les plus grands défis, le cas échéant, qui accompagnent le vieillissement de la population ?
- Est-ce que le fait d'avoir une population vieillissante a actuellement un impact au Nouveau-Brunswick ?
  - SI OUI : De quelle façon ?
- Qu'est-ce que vous souhaiteriez, le cas échéant, que le gouvernement du Canada fasse pour relever les défis liés au vieillissement de la population ?

**Le racisme Diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), peuples autochtones des centres de taille moyenne et grande du Québec**

- Selon vous, quels sont les principaux enjeux auxquels sont confrontés les [Sino-Canadiens/peuples autochtones] et dont le gouvernement fédéral devrait traiter en priorité ?
- SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Qu'en est-il du racisme [anti-asiatique/systemique à l'égard des peuples autochtones] ? Dans quelle mesure [le racisme anti-asiatique est-il/est-ce] répandu au Canada ?
- Quel travail le gouvernement fédéral fait-il, le cas échéant, pour lutter contre [racisme anti-asiatique/le racisme systémique envers les peuples autochtones] ?
- En ce qui concerne la lutte contre [racisme anti-asiatique/le racisme systémique envers les peuples autochtones], le gouvernement du Canada est-il généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie ? Pourquoi ?
  - Pour les personnes qui disent qu'il est sur la mauvaise voie, que pourrait faire le gouvernement fédéral pour se mettre sur la bonne voie ?
- En ce qui concerne interagir avec les [Sino-Canadiens/peuples autochtones], le gouvernement du Canada est-il généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie ? Pourquoi ?
  - Quelles sont de meilleures façons pour le gouvernement fédéral d'interagir avec les [Sino-Canadiens/peuples autochtones] ?

#### Les jeunes Jeunes de l'île-du-Prince-Édouard

- En ce qui concerne interagir avec les jeunes, diriez-vous que le gouvernement fédéral est généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie ?
  - Quelles sont de meilleures façons pour le gouvernement fédéral d'interagir avec les jeunes ?
    - SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Qu'en est-il de l'utilisation des médias sociaux ? Les médias sociaux, sont-ils une bonne façon de rejoindre les jeunes ? Qu'en est-il de TikTok ?
    - Comment décririez-vous la performance actuelle du gouvernement du Canada pour ce qui est d'utiliser les médias sociaux comme outil pour interagir avec les jeunes ?

#### Les Forces armées canadiennes Militaires actifs et vétérans de l'île de Vancouver



Je voudrais maintenant me concentrer sur les enjeux qui touchent celles et ceux qui servent actuellement ou qui ont déjà servi dans les FAC...

- En pensant aux récents événements environnementaux sur la côte ouest, dans quelle mesure le changement climatique vous préoccupe-t-il, le cas échéant ?
- Pensez-vous que les FAC doivent en faire davantage ou en faire moins pour aider les résidents de l'île de Vancouver à affronter les impacts liés au climat, ou pensez-vous que les FAC en font trop, ou n'en font pas assez ?
- Qu'en est-il des affectations et de la progression de carrière ? Par exemple, pour les personnes affectées à l'île de Vancouver, pensez-vous qu'il est raisonnable pour celles qui veulent une promotion de se voir affecter ailleurs, ou pensez-vous que les membres des FAC devraient pouvoir progresser dans leur carrière à un seul endroit ?
- À votre avis, quel genre d'enjeu représentent les blessures de stress post-traumatique (BSPT) parmi les membres actuels et anciens des FAC — s'agit-il d'un enjeu important ?
- Quel travail, le cas échéant, le gouvernement fédéral a-t-il fait pour traiter cet enjeu ?
- Dans l'ensemble, le gouvernement du Canada est-il généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie en ce qui concerne les BSPT parmi les membres actuels et anciens des FAC ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?
- Que devrait faire le gouvernement du Canada pour remédier à cet enjeu ?

**ARMES À FEU (25-35 minutes)** Anglophones du Québec, ville de Toronto, diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), centres de petite et moyenne taille, personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique, personnes âgées de la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent du Québec, Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick

- Comment décririez-vous le niveau de crimes commis avec des armes à feu au Canada ?
- D'après ce que vous avez pu lire, voir ou entendre, diriez-vous que la violence armée augmente, diminue ou reste la même dans votre collectivité ?
  - SI ELLE A AUGMENTÉ : Pourquoi pensez-vous qu'elle a augmenté ?

- Qu'est-ce qui se cache derrière les crimes commis avec des armes à feu ? Quelles sont certaines de ses causes ?
- En général, selon ce que vous savez, pensez-vous que les lois sur les armes à feu au Canada sont assez strictes, trop strictes ou pas assez strictes ? Pourquoi ?
- Le gouvernement du Canada a-t-il déjà fait quelque chose pour lutter contre les crimes commis avec des armes à feu ? Fait-il quelque chose maintenant ?
  - Y en a-t-il qui ont entendu parler de la nouvelle loi proposée sur les armes à feu ?
    - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous entendu ?

