



Government
of Canada

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du Canada

Continuous Qualitative Data Collection of Canadians' Views – February 2024

Final Report

Prepared for the Privy Council Office

Supplier name: The Strategic Counsel

Contract number: CW2241412

Contract value: \$814,741.30

Award date: December 19, 2022

Delivery date: March 19, 2024

Registration number: POR- 053-22

For more information on this report, please email por-rop@pco-bcp.ca

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 tenth cycle of the first year of this study included a total of eight focus groups with Canadian adults (18 years of age and older) conducted between February 7th, 2024, and February 28th, 2024.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sous le titre : Rapport final - Collecte continue de données qualitatives sur les opinions des Canadiens – février 2024.

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Catalogue Number:

CP12-4E-PDF

International Standard Serial Number (ISSN):

ISSN 2816-9360

Related publications (registration number: POR-053-22):

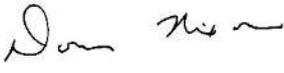
CP12-4F-PDF (Final Report, French)

ISSN 2816-9379

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: March 19, 2024

Donna Nixon, Partner
The Strategic Counsel

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	3
Methodology.....	4
Key Findings.....	5
Government of Canada in the News (All Locations).....	5
Government of Canada Priorities and Performance (Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid, Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora, Mauricie Region Quebec).....	6
The Economy (Southwestern Ontario, Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care, Mauricie Region Quebec).....	7
Housing (Southwestern Ontario, Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Major Priority, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students).....	9
Housing Supply (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students).....	9
Budget 2024 (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students).....	10
Health Care (Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Top Priority).....	11
Child Care (Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care).....	12
Energy Outlook (Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid).....	13
Climate Change (Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mauricie Region Quebec).....	14
Hydrogen-Based Energy (Mauricie Region Quebec).....	14
Immigration (Quebec City).....	15
Ukraine (Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora).....	16
Post-Secondary Issues (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students).....	17
Auto Theft (Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Top Priority).....	18
Community Challenges (Quebec City, Mauricie Region Quebec).....	18
Detailed Findings.....	21
Timeline of February 2024 Announcements.....	22
Government of Canada in the News (All Locations).....	24
Government of Canada Priorities and Performance (Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid, Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora, Mauricie Region Quebec).....	25
Electric Vehicle Manufacturing (Mauricie Region Quebec).....	28
The Economy (Southwestern Ontario, Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care, Mauricie Region Quebec).....	28
Jobs (Southwestern Ontario).....	29

Cost of Living for Parents (Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care)	30
Housing (Southwestern Ontario, Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Major Priority, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students).....	32
Housing Affordability Measures (Southwestern Ontario, Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Major Priority)	32
Housing Supply (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students).....	33
Budget 2024 (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students)	34
Health Care (Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Top Priority)	36
Child Care (Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care)	38
Energy Outlook (Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid).....	39
Climate Change (Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mauricie Region Quebec).....	42
Hydrogen-Based Energy (Mauricie Region Quebec).....	43
Immigration (Quebec City).....	44
Ukraine (Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora)	45
Post-Secondary Issues (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students).....	49
Auto Theft (Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Top Priority)	50
Community Challenges (Quebec City, Mauricie Region Quebec).....	51
Appendices.....	53
Appendix A – Recruiting Scripts	54
English Recruiting Script	55
French Recruiting Script	67
Appendix B – Discussion Guides.....	75
English Moderator’s Guide.....	76
French Moderator’s Guide	100

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 eight online focus groups which were conducted between February 7th, 2024, and February 28th, 2024, in multiple locations across the country. Details concerning the locations, recruitment, and composition of the groups are provided in the section below.

The research for this cycle focused largely on the Government of Canada's priorities and performance on a range of issues important to Canadians. All groups also engaged in discussions regarding what they had seen, read, or heard about the federal government as of late.

This research cycle also explored a range of issues related to climate change, Canada's energy outlook, electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing, and the production of hydrogen-based energy. Several groups engaged in discussions related to housing, with some participating in specific conversations related to housing affordability measures introduced by the federal government as well as actions that it had taken to increase the supply of available housing. Focusing on the economy, the group based in Southwestern Ontario shared their perspectives on the employment market, while others took part in discussions related to the cost of living. Ontario parents with children in child care or who were seeking child care shared their perspectives on the current state of child care, while Ontarians who identified healthcare as a top priority discussed the quality and accessibility of the health care system in their area. Additionally, members of the Ukrainian diaspora residing in mid-size and major centres in Saskatchewan took part in a detailed discussion related to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Other topics explored in this cycle included immigration, post-secondary issues, auto theft, the upcoming 2024 federal Budget, and community challenges.

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 Albertans concerned about the energy grid, residents of Ontario who identified health care as a top priority, parents with children in child care or who were seeking child care, post-secondary students, and members of the Ukrainian diaspora.

Detailed Approach

- Eight groups across various regions in Canada.
- Three groups were conducted among the general population residing in Southwestern Ontario, Quebec City, and the Mauricie region of Quebec.
- The other five groups were conducted with key subgroups including:
 - Albertans concerned about the energy grid;
 - Ontarians who identified health care as a top priority;
 - Parents with children in child care or who were seeking child care;
 - Post-secondary students; and,
 - Members of the Ukrainian diaspora.
- The two groups based in Quebec were conducted in French. 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, 59 participants attended, in total. Details on attendance numbers by group can be found below.
- Each participant received an honorarium of \$125.

Group Locations and Composition

LOCATION	GROUP	LANGUAGE	DATE	TIME (EDT)	GROUP COMPOSITION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Southwestern Ontario	1	EN	Wed, Feb 7 th	6:00-8:00 PM	General Population	8
Alberta	2	EN	Thurs, Feb 8 th	8:00-10:00 PM	Albertans Concerned About the Energy Grid	7
Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario	3	EN	Tues, Feb 13 th	6:00-8:00 PM	Ontarians who say Healthcare is their top Priority	8
Ontario	4	EN	Tues, Feb 20 th	6:00-8:00 PM	Parents with Children in or Seeking Child Care	8
Quebec City	5	FR	Wed, Feb 21 st	6:00-8:00 PM	General Population	7
Vancouver Island	6	EN	Thurs, Feb 22 nd	9:00-11:00 PM	Post-Secondary Students	8
Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan	7	EN	Tues, Feb 27 th	7:00-9:00 PM	Ukrainian Diaspora	7
Mauricie Region	8	FR	Wed, Feb 28 th	6:00-8:00 PM	General Population	6
Total number of participants						59

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. A wide range of announcements and initiatives were recalled, including the announcement of details related to the roll-out of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), the hosting by the Government of Canada of a National Summit on Combatting Auto Theft, ongoing discussions related to the costs incurred during the development and implementation of the ArriveCan app, and the announcement by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) that it would be setting an intake cap on international student study permit applications for a period of two years.

Participants also recalled activities related to the Government of Canada on the international stage. These included the ongoing provision of humanitarian support to civilians in Israel, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank as well as the recent visit by the Prime Minister and other federal officials to Kyiv, Ukraine to announce a commitment of \$3 billion in financial and military assistance to Ukraine in 2024. Asked an additional question as to how they felt about this additional support for Ukraine, all in the

group comprised of members of the Ukrainian diaspora felt that this was an important action to take, while almost all in the Mauricie region of Quebec expressed concerns related to the potential negative financial impacts this action could have on Canadians and the cost of living.

Government of Canada Priorities and Performance (Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid, Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora, Mauricie Region Quebec)

Seven groups took part in conversations related to the issues currently facing Canadians as well as their perspectives regarding the federal government's management of these priorities. Participants were asked to identify areas in which they felt the Government of Canada was performing well and areas where they felt there was room for improvement. On a number of issues participants expressed a range of positive and negative views. These included immigration, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and the level of assistance provided to countries such as Ukraine as well as to humanitarian initiatives in other parts of the world.

Participants also mentioned a number of areas where they felt that the Government of Canada had performed well, including the provision of benefits and supports for Canadians, the protection and promotion of diversity and multiculturalism, and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, participants identified a range of areas in which they believed the Government of Canada had room for improvement. These included the perceived high cost of living at present, a lack of affordable housing in many parts of the country, issues related to health care, combatting and mitigating the impacts of climate change, and support for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

Prompted to identify what they viewed as the most important priority areas for the Government of Canada to be focusing on, many reiterated the need for a greater emphasis to be placed on addressing issues related to inflation and the cost of living, health care, housing affordability, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Other important priority areas mentioned by participants included the need for further investments in education, stabilizing the rate of immigration, building new infrastructure (such as roadways and public transportation), and reducing federal spending.

Electric Vehicle Manufacturing (Mauricie Region Quebec)

Participants in the Mauricie region of Quebec engaged in an additional discussion related to the federal government's performance in supporting the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing sector. Asked whether they felt the Government of Canada was headed in the right or wrong direction on this front, almost all felt that it was on the wrong track, while a smaller number were more undecided in their opinions. Several believed that while investments had been made by the federal government towards the building of more EVs in Canada, these vehicles had remained prohibitively expensive for a large portion of Canadians and that far more needed to be done to make EVs more affordable for lower- and middle-income households. A number also believed that increased investments needed to be



made towards the construction of EV infrastructure such as charging stations as well as to strengthen the electricity grid to prepare for the increased demand wider EV use would likely place on it.

Asked whether they felt the Government of Canada was on the right or wrong track when it came to supporting the clean energy sector, most were uncertain, with many feeling that they did not know enough about its activities on this front to provide a proper evaluation. Among the smaller number who said that the federal government was on the right track, it was felt that investments in clean energy, such as hydroelectricity, had been effective in their region, and had also been beneficial for the environment.

The Economy (Southwestern Ontario, Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care, Mauricie Region Quebec)

Three groups engaged in discussions related to the Canadian economy, focusing on issues such as the employment market, the cost of living, and perspectives related to the Government of Canada's management of the economy.

At the beginning of their conversations, participants in Southwestern Ontario and the Mauricie region of Quebec were asked how they would describe the state of the economy at present and whether they felt the federal government was headed in the right or wrong direction in its handling of the economy in recent years. A roughly equal number felt that the Government of Canada was on the wrong track on this front as those who were more uncertain in their opinions. No participants felt that it was on the right track.

Discussing additional measures that they believed the Government of Canada should take related to the economy, participants suggested actions such as providing increased financial supports to lower-income households, taking further action to expedite the construction of new housing (including for vulnerable groups such as seniors), and placing an increased focus on modernizing the technology used in Canadian factories.

Jobs (Southwestern Ontario)

Participants in Southwestern Ontario were asked a series of questions related to the employment market in their respective communities and their expectations regarding how the job market in Canada would evolve in the next five to ten years. Asked to identify the most important industries in their local areas, participants mentioned sectors such as automotive manufacturing, agriculture, and transportation. Discussing potential economic challenges in their area, some expressed concerns related to the continued viability of locally produced agriculture. It was believed that many small farms were currently struggling financially, as well as facing challenges related to the impacts of climate change and the negative effect that this was believed to be having on crop yields.

Asked what industries they expected would be prioritized in the Canadian economy in the future, most believed that there would be a continued focus on agriculture and automotive manufacturing. It was also thought that there would likely be significant growth in the construction sector, with some of the

impression that the building of more residential housing was an urgent priority for municipalities such as London.

Focusing specifically on jobs, an equal number thought that the employment market was currently headed in the right direction as those who held a more mixed opinion. Several expressed the view that while there were currently a large number of job opportunities available in their area, most of the applicants lacked the skills or experience required for these positions. Discussing the types of skills that they expected would be in demand over the next decade, participants identified areas such as health care, information technology, software development, and artificial intelligence (AI).

Cost of Living for Parents (Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care)

Participants in the group comprised of parents in Ontario who either had children in child care or were in the process of finding child care took part in a conversation related to the cost of living and how it is currently impacting families with young children. Asked how they would describe the Government of Canada's management of the economy, almost all believed that it was currently headed in the wrong direction. Several were of the impression that many households were currently struggling with challenges related to the high cost of living, a lack of affordable housing, and increasing debt loads, and a number believed that perceived high levels of federal spending had served to further exacerbate these challenges.

Asked which economic issues concerned them the most as parents, many identified challenges related to inflation and the high cost of essentials such as groceries, clothing, and gasoline, and the increasing costs of education (including the cost of educational supports such as tutors as well as saving up for their children's post-secondary studies).

Providing examples of areas of their lives that had become less affordable in recent years, many reiterated the high cost of groceries and the increasing challenges they faced in providing nutritional food for their families. Other areas mentioned included the cost of vision care and eyeglasses for their children, the perceived high cost of formula for infants, and challenges related to affording recreational and extracurricular activities for their families. Several indicated having taken actions such as actively seeking out sales, purchasing off-brand groceries and clothing, and cutting down on dining at restaurants and travelling as ways of responding to the high cost of living at present.

All were aware of the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), and most had heard about the creation of the Canada Dental Benefit (CDB). Many expressed the view that these benefits were very helpful to Canadian families, including their own. Most, however, did not feel that these initiatives on their own would be sufficient to address the challenges related to affordability and the high cost of living, feeling that more urgent action would need to be taken by the Government of Canada to assist families going forward.



Housing (Southwestern Ontario, Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Major Priority, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students)

Participants in three groups took part in discussions related to housing. Conversations in the two groups based in Ontario focused on measures the Government of Canada was taking to make housing more affordable, while those residing on Vancouver Island discussed the housing situation in their own communities as well as a recent joint federal/provincial initiative to build more homes across British Columbia (B.C.).

Housing Affordability Measures (Southwestern Ontario, Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Top Priority)

Two groups engaged in conversations related to actions that the federal government was taking to make housing more affordable for Canadians. Asked if they had recently seen, read, or heard, anything from the Government of Canada related to housing, participants recalled a number of initiatives. These included the removal of the goods and services tax (GST) from the construction of new rental housing developments, the provision of increased funding through the Housing Accelerator Fund to assist municipalities in the building of new housing, the introduction of programs such as the First Home Savings Account (FHSA), and measures such as temporarily banning non-Canadians from purchasing residential property.

Asked what came to mind when they heard the phrase 'unlocking housing', most believed that this referred to the building of a greater number of affordable homes in Canadian communities. Several associated this phrase with actions to reduce or remove municipal zoning regulations that determine where and what types of housing communities can build. Discussing specific actions that could be taken on this front, participants believed that municipalities should consider adjusting zoning requirements to allow for increased densification, streamlining the building permitting process, and working to convert unused office and retail space into residential housing.

Discussing the effectiveness of the actions that the Government of Canada had taken thus far to unlock housing, several were of the impression that little progress had been made on this front and that the housing supply in their community had remained mostly unchanged. A number expressed the view that the effectiveness of these actions would be dependent on the cooperation of provincial and municipal governments and that it would take a concerted effort from all levels of government to make housing more affordable for Canadians going forward.

Housing Supply (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students)

Participants in the group comprised of post-secondary students living on Vancouver Island engaged in a brief conversation related to the housing situation in their communities and actions that could be taken to increase the supply of housing. All described the housing situation in their communities as very challenging at present, with a number viewing housing as having become prohibitively expensive in recent years, with few safe and affordable options available. Securing housing was believed to be especially difficult for students, who were perceived as typically having less available income to spend on housing compared to other cohorts of society.

Asked whether they had heard anything about the Government of Canada and the Government of B.C. working together to build more housing, none indicated that they had. Informed that the federal government had committed to working with the Government of B.C. by providing financial support towards the construction of thousands of new affordable rental homes, while a few felt that this represented a step in the right direction, most did not believe that this action would have a significant impact on the housing situation. Among participants, it was generally felt that until issues related to the unaffordability of housing were resolved, housing would remain out of reach for many lower- and middle-income Canadians.

Discussing additional actions that they would like to see from the federal government related to housing, participants suggested measures such as introducing stricter regulations on how much landlords can charge for and/or raise rent, implementing increased financial penalties for homeowners who leave their homes vacant, and providing greater financial supports to Canadians struggling with the cost of housing in their communities.

Budget 2024 (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students)

One group, comprised of post-secondary students residing on Vancouver Island, engaged in a conversation related to the federal government's annual Budget, which was scheduled to be tabled on April 16th, 2024. Asked how they felt the Canadian economy was currently performing overall, all were of the impression that it was facing considerable challenges, with a large number expressing concerns related to areas such as inflation, the perceived high cost of living, and what they viewed as a lack of well-paying jobs available to Canadians. Many thought that a greater emphasis needed to be placed by the Government of Canada on reducing the cost of living, increasing wages, and creating more full-time jobs in emerging sectors such as renewable energy production.

Participants engaged in an exercise where they were presented with a list of potential priority areas for the federal government to focus on in its upcoming Budget and asked to select which they felt would be most impactful towards improving the lives of Canadians. The priority of addressing affordability and the cost of living received the highest level of support among participants. It was felt that this was one of the most fundamental challenges facing Canadians at present and that addressing this area would likely help the largest number of people. Many also selected the goal of achieving long-term economic growth through investments in clean technology and energy and the initiative to make improvements to the health care system. A smaller number selected the initiatives to provide more opportunities for good careers, support the middle class, unlock pathways to the middle class, maintain a responsible plan for public spending, and raise taxes on the wealthiest Canadians.

Health Care (Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Top Priority)

Participants in the group comprised of individuals residing in mid-size and major centres in Ontario engaged in a discussion related to the health care system as well as a recently announced plan by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario aimed at improving health care provision in the province. Asked to describe the current state of the health care system in Canada, while many were of the impression that health care had remained relatively affordable and accessible for most Canadians, a number expressed concerns related to issues currently impacting the health care system in their area. These included the closures of emergency rooms in some communities, long wait times to receive emergency and primary care, a lack of available beds in hospitals, perceived widespread shortages of doctors and nurses, and difficulties in accessing appointments and/or procedures with specialists.

Describing their own experiences in accessing health care services, many reported having personally encountered long wait times and overcrowding at emergency rooms and walk-in clinics. Asked how they believed the quality of health care in their local area compared to other regions and provinces, most felt that it was significantly higher relative to many parts of the country. All, however, felt that major changes would be required to sustain the current level of care and to address the issues that they had identified earlier.

Asked what they felt was the role of the Government of Canada when it came to health care, all were of the impression that it was primarily to provide funding to the provinces and territories to assist them in delivering health care within their jurisdictions. A few believed that the federal government also worked to set national standards for the provinces and territories to follow to ensure that all Canadians were provided with a sufficient level of care. Discussing whether they had recently seen, read, or heard anything about actions that the federal government had taken related to health care, only a small number indicated that they had. Among these participants it was believed that agreements had been reached between the Government of Canada and the individual provinces and territories to increase the health care funding it provided so long as these additional funds were allocated towards certain priority areas.

Provided with information related to a recent agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to improve health care in Ontario by allocating federal health care funding towards increasing access to family doctors, reducing wait times, and hiring more healthcare workers, most reacted positively. Engaging in an exercise where they were shown a number of health care priority areas and asked which they felt would be most impactful towards improving health care in their region, the initiative to enhance access to primary care received the highest level of support among participants. Many also selected expanding the health care work force and reducing wait times and backlogs as important priorities, while only a small number selected the initiatives related to boosting mental health supports, making it easier for health care professionals to practice in Ontario, and improving health information management.

Asked whether they expected this plan would have a major, minor, or no impact on improving the quality of health care in Ontario, almost all felt that it would have a minor impact. While all supported this plan from the Government of Canada, most believed that its success would primarily be

determined by its implementation and how effectively these additional resources were allocated by provincial and territorial governments going forward.

Child Care (Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care)

One group, comprised of participants residing in Ontario who either had children in child care or who were currently seeking child care, engaged in a conversation related to the Government of Canada's recent work to lower the cost of child care. Asked how much they currently paid for child care (or how much they anticipated it would cost) participant responses ranged from \$350 to over \$1100 per month. All who had children enrolled in child care described it as representing a significant portion of their monthly household budget, with a number believing that they paid more for these services each month than they did towards other important areas such as groceries or their monthly car payments.

All felt that affordability and availability represented the most significant challenges related to child care at present. A large number of those who had secured child care spots (as well as those who were still searching) described the process as being very challenging, with a number reporting having been on waiting lists for over a year at some facilities.

Many felt that the quality of child care in their area had been below their expectations. It was felt by several that the quality and safety standards of many child care facilities had deteriorated in recent years, and that the provincial government had not been providing adequate oversight in this regard. Others expressed concerns related to the operating hours of local child care programs, believing that many facilities that had initially shortened their hours during the COVID-19 pandemic had since made these changes permanent, making it increasingly difficult for parents to balance their work commitments with caring for their children.

Informed that the Government of Canada had agreements in place with all provinces and territories to lower the cost of child care to an average of \$10/day and create 250,000 child care spaces across Canada by 2025-2026, all reacted positively to this information. Many, however, expressed uncertainty as to whether the Government of Canada would be able to fully implement this initiative by 2026, believing that this was too short a time frame for what they viewed as a complicated, and large-scale program. Focusing on the positive aspects of this program, some believed that these actions would help enable parents (and mothers especially) to return to the workforce and earn additional income for their families.

All felt that making investments towards lowering the cost of child care was an important action for the Government of Canada to take in its efforts to make the cost of living more affordable. Several reported that due to the high cost of child care it had become difficult to save money and/or devote additional funds towards other aspects of their lives. It was widely thought that taking this approach would have a positive impact on the economy as well as lead to job creation in the early childhood education (ECE) sector.