#### **ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN/AFFICHER À L'ÉCRAN :**

Le gouvernement du Canada a déposé un nouveau projet de loi sur le contrôle des armes à feu. Celui-ci comprend les mesures suivantes :

- **Mise en œuvre d'un gel national des armes de poing** afin d'empêcher les gens d'apporter au Canada des armes de poing nouvellement acquises ou de les acheter, de les vendre et de les transférer dans le pays.
- **Révocation des permis d'armes à feu** des personnes impliquées dans des actes de violence domestique ou de harcèlement criminel.
- **Lutte contre la contrebande et le trafic d'armes à feu** au moyen de sanctions pénales plus sévères, d'outils supplémentaires permettant aux forces de l'ordre d'enquêter sur les crimes commis avec des armes à feu et de mesures de sécurité renforcées aux frontières.
- **Lutte contre la violence conjugale, la violence fondée sur le sexe et l'automutilation au moyen d'une arme à feu** grâce à une loi « drapeau rouge » qui permettrait aux tribunaux d'exiger que les personnes considérées comme un danger pour elles-mêmes ou pour autrui remettent leurs armes à feu aux forces de l'ordre, tout en assurant la sécurité de la personne qui présente une demande dans le cadre du processus « drapeau rouge », notamment en protégeant son identité. De plus, le gouvernement investira 6,6 millions de dollars pour mieux faire connaître cette nouvelle loi et aider les groupes vulnérables et marginalisés à en consulter les dispositions.
- **Exiger la modification des chargeurs d'armes d'épaule** pour qu'ils ne puissent jamais contenir plus de cinq cartouches ; la vente des chargeurs à plus grande capacité serait interdite.

- **Anglophones du Québec, ville de Toronto, diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), centres de petite et moyenne taille, personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique, personnes âgées de la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent du Québec** Quelle est votre réaction à ces mesures ? Certaines de ces mesures produiraient-elles des effets positifs ?
  - Y a-t-il, parmi ces mesures, certaines avec lesquelles le gouvernement fédéral ne devrait aller de l'avant ? Pourquoi ?
  - Y a-t-il des mesures qui vous toucheraient personnellement ?
- En ce qui concerne le gel des armes de poing plus particulièrement, avez-vous des questions ou des préoccupations quant à la façon dont cette politique pourrait être mise en œuvre ?
- Pensez-vous que les mesures contenues dans ce projet de loi vont suffisamment loin dans la lutte contre les crimes commis avec des armes à feu, ou faut-il en faire plus pour contrôler l'accès aux armes à feu au Canada ?
  - SI OUI : Que pourrait faire d'autre le gouvernement fédéral ?
- **Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick** J'aimerais passer en revue chacune de ces mesures.

**Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick** *LE MODÉRATEUR PASSERA EN REVUE CHACUNE DES MESURES ET DEMANDERA :*

- **Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick** Quel est votre réaction à cette mesure ?
  - Y a-t-il quelque chose concernant celle-ci qui vous plaît ?
  - Y a-t-il quelque chose concernant celle-ci qui vous déplaît ?
- **Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick** Y a-t-il certaines de ces mesures qui vous toucheraient personnellement ?

**NORAD (10 minutes)** **Anglophones du Québec, diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto), centres de petite et moyenne taille, personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique, jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, personnes âgées de la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent du Québec**

- Y en a-t-il qui connaissent un organisme du nom de NORAD ?
  - Selon vos connaissances, de quoi NORAD est-il responsable ?

**ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN :**

NORAD, ou le Commandement de la défense aérospatiale de l'Amérique du Nord est une organisation conjointe des États-Unis et du Canada dont la responsabilité consiste à protéger l'espace aérien au-dessus des deux nations et à signaler toute menace aérienne visant l'Amérique du Nord.

- Trouvez-vous que ce sont des rôles importants ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?
- À votre avis, le gouvernement du Canada devrait-il envisager des changements quant à la façon de gérer la défense aérienne dans le contexte mondial actuel ?

**LA TARIFICATION DU CARBONE (15 minutes) Ville de Toronto, centres de petite et moyenne taille, Nord de l'Ontario, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies**

- Avez-vous entendu quelque chose au sujet du plan du gouvernement du Canada sur la tarification de la pollution par le carbone ? Que pouvez-vous me dire sur la tarification du carbone ?

**ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT/AFFICHER À L'ÉCRAN :**

En 2016, le gouvernement du Canada a annoncé un plan visant à assurer la tarification de la pollution par le carbone dans l'ensemble du pays, en donnant à chaque province et territoire la souplesse nécessaire pour élaborer un système qui convient à leur situation, pour autant qu'il respecte la norme fédérale. Dans les cinq provinces qui ne satisfont pas actuellement à cette norme — l'Ontario, la Saskatchewan, le Manitoba, le Nouveau-Brunswick et l'Alberta —, le système de tarification fédéral est actuellement en place.

Toutes les sommes perçues par le système fédéral [en Ontario/en Alberta/au Manitoba et en Saskatchewan] restent [en Ontario/en Alberta/dans chacune des provinces respectives] — 90 % sont remises directement aux résidents sous la forme d'un paiement incitatif, un ménage typique peut ainsi recevoir [environ/en gros, entre] [745 \$/1 079 \$/830 \$ et 1 100 \$ selon la province]. Jusqu'à présent, les particuliers recevaient ces paiements par le biais de leur déclaration de revenus annuelle. À compter de juillet, les particuliers recevront ces paiements quatre fois par année.

**Nord de l'Ontario, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies** Les 10 % restants sont investis dans des projets dans les collectivités, comme l'amélioration de l'efficacité énergétique des écoles, qui réduisent les émissions globales de carbone de la province.

**Nord de l'Ontario, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies** Une tarification du carbone a également été mise en place pour les industries. Les grands émetteurs doivent réduire leurs

émissions ou risquent de payer davantage pour la pollution par le carbone s'ils dépassent la limite d'émissions de leur secteur. Plus l'industrie pollue, plus elle paie, ce qui s'est avéré le moyen le plus efficace de réduire les émissions.

- **Diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies** SI NÉCESSAIRE : Un ménage typique du Manitoba reçoit 832 \$ et un ménage typique de la Saskatchewan reçoit 1101 \$.
- Que pensez-vous de ce plan ?

#### ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN :

Le directeur parlementaire du budget a constaté que 80 % des ménages des provinces concernées reçoivent plus d'argent, sous forme de paiements incitatifs, que ce qu'ils dépensent pour la tarification du carbone sur les achats du ménage — par exemple, l'essence pour les voitures, le gaz pour chauffer la maison, etc.

- Quelles sont vos réactions lorsque vous entendez cela ?
- Cette approche vous semble-t-elle juste ?
- Le système de tarification du carbone vous semble-t-il abordable ?

**LOGEMENT (20-30 minutes)** Ville de Toronto, personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique

#### **Initiatives en matière de logement** Ville de Toronto

- Le budget 2022 fait du logement un domaine prioritaire. Dans quelle mesure l'abordabilité du logement est-elle un enjeu important ?
- En ce qui concerne la question de l'abordabilité du logement, le gouvernement du Canada est-il généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?

Je vais maintenant vous montrer diverses initiatives en matière de logement qui figurent dans le budget. Il y a quelques catégories différentes, et nous allons les passer en revue individuellement.

**SONDAGE :** Voici la première série. Je voudrais que vous choisissiez celles qui, selon vous, auront l'impact le plus positif sur le marché du logement au Canada. Vous pouvez en choisir jusqu'à trois. Si vous pensez qu'aucune n'aurait un impact positif, n'en sélectionnez pas.

#### **Construction de logements neufs**

- Un nouveau *Fonds pour accélérer la construction de logements* versera de l'argent aux municipalités dans le but de construire 100 000 nouveaux logements.
- Réaffecter les budgets d'infrastructure existants pour prioriser la construction de nouveaux logements supplémentaires.
- Investir 750 millions de dollars de nouveaux fonds pour le transport en commun aux municipalités qui s'engagent à investir leurs propres fonds dans la construction de nouveaux logements.
- Un investissement supplémentaire de 1,5 milliard de dollars sur deux ans pour la construction de nouveaux logements abordables destinés aux personnes en situation d'itinérance ou de violence familiale.
- Un montant supplémentaire de 2,9 milliards de dollars sur quatre ans pour le *Fonds national de co-investissement pour le logement* qui contribue à créer de nouveaux logements ainsi qu'à réparer des logements existants pour les personnes à faible revenu.
- Des fonds supplémentaires de 216 millions de dollars pour inciter les promoteurs à construire de nouveaux logements locatifs dont le prix de location est inférieur au prix moyen dans les zones où ils sont construits.
- Un investissement supplémentaire de 500 millions de dollars visant à augmenter le nombre de coopératives d'habitation au Canada, avec la promesse d'accorder un milliard de dollars de plus en prêts aux projets de coopératives d'habitation.
- Des fonds supplémentaires de 150 millions de dollars sur deux ans pour le logement dans les territoires du Nord.

#### **LE MODÉRATEUR PASSERA EN REVUE LES CHOIX**

- Parmi ces éléments est-ce qu'il y en a qui vous toucheraient personnellement ?
- Y a-t-il quelque chose dans cette section que le gouvernement du Canada ne devrait pas faire ?

**SONDAGE :** Voici la deuxième série. Une fois de plus, veuillez choisir celles qui, selon vous, auront l'impact le plus positif sur le marché du logement au Canada. (RÉPÉTER LES INSTRUCTIONS AU BESOIN : Vous pouvez en choisir jusqu'à trois. Si vous pensez qu'aucune n'aurait un impact positif, n'en sélectionnez pas.)

### Abordabilité du logement

- Le *Compte d'épargne libre d'impôt pour l'achat d'une première propriété*, qui permet aux acheteurs éventuels d'une première maison d'épargner jusqu'à 40 000 \$ libres d'impôt pour faire l'acquisition.
- Doubler le montant du crédit d'impôt pour l'achat d'une première habitation de 5 000 \$ à 10 000 \$.
- Un paiement unique de 500 \$ aux personnes qui font face à des difficultés d'accès au logement abordable.
- Élargir l'*Incitatif à l'achat d'une première propriété* afin d'offrir plus de souplesse et de faciliter l'accès pour les Canadiens et Canadiennes sans conjoint ou conjointe.
- Un montant supplémentaire de 200 millions de dollars visant à accroître les possibilités de location avec option d'achat.
- Un investissement de 562 millions de dollars sur deux ans pour financer les organismes qui luttent contre l'itinérance, ainsi que 62 millions de dollars pour combattre l'itinérance chez les vétérans.

### LE MODÉRATEUR PASSERA EN REVUE LES CHOIX

- Parmi ces éléments est-ce qu'il y en a qui vous toucheraient personnellement ?
- Y a-t-il quelque chose dans cette section que le gouvernement du Canada ne devrait pas faire ?

**SONDAGE :** Et voici la dernière série. Une fois de plus, veuillez choisir celles qui, selon vous, auront l'impact le plus positif sur le marché du logement au Canada. (RÉPÉTER LES INSTRUCTIONS AU BESOIN : Vous pouvez en choisir jusqu'à trois. Si vous pensez qu'aucune n'aurait un impact positif, n'en sélectionnez pas.)

### Protéger les Canadiens

- Mettre fin aux offres à l'aveugle (*les offres à l'aveugle sont celles où les acheteurs ne connaissent pas l'offre des autres*).
- Créer des pénalités fiscales pour empêcher les propriétaires de procéder à des « réno-évictions » (*une réno-éviction survient lorsqu'un propriétaire évince un locataire en prétextant qu'il effectuera des rénovations majeures*).
- Interdire aux non-Canadiens d'acheter des propriétés résidentielles au Canada pour une période de deux ans.

- De nouvelles règles fiscales visant à décourager les opérations immobilières de vente-achat (flip immobilier).
- Rendre les cessions de contrat de vente de logements neufs et rénovés taxables afin de dissuader les spéculateurs d'acheter des propriétés résidentielles et de les laisser vacantes (*une cession de contrat de vente est une opération par laquelle un vendeur vend ses intérêts dans une propriété avant d'en prendre possession*).