Energy Outlook (Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid)

Participants residing in Alberta engaged in a discussion related to energy generation, the oil and gas sector, and concerns regarding the electricity grid in their province. To begin, participants were asked how important they believed the oil and gas sector was to the Albertan economy. All felt that oil and gas played an important role in their province's economy, with many describing it as having been the primary economic driver in Alberta for many decades. While most felt that there would be a continued economic role for oil and gas in the years to come, several thought that more needed to be done to transition the Albertan economy and energy grid to incorporate more renewable energy sources going forward.

Describing what came to mind when they heard the phrase 'sustainable jobs', a number believed that this referred to jobs that did not rely on the consumption of non-renewable resources. Related to the clean energy sector, most believed that sustainable jobs would likely be those involved in the building, maintenance, and operation of clean energy infrastructure. Questioned whether they felt the creation of sustainable jobs in the clean energy sector would benefit the Albertan economy, participants expressed a range of opinions. While some believed that this would have a positive impact on the provincial economy and would help increase the resilience of the electricity grid, a roughly equal number expressed uncertainty as to whether enough jobs would be created in the clean energy sector to accommodate the large number of Albertans currently working in the oil and gas sector.

Asked whether their communities had experienced extreme cold in recent months, all reported that they had. Discussing the potential impacts of this weather on their communities, all expressed concerns related to the provincial energy grid and whether it would be able to withstand extreme cold temperatures going forward. Many believed that significant efforts needed to be taken to expand the province's energy infrastructure to increase its capacity to meet the energy needs of its growing population. Several also reiterated that a focus should be placed on diversifying the sources utilized for electricity in Alberta by incorporating a strategy that uses both renewable and non-renewable resources.

While all thought that the federal government should be making investments towards clean energy and clean technology, several reiterated the view that support should be provided to the oil and gas sector and believed that non-renewable energy sources would continue to play a critical role in meeting the energy needs of Albertans. Discussing what they viewed as the potential benefits of the Government of Canada encouraging investments in clean electricity and clean technology, participants believed this approach would assist in diversifying the provincial economy, expanding the energy sources available to Albertans, and aligning the province with what they perceived to be a trend towards renewable energy and sustainability. Asked whether they felt that an increased focus on clean energy and clean technology would lead to more or fewer risks of power outages, most believed that investments into this area would bolster the capacity of the electricity grid and reduce the risks of large-scale outages.

Climate Change (Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mauricie Region Quebec)

Participants in five groups engaged in conversations related to climate change and the actions that the Government of Canada was currently taking to mitigate its impacts. To begin, participants in the groups based in Alberta, Quebec City, and Vancouver Island were asked to what degree, if at all, they were concerned about climate change. Most reported that they were very concerned, believing that climate change represented a significant threat to current and future generations and that its impacts were being felt with increasing frequency with each passing year.

Discussing the potential impacts of climate change, many in these three groups expressed the view that changing weather patterns had been a contributing factor to what they perceived as an increase in the frequency of natural disasters such as wildfires, windstorms, and large-scale flooding. A number worried that more unpredictable weather patterns and extreme temperatures could ultimately result in the destabilization of food production in Canada, leading to food shortages in the decades to come.

Asked whether they were worried about the impacts of climate change on their own communities, a large number indicated that they were. Several described being especially concerned about warmer temperatures leading to an increase in wildfires, as well as potential water restrictions in their communities due to what they perceived as below average rainfall and snow in recent years. A number also worried about the potential of climate change to impact the cost of living, believing this could lead to higher food and energy costs, as well as require homeowners to spend more on retrofitting their homes to make them more sustainable and climate-resilient going forward.

Those in the groups based in Southwestern Ontario, Vancouver Island, and the Mauricie region of Quebec were asked whether they felt the Government of Canada was currently on the right or wrong track when it came to addressing climate change. A larger number felt that it was headed in the wrong direction compared to those who felt otherwise. Among the few who believed that the federal government was on the right track, it was felt that some actions had been taken to address and adapt to climate change, but noted this was a long-term process and one that would not be quickly accomplished. For those who felt it was on the wrong track, many believed that the actions being taken by the federal government did not reflect the urgency of this problem and that far more needed to be done to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Discussing additional actions that they believed the Government of Canada should take to address climate change, participants suggested measures such as further investing in the protection of natural ecosystems and wildlife, increasing the affordability of EVs, and instituting more comprehensive, federally managed recycling initiatives.

Hydrogen-Based Energy (Mauricie Region Quebec)

Participants residing in the Mauricie region of Quebec engaged in a brief discussion related to hydrogen-based energy. Very few reported having previously heard about this type of energy. Provided with information related to the use of hydrogen as a potential energy source, most believed

that investments in this area could have a positive impact on reducing emissions. A number, however, expressed concerns regarding the potential consequences of taking this approach, with some especially concerned about the safety of working with hydrogen, given their impression that hydrogen was a highly combustible element.

Asked how many jobs, if any, they felt could be created in the clean hydrogen sector, participant estimates ranged from 5,000 to 100,000 new positions. Discussing the types of jobs that could be created, it was expected that these could include positions related to constructing and maintaining clean hydrogen infrastructure, managing and ensuring the safety of hydrogen energy production facilities, and the pursuit of further research related to this type of energy and its potential applications.

Discussing the extent to which they felt the Government of Canada should be prioritizing investments towards hydrogen-based energy compared to other renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, and hydroelectricity), participants were mixed in their opinions. While some felt that this type of energy should receive the same prioritization as other renewable energy sources, others were worried about the potential expenses of taking this approach and questioned whether hydrogen-based energy could be produced in a cost-effective manner.

Immigration (Quebec City)

Participants residing in Quebec City took part in a conversation related to immigration. Asked whether they had recently seen, read, or heard about any actions or initiatives from the Government of Canada on this front, several recalled having heard that it had taken steps to place a temporary cap on the number of international student study permits it would be issuing in 2024. Asked whether they felt the Government of Canada was currently on the right or wrong track when it came to its management of the immigration system, participants expressed a range of opinions, with a roughly equal number believing it was headed in the right direction as those who felt otherwise.

Describing the potential benefits of immigration to Canada, several felt that the continued arrival of new immigrants would help to bolster the employment market and would lead to increased economic productivity across the country. A small number expressed the opinion that a continued high rate of immigration would be critical in ensuring that there would be enough workers to support an aging population in the years to come.

Discussing potential challenges related to welcoming new immigrants, a large number expressed concerns regarding the ability of new immigrants to integrate into Canada's Francophone culture. Related to this, a number expressed concerns about the potential impact that high immigration to their province might have on Quebecois culture and identity. Describing potential actions that the federal government could take to address these concerns, several suggested that it should allocate increased funding towards integrating new immigrants into Canada, including providing them with access to employment opportunities and language training resources.

Asked if the Government of Canada should seek to increase, decrease, or maintain the current rate of immigration, all felt that the current level should be maintained. Maintaining the current level of

immigration was widely viewed as the best way to address issues such as labour shortages and an aging population, without exacerbating concerns related to increasing demand on areas such as housing, health care, and other important infrastructure and services.

Ukraine (Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora)

Participants in the group comprised of members of the Ukrainian diaspora residing in Saskatchewan engaged in a conversation related to Ukraine's ongoing conflict with Russia following the Russian invasion of its territory in February 2022. All indicated having followed this conflict closely since it began two years ago, with many reporting that they would seek out news related to the war on a daily basis.

Asked what aspects of the war concerned them the most, many described the human cost of this conflict, including the large number of Ukrainian military personnel and civilians that had been injured or killed over the past two years. Several worried about the potential permanent loss of Ukrainian territory that had been invaded by Russian forces and expressed concerns regarding whether it would be feasible or possible for Ukraine to regain control of this territory. Some also shared concerns regarding the condition of the Ukrainian military, with a number of the impression that it was currently facing shortages related to personnel, equipment, and weapons and ammunition.

Discussing how, if at all, the conflict had influenced their view of the world and Canada's place in it, several reported feeling that the world was now a much less safe place than they had believed it to be prior to the Russian invasion. Asked how they felt that Russia's war with Ukraine had impacted the world, a number believed that this conflict had prompted many countries around the world to invest more heavily in their militaries and defence budgets. The view was expressed that this conflict had served to erode the peaceful international order that they believed had existed prior to the conflict, and some worried that this might lead to other countries pursuing similar militaristic objectives in the future.

All felt that it was important for the Government of Canada to continue to support Ukraine. It was widely thought that this assistance was critical, not just in terms of protecting Ukraine, but for preserving the sovereignty of other nations and preventing Russia from engaging in similar incursions in the future. Questioned whether they thought the federal government was on the right track when it came to assisting Ukraine, almost all felt that it was. Several were of the view that Canada had been a strong supporter of Ukraine from the outset of this conflict and had been among the most vocal countries in its opposition to the Russian invasion. Discussing the types of support that were most important towards assisting Ukraine, many reiterated the need for continued financial and military support to ensure that Ukraine had the resources it required to repel the Russian invasion.

Questioned whether they were aware of any humanitarian aid that the Government of Canada had provided to Ukraine, participants recalled hearing about actions such as the provision of food, medical supplies, clothing, and other essentials. A number were also of the impression that some Canadians had travelled to Ukraine and/or the surrounding region to assist those who had been displaced by the conflict. All were aware of the Government of Canada's commitment to bringing in and

accommodating Ukrainians who had been displaced by the conflict. Several reported having personally worked with organizations that assisted these individuals with acclimatizing to life in Canada.

All knew people who had arrived in their communities through the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) program. Most expressed support for this initiative, believing that it was an important way of assisting those whose homes had been destroyed and/or who may encounter difficulties in returning to Ukraine in the future. Discussing additional supports that they felt were important in assisting the Ukrainians who had arrived in Canada, participants mentioned areas such as language training in English or French, the provision of safe and affordable housing, opportunities for employment, and child care spaces for those with young children.

All reacted positively to the announcement of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA) with several of the opinion that this agreement would be instrumental in assisting Ukraine with its economic recovery following the war. It was felt that this action would also benefit the Ukrainian diaspora living in Canada, making it easier and more affordable for them to import Ukrainian goods and cultural items. Discussing the types of supports they expected Ukraine would require after the conflict is resolved, participants mentioned initiatives such as rebuilding damaged or destroyed infrastructure, assisting Ukrainian businesses, and providing mental and physical health care supports to Ukrainian soldiers.

Asked whether they had ever encountered any information related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine that they believed to be false or misleading, all indicated that they had. It was felt that, especially in the initial months of the conflict, this misinformation had portrayed the Russian military as liberators, and conveyed the false narrative that this invasion had been largely welcomed by the Ukrainian people. While none, given their close connection to Ukraine, expected that this type of false information would impact their own perspectives regarding the war, several were concerned that the dissemination of misinformation and disinformation by Russia had been negatively shaping the attitudes of some Canadians against providing additional support for Ukraine.

Post-Secondary Issues (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students)

Participants in one group, comprised of post-secondary students residing on Vancouver Island, engaged in a discussion related to the challenges currently being faced by students in Canada. Asked whether they felt the federal government had been making an effort to reach out to students, all felt that it had been mostly ineffective in this area. Asked if they were aware of any work that the Government of Canada had done to make post-secondary education more affordable, while a few were of the impression that it had removed interest on federal student loans and had provided financial supports to students during the COVID-19 pandemic, no additional actions could be recalled.

Informed that the federal government had permanently eliminated federal interest on Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans, increased Canada Student Grants by 40 per cent, and made improvements to the student loan repayment assistance plan, participants were mixed in their responses. While most felt that these measures represented a step in the right direction, few expected that they would be enough to have a tangible impact on making post-secondary education more affordable.



Asked if there was anything else that the federal government could do to support students, some suggested that greater investments be made towards expanding public transportation services in communities with large student populations as well as providing subsidized fares to those currently enrolled in a post-secondary program. A few suggested that the federal government should consider taking action to cancel existing federal student loan debt as well as work to reduce post-secondary tuition throughout Canada.

Auto Theft (Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Top Priority)

Participants in one group briefly discussed auto theft and the actions that the Government of Canada was taking to address this issue. Asked whether they were aware of any recent actions that the federal government had taken to combat auto theft, few indicated that they were. Among those who had heard something, participants were of the impression that the federal government had recently held a summit to discuss how best to respond to this issue.

Provided with information related to a range of actions and initiatives the Government of Canada was taking to combat auto theft, all reacted positively, with many believing that this type of multifaceted approach would be critical towards addressing this issue and reducing instances of auto theft in Canadian communities. A large number expressed support for the measure to improve information sharing between local police and railway police. It was felt that ineffective communications between different law enforcement bodies had been a major contributing factor to perceived increases in auto theft across the country. Several also felt it was very important for the federal government to increase the capacity of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to conduct more investigations and examinations of stolen vehicles, particularly at Canadian ports where it was believed that many stolen vehicles were being illegally exported. A number believed that the imposition of greater legal penalties for this type of illegal activity would also serve as an effective deterrent for those individuals who may consider engaging in auto theft.

Discussing the potential impact of these measures on combatting auto theft, a slightly larger number believed that these actions would have a minor impact as those who thought it would have a major impact. Asked whether, having now seen this information, they supported the Government of Canada's plan to combat auto theft, all indicated that they did.

Community Challenges (Quebec City, Mauricie Region Quebec)

Two groups, comprised of participants residing in Quebec City and the Mauricie region of Quebec respectively, took part in conversations related to their local communities. Asked to identify the top issues facing their communities that required greater prioritization from the federal government, participants in Quebec City mentioned challenges related to a perceived lack of affordable housing, the need to build more infrastructure (such as schools, hospitals, and public transportation), and the need for stronger protection and promotion of diversity and multiculturalism within the province. A few in this group also believed that there needed to be a focus on providing funding towards specific projects in their area such as the Third Link highway project. Those in the Mauricie region identified issues

related to the high cost of living as well as a perceived shortage of health workers such as doctors and nurses as pressing issues facing their communities.

Asked to describe what they viewed as the most important industries in their communities, participants in both groups mentioned agriculture, technology, and tourism as being among the most important . A number from Quebec City also identified the cultural sector as playing a major economic role in their community, while those from the Mauricie region described manufacturing, forestry, health care, and education as key industries.

Questioned whether there were currently labour shortages in their area, almost all in both groups believed that there were. Several were of the impression that this was a particular issue in key sectors such as health care and education and believed that this was having a negative impact on the availability of services in these areas. Discussing what they viewed as being potential causes behind these perceived shortages, participants mentioned a range of factors including the COVID-19 pandemic, a greater number of individuals entering retirement, and a lack of well-paying jobs being offered by employers. Describing potential solutions that the federal government could take to address this issue, participants suggested measures such as working to increase wages for Canadians, offering incentives for individuals to work in sectors facing labour shortages, and streamlining the foreign credential recognition process to make it easier for new immigrants to work in their fields of expertise.



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The Strategic Counsel

Contract number: CW2241412

Contract award date: December 19, 2022

Contract value: \$ 814,741.30

Detailed Findings

Timeline of February 2024 Announcements

To help place the focus group discussions within the context of key events which occurred during the reporting cycle, below is a brief synopsis for the month of February 2024.

- February 1-7
 - February 1st. The Government of Canada announced an investment of \$3.3 million towards a clean hydrogen feasibility study in Gatineau, Quebec.
 - February 2nd. The Government of Canada issued a joint declaration as part of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children calling for the protection and return of Ukrainian children illegally deported by the Russian Federation.
 - February 2nd. The Government of Canada announced an investment of \$162 million towards providing shelter for asylum seekers and subsidizing housing costs for low-income renters.
 - February 4th. The Government of Canada announced that it would be extending its ban on non-Canadians from purchasing residential housing in Canada for an additional two years, now lasting until January 1st, 2027.
 - February 6th. The Government of Canada announced a top-up of \$99 million to the Canada Housing Benefit to provide direct financial support to low-income renters.
 - February 7th. The Government of Canada announced that it would be investing \$28 million towards combatting the export of stolen vehicles, including providing additional resources and empowerment to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to locate and search containers suspected to be holding stolen vehicles.
 - [Focus group was held with the general population in Southwestern Ontario \(February 7th, 2024\).](#)
- February 8-14
 - February 8th. The Government of Canada hosted the National Summit on Combatting Auto Theft in Ottawa.
 - [Focus group was held with those concerned about the energy grid in Alberta \(February 8th, 2024\).](#)
 - February 12th. The Government of Canada announced an investment of nearly \$200 billion over ten years towards improving long-term care services for aging Canadians across the country.
 - February 12th. The Government of Canada announced an agreement with the Government of Yukon to deliver nearly \$83 million in funding to improve health care in the region.
 - [Focus group was held among residents of Ontario who had identified health care as a top priority \(February 13th, 2024\).](#)
- February 15-21
 - February 19th. The Government of Canada announced that it will be donating 800 drones to Ukraine to aid in its military surveillance activities.

- February 20th. The Government of Canada announced that it would be establishing new sanctions under the Special Economic Measures Act to address the situation in Guatemala, including imposing sanctions on four individuals related to acts of corruption and human rights violations.
- February 20th. The Government of Canada announced that it would be providing free legal services to Ukrainian nationals through the *Ukrainian Refugee Legal Relief Initiative*.
- Focus group was held among Ontario parents who had children in child care or who were seeking child care (February 20th, 2024).
- February 21st. The Government of Canada announced an investment of \$15 million (over three years) to combat auto theft.
- Focus group was held with the general population in Quebec City (February 21st, 2024).
- February 22-28
 - Focus group was held with post-secondary students on Vancouver Island (February 22nd, 2024).
 - February 24th. The Prime Minister and other federal officials travelled to Kyiv, Ukraine to announce a pledge of over \$3 billion in military and financial support to Ukraine in its ongoing defence against the Russian invasion of its territory
 - February 27th. The Government of Canada announced an investment of \$123 million towards the construction of 5,000 affordable homes.
 - Focus group was held among members of the Ukrainian diaspora in mid-size and major centres in Saskatchewan (February 27th, 2024).
 - February 28th. The Government of Canada issued a 10-year, \$4 billion green bond, that would aim to unlock private funding towards fast-tracking green initiatives such as infrastructure developments and the conservation of natural spaces.
 - February 28th. The Government of Canada reached an agreement with World Energy GH2 to provide nearly \$128 million in funding for a commercial-scale green hydrogen facility in Atlantic Canada.
 - Focus group was held with the general population in the Mauricie Region of Quebec (February 28th, 2024).
- February 29
 - February 29th. The Government of Canada introduced legislation for the first phase of National Universal Pharmacare, Bill C-64, *An Act respecting pharmacare*, which includes universal access to contraception and diabetes medications and supplies.

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. A wide range of announcements and initiatives were recalled, including:

- The announcement of details related to the introduction of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) which aimed to ease financial barriers in accessing oral health care for eligible Canadian residents. Participants were of the impression that this program would begin to be rolled out in phases in the coming months;
- The hosting by the Government of Canada of the National Summit on Combatting Auto Theft, which took place on February 8th, 2024, in Ottawa and included provincial, territorial, and municipal officials, industry leaders, and law enforcement representatives from across the country;
- Ongoing discussions regarding the costs incurred by the Government of Canada related to the development and implementation of the ArriveCan app. This followed the release of an audit by Canada's Auditor General which determined that the project had cost far more than could reasonably be expected and had lacked sufficient financial management practices and oversight of its contractors; and
- The announcement by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) that, beginning in 2024, the Government of Canada would be setting an intake cap on international student study permit applications for a period of two years.

Participants also recalled activities related to the Government of Canada on the international stage. These included:

- The ongoing provision of humanitarian support to civilians in Israel, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank that had been impacted by the attacks perpetrated by the Hamas terrorist organization against Israeli civilians on October 7th, 2023, as well as the subsequent military response by Israel; and
- The visit by the Prime Minister and other federal officials to Kyiv, Ukraine on February 24th, 2024, to announce the commitment of \$3 billion in financial and military assistance to Ukraine in 2024.

Those in the group comprised of members of the Ukrainian diaspora in Saskatchewan and individuals residing in the Mauricie region of Quebec were asked an additional question regarding what impact, if any, they felt that the Government of Canada's recent military and financial commitments to Ukraine would have on the conflict. All in the group based in Saskatchewan thought that this assistance would have a significant impact towards helping Ukraine and believed that these supports should be provided by the federal government as expediently as possible. Taking a different point of view, almost all in the group based in the Mauricie region expressed concerns regarding the potential negative financial impacts this action could have on Canadians. Among these participants, it was felt that many

households were currently struggling with the perceived high cost of living and that the federal government's focus should primarily be on assisting Canadians living in Canada rather than on initiatives in other parts of the world.

Government of Canada Priorities and Performance (Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid, Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora, Mauricie Region Quebec)

Seven groups took part in conversations related to the issues currently facing Canadians as well as their perspectives regarding the federal government's management of these priorities. Participants were asked to identify areas in which they felt the Government of Canada was performing well and areas where they felt there was room for improvement. On a number of issues participants expressed a range of positive and negative views. These included:

- Immigration – A number spoke positively of the Government of Canada's actions in recent years to increase the rate of immigration as well as making it easier for people from other parts of the world to come to Canada. It was also felt that the federal government had been effective in providing supports to newcomers, including those related to finding employment and pursuing language training. Several, however, expressed concerns about the potential consequences of taking in an increasing number of immigrants. Among these participants, it was felt that many key areas, such as housing, health care, and education, were currently experiencing considerable strain and would not be able to accommodate a further rise in the population;
- Reconciliation – Some thought that the federal government had made considerable progress in recent years towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, including through its investments towards the building of housing and the provision of clean drinking water in Indigenous communities. A number, however, believed that far more needed to be done in this area and were of the impression that many Indigenous communities still lacked access to basic services, clean drinking water, nutritional food, and safe and affordable housing; and
- International assistance – Many spoke positively of the Government of Canada's actions on the international stage. Several mentioned the military and financial supports offered to Ukraine following the Russian invasion of its territory, as well as the humanitarian assistance that the federal government had provided to those impacted and/or displaced by conflicts and natural

disasters throughout the world. A few felt differently, believing that a greater focus should be placed on Canadians living in Canada, many of whom were thought to be struggling with issues such as the cost of living and a perceived lack of affordable housing at present. It was felt that until these issues were addressed, the federal government should limit the assistance it provides outside of Canada.