#### LE MODÉRATEUR PASSERA EN REVUE LES CHOIX

- Parmi ces éléments est-ce qu'il y en a qui vous toucheraient personnellement ?
- Y a-t-il quelque chose dans cette section que le gouvernement du Canada ne devrait pas faire ?

#### **Les principaux enjeux en matière de logement** Personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique

Maintenant, je voudrais parler de logement...

- Le gouvernement du Canada a-t-il fait quelque chose pour traiter des enjeux liés au logement ?
  - SI OUI : Qu'a-t-il fait ?
- Quels sont les principaux enjeux en matière de logement dans le Lower Mainland?

POUR CHACUN DES ENJEUX MENTIONNÉS :

- Et quelles sont les solutions à cet enjeu ? Que souhaiteriez-vous que le gouvernement du Canada fasse pour y remédier ?

#### **LA RELATION AVEC LA CHINE (20 minutes)** Diaspora chinoise de la RGTH (excluant la ville de Toronto)

- Comment décririez-vous la relation actuelle du Canada avec la Chine ?
- Comment cette relation a-t-elle changé ?
- À quoi vous attendez-vous quant au développement de cette relation ?
- Que souhaiteriez-vous que le Canada fasse de cette relation ?



- Le Canada devrait-il essayer d'établir des liens plus étroits ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?
- Le Canada devrait-il essayer d'approfondir ses relations commerciales avec la Chine ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?

**PERSPECTIVES SUR LA COVID-19 ET LES VACCINS (15-30 minutes)** Centres de petite et moyenne taille de l'Alberta, personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique, jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, personnes âgées de la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent du Québec, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies

Je voudrais maintenant parler de COVID-19...

- Centres de petite et moyenne taille de l'Alberta, jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, personnes âgées de la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent du Québec Pensez-vous que le pire de la COVID-19 est derrière nous, ou pensez-vous que nous pouvons nous attendre à une autre vague ?
  - Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard Dans quelle mesure est-ce que contracter la COVID-19 vous préoccupe-t-il, le cas échéant ?
- Centres de petite et moyenne taille de l'Alberta Et si l'on se projette dans un an, pensez-vous que nous ne serons plus en situation de pandémie, ou pensez-vous que la COVID-19 sera encore un problème ?
- Centres de petite et moyenne taille de l'Alberta Avec une réouverture qui s'amorce et l'été qui arrive, de plus en plus de Canadiennes et de Canadiens voyagent. Pensez-vous que les diverses exigences de voyage liées à la COVID-19 sont toujours nécessaires (il s'agit de choses comme la preuve de vaccination, le port du masque dans les aéroports et les avions, les tests aléatoires de dépistage de la COVID-19 à l'arrivée au Canada) ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?
- Centres de petite et moyenne taille de l'Alberta Diverses mesures de santé publique ont changé au cours de la pandémie (comme le port du masque obligatoire ou les limites de capacité d'accueil). Les mesures de santé publique changeantes influencent-elles votre opinion sur les avantages de la vaccination contre la COVID-19 ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?
- Centres de petite et moyenne taille de l'Alberta Pensez-vous qu'il est important de prévenir les infections et les maladies graves par le biais de la vaccination et des rappels, ou êtes-vous à l'aise avec la possibilité de devenir infecté ?

- **Centres de petite et moyenne taille de l'Alberta** Quelles sont vos préoccupations quant à la sécurité du vaccin contre la COVID-19, le cas échéant ?
- **Centres de petite et moyenne taille de l'Alberta, personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique** Les impacts potentiels à long terme des vaccins vous préoccupent-ils ?
  - SONDER POUR : Qu'est-ce qui vous préoccupe le plus ?
- **Centres de petite et moyenne taille de l'Alberta** Avec le recul, êtes-vous à l'aise avec votre décision de vous faire vacciner ou de ne pas vous faire vacciner ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?

**Personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique** Lorsqu'on vous a invité à participer à ce groupe, vous avez indiqué avoir reçu deux doses de vaccin contre la COVID-19.

- **Personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique** Qu'est-ce qui a fait que vous avez décidé de vous faire vacciner ?
- **Personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique** Dans l'ensemble, êtes-vous à l'aise avec votre décision de vous faire vacciner avec deux doses ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?
- **Personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique** Y en a-t-il parmi vous qui ont pris un rendez-vous pour recevoir une troisième dose de vaccin contre la COVID-19 ?
  - SI OUI : Pourquoi avez-vous décidé de recevoir une troisième dose ?
  - SI NON : Prévoyez-vous de recevoir une troisième dose ou non ?
    - SI OUI : Quand prévoyez-vous de recevoir la troisième dose ? Y a-t-il une raison pour laquelle vous attendez/n'avez pas encore pris de rendez-vous ?
    - SI NON : Quelles sont vos hésitations quant à recevoir une troisième dose ?
- **Personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique** Pour celles et ceux d'entre vous qui attendent ou qui hésitent à recevoir une troisième dose, y a-t-il des questions liées aux vaccins contre la COVID-19 en général, ou à la troisième dose en particulier, auxquelles vous aimeriez obtenir des réponses ?