Participants also mentioned a number of areas where they felt that the Government of Canada had performed well, including:

- Supports for Canadians – Many felt that the federal government had done well at providing financial supports for Canadians, especially given the struggles that many were believed to be facing as a result of inflation and the perceived high cost of living. Specific programs mentioned by participants included the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), the creation of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), and the provision of maternity and parental benefits through the Employment Insurance (EI) program. A few also spoke positively of the recent decision by the Government of Canada to index its benefits to the rate of inflation. It was believed that this would be greatly helpful for groups (such as seniors) who tended to rely on fixed incomes to a greater degree;
- Diversity and Multiculturalism – Several were of the view that the Government of Canada had performed well in its actions to protect and promote diversity and multiculturalism in all parts of the country. It was felt that the federal government had placed a strong focus on defending the rights of groups such as women, visible minorities, and members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community; and
- Response to the COVID-19 pandemic – A number identified the response to the COVID-19 pandemic as an area in which they felt the federal government had performed well. It was thought that the Government of Canada had been quick to provide financial supports such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) which they believed had helped many individuals facing financial uncertainty in the initial stages of the pandemic. It was also thought that the federal government had been effective in providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to health care workers and in its roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Additionally, participants identified a range of areas in which they believed the Government of Canada had room for improvement. These included:

- Cost of living – A number thought that more needed to be done to address what was perceived as the high cost of living at present. It was felt that a greater focus needed to be placed by the federal government on making life more affordable for Canadians and that action needed to be taken to help reduce the costs of essentials, such as groceries. A number expressed the opinion that the federal government needed to reduce its spending, believing that high deficits in recent years had contributed to issues such as rising inflation. A few felt that the federal government should also consider increasing taxes on the wealthiest Canadians, believing that this would help to reduce financial pressures on lower- and middle-income households;

- Housing – Several identified housing as a key area of concern. It was widely believed that housing was becoming increasingly unaffordable and out of reach for many Canadians and that more needed to be done to ensure that all households had access to safe and affordable housing. A number were of the impression that issues such as homelessness had been on the rise in their communities in recent years. It was thought that given the size and scope of this issue, a national housing strategy would need to be developed by the federal government to address this issue;
- Health care – A number believed that a greater emphasis needed to be placed on addressing issues related to health care, including long wait times, difficulties in finding a family doctor, and a shortage of doctors and nurses in many Canadian communities. It was felt that greater investments needed to be made by the Government of Canada towards improving health care, including by funding the construction of new health care facilities and providing incentives (such as bursaries and study grants) to individuals interested in pursuing careers in this field;
- Environment and Climate Change – It was felt by several that more needed to be done to address and prepare for the impacts of climate change. A number believed that while this had been a focus of the federal government, the actions it had taken on this front (such as the introduction of a price on carbon) had been largely ineffective and had served to make life less affordable for Canadians. It was felt that going forward there needed to be more effective communication by the Government of Canada regarding its environmental goals and how the specific actions it was taking would contribute to achieving them; and
- Support for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) – Some believed that greater financial investments needed to be made by the Government of Canada towards the CAF, with a number of the impression that the military was not receiving sufficient funding at present. It was also thought that more needed to be done to support CAF veterans, a large number of whom were believed to be struggling with poverty, homelessness, and issues related to addiction and their mental health.

Prompted to identify what they viewed as the most important priority areas for the Government of Canada to be focusing on, many reiterated the need for a greater emphasis to be placed on addressing issues related to inflation and the cost of living, health care, housing affordability, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Other important priority areas mentioned by participants included the need for further investments in education, stabilizing the rate of immigration, building new infrastructure (such as roadways and public transportation), and reducing federal spending. A number also believed that, due to what was perceived as an increasingly unpredictable geopolitical landscape, the federal government should place a greater priority on national security and protecting Canadians from potential adversaries.

Asked an additional question as to whether they felt the Government of Canada was on the right track when it came to supporting the automotive industry, participants in Southwestern Ontario were mixed in their opinions. While a few expected that investments towards the manufacturing of zero emission vehicles would lead to job creation and economic growth in their communities, a number believed that more needed to be done to reduce manufacturing costs for Canadian auto companies. Among these participants, it was believed that many automotive manufacturers had chosen to build their vehicles in other jurisdictions due to the perceived high cost of doing business in Canada.

Electric Vehicle Manufacturing (Mauricie Region Quebec)

Participants in the Mauricie region of Quebec engaged in an additional discussion related to the federal government's performance in supporting the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing sector. Asked whether they felt the Government of Canada was headed in the right or wrong direction on this front, almost all felt that it was on the wrong track, while a smaller number were more undecided in their opinions. Several believed that while investments had been made by the federal government towards the building of more EVs in Canada, these vehicles had remained prohibitively expensive for a large portion of Canadians and that far more needed to be done to make EVs more affordable for lower- and middle-income households. A number also believed that increased investments needed to be made towards the construction of EV infrastructure such as charging stations as well as to strengthen the electricity grid to prepare for the increased demand wider EV use would likely place on it. While most believed that the federal government making investments towards EV manufacturing would have economic benefits, a number were worried about the potential negative impact that this approach could have on the environment. Specific concerns mentioned by participants included the environmental damage caused by the mining of raw materials required for EV batteries, as well as the perceived challenges related to recycling these batteries.

Asked whether they felt the Government of Canada was on the right or wrong track when it came to supporting the clean energy sector, most were uncertain, with many feeling that they did not know enough about its activities on this front to provide a proper evaluation. Among the smaller number who felt it was on the right track, it was felt that investments in clean energy, such as hydroelectricity, had been effective in their region, and had also been beneficial for the environment. A few were of the impression that future hydroelectricity projects (such as dams) were currently in the planning stages and believed that it was important for the federal government to continue to invest in projects such as these.

The Economy (Southwestern Ontario, Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care, Mauricie Region Quebec)

Three groups engaged in discussions related to the Canadian economy, focusing on issues such as the employment market, the cost of living, and perspectives related to the Government of Canada's management of the economy as of late.

At the beginning of their conversations, participants in Southwestern Ontario and the Mauricie region of Quebec were asked how they would describe the state of the economy at present and whether they felt the federal government was headed in the right or wrong direction in its handling of the economy in recent years. A roughly equal number felt that the Government of Canada was on the wrong track on this front as those who were more uncertain in their opinions. No participants felt it was on the right track. Among those who held more mixed opinions, it was thought that while some areas of the

economy such as housing and the cost of living had become increasingly unaffordable, a number of these issues (such as high inflation) were being felt on a global scale and the federal government was doing its best to manage these challenges. Among those who believed that the Government of Canada was headed in the wrong direction in its management of the economy, it was felt that many lower- and middle-income households were facing difficulties in making ends meet and that these issues seemed to be worsening rather than getting better. A number expressed concerns that a growing number of Canadians were taking on increasing personal debt to keep pace with the cost of living, while a few were worried that people may begin to leave Canada if the economic situation did not improve.

Asked an additional question as to whether they could recall any actions or initiatives that the federal government had taken to address the economic challenges facing Canadians, participants in the Mauricie region of Quebec recalled a range of measures. These included the provision of a one-time Grocery Rebate to eligible Canadians, the initiative to provide additional funding through the Housing Accelerator Fund to communities that commit to removing red tape and fast-tracking the construction of new homes, and financial supports provided during the COVID-19 pandemic such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). Discussing additional measures that they believed the Government of Canada should take related to the economy, participants suggested actions such as the provision of increased financial supports to lower-income households, further actions to expedite the construction of new housing (including for vulnerable groups such as seniors) and an increased focus on modernizing the technology used in Canadian factories.

Jobs (Southwestern Ontario)

Participants in Southwestern Ontario were asked a series of questions related to the employment market in their respective communities and their expectations regarding how the job market in Canada would evolve in the next five to ten years. Asked to identify the most important industries in their local areas, participants mentioned sectors such as automotive manufacturing, agriculture, and transportation. A number residing in or around London identified the area's Amazon fulfillment centre as well as the electric vehicle (EV) battery cell factory that was currently being built in St. Thomas as major employers in their region. Discussing potential economic challenges in their area, some expressed concerns related to the continued viability of locally produced agriculture. It was believed that many small farms were currently struggling financially, as well as facing challenges related to the growing impacts of climate change and the negative effect that this was believed to be having on crop yields.

Asked what industries they expected would be prioritized in the Canadian economy in the future, most believed that there would be a continued focus on agriculture and automotive manufacturing. It was also thought that there would likely be significant growth in the construction sector, with some of the impression that the building of more residential housing was an urgent priority for municipalities such as London.

Focusing specifically on jobs, an equal number thought that the employment market was currently headed in the right direction as those who held a more mixed opinion. Several expressed the view that

while there were currently a large number of job opportunities available in their area, most of the applicants lacked the skills or experience required for these positions. Asked whether they felt the job market would get better, worsen, or remain the same, several thought that it would likely improve, while others expected that the number of jobs in certain industries, such as those dependent on non-renewable energy, could potentially decrease. Discussing the types of skills that they expected would be in demand over the next decade, participants identified areas such as health care, information technology, software development, and artificial intelligence (AI). While most felt confident that they would continue to have a good job in the years to come, a few believed that they would likely have to pursue further education and/or training to obtain employment in an in-demand field.

Asked whether they felt that the Government of Canada was on the right or wrong track when it came to ensuring that workers were able to receive the training that they need to stay competitive in the workforce, all were uncertain, with most expressing that they did not know enough about this issue to provide a proper evaluation. Likewise, almost all were uncertain when asked if the federal government was headed in the right direction when it came to creating good jobs for Canadians. A number thought that more should be done by the federal government to advertise the supports and education/training grants that were available to Canadians, believing that many were currently unaware of these programs.

Cost of Living for Parents (Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care)

Participants in the group comprised of parents in Ontario who either had children in child care or were in the process of finding child care took part in a conversation related to the cost of living and how it is currently impacting families with young children. Asked how they would describe the Government of Canada's management of the economy, almost all believed that it was currently headed in the wrong direction. Several were of the impression that many households were currently struggling with challenges related to the high cost of living, a lack of affordable housing, and increasing debt loads, and a number believed that perceived high levels of federal spending had served to further exacerbate these challenges. Among the small number who felt that the federal government was on the right track, it was thought that it had performed well in providing supports for those who were struggling financially, including by introducing programs such as the Canada Dental Care Plan (CDCP) and by providing financial assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic through initiatives such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

Asked which economic issues concerned them the most as parents, many identified challenges related to inflation and the high cost of essentials such as groceries, clothing, and gasoline, and the increasing costs of education (including the cost of educational supports such as tutors as well as saving up for their children's post-secondary studies). A roughly equal number believed that the Government of Canada understood the challenges facing parents as those who felt otherwise. Among those who thought the federal government was aware of these challenges, it was believed that while it was taking steps to address these issues, these actions had brought little in the way of tangible progress thus far. For those who felt that the Government of Canada did not understand, it was thought that many

federal officials did not have first-hand experience in managing these challenges and, as a result, did not comprehend the size and scope of these issues or have an understanding as to how to solve them.

Providing examples of areas of their lives that had become less affordable in recent years, many reiterated the high cost of groceries and the increasing challenges they faced in providing nutritional food for their families. Other areas mentioned included the cost of vision care and eyeglasses for their children, the perceived high cost of formula for infants, and challenges related to affording recreational and extracurricular activities for their families. Several indicated having taken actions such as actively seeking out sales, purchasing off-brand groceries and clothing, and cutting down on dining at restaurants and travelling as ways of responding to the high cost of living at present.

Questioned whether they were aware of any Government of Canada policies, programs, services, or benefits that support parents, participants recalled a range of actions and initiatives. In addition to the CDCP, programs mentioned included the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), the establishment of agreements with provinces/territories to reduce the cost of child care to an average of \$10 a day, per child, initiatives to assist first-time home buyers such as the First Home Savings Account (FHSA), and the indexing of federal benefits to the rate of inflation. Asked about their awareness of specific initiatives, all reported being aware of the CCB, and most had heard about the creation of the Canada Dental Benefit (CDB). To aid in conversation, participants were provided with the following additional information regarding these programs:

The Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is a means-tested income support program for Canadian families. It is delivered as a tax-free monthly payment available to eligible Canadian families to help with the cost of raising children. The CCB is indexed to inflation.

The Government of Canada has a Canada Dental Benefit (CDB) to help lower dental costs for eligible families earning less than \$90,000 a year.

All reacted positively to this information, and many expressed that these benefits were very helpful to Canadian families, including their own. Most, however, did not feel that these initiatives on their own would be sufficient to address the challenges related to affordability and the high cost of living and that more urgent action would need to be taken by the Government of Canada to assist families going forward.

Housing (Southwestern Ontario, Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Major Priority, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students)

Participants in three groups took part in discussions related to housing. Conversations in the two groups based in Ontario focused on measures the Government of Canada was taking to make housing more affordable, while those residing on Vancouver Island discussed the housing situation in their own communities as well as a recent federal/provincial initiative to build more homes across British Columbia (B.C.).

Housing Affordability Measures (Southwestern Ontario, Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Major Priority)

Two groups engaged in conversations related to actions that the federal government was taking to make housing more affordable for Canadians. Asked if they had recently seen, read, or heard, anything from the Government of Canada related to housing, participants recalled a number of initiatives. These included the removal of the goods and services tax (GST) from the construction of new rental housing developments, the provision of increased funding through the Housing Accelerator Fund (though not mentioned by name) to assist municipalities in the building of new housing, the introduction of programs such as the First Home Savings Account (FHSA), and measures such as temporarily banning non-Canadians from purchasing residential property. A number also mentioned the recent initiative to place a cap on the number of international student study permits issued in 2024, believing that this action had been taken in part as a way of reducing the demand for housing.

Asked what came to mind when they heard the phrase ‘unlocking housing’, most believed that this referred to the building of a greater number of affordable homes in Canadian communities. Several associated this phrase with actions to reduce or remove municipal zoning regulations that determine where and what types of housing communities can build. A few also believed that unlocking housing referred to assisting Canadians in entering the housing market by making it easier for them to qualify for mortgages and reducing the interest rates on housing loans. Discussing specific actions that could be taken on this front, participants believed that municipalities should consider adjusting zoning requirements to allow for increased densification, streamlining the building permitting process, and working to convert unused office and retail space into residential housing. All thought that the unlocking of housing began at the initial planning stages of the construction process. It was believed that this term encompassed priorities such as ensuring that new developments were financially viable, that the housing built would be affordable for lower- and middle-income Canadians, and that zoning requirements would not prevent the building of more multi-unit (rather than single family) housing developments. While also in support of initiatives to build more housing, a few expressed concerns that reducing zoning requirements and accelerating the pace at which housing is built may lead

developers to pay less attention to building safety standards and result in lower quality homes being built.

Discussing the effectiveness of the actions that the Government of Canada had taken thus far to unlock housing, several were of the impression that little progress had been made on this front and that the housing supply in their community had remained mostly unchanged. A number expressed the view that the effectiveness of these actions would be dependent on the cooperation of provincial and municipal governments and that it would take a concerted effort from all levels of government to make housing more affordable for Canadians going forward.

Housing Supply (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students)

Participants in the group comprised of post-secondary students living on Vancouver Island engaged in a brief conversation related to the housing situation in their communities and actions that could be taken to increase the supply of housing. All described the housing situation in their communities as very challenging at present, with a number viewing housing as having become prohibitively expensive in recent years, with few safe and affordable options available. Securing housing was believed to be especially difficult for students, who were perceived as typically having less available income to spend on housing compared to other cohorts of society.

While a small number were of the impression that the federal government had recently been increasing its funding towards the building of new housing projects as well as providing some supports for lower-income renters (such as the one-time \$500 top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit), few could recall any specific initiatives on this front. Asked whether they had heard anything about the Government of Canada and the Government of B.C. working together to build more housing, none indicated that they had. To aid in conversation, participants were provided with the following information:

The Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia have partnered on the BC Builds initiative to address the high costs of housing projects. This program aims to build thousands of affordable rental homes by offering more than \$4 billion in low-cost financing for projects.

Though a few felt this represented a step in the right direction, most did not believe that this action would have a significant impact on the housing situation. Among participants, it was generally felt that until issues related to the unaffordability of housing were resolved, housing would remain out of reach for many lower- and middle-income Canadians. Asked what additional actions they would like to see from the federal government on this front, participants suggested measures such as introducing stricter regulations regarding how much landlords can charge for and/or raise rent, implementing increased financial penalties for homeowners who leave their homes vacant, and providing greater financial supports to Canadians struggling with the cost of housing in their communities.

Budget 2024 (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students)

One group, comprised of post-secondary students residing on Vancouver Island, engaged in a conversation related to the federal government's annual Budget, which was scheduled to be tabled on April 16th, 2024. Asked how they felt the Canadian economy was currently performing overall, all were of the impression that it was facing considerable challenges, with a large number expressing concerns related to areas such as inflation, the perceived high cost of living, and what they viewed as a lack of well-paying jobs available to Canadians. Many thought that a greater emphasis needed to be placed by the Government of Canada on reducing the cost of living, increasing wages, and creating more full-time jobs in emerging sectors such as renewable energy production. Several also believed that more should be done to increase domestic production and manufacturing within Canada, with a number of the opinion that the Canadian economy was too reliant at present on the importation of goods from other jurisdictions.

Participants next engaged in an exercise where they were presented with a list of potential priority areas for the federal government to focus on in its upcoming Budget and asked to select which three they felt would be most impactful towards improving the lives of Canadians. These included:

- *Affordability/Cost of living;*
- *Supporting the middle class;*
- *Unlocking pathways to the middle class;*
- *Growing the housing supply;*
- *More opportunities for good careers;*
- *Long-term economic growth through clean tech and energy;*
- *Helping Canadians save for retirement;*
- *Protecting seniors' benefits;*
- *Fighting climate change;*
- *Maintaining a responsible plan for government spending;*
- *Improving the healthcare system; and*
- *Raising taxes on the wealthiest Canadians*

The priority of addressing affordability and the cost of living received the highest level of support among participants. It was felt that this was one of the most fundamental challenges facing Canadians at present and that addressing this area would likely help the largest number of people. A large number selected the goal of achieving long-term economic growth through investments in clean technology and energy. Among these participants, it was believed that this would provide economic stimulus to the Canadian economy, make its energy sector more resilient, and would align energy production in Canada with what was viewed as a growing global trend towards renewable energy. Several also selected the initiative to make improvements to the health care system. It was widely thought that an increasing number of Canadians were facing difficulties related to an inability to find a family doctor in their community, long wait times for emergency and primary care, and what was viewed as a growing shortage of health workers such as doctors and nurses. A small number selected

the initiatives to provide more opportunities for good careers, support the middle class, unlock pathways to the middle class, maintain a responsible plan for public spending, and raise taxes on the wealthiest Canadians. None chose the priority areas related to growing the housing supply, helping Canadians save for retirement, protecting seniors' benefits, or fighting climate change.

Participants were next presented with specific phrases or terms from this list of potential Budget priorities and prompted to share what came to mind when they heard them. Asked what they thought of when they heard the term *wealthiest Canadians*, participants mentioned individuals such as those who own large businesses, housing developers, those with significant investment portfolios, and families with generational wealth. Asked how much they believed the wealthiest Canadians made annually, on average, participant estimates ranged from \$150,000 to upwards of \$10 million per year. A few expressed the opinion that wealth was a somewhat subjective term and believed that whether one was considered wealthy might vary depending on where in the country they resided.

Asked whether they viewed themselves as part of the *middle class*, a large number indicated that they did. Describing what they felt it meant to be middle class, some believed this meant a lifestyle in which one was not living pay cheque to pay cheque and had enough left over at the end of each month to devote to savings and/or discretionary spending. A number, however, were of the impression that a many middle-class households were also struggling with the cost of living at present and that this term no longer meant that one was relatively comfortable financially.

Questioned what they believed was meant by the phrase *unlocking pathways to the middle class*, most viewed it as actions related to making it easier for individuals to receive the training and education they need to obtain a well-paying job as well as creating a greater number of employment opportunities for Canadians. A few felt that this term could also refer to initiatives focusing on providing more opportunities to certain segments of the population (such as persons living with disabilities) who may face additional barriers to joining the middle class. All thought that the federal government was currently performing poorly when it came to supporting the middle class. Asked what actions they felt should be taken on this front, participants believed that a greater focus needed to be placed on making life more affordable for Canadians, ensuring that all individuals had sufficient access to housing, and making it easier for individuals to obtain education and skills training without having to incur high levels of financial debt.

Asked whether they viewed *a good job* as being the same as *a good career*, most believed that while the terms were connected, there were some differences between them. On balance, participants felt that a good career referred to a career path in which one had the opportunity to grow, advance, and work in over a longer period of time. In contrast, a good job was viewed as being a position that likely paid well and was enjoyable but might not necessarily reflect the type of work one wanted to do for the long term.

Discussing what came to mind when they heard the terms *clean technology* and *clean energy*, participants mentioned areas such as carbon capture technology, the development of renewable energy sources including solar, wind, hydroelectricity, innovations related to the production of nuclear energy, and new technology such as electric vehicles (EVs). All believed that the Government of

Canada should be increasing its investments towards clean technology and energy, with many of the opinion that there were economic as well as environmental benefits to taking this approach. The view was reiterated that the clean energy and technology sector would be increasingly important in the years to come and would likely provide for the creation of a large number of new jobs and businesses in Canada. It was felt that by making these investments now, the Government of Canada could position itself as a global leader in these areas.

Health Care (Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Top Priority)

Participants in the group comprised of individuals residing in mid-size and major centres in Ontario engaged in a discussion related to the health care system as well as a recently announced plan by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario aimed at improving health care provision in the province. All participants had identified health care as a top priority prior to participating in this discussion. Asked to describe the current state of the health care system in Canada, while many were of the impression that health care had remained relatively affordable and accessible for most Canadians, a number expressed concerns related to issues currently impacting the health care system in their area. These included the closures of emergency rooms in some communities, long wait times to receive emergency and primary care, a lack of available beds in hospitals, perceived widespread shortages of doctors and nurses, and difficulties in accessing appointments and/or procedures with specialists. Concerns were also expressed among participants that private companies had become increasingly involved in the health care sector in Ontario. It was felt that if this trend were allowed to continue, it would ultimately lead to a diminished public health care system in Canada. A few also expressed concerns regarding the potential for doctors and other health care workers to leave Canada in search of higher salaries and more favourable working conditions in countries such as the United States (U.S.).

Describing their own experiences in accessing health care services, many reported having personally encountered long wait times and overcrowding at emergency rooms and walk-in clinics. A few expressed the opinion that the health care system had become overly complicated, recalling instances in which they had been required to attend appointments with several different doctors in order to receive an appointment with a specialist. Asked how they believed the quality of health care in their local area compared to other regions and provinces, most felt that it was significantly higher relative to many parts of the country. All, however, felt that major changes would be required to sustain the current level of care and to address the issues that they had identified earlier.

Asked what they felt was the role of the Government of Canada when it came to health care, all were of the impression that it was primarily to provide funding to the provinces/territories to assist them in delivering health care within their jurisdictions. A few believed that the federal government also

worked to set national standards for the provinces and territories to follow to ensure that all Canadians were provided with a sufficient level of care. Questioned whether they believed that the Government of Canada was aware of the health care challenges they were most concerned about, a roughly equal number felt that it was compared to those who thought otherwise. Very few, however, believed that sufficient action had been taken to address these concerns. Discussing whether they had recently seen, read, or heard anything about actions that the federal government had taken related to health care, only a small number indicated that they had. Among these participants, it was believed that agreements had been reached between the Government of Canada and the individual provinces and territories to increase the health care funding it provided so long as these additional funds were allocated towards certain priority areas. To aid in conversation, participants were provided with the following information:

The Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario recently announced a new \$3.1 billion agreement to improve healthcare in Ontario. Under this agreement, Ontario will allocate federal healthcare funding to help increase access to family doctors, reduce wait times, and hire more healthcare workers.

Most reacted positively to this information, believing that these investments would help to improve issues such as health worker shortages, long wait times, and limited access to family doctors.

Participants were next shown information regarding the specific aims of this plan:

- *Expand the healthcare workforce by adding new positions for physicians, nurses, and support workers, and increasing healthcare education enrollments;*
- *Enhance access to primary care by creating teams of family doctors, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals, particularly in underserved areas;*
- *Reduce wait times and surgery backlogs with more healthcare workers and improved care access;*
- *Make it easier for health professionals to practice in Ontario by removing barriers to foreign credential recognition and simplifying licensing processes;*
- *Improve health information management and sharing; and*
- *Boost mental health support by adding Youth Wellness Hubs and expanding psychotherapy programs.*

Reactions to this information were mixed among participants. While some spoke positively of actions such as removing barriers to foreign credential recognition, bolstering mental health supports, and expanding the health care workforce, a number expressed concerns related to the feasibility of these goals. Among these participants, it was felt that issues such as health worker shortages and long wait times had been long-standing concerns and would likely be difficult to solve in a short period of time.

Participants next engaged in an exercise where they were prompted to select which two of these priorities they felt would be most impactful towards improving health care in their area. The initiative to enhance access to primary care received the highest level of support among participants. It was felt that addressing this aspect of the health care system would help the largest number of people and could also lead to improvements being made to other areas of the health care system. Many also selected expanding the health care work force and reducing wait times and backlogs as important priorities. A number were of the impression that these two priorities were closely linked and believed

that increasing the number of doctors and other health care workers would be the most effective way to reduce wait times and backlogs. Only a small number selected the initiatives related to boosting mental health supports, making it easier for health care professionals to practice in Ontario, and improving health information management.

Asked whether they expected this plan would have a major, minor, or no impact on improving the quality of health care in Ontario, almost all felt that it would have a minor impact. While all supported this plan from the Government of Canada, most believed that its success would primarily be determined by its implementation and how effectively these additional resources are allocated by provincial/territorial governments going forward.

Child Care (Ontario Parents with Children in Child Care or Seeking Child Care)

One group, comprised of participants residing in Ontario who either had children in child care or who were currently seeking child care, engaged in a conversation related to the Government of Canada's recent work to lower the cost of child care. A slightly larger number reported that they were currently seeking child care relative to those who had already enrolled their children in a child care program. Asked how much they currently paid for child care (or how much they anticipated it would cost) participant responses ranged from \$350 to over \$1100 per month. All who had children enrolled in child care described it as representing a significant portion of their monthly household budget, with a number believing that they paid more for these services each month than they did towards other important areas such as groceries or their monthly car payments.

All felt that affordability and availability represented the most significant challenges related to child care at present. A large number of those who had secured child care spots (as well as those who were still searching) described the process as being very challenging, with a number reporting having been on waiting lists for over a year at some facilities. A few had been unable to find full-time child care, and had instead enrolled in a part-time program, necessitating them to balance their work schedules with caring for their children. While a smaller number reported feeling that it had been relatively easy for them to find child care, in most cases these participants believed that this was likely due to them opting for a more-expensive, private facility in which spots were more readily available.

Many felt that the quality of child care in their area had been below their expectations. Several believed that the quality and safety standards of many child care facilities had deteriorated in recent years, and that the provincial government had not been providing adequate oversight in this regard. Others expressed concerns related to the operating hours of local child care programs, believing that many facilities that had initially shortened their hours during the COVID-19 pandemic had since made these changes permanent, making it increasingly difficult for parents to balance their work commitments with caring for their children.

Asked if they had recently seen, read, or heard about any actions from the Government of Canada related to child care, no participants indicated that they had. To aid in conversation, participants were provided with the following clarification:

The Government of Canada has agreements in place with provinces and territories to lower the cost of childcare to an average of \$10/day and create 250,000 childcare spaces across Canada by 2025-2026. In Ontario, the average parent's fees for regulated and funded childcare for children under the age of 6 have been reduced by 50 per cent since December 2022. This agreement will deliver on average \$10-a-day childcare for Ontario families by the end of March 2026.

While all reacted positively to this information, many were uncertain as to whether the Government of Canada would be able to fully implement this initiative by 2026, believing that this was too short a time frame for what they viewed as a complicated, and large-scale program. A number also expressed concern as to whether this action would result in increased taxation for Canadians. Focusing on the positive aspects of this program, some believed that these actions would help enable parents (and mothers especially) to return to the workforce and earn additional income for their families. While many expected that this program would have a positive impact on families with young children, most believed that their own children were too old for them to fully benefit from this initiative.

All felt that making investments towards lowering the cost of child care was an important action for the Government of Canada to take in its efforts to make the cost of living more affordable. Several reported that due to the high cost of child care, it had become difficult to save money and/or devote additional funds towards other aspects of their lives. It was widely thought that taking this approach would have a positive impact on the economy as well as lead to job creation in the early childhood education (ECE) sector. A few were of the opinion that more should be done to increase the wages of child care workers, believing that these individuals played a very important role and that higher wages would likely attract more talented individuals to pursue careers in this sector. A small number suggested that the federal government should take a more active role in the provision of child care and open its own publicly operated child care centres. It was felt that this would likely have a positive impact on increasing the affordability and availability of child care in Canada.

Energy Outlook (Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid)

Participants residing in Alberta engaged in a discussion related to energy generation, the oil and gas sector, and concerns regarding the electricity grid in their province. To begin, participants were asked how important they believed the oil and gas sector was to the Albertan economy. All felt that oil and gas played an important role in their province's economy, with many describing it as having been the primary economic driver in Alberta for many decades. A few expressed the opinion that the oil and gas sector had been unfairly criticized as being environmentally damaging and believed that Alberta's production standards on this front were among the cleanest in the world. While most felt that there would be a continued economic role for oil and gas in the years to come, several thought that more

needed to be done to transition the Albertan economy and energy grid to incorporate more renewable energy sources going forward. A number believed that a transition to renewable energy would be critical to the future economic health of the province. It was also felt that establishing a more diversified economy outside of the energy sector would be an important goal for the Government of Alberta to focus on going forward. Discussing the sectors that they felt would be most important to the future of the Albertan economy, participants mentioned renewable energy production (including solar, wind, and nuclear power), information technology, agriculture, forestry, and tourism.

Describing what came to mind when they heard the phrase ‘sustainable jobs’, a number believed that this referred to jobs that did not rely on the consumption of non-renewable resources. Related to the clean energy sector, most believed that sustainable jobs would likely be those involved in the building, maintenance, and operation of clean energy infrastructure. Questioned whether they felt the creation of sustainable jobs in the clean energy sector would benefit the Albertan economy, participants expressed a range of opinions. While some believed that this would have a positive impact on the provincial economy and would help increase the resilience of the electricity grid, a roughly equal number expressed uncertainty as to whether enough jobs would be created in the clean energy sector to accommodate the large number of Albertans currently working in the oil and gas sector. Among these participants, it was felt that the majority of jobs created in this sector would be primarily focused on building new infrastructure and, once these projects were completed, many of these jobs would disappear. A few also expressed concerns as to whether renewable sources such as wind and solar would be sufficient to meet the energy needs of Albertans, especially in the colder winter months.

Asked whether their communities had experienced extreme cold in recent months, all reported that they had. Discussing the potential impacts of this weather on their communities, all expressed concerns related to the provincial energy grid and whether it would be able to withstand extreme cold temperatures going forward. A few were also worried about the impact that increasingly cold temperatures would have on those in their communities who were experiencing homelessness and did not have access to a safe and warm shelter. To aid in discussion, participants were provided with the following information:

Last month, the Alberta Emergency Management Agency issued an Alberta Emergency Alert indicating that extreme cold resulting in high power demand had placed the Alberta energy grid at a high risk of rotating power outages. The alert asked Albertans to limit their electricity use to essentials only, such as turning off unnecessary electrical appliances, minimizing the use of space heaters, and cooking with a microwave instead of a stove.

Discussing how this type of a situation could be avoided in the future, many believed that significant efforts needed to be taken to expand the province’s energy infrastructure to increase its capacity to meet the energy needs of its growing population. Several also believed that a focus should be placed on diversifying the sources utilized for electricity in Alberta by incorporating a strategy that uses both renewable and non-renewable resources. A few expressed the opinion that nuclear power sources, such as small modular reactors (SMRs), could be especially effective in this regard. Asked whether there was anything that the Government of Canada could do to support the reliability of the electricity grid, several believed that it should primarily focus on providing increased funding for the building of

new energy infrastructure. It was felt that this should be done both by providing increased funding to provincial governments as well as offering financial supports to private companies in this sector to assist them in expanding their energy production capacity.

Questioned whether the federal government was on the right or wrong track when it came to supporting the electricity grid, many expressed uncertainty. Several were of the impression that this was primarily a provincial area of responsibility and did not know how much involvement the Government of Canada had on this front. Informed that the federal government was making investments towards clean energy and clean technologies to help reduce emissions, participants were asked what they believed these terms to mean. Most viewed the phrases 'clean energy' and 'clean technology' as referring to energy sources and technologies that utilized renewable energy and promoted greater environmental stability in the long term. To clarify, participants were provided with the following information:

This approach could include investments towards building power grids that use clean energy sources (like wind, solar, and hydroelectric), and providing incentives for the adoption and manufacturing of clean technologies (like solar panels and wind turbines), among others.

While all thought that the federal government should be making investments towards these areas, several reiterated the view that support should also be provided to the oil and gas sector and believed that non-renewable energy sources would continue to play a critical role in meeting the energy needs of Albertans. Discussing what they viewed as the potential benefits of the Government of Canada encouraging investments in clean electricity and clean technology, participants believed this approach would assist in diversifying the provincial economy, expanding the energy sources available to Albertans, and aligning the province with what they perceived to be a trend towards renewable energy and sustainability. A number believed that these investments should primarily be directed towards Canadian companies and did not wish to see this increased spending going to foreign owned competitors.

Asked whether they felt that an increased focus on clean energy and clean technology would lead to more or fewer risks of power outages, most believed that investments into this area would bolster the capacity of the electricity grid and reduce the risks of large-scale outages. A few clarified, however, that they did not believe that an electricity grid that was fully reliant on renewable energy would be sufficient to meet the energy needs of Albertans in the winter months. Questioned whether they expected that a greater focus on developing the clean energy sector would have a positive impact on Albertan workers, a number felt that this would largely depend on how this is implemented and whether there was a focus on creating long-term (rather than temporary) jobs and career paths in this sector.

Climate Change (Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned About the Energy Grid, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mauricie Region Quebec)

Participants in five groups engaged in conversations related to climate change and the actions that the Government of Canada was currently taking to mitigate its impacts. To begin, participants in the groups based in Alberta, Quebec City, and Vancouver Island were asked to what degree, if at all, they were concerned about climate change. Most reported that they were very concerned, believing that climate change represented a significant threat to current and future generations and that its impacts were being felt with increasing frequency with each passing year. A small number were less concerned, believing that while the Earth's weather patterns were likely changing to some degree, this was part of a natural cycle rather than the result of human activity.

Discussing the potential impacts of climate change, many in these three groups expressed the view that changing weather patterns had been a contributing factor to what they perceived as an increase in the frequency of natural disasters such as wildfires, windstorms, and large-scale flooding. A number worried that more unpredictable weather patterns and extreme temperatures could ultimately result in the destabilization of food production in Canada, leading to food shortages in the decades to come. A few also worried about the potential of climate change to cause a refugee crisis in some parts of the world as certain areas become uninhabitable due to factors such as drought, extreme heat, and rising sea levels.

Asked whether they were worried about the impacts of climate change on their own communities, a large number indicated that they were. Several described being especially concerned about warmer temperatures leading to an increase in wildfires, as well as potential water restrictions in their communities due to what they perceived as below average rainfall and snow in recent years. A number also worried about the potential of climate change to impact the cost of living, believing this could lead to higher food and energy costs, as well as require homeowners to spend more on retrofitting their homes to make them more sustainable and climate-resilient going forward.

Those in the groups based in Southwestern Ontario, Vancouver Island, and the Mauricie region of Quebec were asked whether they felt the Government of Canada was currently on the right or wrong track when it came to addressing climate change. A larger number felt that it was headed in the wrong direction compared to those who felt otherwise. Among the few who believed that the federal government was on the right track, it was felt that addressing and adapting to climate change was a long-term process and one that would not be quickly accomplished. It was thought that by taking actions such as implementing a price on carbon and making investments towards renewable energy the Government of Canada was doing the best that it could to encourage greater sustainability among Canadian households and businesses. For those who felt it was on the wrong track, many believed that the actions being taken by the federal government did not reflect the urgency of this problem and that

far more needed to be done to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of climate change. A few expressed the opinion that the measures that had been taken on this front, such as the federal price on carbon and incentivizing Canadians to switch to electric vehicles (EVs), had been relatively ineffective in reducing emissions and had also made life more unaffordable for many households.

Discussing additional actions that they believed the Government of Canada should take to address climate change, participants suggested measures such as investing further towards the protections of natural ecosystems and wildlife, increasing the affordability of EVs, and instituting more comprehensive, federally managed recycling initiatives.

Hydrogen-Based Energy (Mauricie Region Quebec)

Participants residing in the Mauricie region of Quebec engaged in a brief discussion related to hydrogen-based energy. While few reported having previously heard about clean hydrogen, a small number were of the impression that research had been conducted related to this type of energy at the University of Quebec at Trois Rivières. To aid in conversation, participants were provided with the following information:

Clean electricity (electricity generated from sources like hydroelectricity, wind, and solar), and other sources of renewable energy can be converted into hydrogen with little or no emissions.

Once produced, hydrogen can be used as a sustainable energy source for a variety of industrial processes, like steel manufacturing. It can also be converted to electricity, which can be used in a wide range of applications, like powering vehicles, power plants, and buildings.

While most felt that investments towards hydrogen-based energy could have a positive impact on reducing emissions, a number expressed concerns regarding the potential consequences of using this energy source. Some were specifically concerned about the safety of this approach, especially given their impression that hydrogen was a highly combustible element. Asked how many jobs, if any, they felt could be created in the clean hydrogen sector, participant estimates ranged from 5,000 to 100,000 new positions. Discussing the types of jobs that could be created, it was expected that these could include positions related to constructing and maintaining clean hydrogen infrastructure, managing and ensuring the safety of hydrogen energy production facilities, and the pursuit of further research related to this type of energy and its potential applications.

Asked to what extent they felt the Government of Canada should be prioritizing investments towards hydrogen-based energy compared to other renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, and hydroelectricity), participants were mixed in their opinions. While some felt that this type of energy should receive the same prioritization as other renewable energy sources, others were worried about the potential expenses of taking this approach and questioned whether hydrogen-based energy could be produced in a cost-effective manner.

Immigration (Quebec City)

Participants residing in Quebec City took part in a conversation related to immigration. Asked whether they had recently seen, read, or heard about any actions or initiatives from the Government of Canada on this front, several recalled having heard that it had taken steps to place a temporary cap on the number of international student study permits it would be issuing in 2024. To aid in discussion, participants were provided with the following information:

The Government of Canada has announced a temporary 2-year cap on new international student study permits. With this cap, the Government of Canada is expecting 364,000 approved study permits in 2024.

While viewing this as a step in the right direction, many believed that the expected number of 364,000 study permits in 2024 was still too high and that this cap should be reduced further. Asked whether they felt the Government of Canada was currently on the right or wrong track when it came to its management of the immigration system, participants expressed a range of opinions, with a roughly equal number believing it was headed in the right direction as those who felt otherwise. Among those who thought that the federal government was on the right track, it was felt that high immigration in recent years had contributed to the rising cost of living and that this action would help to make life more affordable for Canadians and reduce demand in key areas such as housing. Among those who felt the federal government was headed in the wrong direction, participants expressed concerns related to what they perceived as a lack of collaboration between the Government of Canada and Government of Quebec on this issue, challenges in integrating new immigrants into Canadian society, and issues faced by immigrants in having their credentials recognized and becoming certified to work in their chosen fields.

Describing the potential benefits of immigration to Canada, several felt that the continued arrival of new immigrants would help to bolster the employment market and would lead to increased economic productivity across the country. A small number expressed the opinion that a continued high rate of immigration was critical to ensuring that there would be enough workers to support an aging population in the years to come.

Questioned whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement that *Canada needs to welcome more new immigrants to fill labour shortages and grow the economy*, an equal number of participants agreed as those who held a different view. Among those who agreed, it was thought that immigrants represented a vital component of the future of the Canadian workforce and that continued immigration would be key to the country's economic prosperity going forward. For those who disagreed, it was felt that there were already a large number of immigrants who came to Canada who had been unable to put their skills to use due to issues related to having their qualifications recognized. It was felt that until this issue was addressed, it would be difficult for many immigrants to utilize their skills and training to benefit the Canadian economy.

Discussing potential challenges related to welcoming new immigrants, a large number expressed concerns regarding the ability of new immigrants to integrate into Canada's Francophone culture. Related to this, a number expressed concerns regarding the potential impact that high immigration to

their province might have on Quebecois culture and identity. A few believed that a greater focus should be placed on monitoring and potentially capping the number of individuals claiming asylum when arriving in Canada. It was thought that a high number of asylum seekers in recent years had led to many communities being unable to sufficiently accommodate these new arrivals, leading to a higher demand being placed on services such as shelters and food banks. Describing potential actions that the federal government could take to address these concerns, several suggested that it should allocate increased funding towards integrating new immigrants into Canada, including providing them with access to employment opportunities and language training resources.

Asked if the Government of Canada should seek to increase, decrease, or maintain the current rate of immigration, all felt that the current level should be maintained. Maintaining the current level of immigration was widely viewed as the best way to address issues such as labour shortages and an aging population, without exacerbating concerns related to increasing demand on areas such as housing, health care, and other important infrastructure and services. A small number believed that action should be taken by the federal government to create a more targeted immigration strategy that was primarily focused on bringing in skilled immigrants to work in sectors experiencing labour shortages.

Ukraine (Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora)

Participants in the group comprised of members of the Ukrainian diaspora residing in Saskatchewan engaged in a conversation related to Ukraine's ongoing conflict with Russia following the Russian invasion of its territory in February 2022. All indicated having followed this conflict closely since it began two years ago, with many reporting that they would seek out news related to the war on a daily basis. Several mentioned being in frequent contact with family and friends in Ukraine to receive updates on the conflict and ensure that they were still safe.