- **Personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique** De quelles autres informations avez-vous besoin pour vous aider dans votre décision quant à recevoir une troisième dose ?
- **Personnes ayant reçu deux doses de vaccin COVID-19 du Lower Mainland de la Colombie-Britannique** Que vous prévoyez de recevoir une troisième dose ou non, quelles préoccupations avez-vous concernant la sécurité du vaccin contre la COVID-19, le cas échéant ?
- **Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard** Comment décririez-vous la façon dont le gouvernement du Canada a géré la pandémie ?
- **Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard** Pensez-vous que les exigences de voyage liées à la COVID-19 sont toujours nécessaires (p. ex. la preuve de vaccination ou le port du masque dans les aéroports et les avions) ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?
- **Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard** Comment décririez-vous l'impact des mesures de santé publique au Canada ?
- **Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard** Seriez-vous favorable ou vous opposeriez-vous à la réintroduction de mesures de santé publique en cas d'une nouvelle flambée ?
- **Personnes âgées de la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent du Québec** Pensez-vous que la COVID-19 est généralement maîtrisée à ce stade, ou non ?
- **Personnes âgées de la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent du Québec, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies** Que pensez-vous des mesures de santé publique qui sont en place dans votre région actuellement ?
  - Faut-il lever toutes les mesures, en mettre d'autres en place, ou bien les mesures actuelles sont-elles suffisantes ?
- **Diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies** Dans l'ensemble, le gouvernement du Canada a-t-il été généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie quant à sa gestion de la pandémie ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?
- **Diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies** En 2020, des mesures de santé publique telles que le lavage des mains, le port du masque et la distanciation sociale furent introduites

pour aider à contrôler la propagation de la COVID-19. Quel genre d'impact ces mesures de santé publique ont-elles eu, selon vous ?

- **Diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies** À l'avenir, si des mesures de santé publique devaient être réintroduites advenant une autre flambée de COVID-19, seriez-vous favorable ou vous opposeriez-vous à la réintroduction de ces mesures ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?

**ENJEUX LOCAUX (15-20 minutes)** **Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Nord de l'Ontario, Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick**

**Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick** Je voudrais maintenant me concentrer sur votre communauté locale.

- **Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard** Quels sont les secteurs et les industries dans lesquels vous travaillez actuellement ou prévoyez travailler ou étudiez pour pouvoir y travailler ?
  - Y a-t-il des emplois que vous pourriez obtenir dans ces secteurs ou industries à l'Î.-P.-É. ou serait-il nécessaire pour vous de déménager ?
- Quels sont les plus importants secteurs et industries [dans votre communauté locale/dans le Nord de l'Ontario/au Nouveau-Brunswick]?
  - **Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard** Qu'en est-il de la pêche ?
    - Comment décririez-vous l'état actuel de l'industrie de la pêche à l'Î.-P.-É. ?
    - Envisageriez-vous de travailler dans l'industrie de la pêche ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?
  - **Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard** Qu'en est-il de l'agriculture ?
    - Comment décririez-vous l'état actuel de l'industrie agricole à l'Î.-P.-É. ?
    - Envisageriez-vous de travailler dans l'industrie agricole ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?
- **Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick** Quels sont, selon vous, les secteurs et les industries [dans votre communauté locale/au Nouveau-Brunswick] qui ont le plus besoin d'aide ?
- **Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard** Quels sont les secteurs et les industries auxquels vous souhaiteriez que le gouvernement du Canada accorde une priorité ?

**Sud-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick** NOTE AU MODÉRATEUR : Pour deux ou trois des secteurs importants cités, demander si le gouvernement du Canada a fait quoi que ce soit pour soutenir ce secteur. Qu'est-ce que le gouvernement du Canada devrait faire de plus pour soutenir ces secteurs ?

**L'exploitation minière Nord de l'Ontario**

- Quels sont, selon vous, les secteurs et les industries dans le Nord de l'Ontario qui ont le plus besoin d'aide ?

NOTE AU MODÉRATEUR : Pour deux ou trois des secteurs importants cités, demander si le gouvernement du Canada a fait quoi que ce soit pour soutenir ce secteur. Qu'est-ce que le gouvernement du Canada devrait faire de plus pour soutenir ces secteurs ?

- SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : En ce qui concerne l'exploitation minière dans le Nord de l'Ontario, êtes-vous au courant de ce que le gouvernement du Canada a fait pour soutenir ce secteur ?
  - Qu'est-ce que le gouvernement du Canada devrait faire d'autre pour soutenir le secteur minier ?
- Avez-vous entendu quelque chose au sujet du Cercle de feu ?
  - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous entendu ? Pouvez-vous expliquer ce que c'est ?

**ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN :**

Le Cercle de feu est situé à environ 500 kilomètres au nord-est de Thunder Bay et couvre une superficie d'environ 5 000 kilomètres carrés. La région offre des possibilités à long terme pour ce qui est de la production des minéraux suivants : le chromite, le cobalt, le nickel, le cuivre et le platine.

- Quelle est votre opinion sur le Cercle de feu ?
  - Y voyez-vous des avantages à développer le Cercle de feu ?
  - Avez-vous de quelconques préoccupations ?

**L'ENJEU DE LA POMME DE TERRE DE L'Î.-P.-É. (20 minutes) Jeunes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard**

- Qu'avez-vous entendu, vu ou lu au sujet des récents développements liés au commerce de la pomme de terre de l'Î.-P.-É. ?

**ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN :**

En octobre dernier, les États-Unis ont demandé à l'Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments (ACIA), une agence du gouvernement du Canada, de suspendre la délivrance de certificats d'exportation pour les pommes de terre de l'Î.-P.-É. en raison de la plus récente détection de la galle verruqueuse de la pomme de terre. Le 22 novembre 2021, les États-Unis ont donné l'ordre à leurs agents frontaliers de refuser l'entrée des cargaisons de pommes de terre de l'Î.-P.-É., indépendamment de la certification de l'ACIA. En avril 2022, les exportations de pommes de terre vers les États-Unis ont repris.

- Qui était au courant de cet enjeu ?
- Quelle a été l'ampleur de l'impact, si impact il y a eu, à l'Î.-P.-É. ?
- Dans quelle mesure est-ce un enjeu important, le cas échéant, à l'Î.-P.-É. aujourd'hui ?
- Est-ce que quelqu'un a été personnellement touché par la suspension des exportations ?
- En fonction de ce que vous savez, comment le gouvernement du Canada a-t-il géré cet enjeu ?