Asked what aspects of the war concerned them the most, many described the human cost of this conflict, including the large number of Ukrainian military personnel and civilians that had been injured or killed over the past two years. Several worried about the potential permanent loss of Ukrainian territory that had been invaded by Russian forces and expressed concerns regarding whether it would be feasible or possible for Ukraine to regain control of this territory. Some also shared concerns regarding the condition of the Ukrainian military, with a number of the impression that it was currently facing shortages related to personnel, equipment, and weapons and ammunition. All reported having been personally impacted by this conflict. A number had friends or relatives who had been injured in the fighting or who had been forced to flee their homes as a result of the conflict. Several who had previously spent time living in Ukraine and had formed a personal connection to the country were deeply distressed to see it under attack and expressed concern for those still living there.

Discussing how, if at all, the conflict had influenced their view of the world and Canada's place in it, several reported feeling that the world was now a much less safe place than they had believed it to be

prior to the Russian invasion. A few commented that, prior to this war taking place, they had not believed it possible that a conflict of this nature could still occur. A number also mentioned that the conflict had made them feel less safe in Canada, especially given the close proximity of Russia to Canada's North. Asked how they felt that Russia's war with Ukraine had impacted the world, many believed that this conflict had prompted many countries around the world to invest more heavily in their militaries and defence budgets. The view was expressed that this conflict had served to erode the peaceful international order that they believed had previously existed, and some worried that this might lead to other countries pursuing similar militaristic objectives in the future.

All felt that it was important for the Government of Canada to continue to support Ukraine. It was widely thought that this assistance was critical, not just in terms of protecting Ukraine, but for preserving the sovereignty of other nations and preventing Russia from engaging in similar incursions in the future. Engaging in an exercise where they were asked to select a word to describe the federal government's approach to the war in Ukraine, most chose words with positive connotations such as 'strong', 'trust', and 'support'. A small number selected words such as 'hesitant', believing that more could be done by the Government of Canada to provide financial and military assistance to Ukraine. Questioned whether they thought the federal government was on the right track when it came to assisting Ukraine, almost all felt that it was. Several were of the view that Canada had been a strong supporter of Ukraine from the outset of this conflict and had been among the most vocal countries in its opposition to the Russian invasion. However, a small number believed that while the Government of Canada had been generous in its financial support, it could have done more to provide Ukraine with higher calibre weaponry and ammunition to protect its territory.

Asked whether they thought the Government of Canada should be doing more or less in response to the war in Ukraine, all believed that it should be doing more. Discussing the types of support that were most important towards assisting Ukraine, many reiterated the need for continued financial and military support to ensure that Ukraine had the resources it required to repel the Russian invasion. A number also believed that the Government of Canada should continue to provide diplomatic support towards resolving this conflict, working with its allies and others in the global community to end the fighting and to lift blockades on critical Ukrainian exports (such as grain) that they believed had been put in place by Russia.

Questioned whether they were aware of any humanitarian aid that the Government of Canada had provided to Ukraine, participants recalled hearing about actions such as the provision of food, medical supplies, clothing, and other essentials. A number were also of the impression that some Canadians had travelled to Ukraine and/or the surrounding region to assist those who had been displaced by the conflict. Asked whether they had seen, read, or heard anything about sanctions placed by the federal government on Russian individuals or entities, most reported that they had. While believing these sanctions would likely have some impact in the long-term, most felt that they would not be effective in deterring Russia or bringing the conflict to the end. A few believed that additional sanctions should be imposed, including stricter visa requirements or a potential ban on Russian citizens travelling to Canada as well as a complete prohibition of the import and sale of Russian-made products in Canada.

All were aware of the Government of Canada's commitment to bringing in and accommodating Ukrainians who had been displaced by the conflict. Several reported having personally worked with organizations that assisted these individuals with acclimatizing to life in Canada. On balance, most believed that it was important for the Government of Canada to assist as many Ukrainians as possible in fleeing the conflict. A number, however, expressed concerns regarding the impact that this could have on Ukraine's population in the future, especially if a large number of these individuals decided to stay in Canada for the long-term. A few were of the opinion that greater efforts needed to be taken to differentiate between those who were using this program due to being displaced by the conflict and those who were using their Ukrainian citizenship (and who may not even live in Ukraine) as an opportunity to come and live in Canada. To aid in conversation, participants were provided with the following information:

The Government of Canada created the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) to help Ukrainians and their family members come to Canada as quickly as possible and to provide them with the ability to work and study while in Canada.

For Ukrainian nationals outside Canada, the CUAET gave them a visitor visa to come to Canada temporarily, until it is safe to return to Ukraine. This visitor visa also offered them the option to apply for a work permit at the same time or to be given status as a student if they are under 18 and want to study in Canada. March 31st, 2024, is the last day to enter Canada under the CUAET special measures. Those who have arrived before this date, can apply to extend their stay for up to 3 years at a time or until their passport expires.

All participants knew people who had arrived in their communities through the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) program. Most expressed support for this program, believing it was important for those whose homes had been destroyed and/or who may encounter difficulties in returning to Ukraine to have a pathway to stay in Canada permanently. A number believed that this action would also likely have a positive impact on the Canadian economy, putting to use the expertise and skillsets of those who had arrived under the CUAET program. A few held more mixed opinions. Among these participants, it was felt that while it was important for Canada to be offering a path to permanent residency for these individuals, they did not wish to see Ukrainians prioritized over those living in Canada who had also been displaced by conflicts in other parts of the world. Discussing additional supports that they felt were important in assisting the Ukrainians who had arrived in Canada, participants mentioned areas such as language training in English or French, the provision of safe and affordable housing, opportunities for employment, and child care spaces for those with young children. A number also thought that mental health supports should be made widely available to those who had fled the conflict, believing that many of these individuals were likely dealing with some form of trauma.

Participants were next provided with the following information related to commitments that the Government of Canada had made to Ukraine regarding military support:

During the Ukrainian President's visit to Canada in September 2023, the Government of Canada committed to providing \$650 million in financial and military aid over three years, which includes

supplying Ukraine with 50 armored vehicles made in Canada. This comes in addition to Canada's ongoing military support to Ukraine through training Ukrainian soldiers and personnel, providing equipment and supplies, and providing weapons and ammunitions.

All reiterated the view that this type of military support was critical to Ukraine's ability to continue to defend its territory. A number believed that a priority should be placed by the Government of Canada on providing this assistance as soon as possible, given their perception that the Ukrainian military was currently facing shortages of weaponry and ammunition.

While a large number had heard about the announcement of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA), few could recall any specific details. To clarify, participants were provided with the following information:

The Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement is designed to improve the business relationship between Canada and Ukraine. It does this by giving special treatment to goods traded between the two countries and by setting up new rules for trading services and investment. The agreement now has added sections that focus on fair trade, which includes support for smaller businesses, ensuring trade benefits both men and women equally, and benefits Indigenous Peoples. This agreement is intended to support Ukraine as it rebuilds its economy after the invasion by Russia.

All reacted positively to this initiative, with several of the opinion that this agreement would be instrumental in assisting Ukraine with its economic recovery following the war. It was felt that this action would also benefit the Ukrainian diaspora living in Canada, making it easier and more affordable for them to import Ukrainian goods and cultural items. Discussing the types of supports they expected Ukraine would require after the conflict is resolved, participants mentioned initiatives such as rebuilding damaged or destroyed infrastructure, assisting Ukrainian businesses, and providing mental and physical health care supports to Ukrainian soldiers. It was widely felt that it was very important for the Government of Canada to continue to support Ukraine following the war. It was thought that this would be beneficial not just for Ukrainians, but also for the many countries who they believed depended on Ukrainian agricultural exports as a significant portion of their food supply.

Asked whether they had ever encountered any information related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine that they believed to be false or misleading, all indicated that they had. Many had encountered this type of information online or through Russian-based broadcasters, such as RT. It was felt that, especially in the initial months of the conflict, this misinformation had portrayed the Russian military as liberators, and conveyed the false narrative that this invasion had been largely welcomed by the Ukrainian people. While none, given their close connection to Ukraine, expected that this type of false information would impact their own perspectives regarding the war, several were concerned that the dissemination of misinformation and disinformation by Russia had been negatively shaping the attitudes of some Canadians against providing additional support for Ukraine. Related to this, a number spoke positively of the decision by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to ban outlets such as RT in Canada and hoped that more would be done to combat misinformation and disinformation going forward.

Post-Secondary Issues (Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students)

Participants in one group, comprised of post-secondary students residing on Vancouver Island, engaged in a discussion related to the challenges currently being faced by students in Canada. Asked whether they felt the federal government had been making an effort to reach out to students, all felt that it had been mostly ineffective in this area. Asked if they were aware of any work that the Government of Canada had done to make post-secondary education more affordable, while a few were of the impression that it had removed interest on federal student loans and had provided financial supports to students during the COVID-19 pandemic, no additional actions could be recalled. To aid in discussion, participants were provided with information regarding numerous actions that the federal government had taken to make life more affordable for post-secondary students. These included:

- *Permanently eliminating the federal interest on Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans;*
- *Increasing Canada Student Grants by 40%, to provide up to \$4,200/academic year for full-time students; and*
- *Improving the repayment assistance plan so that an individual earning under \$40,000 a year no longer has to make student loan payments, with the income threshold increasing by family size.*

While most felt that these measures represented a step in the right direction, few expected that they would be enough to have a tangible impact on making post-secondary education more affordable. Several reported having been largely unaware of these actions and believed that more needed to be done by the Government of Canada to communicate the steps it was taking to assist students. Discussing the initiative related to improving the repayment assistance plan, some questioned why the cut-off for this program was set at \$40,000, believing that this threshold was too low and would exclude a large portion of post-secondary graduates from accessing this assistance.

Asked if there was anything else that the federal government could do to support students, some suggested that greater investments be made towards expanding public transportation services in communities with large student populations as well as providing subsidized fares to those currently enrolled in a post-secondary program. A few suggested that the federal government should consider taking action to cancel existing federal student loan debt as well as work to reduce post-secondary tuition throughout Canada.

Auto Theft (Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario Identified Health Care as a Top Priority)

Participants in one group briefly discussed auto theft and the actions that the Government of Canada was taking to address this issue. Asked whether they were aware of any recent actions that the federal government had taken to combat auto theft, few indicated that they were. Among those who had heard something, participants were of the impression that the federal government had recently held a summit to discuss how best to respond to this issue. A small number were also of the impression that the Government of Canada had been seeking to increase the legal penalties for individuals who take part in this type of illegal behaviour. To aid in conversation, participants were provided with the following information:

Recently, the Government of Canada met with provincial, territorial, and municipal government officials, industry leaders, and law enforcement representatives from across the country at the National Summit on Combatting Auto Theft.

The Government of Canada is coordinating efforts across the country and taking immediate actions to combat auto theft by:

- *Examining potential amendments to the Criminal Code, including by reviewing existing offences and penalties related to auto theft;*
- *Working with Canadian companies, including the automotive industry, to develop innovative solutions to protect vehicles against theft;*
- *Pursuing all avenues to ban devices used to steal vehicles, such as the Flipper Zero (a portable hacking tool that can copy the wireless signals for remote keyless entry);*
- *Increasing the capacity of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to conduct more investigations and examinations of stolen vehicles;*
- *Supporting better information sharing between local police and railway police so they can identify and find stolen cars before they get to ports;*
- *Working with security partners across Canada and internationally to increase collaboration and information sharing;*
- *Modernizing the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards to ensure they consider technological advancements to deter and prevent auto theft; and*
- *Working with port facilities on actions and security plans that will address cargo handling vulnerabilities.*

All reacted positively to these measures, with many believing that this type of multifaceted approach would be critical towards addressing this issue and reducing instances of auto theft in Canadian communities. Many expressed support for the measure to improve information sharing between local police and railway police. It was felt that ineffective communications between different law enforcement bodies had been a major contributing factor to perceived increases in auto theft across the country. Several also felt it was very important for the federal government to increase the capacity of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to conduct more investigations and examinations of

stolen vehicles, particularly at Canadian ports where it was believed that many stolen vehicles were being illegally exported. Examining potential amendments to the Criminal Code to review and increase penalties related to auto theft was also widely seen as an important measure. A number believed that the imposition of greater legal penalties for this type of illegal activity would serve as an effective deterrent for those individuals who may consider engaging in auto theft. While a few believed that the measure to ban devices used to steal vehicles, such as the Flipper Zero, could have some effect on temporarily curbing auto crime, a number felt differently. Among these participants, it was thought that given the rapid pace at which technology was currently evolving, it was likely that criminals would continue to find new ways to break into and steal automobiles and that the focus should primarily be on increasing law enforcement and the legal consequences related to these actions.

Discussing the potential impact of these measures on combatting auto theft, a slightly larger number believed that these actions would have a minor impact as those who thought it would have a major impact. Asked whether, having now seen this information, they supported the Government of Canada's plan to combat auto theft, all indicated that they did. It was widely felt that this plan provided a comprehensive strategy for addressing this issue, and all believed that these actions would have at least some impact towards reducing auto theft going forward.

Community Challenges (Quebec City, Mauricie Region Quebec)

Two groups, comprised of participants residing in Quebec City and the Mauricie region of Quebec respectively, took part in conversations related to their local communities. Asked to identify the top issues facing their communities that required greater prioritization from the federal government, participants in Quebec City mentioned challenges related to a perceived lack of affordable housing, the need to build more infrastructure (such as schools, hospitals, and public transportation), and the need for stronger protection and promotion of diversity and multiculturalism within the province. A few in this group also believed that there needed to be a focus on providing funding towards specific projects in their area such as the Third Link highway project. Those in the Mauricie region identified issues related to the high cost of living as well as a perceived shortage of health workers such as doctors and nurses as pressing issues facing their communities. Participants in both groups described mental health as a growing concern in their communities and believed that greater resources needed to be allocated by the federal government towards this area going forward.

Asked to describe what they viewed as the most important industries in their communities, participants in both groups mentioned agriculture, technology, and tourism as being among the most important. A number from Quebec City also identified the cultural sector as playing a major economic role in their community, while those from the Mauricie region described manufacturing, forestry, health care, and education as key industries. Discussing the industries that they felt required the greatest assistance at present, a number from Quebec City thought that the dining and hospitality sectors required additional support, while participants residing in the Mauricie region felt that more needed to be done to support

small businesses in their area. A number believed that additional financial supports should also be provided to individuals who were required to drive long distances for their work (such as those in the transportation sector) to assist them in affording perceived increases to the price of gasoline.

Questioned whether there were currently labour shortages in their area, almost all in both groups believed that there were. Several were of the impression that this was a particular issue in key sectors such as health care and education and believed that this was having a negative impact on the availability of services in these areas. Specific to their regions, those residing in the Mauricie region identified transportation and manufacturing as areas facing worker shortages, while those in Quebec City described challenges related to a lack of qualified workers in the technology sector. Discussing what they viewed as being potential causes behind these perceived shortages, participants mentioned a range of factors including the COVID-19 pandemic, a greater number of individuals entering retirement, and a lack of well-paying jobs being offered by employers. Describing potential solutions that the federal government could take to address this issue, participants suggested measures such as working to increase wages for Canadians, offering incentives for individuals to work in sectors facing labour shortages, and streamlining the foreign credential recognition process to make it easier for new immigrants to work in their fields of expertise.

Those residing in Quebec City were asked a few additional questions related to the construction of new infrastructure in their community. Asked what types of infrastructure they believed the federal government should be investing in, participants provided a range of suggestions. These included the building of new hospitals and schools, community spaces such as parks and playgrounds, active transportation infrastructure such as bike lanes and walking paths, and areas reflecting the region's cultural heritage. Asked if they were aware of any recent actions or initiatives taken by the Government of Canada related to the building of infrastructure in their region, while a few were of the impression that it had provided financial investments towards the city's proposed tramway project, no other activities could be recalled. Describing the types of local infrastructure projects that they felt would make the most difference in their region, participants identified actions such as repairing and improving roadways, expanding public transportation networks, and renovating unused buildings and office spaces to build more residential housing units.

Appendices

Appendix A – Recruiting Scripts

English Recruiting Script

**Privy Council Office
Recruiting Script – February 2024
English Groups**

Recruitment Specifications Summary

- Groups conducted online.
- Each group is expected to last for two hours.
- Recruit 8 participants.
- Incentives will be \$125 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 (EST)	Local Time	Location	Composition	Moderator
1	Wed, Feb 7 th	6:00-8:00 PM	6:00-8:00 (EST)	Southwestern Ontario	General Population	DN
2	Thurs, Feb 8 th	8:00-10:00 PM	6:00-8:00 (MST)	Alberta	Albertans Concerned About the Energy Grid	TBW
3	Tues, Feb 13 th	6:00-8:00 PM	6:00-8:00 (EST)	Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario	Ontarians who say Healthcare is their top Priority	DN
4	Tues, Feb 20 th	6:00-8:00 PM	6:00-8:00 (EST)	Ontario	Parents with Children in or Seeking Child Care	DN
6	Thurs, Feb 22 nd	9:00-11:00 PM	6:00-8:00 (PST)	Vancouver Island	Post-Secondary Students	TBW
7	Tues, Feb 27 th	7:00-9:00 PM	6:00-8:00 (CST)	Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan	Ukrainian Diaspora	MP

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 **SWITCH TO FRENCH SCREENER**

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 | THANK AND END |
| A marketing, branding, or advertising agency | THANK AND END |
| A magazine or newspaper | THANK AND END |
| A federal/provincial/territorial government department or agency | THANK AND END |
| A political party | THANK AND END |
| In public/media relations | THANK AND END |
| In radio/television | THANK AND END |
| No, none of the above | CONTINUE |

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

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

2. In which city do you reside?

LOCATION	CITIES	
Southwestern Ontario	<p>Cities include (but are not limited to):</p> <p>Brantford, Chatham, Guelph, Kitchener, London, Orangeville, Owen Sound, Stratford, Windsor, Woodstock</p> <p>NO MORE THAN TWO PER CITY. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES ACROSS THE REGION. INCLUDE THOSE RESIDING IN LARGER AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES.</p>	CONTINUE – GROUP 1
Alberta	<p>Cities/towns could include (but are not limited to):</p> <p>Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Wood Buffalo, Airdrie, Fort McMurray, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie</p> <p>ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES/TOWNS ACROSS THE REGION.</p>	CONTINUE – GROUP 2
Mid-Size and Major Centres Ontario	<p>Mid-size Centres: Population of 100,000 – 300,000</p> <p>Cities could include (but are not limited to): Barrie, Brantford, Cambridge, Chatham-Kent, Guelph, Kingston, Kitchener, London, Milton, St. Catharines-Niagara, Sudbury, Waterloo, Windsor</p> <p>Major Centres: Population of 300,000+</p> <p>Cities include Toronto, Ottawa-Gatineau, Mississauga, Brampton, Hamilton</p> <p>ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES ACROSS THE REGION.</p>	CONTINUE – GROUP 3
Ontario	<p>Cities include (but are not limited to):</p> <p>Toronto, Ottawa, Mississauga, Brampton, Hamilton, London, Markham, Vaughan, Kitchener, Windsor, Richmond Hill, Burlington, Greater Sudbury, Oshawa, Barrie</p> <p>NO MORE THAN TWO PER CITY. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES ACROSS THE REGION. INCLUDE THOSE RESIDING IN LARGER AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES.</p>	CONTINUE – GROUP 4

Vancouver Island	<p>Cities include (but are not limited to): Victoria, Nanaimo, Courtenay, Campbell River, Parksville, Duncan, Port Alberni, Lady Smith, Sooke</p> <p>ENSURE A GOOD MIX ACROSS THE REGION. NO MORE THAN TWO PER CITY. INCLUDE THOSE RESIDING IN LARGER AND SMALLER COMMUNITIES.</p>	CONTINUE – GROUP 6
Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan	<p>Major Centres: Population of 100,000+ Cities include: Saskatoon, Regina</p> <p>Mid-size Centres: Population of 15,000-100,000 Cities include: Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Yorkton, Lloydminster</p> <p>MAX 2 PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH MAJOR CITY – SASKATOON AND REGINA. ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF CITIES ACROSS THE REGION.</p>	CONTINUE – GROUP 7
VOLUNTEERED Prefer not to answer		THANK AND END

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

Less than two years	GROUP 6 – CONTINUE ALL OTHER GROUPS - THANK AND END
Two years or more	CONTINUE
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	THANK AND END

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

Under 18 years of age	IF POSSIBLE, ASK FOR SOMEONE OVER 18 AND REINTRODUCE. OTHERWISE THANK AND END.
18-24	CONTINUE
25-29	
30-34	
35-44	
45-49	
50-54	
55+	
VOLUNTEERED Prefer not to answer	THANK AND END

ENSURE A GOOD MIX WHERE APPLICABLE. GROUP 4 AND 6 WILL SKEW YOUNGER.

4. **ASK ALL GROUPS** Do you own or rent your current residence? **IF ASKED/CLARIFICATION REQUIRED:** You are considered a homeowner even if you have outstanding debt that you owe on your mortgage loan.

Own	CONTINUE – ALL GROUPS
Rent	
VOLUNTEERED Living at home	
VOLUNTEERED Other, please specify:	
VOLUNTEERED Don't know/not sure	
	THANK AND END

ENSURE A GOOD MIX WHERE APPLICABLE.

- 4a. **ASK ALL GROUPS** Which of the following best describes the residence you currently [own/rent]?

Condo	CONTINUE
Apartment	CONTINUE
Single family home	CONTINUE
Townhome	CONTINUE
Other, please specify: _____	CONTINUE

ENSURE A GOOD MIX.

5. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 2 OR GROUP 3** Thinking about the issues presently facing [IF **GROUP 2** = Alberta; IF **GROUP 3** = Ontario], from the following list, which two or three issues do you feel are the top priorities?

Healthcare
 Energy Security/Reliability/The Energy Grid
 Housing Affordability
 Environmental Issues/Climate Change
 Indigenous Issues and Reconciliation
 Immigration
 The Economy
 Crime and Public Safety
 The Cost of Living
 Inequality and Poverty

GROUP 2 MUST SELECT ENERGY SECURITY/THE ENERGY GRID AS ONE OF TWO/THREE ISSUES TO CONTINUE. GROUP 3 MUST SELECT HEALTHCARE AS ONE OF TWO/THREE ISSUES TO CONTINUE.

5a. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 2** Thinking about the next 10 years, how concerned, if at all, are you about the ability of Alberta’s energy grid to keep up with demand?

Very concerned	CONTINUE
Somewhat concerned	CONTINUE
Not very concerned	THANK AND END
Not at all concerned	THANK AND END
VOLUNTEERED Prefer not to answer	THANK AND END

SKEW TO THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE VERY CONCERNED.

5b. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 3** You mentioned healthcare as one of the most important issues facing Ontario today. Is it your impression that the state of the healthcare system has ...

Improved	THANK AND END
Worsened	CONTINUE
Remained about the same	THANK AND END
VOLUNTEERED Prefer not to answer	THANK AND END

6. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 4** Do you have any children under the age of 18?

Yes	CONTINUE
No	THANK AND END
VOLUNTEERED Prefer not to answer	THANK AND END

6a. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 4** Are any of your children under the age of 18 currently attending daycare?

Yes, they currently are in daycare	CONTINUE TO Q6b.
No, but I am currently looking to enroll my child/children in daycare within the next 12 months	
No, they are not currently attending, and I am not looking to enroll them in daycare within the next 12 months	THANK AND END
VOLUNTEERED Prefer not to answer	

ENSURE A GOOD MIX OF THOSE CURRENTLY IN DAYCARE AND THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING TO ENROLL THEIR CHILD IN DAYCARE WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

6b. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 4** IF ‘YES, CURRENTLY IN DAYCARE’ AT Q6a, **ASK:** Which of the following best describes the program your child/children is/are currently enrolled in?
IF ‘NO, LOOKING TO ENROLL’ AT Q6a, **ASK:** Which of the following best describes the type of daycare program you are looking to enroll your child in?

Daycare centre, 5 days a week	CONTINUE TO Q6c.
Daycare centre, part time	
Home daycare, 5 days a week	
Home daycare, part time	

Before and after school program	
VOLUNTEERED	THANK AND END
Prefer not to answer	

ENSURE A GOOD MIX BY TYPE OF DAYCARE. SKEW TO THOSE WITH CHILDREN ATTENDING DAYCARE FULL TIME (5 DAYS A WEEK).

- 6c. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 4** Could you please tell me the age(s) of your children who are under the age of 18?

Child	Age
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

ENSURE A GOOD MIX BY AGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN EACH GROUP.

7. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 6** Are you currently enrolled in a post-secondary program?

Yes	CONTINUE TO Q7a.
No	THANK AND END
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	

- 7a. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 6** Which of the following post-secondary institutions are you enrolled in?

University – Undergraduate	CONTINUE
University – Postgraduate	
College	
Technical/Trade School	
Fine Arts School	
VOLUNTEERED	THANK AND END
Prefer not to answer	

ENSURE A GOOD MIX BY POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION.

8. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 7** Do you identify your primary cultural and/or ethnic heritage to be Ukrainian?

Yes	CONTINUE TO Q8a
No	THANK AND END
VOLUNTEERED Prefer not to answer	THANK AND END

8a. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 7** Were you born in Canada?

Yes	CONTINUE - GROUP 7
No	CONTINUE TO Q8b.
VOLUNTEERED Prefer not to answer	THANK AND END

8b. **ASK ONLY IF GROUP 7** How many years have you lived in Canada?

Less than 5 years	CONTINUE - GROUP 7
5 to <10 years	
10 to <20 years	
20 to <30 years	
30 or more years	
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	THANK AND END

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.

9. 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

10. 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 EITHER.**

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

11. **ASK ALL GROUPS** 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

12. **ASK ALL GROUPS** 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



- 13. ASK ALL GROUPS** 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.

- 14.** 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.18**

- 15.** How long ago was the last focus group you attended?

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

- 16.** How many focus group discussions have you attended in the past 5 years?

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

- 17.** 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.

- 18. ASK ALL GROUPS EXCEPT **GROUP 6**** 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.

- 19. ASK ALL GROUPS EXCEPT GROUP 7** 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.

- 20. ASK ALL GROUPS** Which of the following categories best describes your total household income in 2023. That is, the total income of all persons in your household combined, before taxes?

Under \$20,000	CONTINUE FOR ALL GROUPS
\$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 WHERE APPLICABLE.

- 21. ASK ALL GROUPS** 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
 Automotive
 Construction
 Educational Services
 Finance & Insurance
 Health Care



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: _____

ENSURE A GOOD MIX BY TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT IF APPLICABLE. NO MORE THAN TWO PER SECTOR. NO MORE THAN 2 WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED. NO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN ANY GROUPS.

22. [DO NOT ASK] Gender RECORD BY OBSERVATION.

Male	CONTINUE
Female	CONTINUE

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

23. 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 \$125 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 **[INSERT RECRUITER]** 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.

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 a 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 – février 2024
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 (HNE)	HEURE (LOCALE)	LIEU	COMPOSITION DU GROUPE	MODÉRATEUR
5	21 février	6:00-8:00	6:00-8:00 (HNE)	Ville de Québec	Population générale	MP
8	28 février	6:00-8:00	6:00-8:00 (HNE)	Région de Mauricie	Population générale	MP

Questionnaire de recrutement

INTRODUCTION

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. / 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

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

NOTER LA LANGUE ET CONTINUER

Français **CONTINUER**

Anglais **PASSER AU QUESTIONNAIRE ANGLAIS**

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 de Mauricie	Les villes peuvent notamment comprendre : Mauricie : Trois-Rivières, Shawinigan, La Tuque, Louiseville, Saint-Tite, Saint-Luc-de-Vincennes ASSURER UNE BONNE REPRÉSENTATION DES VILLES DE LA RÉGION.	CONTINUER – GROUPE 5
Ville de Québec	Ville de Québec. LES PARTICIPANTS DOIVENT RÉSIDER DANS LEDIT CENTRE.	CONTINUER – GROUPE 8
RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE Préfère ne pas répondre		REMERCIER ET CONCLURE

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

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

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

Moins de 18 ans	SI POSSIBLE, DEMANDER À PARLER À UNE PERSONNE DE 18 ANS OU PLUS ET REFAIRE L'INTRODUCTION. SINON, REMERCIER ET CONCLURE.
18 à 24 ans	CONTINUER
25 à 35 ans	
36 à 44 ans	
45 à 54 ans	
55 ans ou plus	
RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE Préfère ne pas répondre	REMERCIER ET CONCLURE

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

6. **DEMANDER A TOUS** Êtes-vous actuellement propriétaire ou locataire de votre résidence principale?
ECLAIRCISSEMENT AU BESOIN : Vous êtes considéré comme propriétaire même si vous avez une dette hypothécaire active.

Propriétaire	CONTINUER
Locataire	CONTINUER
RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE Habitant au domicile parentale	CONTINUER
RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE Autre, veuillez préciser :	CONTINUER
RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE Ne sais pas/Préfère ne pas répondre	REMERCIER ET CONCLURE

7. Parmi les choix suivants, lequel décrit le mieux la résidence dont vous êtes actuellement [propriétaire/locataire]?

Condo **CONTINUER**
 Appartement **CONTINUER**
 Maison unifamiliale **CONTINUER**
 Maison en rangée **CONTINUER**
 Autre, veuillez préciser : _____ **CONTINUER**

ASSURER UN BON MÉLANGE.

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 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 DOUBTES 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. Laquelle des catégories suivantes décrit le mieux le revenu annuel total de votre ménage en 2023 – c'est-à-dire le revenu cumulatif de l'ensemble des membres de votre ménage avant impôt?

Moins de 20 000 \$	CONTINUER
20 000 \$ à moins de 40 000 \$	CONTINUER
40 000 \$ à moins de 60 000 \$	CONTINUER
60 000 \$ à moins de 80 000 \$	CONTINUER
80 000 \$ à moins de 100 000 \$	CONTINUER
100 000 \$ à moins de 150 000 \$	CONTINUER
150 000 \$ ou plus	CONTINUER
RÉPONSE SPONTANÉE : Préfère ne pas répondre	REMERCIER ET CONCLURE

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

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. [NE PAS DEMANDER] Sexe NOTER SELON VOTRE OBSERVATION.

Homme
Femme

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

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

Métier de la construction ou métier spécialisé
Administrations publiques
Agriculture, foresterie, pêche et chasse
Arts, spectacle et loisirs
Autres services, sauf les administrations publiques
Commerce de détail
Commerce de gros
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
Autre situation ou autre secteur; veuillez préciser :

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

23. 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 CONCLUREE**



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.

Veillez 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 **[INSÉRER LE NOM DU RECRUTEUR]** 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.

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

MASTER MODERATOR'S GUIDE FEBRUARY 2023

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 and jot down some thoughts around some material that we will show them later in the discussion.
- **Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora** Moderator to inform participants that we will be discussing Ukraine; emphasize that their participation is voluntary, and they can take a break or ask to move past a question if anything is triggering.

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IN THE NEWS (5-15 minutes) Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority, Ontario Parents with Children in or Seeking Daycare, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mauricie Region

- **Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority, Ontario Parents with Children in or Seeking Daycare, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mauricie Region** What have you seen, read, or heard about the Government of Canada in the last few days?
 - **Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority, Ontario Parents with Children in or Seeking Daycare** Where did you hear, read, or see this information?
 - **Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students** What are your reactions to this news?
 - **Mauricie Region** What do you think about what you saw, read, or heard?
 - **Mauricie Region** IF NOT MENTIONED: What about the Government of Canada's recent visit to Ukraine where it committed \$3 billion in financial and military assistance for Ukraine in 2024?
 - **Mauricie Region** Before today, who was aware of this announcement?
 - **Mauricie Region** What are your reactions to this announcement?
 - **Mauricie Region** How much of an impact, if any, will this have?

PERFORMANCE AND PRIORITIES (15-40 minutes) Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Ontario Parents with Children in or Seeking Daycare, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora, Mauricie Region

- What does the Government of Canada do well?
 - Southwestern Ontario What about when it comes to managing issues around the environment and climate change? Would you say that the federal government is generally on the right track or wrong track?
 - What are some examples of work the Government of Canada has done to deal with the environment and climate change? What do you think about this?
 - Southwestern Ontario What about when it comes to supporting the automotive industry? Would you say that the Government of Canada is generally on the right track or wrong track?
 - What are some examples of work the federal government has done to support the automotive industry? What do you think about this?

- Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Ontario Parents with Children in or Seeking Daycare, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora, Mauricie Region What does the Government of Canada need to improve on?

- Southwestern Ontario, Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Ontario Parents with Children in or Seeking Daycare, Quebec City, Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students, Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora, Mauricie Region In your opinion, what are the top issues that the Government of Canada should be prioritizing?
 - Quebec City Why are these issues important to prioritize?
 - Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students IF NOT MENTIONED: What about climate change?
 - Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students IF NOT MENTIONED: What about housing?
 - Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora What about when it comes to the situation in Ukraine?

- Mauricie Region What about when it comes to managing issues in the economy? Would you say that the Government of Canada is generally on the right track or wrong track?
 - Mauricie Region What are some examples of work the federal government has done to deal with the economy?

- **Mauricie Region** How effective have these actions been? Why do you feel this way?
 - **Mauricie Region** What would you like to see from the Government of Canada when it comes to the economy?
- **Mauricie Region** What about when it comes to supporting the electric vehicle manufacturing industry? Would you say that the Government of Canada is generally on the right track or wrong track?
 - **Mauricie Region** What are some examples of work the federal government has done to support the electric vehicle manufacturing industry?
 - **Mauricie Region** IF NOT MENTIONED: What about in the manufacturing of EV batteries?
 - **Mauricie Region** What impacts, if any, do investments in electric vehicle manufacturing have for the economy? What about for the environment?
- **Mauricie Region** What about when it comes to supporting the clean energy sector? Would you say that the Government of Canada is generally on the right track or wrong track?
 - **Mauricie Region** What are some examples of work the federal government has done to support the clean energy sector?
 - **Mauricie Region** What impacts, if any, do investments in clean energy have on your region?

CLIMATE CHANGE **Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students**

- How concerned are you, if at all, by climate change? Why do you say that?
- What comes to mind when you think about the potential impacts of climate change?
 - Does climate change have any impact on things like wildlife, extreme weather, extreme temperatures, floods, droughts, or wildfires? IF YES: What are these impacts?
 - Does climate change have any impacts on the cost of living? IF YES: What are these impacts?
- How concerned are you about the potential impacts of climate change on your community?
- To the best of your knowledge, has the Government of Canada done anything to address climate change? How effective have these actions been?

- Overall, would you say the Government of Canada has been on the right track or on the wrong track when it comes to addressing climate change? Why do you feel this way?
- What would you like to see from the Government of Canada when it comes to climate change?

HOUSING Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students

- How would you describe the housing situation in your community?
- To the best of your knowledge, has the Government of Canada done anything to address issues related to housing? How effective have these actions been?
- Have you seen, read, or heard anything this week about the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia working together to help build more homes?

The Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia have partnered on the BC Builds initiative to address the high costs of housing projects. This program aims to build thousands of affordable rental homes by offering more than \$4 billion in low-cost financing for projects.

- What are your reactions to this? What impacts do you think this might have?
- What else would you like to see from the Government of Canada when it comes to addressing issues related to housing?

AFFORDABILITY MEASURES (20 minutes) Southwestern Ontario, Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority

Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority Shifting topics again...

- Southwestern Ontario IF NOT MENTIONED ABOVE: What about housing affordability?
- Southwestern Ontario, Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority Have you seen, read, or heard anything from the Government of Canada about what it is doing to address housing?
 - IF YES: What did you see, read, or hear? Where did you see, read, or hear this? What do you think about what you heard?
- Southwestern Ontario, Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority If the Government of Canada announced that it is “unlocking housing”, what does that mean to you? In other words, what types of measures or actions might that include?

- And now thinking specifically of ‘unlocking more housing supply,’ what does that mean to you? What type of measures or actions might that include?
- What stage of development would you consider housing supply to be unlocked?
 - AS NEEDED: Would it be at the initial approval stage of new housing projects, when construction projects are starting up, when new homes are made available to consumers, or something else?
- **Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority** And what if the Government of Canada announced that it is “fast tracking housing”? What does that mean to you? What type of measures or actions might that include?
- **Southwestern Ontario, Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority** How effective do you believe the Government of Canada's measures to unlock housing supply have been so far? Why do you feel this way?

Economy (25 minutes) Southwestern Ontario

And switching topics now...

- How would you rate the state of the Canadian economy right now? Is it good, poor, or somewhere in between? Why do you feel this way?
- Generally, how would you describe the Government of Canada’s management of the economy? Are they generally on the right track or the wrong track? What makes you say that?
- And thinking more locally, what are the biggest industries in your local communities?
 - FOR EACH INDUSTRY MENTIONED: Do you expect this industry will grow, shrink, or stay the same size over the next several years? In your opinion, what is causing or influencing this to happen?
 - What are some of the biggest challenges when it comes to economic growth in your community?

And now turning back to the Canadian economy in general...

- When you think about the future of the Canadian economy, what industries do you expect will be prioritized?
 - If these are prioritized, would that be good for your community? Would this bring new opportunities to your communities? Or, would it present new challenges?

Jobs (30 minutes) Southwestern Ontario

And now I'd like to talk specifically about the job market...

- Overall, how would you rate the state of the job market right now? Is it good, poor, or somewhere in between? Why do you feel this way?
- Thinking about five years from now, do you imagine the Canadian job market will be worse, better, or the same? What makes you say that? Why do you feel this way?
- Thinking five to ten years in the future ...
 - Which skills do you think will be in demand?
 - For those of you in the workforce or looking to enter it, how confident do you feel, if at all, that you will have a good job five to ten years from now? Why do you feel this way?
- Would you say the Government of Canada is on the right track or wrong track when it comes to ensuring workers get the skills training they need to stay competitive? What makes you say that?
- Would you say the Government of Canada is on the right track or wrong track when it comes to creating good jobs in Canada?
- Are you aware of any work the Government of Canada is doing to help create jobs, provide skills training, or otherwise support workers?
 - What should the Government of Canada do to help?

ENERGY OUTLOOK (20 minutes) Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid

- How important, if at all, is the oil and gas sector to Alberta's economy?
- How would you describe the current state of the oil and gas sector in Alberta?
- How important, if at all, is it for the Albertan economy to diversify beyond oil and gas? Why?
 - Which sectors will be most important to the future Albertan economy?
 - AS NEEDED: Do you see other energy sectors (aside from oil and gas) as being important for Alberta's future economy?
 - IF YES: Which one(s)? What makes you say that?
 - IF NO: What makes you say that?

- Has anyone heard the term “sustainable jobs” before? What does it mean?
- What comes to mind when you think about sustainable jobs in the clean energy sector?
 - Do you think the creation of sustainable jobs in the clean energy sector would benefit the Albertan economy? What about you and your family? Why or why not?

CLIMATE CHANGE [IMPACTS] (25 minutes) Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Quebec City

Quebec City Now I’d like to talk about climate change...

- **Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Quebec City** How concerned are you, if at all, by climate change? Why do you say that?
- **Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Quebec City** What comes to mind when you think about the potential impacts of climate change?
 - **Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid** Does climate change have any impact on the severity of weather?
 - **Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid** IF YES: What impacts does it have?
 - **Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid** IF NO: Why do you feel this way?
 - **Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid** IF NOT MENTIONED: Do you think there is a connection between climate change and the frequency and severity of major winter storms or extremely cold weather in Canada?
 - **Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid** IF YES: How so?
 - **Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid** IF NO: Why do you say that?
 - **Quebec City** Does climate change have any impacts on things like agriculture, wildlife, extreme weather, extreme temperatures, floods, droughts, or wildfires?
 - **Quebec City** What impact is climate change having on the economy or on the cost of living, if any?
 - **Quebec City** What about on Canadians’ health?
- **Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Quebec City** How concerned are you, if at all, about the potential impacts of climate change on your community?
- **Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid, Quebec City** Have you seen any impacts of climate change in your community?
 - IF YES: What have you seen?
- **Quebec City** Is it important for the federal government to help communities prepare for the impacts of climate change?

- **Quebec City** Have you heard of anything the federal government is doing to prepare for the impacts of climate change?
 - **Quebec City** What would you want them to do?

ELECTRICITY GRID (30 minutes) Alberta Concerned about the Energy Grid

- Has your community experienced extreme cold lately?
 - IF YES: Have you seen any impacts from extreme cold in your community?
 - IF YES: What have you seen?
 - IF NOT MENTIONED: What about impacts on electricity systems?

As you know, last month, the Alberta Emergency Management Agency issued an Alberta Emergency Alert indicating that extreme cold resulting in high power demand had placed the Alberta energy grid at a high risk of rotating power outages. The alert asked Albertans to limit their electricity use to essentials only, such as turning off unnecessary electrical appliances, minimizing the use of space heaters, cooking with a microwave instead of a stove, etc.

- In your opinion, how could a situation like this be avoided in the future, if at all?
- Is there anything the Government of Canada could do to support the reliability of the electricity grid?
- Have you seen, read, or heard anything about what the Government of Canada is doing when it comes to the electricity grid?
 - IF YES: What have you heard?
- Do you think the Government of Canada is on the right or wrong track when it comes to its approach to the electricity sector? What makes you say that?

CLARIFY AS NEEDED:

The Government of Canada is investing in clean electricity and clean technologies to help reduce emissions.

- What comes to mind when you think of clean electricity? What about clean tech?
- Should the Government of Canada be encouraging investments in clean electricity? What about in clean tech?
 - CLARIFY AS NEEDED: This could include investments in building power grids that use clean energy sources (like wind, solar, and hydroelectric), and providing incentives for the adoption and manufacturing of clean technologies (like solar panels and wind turbines), to name a few.

- Do you see any positives or benefits from the Government of Canada encouraging investments in clean electricity and clean tech?
- Do you have any concerns about the Government of Canada encouraging investments in clean electricity and clean tech?
- Do you think more clean electricity and clean tech will lead to more risks of power outages, fewer risks, or do you think these risks will stay about the same? What makes you say that?
- Do you think developing the clean electricity sector will have a positive impact, a negative impact, or no impact on someone like you? What about on workers in Alberta?

HEALTHCARE PRIORITIES (55 minutes) Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority

When we invited you to this session, you all indicated healthcare was a priority issue...

- How would you describe the healthcare system in Canada today?
 - What are your biggest concerns?
- How would you describe your experiences accessing healthcare services? When you need healthcare, how easy or difficult is it for you to access it?
- How do you think the quality of the healthcare system in your area compares to other regions or provinces in Canada? Is it better, worse or the same?
- Would you say that when it comes to Canada's healthcare system, major changes are needed, only minor changes are needed, or no changes are needed at all?
- What role does the Government of Canada have in healthcare?
 - In your opinion, does the Government of Canada understand the healthcare issues you're most worried about? Why or why not?
- What recent news, if any, have you seen, read, or heard about the Government of Canada's work on healthcare?
 - PROBE: Have you heard anything about agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to improve healthcare in Ontario?
 - IF YES: What have you heard?

CLARIFY

The Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario recently announced a new \$3.1 billion agreement to improve healthcare in Ontario. Under this agreement, Ontario will allocate federal healthcare funding to help increase access to family doctors, reduce wait times, and hire more healthcare workers.

- We'll get into some of the details in a moment, but what are your initial reactions to this announcement?

Now I'm going to show you some details of this plan...

SHOW ON SCREEN

To address healthcare shortages, the Government of Canada will support Ontario to:

Expand the healthcare workforce by adding new positions for physicians, nurses, and support workers, and increasing healthcare education enrollments.

Enhance access to primary care by creating teams of family doctors, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals, particularly in underserved areas.

Reduce wait times and surgery backlogs with more healthcare workers and improved care access.

Make it easier for health professionals to practice in Ontario by removing barriers to foreign credential recognition and simplifying licensing processes.

Improve health information management and sharing.

Boost mental health support by adding Youth Wellness Hubs and expanding psychotherapy programs.

- What are your initial reactions after seeing some of the details for this plan?

POLL: I'm going to show you a poll. I'd like you to select which two items you think are most important in addressing healthcare shortages. You may select up to two items.

Expand the healthcare workforce

Enhance access to primary care

Reduce wait times and surgery backlogs

Make it easier for health professionals to practice in Ontario

Improve health information management and sharing

Boost mental health support

- **GO THROUGH EACH SELECTION:** Why do you believe this to be particularly important?
- Are there any measures listed that you do not think should be there? Why do you say that?
- Overall, do you think this plan will have a major, minor or no impact on the quality of healthcare in Canada? Why?
- Would you say you support the Government of Canada's healthcare plans, oppose them, or neither? Why?

AUTOMOBILE THEFT (25 minutes) Ontario Indicated Healthcare is a Top Priority

Changing topics now...

- Have you seen, read, or heard anything from the Government of Canada about what it is doing to address auto theft?
 - IF YES: What did you see, read, or hear? Where did you see, read, or hear this? What do you think about what you heard?

Recently, the Government of Canada met with provincial, territorial, and municipal government officials, industry leaders and law enforcement representatives from across the country at the National Summit on Combatting Auto Theft.

- Have you seen, read, or heard anything about this summit?
 - IF YES: What did you see, read, or hear?

I'm now going to show you some actions the Government of Canada is taking...

SHOW ON SCREEN

The Government of Canada is coordinating efforts across the country and taking immediate actions to combat auto theft by:

- **Examining potential amendments to the Criminal Code**, including by reviewing existing offences and penalties related to auto theft.
- **Working with Canadian companies, including the automotive industry**, to develop innovative solutions to protect vehicles against theft.
- **Pursuing all avenues to ban devices used to steal vehicles**, such as the Flipper Zero (a portable hacking tool that can copy the wireless signals for remote keyless entry).
- **Increasing the capacity of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)** to conduct more investigations and examinations of stolen vehicles.
- **Supporting better information sharing between local police and railway police** so they can identify and find stolen cars before they get to ports.
- **Working with security partners across Canada and internationally** to increase collaboration and information sharing.
- **Modernizing the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards** to ensure they consider technological advancements to deter and prevent auto theft.
- **Working with port facilities on actions and security plans** that will address cargo handling vulnerabilities.
- What are your initial reactions after seeing this?
- Are there any measures listed that you think are particularly important?

- Are there any measures listed that you do not think should be there? Why do you say that?
- Overall, do you think these actions will have a major, minor or no impact on auto theft in Canada? Why?
- Would you say you support the Government of Canada's plans to combat auto theft, oppose them, or neither? Why?

PARENTS – COST OF LIVING (45 minutes) Ontario Parents with Children in or Seeking Daycare

- Generally, how would you describe the Government of Canada's management of the economy?
 - Are they generally on the right track or the wrong track? Why?
- As a parent, which economic issues are you most worried about and impacted by?
 - Does the Government of Canada understand the economic issues you're most worried about and impacted by? Why or why not?
 - PROMPT AS NEEDED: What about affordability and the cost of living?
- What are examples of things that have become less affordable in your day-to-day life?
 - Have you changed any of your day-to-day habits in response to the rising cost of living?
- What is the Government of Canada doing to address the rising cost of living?
- Are you aware of any Government of Canada policies, programs, services, or benefits that support parents?
- Who here is aware of...?
 - The Canada Child Benefit (CCB)
 - The Canada Dental Benefit (CDB)
 - IF AWARE: What do you know about each program?

CLARIFY AS NECESSARY: The Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is a means-tested income support program for Canadian families. It is delivered as a tax-free monthly payment available to eligible Canadian families to help with the cost of raising children. The CCB is indexed to inflation.

CLARIFY AS NECESSARY: The Government of Canada has a Canada Dental Benefit (CDB) to help lower dental costs for eligible families earning less than \$90,000 a year.

NOTE TO MODERATOR IF ASKED WHAT 'ELIGIBLE FAMILIES' MEANS:

Parents and guardians may be eligible if they pay for dental care for a child under 12 years old who does not have access to a private dental insurance plan

- What are your reactions to these benefits?
 - Do you have any questions about either of these benefits?
- When it comes to affordability and the cost of living, how big of an impact, if any, do you think these benefits will have on you and your family?
 - Would you consider the Canada Child Benefit and the Canada Dental Benefit to be affordability measures designed for parents? Why or why not?

CHILDCARE (40 minutes) Ontario Parents with Children in or Seeking Daycare

When you were recruited for this focus group, you indicated that you currently have childcare arrangements for your children or are in the process of finding childcare.

- By a show of hands, who here currently has childcare arrangements for their children, that is your children are attending a daycare centre, home daycare, etc.? Who here is in the process of making childcare arrangements?
 - How much do your childcare arrangements cost/how much do you anticipate it will cost you?
 - How do these costs compare with your other living expenses?
 - Have these costs changed over time?
 - How easy or difficult was/is it to find and secure a spot for your child?
 - Has the availability of childcare spaces changed over time?
 - How would you describe the quality of childcare options in your area?
 - Has the quality changed over time?
 - IF ANY CHANGES: What is behind this change?
 - Overall, what would you say are your biggest challenges when it comes to childcare? Is it affordability, availability, or something else?
- Have you seen, read, or heard anything about the Government of Canada and childcare?

PROMPT: The Government of Canada has agreements in place with provinces and territories to lower the cost of childcare to an average of \$10/day and create 250,000 childcare spaces across Canada by

2025-2026. In Ontario, the average parent's fees for regulated and funded childcare for children under the age of 6 has been reduced by 50% since December 2022. This agreement will deliver on average \$10-a-day childcare for Ontario families by the end of March 2026.

- What is your reaction to this plan?
 - Was there anything about this plan you weren't previously aware of?
 - Do you have any questions or concerns about this plan?
 - What impacts, if any, has this plan had on your family? What impacts do you think it will have on your family in the future?
 - What are your thoughts on how the childcare plan has been rolled out so far?
- When you think of various policies the Government of Canada could implement to reduce the cost of living, do you think investing to lower the cost of childcare is an important one? Why or why not?
- What impacts do you think more affordable and accessible childcare could have on the economy? Would you say these impacts are more positive or negative? Why do you feel this way?
 - IF NOT MENTIONED: What impact could it have on parents' ability to work?
- Is there anything else you would like to add about your experiences or suggestions regarding childcare?

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES (20-25 minutes) Quebec City, Mauricie Region

Now I'd like to focus on your local community...

- **Quebec City, Mauricie Region** What are the top issues in Quebec City specifically that the Government of Canada should be prioritizing/What are the most important community challenges that the Government of Canada should prioritize in your region?
 - **Quebec City** IF NOT MENTIONED: What about investing in local infrastructure?
- **Quebec City** What have you seen, read, or heard lately about the Government of Canada and infrastructure in Quebec City?
 - **Quebec City** Have you noticed any changes or developments in the local infrastructure?

- **Quebec City** Generally, what type of local infrastructure projects do you think are the most important to Quebec City? What would make the biggest difference to you personally?

Quebec City Shifting away from infrastructure ...

- **Quebec City, Mauricie Region** What are the most important sectors and industries for your local community?
- **Quebec City, Mauricie Region** Which sectors and industries in your region do you feel need the most help?

Mauricie Region 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?*

- **Quebec City, Mauricie Region** Are labour shortages an issue in your community/Are labour shortages an issue in your region?
 - **Quebec City, Mauricie Region** IF YES: Are labour shortages affecting certain sectors in particular?
 - **Quebec City, Mauricie Region** IF YES: Which ones?
 - **Quebec City, Mauricie Region** In your opinion, what's behind these labour shortages?
 - **Quebec City, Mauricie Region** What do you believe are some potential solutions to help reduce labour shortages?

IMMIGRATION (30 minutes) **Quebec City**

Shifting to another topic ...

- What news have you seen, read, or heard lately about the Government of Canada and immigration?
 - AS NEEDED: What about the Government of Canada and international students?

PROMPT: The Government of Canada has announced a temporary 2-year cap on new international student study permits. With this cap, the Government of Canada is expecting 364,000 approved study permits in 2024.

- What are your reactions to this decision? What impacts do you think this could have?

- With this decision in mind, would you say the Government of Canada is more on the right track or wrong track when it comes to managing the immigration system? Why do you feel this way?
 - IF WRONG TRACK: What would the Government of Canada need to do to get on the right track?
- Overall, how would you describe the current state of the immigration system in Canada?
- What do you think are some of the benefits of welcoming new immigrants to Canada?
- To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Canada needs to welcome more new immigrants to fill labour shortages and grow the economy.”
 - Why do you feel this way?
- Do you have any concerns about welcoming new immigrants?
 - IF YES: What are your concerns? What should the Government of Canada do to address these concerns?
- Do you think the Government of Canada should increase, decrease, or keep the rate of immigration at about the same level? Why?
 - IF INCREASE OR DECREASE: What impacts would this have in Canada, either socially or economically?
- Before we move to the next section, do you have any other thoughts you would like to share on the Canadian immigration system?

STUDENT ISSUES (25 minutes) Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students

- Do you feel that the Government of Canada makes an effort to reach out to students? Do you feel it prioritizes students when making decisions? Why or why not?
 - What could the Government of Canada do to reach out to students more effectively?
- Who here is aware of any work the Government of Canada has done to help make post-secondary studies and paying off student loans more affordable?

I'm going to show you a few things the Government of Canada has done and ask for your reactions.

SHOW ON SCREEN:

- **Permanently eliminating the federal interest** on Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans.
- **Increasing Canada Student Grants** by 40%, to provide up to \$4,200/academic year for full-time students.
- **Improving the repayment assistance plan** so that an individual earning under \$40,000 a year no longer has to make student loan payments, with the income threshold increasing by family size.
- How do you feel about these measures? What impacts, if any, do you think these measures will have?
- Is there anything else that you think the Government of Canada should do to help students?

BUDGET (30 minutes) Vancouver Island Post-Secondary Students

Moving on to another topic ...

- In your opinion, how is the Canadian economy doing overall? Why do you feel this way? (AS NEEDED: What about when it comes to growth, jobs, inflation?)
 - IF ECONOMY DOING POORLY: What would need to happen for you to start feeling optimistic about the Canadian economy?

As you may be aware, the Government of Canada will soon be introducing a new budget outlining their spending priorities for the next fiscal year.

POLL: I'm going to show you a poll. I'd like you to select which items you think the Government of Canada should prioritize in the upcoming budget. You may select up to three items. **TECH SUPPORT TO SHARE TITLES ON SCREEN AND MODERATOR TO READ THROUGH PRIOR TO CONDUCTING POLL.**

Affordability/Cost of living
Supporting the middle class
Unlocking pathways to the middle class
Growing the housing supply
More opportunities for good careers
Long-term economic growth through clean tech and energy
Helping Canadians save for retirement
Protecting seniors' benefits

Fighting climate change

Maintaining a responsible plan for government spending

Improving the healthcare system

Raising taxes on the wealthiest Canadians

- MODERATOR TO GO THROUGH EACH SELECTION: Why did you make this selection?
- When you hear “wealthiest Canadians”, who or what comes to mind?
 - How much do you think the “wealthiest Canadians” make per year, on average?
(Prompt as needed: \$150,000 or more, \$250,000, \$500,000, more?)
- SHOW OF HANDS: Who feels they are part of the middle class?
- In your opinion, what does it mean to be middle class?
 - What does a middle-class lifestyle look like to you?
- What do you think it means to ‘unlock pathways to the middle class’?
 - What are the pathways to the middle class?
 - How can the Government of Canada best support those trying to join the middle class?
 - What type of investments do you think would help Canadians join and remain in the middle class?
 - Should the Government of Canada be prioritizing these types of investments? Why or why not?
- How would you describe the Government of Canada’s performance overall on supporting the middle class?
 - How confident are you, if at all, that the Government of Canada will be able to deliver on supporting the middle class and those working to join it?
- What is a ‘good career’? Is a ‘good career’ different than a ‘good job’?
 - IF YES: In which ways? Is one better to aspire to over another?
- What comes to mind when you think of clean technology? What about clean energy?
- Should the Government of Canada be encouraging investments in clean tech? What about in clean energy?
 - AS NEEDED: This could include investments in the manufacturing of batteries for electric vehicles, improving charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, building a

national power grid that uses clean energy sources (like wind, solar, and hydroelectric), providing incentives for the adoption and manufacturing of green technologies (like solar panels and wind turbines), and developing clean fuel sources (like hydrogen), to name a few.

- Do you think investments in clean tech and energy lead to long-term economic growth? Why or why not?

UKRAINE (90 minutes) Mid-Size and Major Centres Saskatchewan Ukrainian Diaspora

- What have you seen, read or heard about the Government of Canada in the last few days? What do you think about what you saw, read, or heard?
 - IF NOT MENTIONED: What about the Government of Canada's recent visit to Ukraine where it committed \$3 billion in financial and military assistance for Ukraine in 2024?
 - Before today, who was aware of this announcement?
 - What are your reactions to this announcement?
 - How much of an impact, if any, do you think this will have?
- How closely, if at all, have you been following the war in Ukraine?
 - IF FOLLOWING: Can you share what you know or have heard about it?
- How concerned, if at all, are you about the war in Ukraine?
 - IF CONCERNED: What aspects of the war are most concerning to you?
- Does the war in Ukraine affect you or anyone you know personally?
- How has it influenced, if at all, your view of the world and Canada's place in it?
- In your opinion, how do you think the war in Ukraine has impacted the world?
 - Do you see any direct or indirect impacts on Canada?
- Do you think it's important for Canada to help Ukraine? Why or why not?

We're going to use the chat function for the next question. Please take a minute now to locate the chat function and ensure that you have selected [moderator] as the recipient.

- If you had to choose one word to describe the Government of Canada's approach to the war in Ukraine, what word would you use? Please write your answer in the chat.
 - MODERATOR TO ASK EACH PARTICIPANT: Can you explain why you chose this word?

- Would you say the Government of Canada has been more on the right track or more on the wrong track when it comes to their approach to the war in Ukraine? Why do you feel this way?
 - IF RIGHT TRACK: What makes you say that? (Moderator to probe for Canada’s financial and military assistance, humanitarian aid, temporary visas, etc.)
 - IF WRONG TRACK: What should the Government of Canada do to get on the right track?
- Has your view on the federal government’s performance changed over time?
 - IF YES: What changed your opinion?
- In your opinion, should the Government of Canada be doing more or less in response to the war in Ukraine? Why do you feel this way?
- What types of support, if any, are most important for Ukraine right now? PROMPT AS NEEDED: Humanitarian aid, military aid, diplomatic support, deepening economic partnerships...
- Are you aware of any humanitarian aid provided by Canada to Ukraine so far?
 - IF YES: What are your thoughts on the humanitarian aid provided by Canada to Ukraine so far?
 - How would you describe the level of humanitarian aid that’s been given?
- Are you aware of any sanctions the Government of Canada has placed on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine?
 - IF YES: What are your thoughts on the sanctions the Government of Canada has placed?
 - Do you think sanctions against Russia are an effective way to support Ukraine? Why or why not?
- Are you aware of the Government of Canada’s commitment to help displaced Ukrainians come to Canada?
 - IF YES: What are your thoughts on the number of displaced Ukrainians coming to Canada?
 - Do you feel the government is doing enough, should do more, or should do less to welcome displaced Ukrainians to Canada? Why do you feel this way?

CLARIFY: The Government of Canada created the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) to help Ukrainians and their family members come to Canada as quickly as possible and to provide them with the ability to work and study while in Canada.

For Ukrainian nationals outside Canada, the CUAET gave them a visitor visa to come to Canada temporarily, until it is safe to return to Ukraine. This visitor visa also offered them the option to apply for a work permit at the same time or to be given status as a student if they are under 18 and want to study in Canada. March 31, 2024, is the last day to enter Canada under the CUAET special

measures. Those who have arrived before this date, can apply to extend their stay for up to 3 years at a time or until their passport expires.

- Do you know anyone who has arrived under CUAET?
- Are you aware of the pathway to permanent residence for Ukrainians and their family members?
- Do you support or oppose this plan? Why is that?
 - How do you think this will impact Canada? What about your community?
- What supports do you think are important to help Ukrainians after they arrive in Canada?
- What have you seen, read, or heard about the Government of Canada providing military aid to Ukraine?

CLARIFY: During President Zelenskyy's visit to Canada in September 2023, the Government of Canada committed to providing \$650 million in financial and military aid over three years, which includes supplying Ukraine with 50 armored vehicles made in Canada. This comes in addition to Canada's ongoing military support to Ukraine through training Ukrainian soldiers and personnel, providing equipment and supplies, and providing weapons and ammunitions.

- What are your reactions to this?
- Do you support or oppose Canada providing Ukraine with this type of military and financial aid? Why or why not?
- Who here has seen, read, or heard anything recently about the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement? Can you share what you know about it?

CLARIFY: The Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement is designed to improve the business relationship between Canada and Ukraine. It does this by giving special treatment to goods traded between the two countries and by setting up new rules for trading services and investment. The agreement now has added sections that focus on fair trade, which includes support for smaller businesses, ensuring trade benefits both men and women equally, and benefits Indigenous Peoples. This agreement is intended to support Ukraine as it rebuilds its economy after the invasion by Russia.

- How important, if at all, is having a free trade agreement with Ukraine?
- What kind of long-term support, if any, do you think Ukraine will need from Canada and the international community after the conflict is resolved?
 - How important, if at all, is it for Canada to keep supporting Ukraine through its economic reconstruction?

- How much of an impact, if any, do you think Canada's overall support for Ukraine has had? Why do you feel this way?
- Have you come across information relating to Russia's invasion of Ukraine that seemed false or misleading? Can you provide any examples?
- As far as you know, when it comes to the war in Ukraine, is false or misleading information about what's happening in the region a major issue, a minor issue, or not really an issue at all?
- What impact, if any, is false or misleading information having on your ability to formulate an opinion based on fact about the conflict?

HYDROGEN-BASED ENERGY (25 minutes) Mauricie Region

- Who here is familiar with clean hydrogen?
 - IF FAMILIAR: What have you seen, read, or heard about clean hydrogen?

SHOW ON SCREEN

Clean electricity (electricity generated from sources like hydroelectricity, wind, and solar), and other sources of renewable energy can be converted into hydrogen with little or no emissions.

Once produced, hydrogen can be used as a sustainable energy source for a variety of industrial processes, like steel manufacturing. It can also be converted to electricity, which can be used in a wide range of applications, like powering vehicles, power plants, and buildings.

- When you think about clean hydrogen, do you have any questions or concerns that come to mind?
- How much of an impact, if at all, would hydrogen-based energy have on reducing emissions? How do you know?
- How many jobs, if any, do you think could be created in the clean hydrogen sector? What types of jobs might these be? How much of an impact, if at all, could these jobs have on your local economy?
- When thinking about investments in clean energy more broadly, how much of a priority should clean hydrogen be for the Government of Canada, compared to other investments in clean energy?
 - Why do you feel this way?



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 FEVRIER 2024

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 modérateur des membres de la diaspora ukrainienne de centres de moyenne taille et de grands centres de la Saskatchewan informera les participants que la discussion portera sur l'Ukraine; Insister sur le fait que leur participation est volontaire et qu'ils peuvent faire une pause ou demander à sauter une question si celle-ci est dérangeante.

LE GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA DANS L'ACTUALITÉ (5 à 15 minutes) Sud-ouest de l'Ontario, résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituent une priorité majeure, parents de l'Ontario dont les enfants sont inscrits dans une garderie ou à la recherche d'une garderie, étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver, région de la Mauricie

- Sud-ouest de l'Ontario, résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituent une priorité majeure, parents de l'Ontario dont les enfants sont inscrits dans une garderie ou à la recherche d'une garderie, Ville de Québec, étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver, région de la Mauricie Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu au sujet du gouvernement du Canada au cours des derniers jours?
 - Sud-ouest de l'Ontario, résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituent une priorité majeure, parents de l'Ontario dont les enfants sont inscrits dans une garderie ou à la recherche d'une garderie Où avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu cette information?
 - Étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver Quelles sont vos réactions à cette nouvelle?
 - Région de la Mauricie Que pensez-vous de ce que vous avez vu, lu ou entendu?