#### **ENJEUX LIÉS AUX AÎNÉS (45 minutes) Personnes âgées de la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent du Québec**

Maintenant, je voudrais que l'on se concentre sur un autre sujet.

- Quel est l'enjeu le plus important pour vous personnellement et celui sur lequel vous estimez que le gouvernement du Canada devrait se concentrer le plus ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?
- Et quel est l'enjeu le plus important auquel les aînés en général sont confrontés en ce moment et auquel le gouvernement du Canada devrait accorder plus d'attention ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?
- Avez-vous entendu quoi que ce soit sur ce que le gouvernement du Canada a fait récemment pour soutenir les aînés ?
- Diriez-vous que le gouvernement fédéral est généralement sur la bonne voie en ce qui concerne les aînés ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ? Qu'est-ce que ça prendrait pour le mettre sur la bonne voie ?
- Quelle est habituellement la première source des nouvelles que vous entendez ?

- Et maintenant, si vous songez à l'information en général qui concerne le gouvernement du Canada, y compris les politiques qu'il met en œuvre ou les actions qu'il prend, cherchez-vous activement ce genre d'information ?
  - SI OUI : Où cherchez-vous pour trouver ce genre d'information ?
- Dans l'ensemble, pensez-vous que le gouvernement du Canada fait un effort pour être à l'écoute des aînés ? Selon vous, accorde-t-il une priorité aux aînés lorsqu'il prend des décisions ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?
  - Que pourrait faire le gouvernement du Canada pour joindre plus efficacement les aînés ?
- Y en a-t-il parmi vous qui reçoivent la pension de la Sécurité de la vieillesse (SV), qui est un paiement mensuel que vous pouvez obtenir si vous avez 65 ans et plus ?
  - NOTE AU MODÉRATEUR : Cela diffère du Régime de pensions du Canada (RPC), qui assure un remplacement partiel du revenu au moment de la retraite.
  - SI OUI : Qu'en est-il du Supplément de revenu garanti (SRG) ? Ceci est un paiement mensuel pour certaines personnes qui reçoivent la SV.

**POUR LES BÉNÉFICIAIRES DU SRG OU DE LA SV :**

- Quelle a été votre expérience avec le SRG ou avec la SV ? Les paiements mensuels sont-ils suffisants ?
- Si vous pouviez apporter des changements soit au SRG, soit à la SV, lesquels leur apporteriez-vous, le cas échéant ?
  - SI NÉCESSAIRE : Par exemple, changeriez-vous qui est admissible à ces prestations, changeriez-vous le montant des paiements mensuels, etc. ?

**SONDAGE :** Je vais vous montrer une liste de mesures actuelles et potentielles destinées aux aînés que le gouvernement du Canada pourrait envisager. J'aimerais que vous choisissiez celles qui vous semblent les plus importantes. Vous pouvez en choisir jusqu'à trois ; n'en sélectionnez pas si vous pensez qu'aucune n'est importante.

**AFFICHER À L'ÉCRAN :**

- Aider les organismes communautaires à fournir un soutien pour aider les aînés à faibles revenus ou autrement vulnérables à vivre chez eux aussi longtemps que possible.
- Créer un comité d'experts chargé de formuler des recommandations sur la mise en œuvre d'une allocation Vieillir chez soi (*l'objectif serait d'aider les aînés à demeurer dans leur propre domicile alors qu'ils vieillissent*).

- Continuer de diriger les travaux portant sur les programmes destinés aux aînés, ce qui comprend le programme Nouveaux Horizons pour les aînés (*ce programme offre un soutien financier pour la réalisation de projets exerçant une influence positive sur la vie des aînés et dans leur collectivité*). (NOTE AU MODÉRATEUR : Les projets qui peuvent bénéficier d'un financement sont ceux qui ont comme objectif de favoriser le vieillissement en santé, prévenir la maltraitance envers les aînés, célébrer la diversité et promouvoir l'inclusion et aider les aînés à vieillir chez eux.)
- S'assurer que l'admissibilité des aînés au SRG n'est pas affectée négativement s'ils ont reçu la Prestation canadienne d'urgence (PCU) et la Prestation canadienne de la relance économique (PCRE).
- Améliorer la qualité et la disponibilité des établissements et des lits de soins de longue durée (*cela comprend travailler avec les provinces et territoires pour améliorer les mesures de prévention et de contrôle des infections, définir les principes communs et élaborer des normes nationales afin que les aînés reçoivent les soins qu'ils méritent*).
- Augmenter le Supplément de revenu garanti de 500 \$ pour les aînés vivant seuls et de 750 \$ pour les couples (par année), à compter de l'âge de 65 ans.
- Fournir aux aînés un point d'accès unique à un vaste éventail de services et de prestations du gouvernement (NOTE AU MODÉRATEUR : On pourrait appeler un seul numéro 1-800 pour obtenir des informations sur un programme comme le RPC ou bien la SV sans avoir à faire séparément des appels pour chacun d'entre eux).
- Renforcer l'approche du Canada à l'égard de la maltraitance des personnes âgées (*y compris mettre la dernière main à la définition nationale des mauvais traitements infligés aux aînés, en investissant des fonds pour améliorer la collecte de données, et en établissant dans le Code criminel de nouvelles infractions et de nouvelles sanctions liées à la maltraitance des aînés*).

#### LE MODÉRATEUR PASSERA EN REVUE LES CHOIX

- Y a-t-il parmi ces mesures certaines auxquelles le gouvernement fédéral ne devrait pas donner suite ? Pourquoi ?

#### **Le programme iVZE (15 minutes)** Nord de l'Ontario, diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies

- Est-ce que quelqu'un a entendu parler du programme d'Incitatifs pour l'achat de véhicules zéro émission (iVZE) du gouvernement du Canada ?



#### ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN :

Le programme iVZE offre un incitatif au point de vente aux consommateurs qui achètent ou louent un véhicule zéro émission qui répond aux exigences du programme. Tout comme les divers véhicules de passagers, les minifourgonnettes, et ainsi de suite, le programme s'applique également aux camionnettes dont le prix de détail suggéré par le fabricant (PDSF) du modèle de base est moins de 60 000 \$. Seuls les VZE neufs sont admissibles à l'incitatif fédéral.

- Que pensez-vous de ce programme, notamment en ce qui concerne les camionnettes ?
- Que pensez-vous du critère de prix (c.-à-d. un PDSF de moins de 60 000 \$) ?
  - Pensez-vous qu'il existe des camionnettes VZE fiables dans cette fourchette de prix ?
  - Ce type de programme vous intéresse-t-il ?
  - Envisageriez-vous un jour d'acheter une camionnette à zéro émission ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?

#### **REVENU DE BASE UNIVERSEL (10 minutes) Nord de l'Ontario**

- Y en a-t-il parmi vous qui connaissez le concept du revenu de base universel ? En quoi consiste-t-il ?

#### ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN :

Le revenu de base universel (RBU) est un programme gouvernemental selon lequel chaque adulte reçoit régulièrement une somme d'argent fixe. L'idée est de fournir à tout un chacun un niveau de revenu qui lui permettra de satisfaire ses besoins de base tels que la nourriture, le logement et les vêtements.

- Avez-vous entendu quelque chose au sujet du projet pilote provincial portant sur le revenu de base qui existait auparavant à Thunder Bay ?
- Pensez-vous que d'autres projets pilotes sur le revenu de base devraient être envisagés ? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas ?
- Certaines personnes affirment que ce type de supplément de revenu aiderait les Canadiennes et les Canadiens qui ont actuellement du mal à faire face à l'augmentation du coût de la vie, tandis que d'autres craignent que l'injection supplémentaire d'argent dans l'économie entraîne une hausse des prix et aggrave l'inflation. Selon vous, laquelle de ces positions serait la plus vraie ?

**L'IMMIGRATION (15 minutes) Diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies**

Je voudrais maintenant parler de notre système d'immigration...

- En général, le gouvernement du Canada est-il sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie en matière d'immigration ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?
- Quels sont les plus grands enjeux en matière d'immigration ?
  - SI CE N'EST PAS SOULEVÉ : Qu'en est-il des délais de traitement — est-ce un enjeu ?
- Que devrait faire le gouvernement du Canada pour améliorer le système d'immigration ?

**LA RECONNAISSANCE DES TITRES DE COMPÉTENCES ÉTRANGERS (15 minutes) Diaspora philippine des grands centres des Prairies**

Je voudrais parler d'enjeux liés à l'emploi...

- Avez-vous entendu parler de l'un des termes suivants : déprofessionnalisation, sous-emploi ou reconnaissance des titres de compétences étrangers ?
  - Notamment, comment expliqueriez-vous ce qu'est la reconnaissance des titres de compétences étrangers ?

**ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN :**

La reconnaissance des titres de compétences étrangers signifie que les nouveaux arrivants doivent faire reconnaître les permis et les certificats qu'ils ont acquis à l'extérieur du Canada avant de pouvoir exercer certains emplois au pays. Chaque province et territoire peut délivrer des permis d'exercice aux personnes qui respectent leurs normes professionnelles. Les exigences peuvent varier d'un endroit à l'autre au Canada.

Parmi les exemples d'emplois dans les professions réglementées figurent les comptables, les architectes, les charpentiers, les médecins, les électriciens et les soudeurs.

- La reconnaissance des titres de compétences étrangers représente-t-elle un enjeu important ?
  - Cela touche-t-il personnellement quelqu'un d'entre vous ou des membres de votre famille ?
- Qu'en est-il du sous-emploi de manière plus générale ? S'agit-il d'un grand enjeu ?

- SI NÉCESSAIRE : Le sous-emploi comprend les travailleurs hautement qualifiés, mais qui occupent des emplois peu rémunérés ou peu spécialisés, et les travailleurs à temps partiel qui préféreraient travailler à temps plein.
- Que devrait faire le gouvernement du Canada, le cas échéant, pour s'attaquer à ces enjeux ?

### **LES FORCES ARMÉES CANADIENNES (20 minutes) Militaires actifs et vétérans de l'île de Vancouver**

Je voudrais passer à une discussion sur les Forces armées canadiennes (FAC)...

- Que pensez-vous de la contribution des FAC dans le monde et au pays ?
  - SONDER SI NÉCESSAIRE : Avez-vous un sentiment de fierté ? Pensez-vous que le Canada doit en faire plus de manière générale, en faire moins de manière générale, ou en faire plus quant à certaines activités et moins quant à d'autres ?
- Qu'est-ce qui fonctionne bien actuellement dans les FAC ?
- Qu'est-ce qui doit être amélioré ?
  - SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Qu'en est-il de l'équipement militaire ?

POUR LES ENJEUX PRINCIPAUX QUI SONT SOULEVÉS :

- Qu'est-ce qui fait que cela est un enjeu ?
- Qu'a fait le gouvernement fédéral pour traiter cet enjeu ?
- Que devrait faire le gouvernement du Canada pour remédier à cet enjeu ?
- Qu'en est-il du racisme et de l'inconduite au sein des FAC — s'agit-il d'un enjeu important ?
- Quel travail, le cas échéant, le gouvernement fédéral a-t-il entrepris pour remédier à cet enjeu ?
- À votre avis, les choses s'améliorent-elles à ce chapitre ?
  - SI NON : Pensez-vous que les choses vont s'améliorer ?

### **L'ITINÉRAIRE/LOGEMENTS POUR LES VÉTÉRANS (15 minutes) Militaires actifs et vétérans de l'île de Vancouver**

Je voudrais maintenant me pencher sur la question du logement...

- Lorsque vous pensez à divers enjeux, dans quelle mesure le coût de la vie et le coût du logement constituent-ils des enjeux de premier plan pour les membres actuels et anciens des FAC ?

- Pensez-vous que le gouvernement du Canada ou la direction des FAC doivent en faire plus à ce chapitre ?

Je voudrais maintenant me concentrer sur des enjeux susceptibles d'affecter spécifiquement les vétérans...

- À votre avis, quel genre d'enjeu représente l'itinérance pour les vétérans — est-ce un grand enjeu ?
- Qu'a fait le gouvernement fédéral pour remédier à cet enjeu ?
- Que devrait faire le gouvernement du Canada pour remédier à cet enjeu ?

**AVANTAGES ET SOUTIENS AUX MILITAIRES (15 minutes) Militaires actifs et vétérans de l'île de Vancouver**

- Êtes-vous au courant d'investissements de la part du gouvernement fédéral dans de nouveaux avantages et services pour les vétérans et leurs familles au cours des quelque cinq dernières années ?
  - SONDER SI NÉCESSAIRE : Il pourrait s'agir de choses telles que des programmes de prestations d'invalidité, d'avantages financiers, de réadaptation, de services de représentation et de conseils juridiques relativement aux pensions, d'éducation et de soutien à la formation.
- Est-ce que quelqu'un a essayé d'avoir accès à certains avantages ou services ?
  - SI OUI : Quelle fut votre expérience avec le processus de demande ?
- Est-ce que quelqu'un est au courant de l'aide offerte par le gouvernement du Canada pour les vétérans qui réintègrent la vie civile ?
  - SI OUI : Quel type d'aide est disponible ?
- Avez-vous des suggestions sur la façon d'améliorer le soutien à la réintégration ?

**LE JOUR DU SOUVENIR (5 minutes) Militaires actifs et vétérans de l'île de Vancouver**

Et en dernier lieu, j'aimerais parler un peu du jour du Souvenir...

Certaines personnes ont dit que le thème du jour du Souvenir devrait être élargi pour y inclure beaucoup plus au sujet de celles et ceux qui ont servi après la guerre de Corée, y compris les personnes qui ont servi pendant la guerre froide, dans le cadre de missions de maintien de la paix, de missions au pays, et ainsi de suite.

- Qu'en pensez-vous ?

**JEUNES AUTOCHTONES PRIS EN CHARGE (45 minutes) Peuples autochtones des centres de taille moyenne et grande du Québec**

- Est-ce que quelqu'un a vu, lu ou entendu quoi que ce soit au cours des deux dernières années au sujet d'une nouvelle loi du gouvernement du Canada qui vise à réduire le nombre d'enfants et de jeunes autochtones pris en charge et à améliorer les services à l'enfance et à la famille (également connue sous le nom de projet de loi C-92) ?
  - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous entendu ?

**AFFICHER À L'ÉCRAN :**

Élaborée conjointement avec les partenaires autochtones, provinciaux et territoriaux, la loi :

- affirme les droits des Premières Nations, des Inuits et des Métis d'exercer leur autorité sur les services à l'enfance et à la famille ;
  - établit des principes nationaux tels que l'intérêt supérieur de l'enfant, la préservation des traditions culturelles historiques et la lutte contre les inégalités ;
  - contribue à la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones ;
  - donne aux Autochtones l'occasion de choisir leurs propres solutions pour les enfants et les familles de leur communauté.
- Qu'en pensez-vous ?
    - Pensez-vous que cette loi aidera les enfants et les jeunes autochtones ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?

Maintenant, je vais vous montrer certaines choses que la loi est censée faire, et recueillir vos réactions...

**AFFICHER À L'ÉCRAN :**

5. Elle peut aider les enfants autochtones à rester dans leur famille et leur communauté.

6. Pour les enfants actuellement pris en charge, elle peut les aider à retourner dans leur famille.
7. Elle priorise l'importance pour les enfants autochtones de rester en contact avec leur langue, leur culture et leur communauté.
8. Les enfants ne peuvent pas être retirés de leur famille uniquement en raison de difficultés liées aux finances, à la santé ou au logement.

*LE MODÉRATEUR PASSERA EN REVUE CHACUN DES ÉLÉMENTS INDIVIDUELLEMENT ET DEMANDERA SI LES PARTICIPANT(E)S PENSENT QUE CELA SE PRODUIRA, ET POURQUOI OU POURQUOI PAS.*

- Êtes-vous au courant d'une entente conclue entre le gouvernement du Canada et la Première nation de Cowessess (dans le sud de la Saskatchewan) concernant des mesures de soutien aux services à l'enfance et à la famille ? Qu'avez-vous entendu ?

**ÉCLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN :**

Dans le cadre de l'accord, le gouvernement du Canada investira 38,7 millions de dollars au cours des deux prochaines années pour aider la Première Nation de Cowessess à mettre en place son système de services à l'enfance et à la famille.

- Que pensez-vous de cet accord ?
- Pensez-vous que le gouvernement du Canada devrait poursuivre avec cette approche, c'est-à-dire qu'il devrait essayer de conclure des accords avec d'autres communautés autochtones pour que celles-ci mettent en place leurs propres systèmes de services à l'enfance et à la famille ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?
  - Pensez-vous que cette approche est une façon de s'assurer que la nouvelle loi réussit à améliorer les services à l'enfance et à la famille ? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela ?

**CONCLUSION (5 minutes) Tous les lieux**

- Avant de conclure, y a-t-il autre chose que vous souhaiteriez dire au gouvernement fédéral ? Il peut s'agir de précisions sur les sujets abordés aujourd'hui ou d'un sujet que vous jugez important, mais dont nous n'avons pas discuté.