- **Région de la Mauricie** SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Qu'en est-il de la récente visite du gouvernement canadien en Ukraine au cours de laquelle il s'est engagé à fournir une aide financière et militaire de trois milliards de dollars à l'Ukraine en 2024?
 - Avant aujourd'hui, qui avait connaissance de cette annonce?
- **Région de la Mauricie** Quel sera, selon vous, l'impact de cette décision, le cas échéant?

PRIORITÉS ET PERFORMANCE (15-40 minutes) **Sud-ouest de l'Ontario, résidents de l'Alberta** préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituent une priorité majeure, parents de l'Ontario dont les enfants sont inscrits dans une garderie ou à la recherche d'une garderie, Ville de Québec, étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver, membres de la diaspora de centres de taille moyenne et de grands centres de la Saskatchewan, région de la Mauricie

- Qu'est-ce que le gouvernement du Canada fait de bien?
 - **Sud-ouest de l'Ontario, région de la Mauricie** Qu'en est-il de sa gestion des enjeux liés à l'environnement et le changement climatique?
 - Quels sont des exemples du travail effectué par le gouvernement du Canada pour traiter de l'environnement et du changement climatique? Que pensez-vous de cela?
 - **Sud-ouest de l'Ontario** Qu'en est-il lorsqu'il s'agit de soutenir l'industrie automobile? Diriez-vous que le gouvernement fédéral est généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie?
 - Quels sont des exemples du travail effectué par le gouvernement fédéral pour soutenir l'industrie automobile? Que pensez-vous de cela?
- **Sud-ouest de l'Ontario, résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituent une priorité majeure, parents de l'Ontario dont les enfants sont inscrits dans une garderie ou à la recherche d'une garderie, Ville de Québec, étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver, membres de la diaspora de centres de taille moyenne et de grands centres de la Saskatchewan, région de la Mauricie** Sur quel plan le gouvernement du Canada doit-il s'améliorer?
- **Sud-ouest de l'Ontario, résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituent une priorité majeure, parents de l'Ontario dont les enfants sont inscrits dans une garderie ou à la recherche d'une garderie, Ville de Québec, étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver, membres de la diaspora de centres de taille moyenne et de grands centres de la Saskatchewan, région de la Mauricie** Quels sont, à votre avis, les principaux enjeux auxquels le gouvernement fédéral devrait accorder la priorité?

- **Ville de Québec** Pourquoi ces enjeux sont-ils importants?
- **Étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver** SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ :
- **Étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver** SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ :
Qu'en est-il du logement?
- **Membres de la diaspora de centres de taille moyenne et de grands centres de la Saskatchewan** Qu'en est-il de la situation en Ukraine?

- **Région de la Mauricie** Qu'en est-il lorsqu'il s'agit de gérer des enjeux liés à l'économie?
 - **Région de la Mauricie** Quels sont des exemples du travail effectué par le gouvernement fédéral pour traiter de l'économie?
 - **Région de la Mauricie** À quel point ces mesures ont-elles été efficaces? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?
 - **Région de la Mauricie** Quelles autres initiatives souhaiteriez-vous que prenne le gouvernement du Canada en ce qui concerne l'économie?

- **Région de la Mauricie** Qu'en est-il lorsqu'il s'agit de soutenir l'industrie de la fabrication de véhicules électriques? Diriez-vous que le gouvernement fédéral est généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie?
 - **Région de la Mauricie** Pouvez-vous citer quelques exemples de mesures prises par le gouvernement fédéral pour soutenir la fabrication de véhicules électriques?
 - **Région de la Mauricie** SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Et en lien avec la fabrication de batteries pour véhicules électriques?
 - **Région de la Mauricie** Quels impacts, le cas échéant, les investissements dans la fabrication de véhicules électriques ont-ils sur l'économie? Qu'en est-il des impacts sur l'environnement?

- **Région de la Mauricie** Qu'en est-il lorsqu'il s'agit de soutenir le secteur des énergies propres? Diriez-vous que le gouvernement fédéral est généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie?
 - **Région de la Mauricie** Pouvez-vous citer quelques exemples d'actions menées par le gouvernement fédéral pour soutenir le secteur des énergies propres?
 - **Région de la Mauricie** Dans quelle mesure des investissements dans les énergies propres impactent-ils votre région, le cas échéant?

CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE **Étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver**

- Qu'est-ce qui vous vient à l'esprit lorsque vous pensez aux effets potentiels du changement climatique?
 - Le changement climatique a-t-il des impacts sur des éléments comme l'agriculture, la faune et la flore et entraîne-t-il des conditions météorologiques extrêmes, des températures extrêmes, des inondations, des sécheresses ou des incendies de forêt?
 - SI OUI : Quels sont ces impacts?
 - Le changement climatique a-t-il des répercussions sur le coût de la vie?
 - SI OUI : Quels sont ces impacts?
- Dans quelle mesure les impacts potentiels du changement climatique sur votre collectivité vous préoccupent-ils?
- À votre connaissance, le gouvernement du Canada a-t-il pris des initiatives pour lutter contre le changement climatique? Dans quelle mesure ces initiatives ont-elles été efficaces?
- Diriez-vous que dans l'ensemble, le gouvernement du Canada est sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie pour ce qui est de lutter contre le changement climatique? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?
- Quelles autres initiatives souhaiteriez-vous que prenne le gouvernement du Canada en ce qui concerne le changement climatique?

LOGEMENT - Étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver :

- Comment décririez-vous la situation du logement au sein de votre collectivité?
- À votre connaissance, le gouvernement du Canada a-t-il pris des mesures pour résoudre les problèmes liés au logement? Dans quelle mesure ces initiatives ont-elles été efficaces?
- Avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu quoi que ce soit cette semaine au sujet de la collaboration entre le gouvernement du Canada et le gouvernement de la Colombie-Britannique pour construire plus de logements?

Les gouvernements du Canada et de la Colombie-Britannique ont conclu un partenariat dans le cadre de l'initiative BC Builds, dans le but de remédier aux coûts élevés des projets d'habitation. Ce programme vise à construire des milliers de logements locatifs abordables en offrant plus de 4 milliards de dollars de financement à faible coût destiné à des projets.

- Quelles sont vos réactions à cela? Quels impacts aura-t-il?

- Quelles autres initiatives souhaiteriez-vous que prenne le gouvernement du Canada pour remédier aux problèmes liés au logement?

MESURES POUR RENDRE LA VIE PLUS ABORDABLE (20 minutes) sud-ouest de l'Ontario, résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituaient une priorité majeure

Résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituaient une priorité majeure :
Changeons à nouveau de sujet

- **Sud-ouest de l'Ontario** SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNE : Qu'en est-il en matière d'abordabilité du logement?
- **Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario, résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituaient une priorité majeure** Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu concernant ce que fait le gouvernement du Canada pour s'attaquer à la situation du logement?
 - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu? Où l'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu? Que pensez-vous de ce que vous avez entendu?
- **Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario, résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituaient une priorité majeure** Si le gouvernement du Canada annonçait qu'il s'employait à « stimuler la construction logement », qu'est-ce que cela signifierait pour vous? En d'autres termes, quels types de mesures ou d'initiatives cela pourrait-il supposer?
 - Et maintenant, en pensant tout particulièrement au fait de « stimuler l'offre de logements », qu'est-ce que cela signifie pour vous? Quels types de mesures ou d'actions cela pourrait-il supposer?
 - À quel stade du développement considéreriez-vous que l'offre de logements devrait être stimulée?
 - AU BESOIN : Serait-ce au stade de l'approbation initiale de nouveaux projets d'habitation, au démarrage d'un projet de construction, au moment où les nouveaux logements sont mis à la disposition des consommateurs, ou à un autre stade?
- **Résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituaient une priorité majeure** Et si le gouvernement du Canada annonçait qu'il s'emploie à accélérer la construction de logements »? Qu'est-ce que cela signifie d'après vous? Quels types de mesures ou d'actions cela pourrait-il supposer?



- **Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario, résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituaient une priorité majeure** Dans quelle mesure diriez-vous que les mesures prises par le gouvernement du Canada pour stimuler l'offre de logements ont été efficaces jusqu'à présent? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?

ÉCONOMIE (25 minutes) sud-ouest de l'Ontario

Et maintenant, changeons à nouveau de sujet

- Comment évalueriez-vous l'état de l'économie canadienne à l'heure actuelle? Diriez-vous qu'il est bon, mauvais, ou ni bon ni mauvais? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?
- Comment décririez-vous généralement la gestion du gouvernement du Canada de l'économie? Est-il généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?
- Et plus localement, quels sont les secteurs d'activité les plus importants au sein de vos collectivités?
 - POUR CHAQUE SECTEUR MENTIONNÉ : Pensez-vous que ce secteur d'activité va croître, décroître ou demeurer inchangé dans les années à venir? À votre avis, quels sont les facteurs déterminants ou les causes de cette évolution?
 - Quels sont les plus grands défis à relever en matière de croissance économique au sein de votre collectivité?

Revenons maintenant à l'économie canadienne en général...

- Lorsque vous pensez à l'avenir de l'économie canadienne, quels secteurs d'activité seront, selon vous, priorités?
 - Serait-il bénéfique pour votre collectivité que ces secteurs d'activité soient priorités? Cela offrirait-il de nouvelles possibilités à votre collectivité? Ou cela poserait-il de nouveaux défis?

EMPLOI (30 minutes) sud-ouest de l'Ontario

J'aimerais maintenant que l'on parle plus particulièrement du marché de l'emploi...

- Globalement, comment évalueriez-vous la situation sur le marché de l'emploi à l'heure actuelle? Est-elle bonne, mauvaise ou ni bonne ni mauvaise? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela?

- En pensant à ce que sera la situation sur le marché de l'emploi dans cinq ans, pensez-vous qu'elle sera pire, meilleure ou la même? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela?
- Dans cinq à dix ans...
 - Quelles sont les compétences qui, selon vous, seront les plus recherchées?
 - Pour ceux et celles d'entre vous qui sont sur le marché du travail ou qui cherchent à l'intégrer, dans quelle mesure êtes-vous confiant(e), le cas échéant, de pouvoir avoir un bon emploi d'ici cinq à dix ans? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela?
- Diriez-vous que le gouvernement du Canada est sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie lorsqu'il s'agit de s'assurer que les travailleuses et les travailleurs obtiennent les formations axées sur les compétences nécessaires au maintien de leur compétitivité? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela?
- Diriez-vous que le gouvernement du Canada est sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie en ce qui concerne la création d'emplois de qualité au Canada?
- Avez-vous connaissance de ce que fait le gouvernement du Canada pour aider à créer des emplois, à fournir des formations axées sur des compétences ou pour soutenir les travailleurs?
 - Que devrait faire le gouvernement du Canada pour aider?

PERSPECTIVES EN MATIÈRE D'ÉNERGIE (20 minutes) Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique :

- Dans quelle mesure le secteur pétrolier et gazier est-il important, le cas échéant, pour l'économie de l'Alberta?
- Comment décririez-vous l'état actuel du secteur pétrolier et gazier en Alberta?
- Dans quelle mesure est-il important, le cas échéant, que l'économie albertaine se diversifie en dehors du pétrole et du gaz? Pourquoi?
 - Quels sont les secteurs les plus importants pour l'économie albertaine de demain?
 - AU BESOIN : Considérez-vous que d'autres secteurs énergétiques (autres que le pétrole et le gaz) sont importants pour l'économie albertaine de demain?
 - SI OUI : Lequel/lesquels? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela?
 - SI NON : Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela?
- Quelqu'un ici a-t-il déjà entendu le terme « emplois durables »? Que signifie ce terme, d'après vous?

- Qu'est-ce qui vous vient à l'esprit lorsque vous pensez à des emplois durables dans le secteur de l'énergie propre?
 - La création d'emplois durables dans le secteur de l'énergie propre serait-elle, à votre avis, profitable pour l'économie albertaine? Et pour vous et votre famille? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?

CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE [IMPACTS] (25 minutes) Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, Ville de Québec :

Ville de Québec Maintenant, je voudrais parler de changement climatique...

- **Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, Ville de Québec** Dans quelle mesure êtes-vous préoccupé(e) par le changement climatique? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?
- **Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, Ville de Québec** Qu'est-ce qui vous vient à l'esprit lorsque vous pensez aux effets potentiels du changement climatique?
 - **Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique** Le changement climatique a-t-il une incidence sur la gravité des conditions météorologiques?
 - **Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique** SI OUI : Quels impacts a-t-il?
 - **Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique** SI NON : Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?
 - **Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique** SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Croyez-vous qu'il y ait un lien entre le changement climatique et la fréquence ainsi que la gravité des fortes tempêtes hivernales ou des conditions météorologiques extrêmement froides au Canada?
 - **Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique** SI OUI : Comment?
 - **Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique** SI NON : Pourquoi dites-vous cela?
 - **Ville de Québec** Le changement climatique a-t-il un impact quelconque sur la faune et la flore et entraîne-t-il des phénomènes météorologiques extrêmes, de températures extrêmes, des inondations, des sécheresses ou des incendies de forêt?
 - **Ville de Québec** Quel sont les effets du changement climatique sur l'économie et sur le coût de la vie, le cas échéant?
 - **Ville de Québec** Et sur la santé des Canadiens?
- **Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, Ville de Québec** Dans quelle mesure êtes-vous préoccupé(e) par les effets potentiels du changement climatique?

- **Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique, Ville de Québec** Avez-vous constaté de quelconques effets du changement climatique au sein de votre collectivité?
 - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous appris?
- **Ville de Québec** Est-il important que le gouvernement fédéral aide les collectivités à se préparer aux effets du changement climatique?
 - **Ville de Québec** Avez-vous entendu parler de quelconques initiatives prises par le gouvernement fédéral pour se préparer aux effets du changement climatique?
 - **Ville de Québec** Que souhaiteriez-vous que le gouvernement fasse?

RÉSEAU ÉNERGÉTIQUE (30 minutes) Résidents de l'Alberta préoccupés par le réseau énergétique

- Votre collectivité a-t-elle connu des froids extrêmes dernièrement?
 - SI OUI : Avez-vous constaté des effets liés à des froids extrêmes au sein de votre collectivité?
 - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous appris?
 - SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Et des impacts sur les réseaux électriques?

Comme vous le savez, le mois dernier, l'Agence albertaine de gestion des situations d'urgence a émis une alerte d'urgence indiquant que le réseau énergétique de l'Alberta était exposé à un risque élevé de pannes de courant rotatives en raison du froid extrême et de la forte demande d'électricité. L'alerte demandait aux Albertains de limiter leur consommation d'électricité à l'essentiel, en éteignant par exemple les appareils électriques inutiles, en réduisant au minimum l'utilisation des chauffages d'appoint, en cuisinant avec un micro-ondes plutôt qu'avec une cuisinière, entre autres.

- À votre avis, comment pourrait-on éviter une situation comme celle-là à l'avenir?
- Y a-t-il quelque chose que le gouvernement du Canada pourrait faire pour renforcer la fiabilité du réseau électrique?
- Avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu quoi que ce soit au sujet du gouvernement du Canada en rapport avec le réseau électrique?
 - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous entendu?
- Le gouvernement fédéral est-il à votre avis sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie concernant sa réponse aux catastrophes naturelles? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela?

CLARIFIER AU BESOIN :

Le gouvernement du Canada investit dans l'électricité propre et les technologies propres afin de contribuer à la réduction des émissions.

- Qu'est-ce qui vous vient à l'esprit lorsque vous pensez à de l'électricité propre? Et aux technologies propres?
- Le gouvernement du Canada devrait-il encourager des investissements dans l'électricité propre? Et dans les technologies propres?
 - CLARIFIER AU BESOIN : Cela pourrait comprendre des investissements dans la construction de réseaux électriques utilisant des sources d'énergie propres (comme l'éolien, le solaire et l'hydroélectrique) et l'octroi d'incitatifs à l'adoption et à la fabrication de technologies propres (dont des panneaux solaires et des éoliennes), pour n'en nommer que quelques-unes.
- Voyez-vous des avantages ou des bénéfices à ce que le gouvernement du Canada favorise des investissements dans le secteur de l'électricité propre et des technologies propres?
- Avez-vous des inquiétudes quant au fait que le gouvernement du Canada encourage des investissements dans les secteurs de l'électricité propre et des technologies propres?
- Pensez-vous que le développement du secteur de l'électricité propre et des technologies propres augmentera les risques de pannes d'électricité, en diminuera les risques, ou pensez-vous que ces risques resteront à peu près les mêmes? Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela?
- Pensez-vous que le développement du secteur de l'électricité propre aura un impact positif, négatif ou nul sur une personne comme vous? Et sur les travailleurs de l'Alberta?

PRIORITÉS EN MATIÈRE DE SOINS DE SANTÉ (55 minutes) Résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituaient une priorité majeure

Lorsque nous vous avons invités à cette séance, vous avez tous indiqué que les soins de santé constituaient un enjeu prioritaire...

- - Quelles sont vos principales préoccupations à ce sujet?
- Comment décririez-vous votre expérience de l'accès aux services de santé? Lorsque vous avez besoin de soins de santé, dans quelle mesure est-il facile ou difficile d'y accéder?
- Est-elle meilleure, pire ou la même?
- Lorsqu'il s'agit du système de santé, diriez-vous que celui-ci nécessite des changements majeurs, des changements mineurs ou peu à pas de changements?
- Quel est le rôle du gouvernement du Canada dans le secteur de la santé?

- À votre avis, le gouvernement fédéral comprend-il les enjeux en matière de santé qui vous inquiètent le plus? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?
- Quelles nouvelles d'actualité avez-vous vues, lues ou entendues, le cas échéant, concernant les actions du gouvernement du Canada dans le domaine des soins de santé?
 - DEMANDER : Avez-vous entendu parler d'accords entre le gouvernement du Canada et le gouvernement de l'Ontario visant à améliorer les soins de santé en Ontario?
 - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous entendu?

FOURNIR LES ÉCLAIRCISSEMENTS SUIVANTS :

Les gouvernements du Canada et de l'Ontario ont récemment annoncé un nouvel accord de 3,1 milliards de dollars pour améliorer les soins de santé en Ontario. En vertu de cet accord, l'Ontario allouera des fonds fédéraux aux soins de santé afin d'améliorer l'accès aux médecins de famille, de réduire les temps d'attente et d'embaucher davantage de travailleurs de la santé.

- Nous entrerons dans les détails dans un instant, mais quelles sont vos premières réactions à cette annonce?

Je vais maintenant vous montrer quelques détails relatifs à ce plan...

AFFICHER À L'ÉCRAN :

Pour remédier aux pénuries dans le secteur des soins de santé, le gouvernement du Canada soutiendra les efforts de l'Ontario pour :

Augmenter les effectifs dans le secteur des soins de santé en créant de nouveaux postes de médecins, d'infirmières et de personnel de soutien, et en augmentant le nombre d'inscriptions à des formations dans le domaine de la santé.

Améliorer l'accès à des soins primaires en créant des équipes de médecins de famille, d'infirmières praticiennes et d'autres professionnels de la santé, en particulier dans les zones mal desservies.

Réduire les temps d'attente et les arriérés d'opérations chirurgicales en augmentant le nombre de professionnels de la santé et en améliorant l'accès aux soins.

Faciliter l'exercice des professions de la santé en Ontario en supprimant les obstacles à la reconnaissance des titres étrangers et en simplifiant les procédures de délivrance des licences.

Améliorer la gestion et l'échange d'informations en matière de santé.

Renforcer le soutien en matière de santé mentale en créant des carrefours bien-être pour les jeunes et en élargissant les programmes de psychothérapie.

- Quelles sont vos premières réactions après avoir pris connaissance de certains détails de ce plan?

SONDAGE : Je vais vous montrer un sondage. J'aimerais que vous sélectionniez deux éléments de ce plan qui sont, à votre avis, les plus importants pour remédier à la pénurie dans le domaine des soins de santé. Vous pouvez en choisir jusqu'à deux éléments.

Augmenter les effectifs dans le secteur des soins de santé

Améliorer l'accès à des soins primaires

Réduire les temps d'attente et les arriérés d'opérations chirurgicales

Faciliter l'exercice des professions de la santé en Ontario

Améliorer la gestion et l'échange d'informations en matière de santé

Renforcer le soutien en matière de santé mentale

- **LE MODÉRATEUR PASSERA EN REVUE LES CHOIX** : Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire que c'est particulièrement important?
- Parmi les mesures figurant dans la liste, y en a-t-il qui, selon vous, ne devraient pas y figurer?
- Globalement, pensez-vous que ce plan aura un impact majeur, mineur ou aucun impact sur la qualité des soins de santé au Canada? Pourquoi?
- Diriez-vous que vous êtes pour, contre, ou ni pour ni contre les plans du gouvernement du Canada en matière de soins de santé? Pourquoi?

VOL DE VÉHICULES (25 minutes) Résidents de l'Ontario ayant indiqué que les soins de santé constituaient une priorité majeure

Passons à un autre sujet...

- Avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu quoi que ce soit au sujet d'initiatives du gouvernement du Canada en rapport avec le vol de véhicules?
 - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu? Où l'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu? Que pensez-vous de ce que vous avez entendu?

Le gouvernement du Canada a récemment rencontré des représentants des gouvernements provinciaux, territoriaux et municipaux, des dirigeants de l'industrie automobile et des représentants des forces de l'ordre de tout le pays à l'occasion du Sommet national pour lutter contre le vol de véhicules.

- Avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu quoi que ce soit à propos de ce sommet?
 - SI OUI : Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu?

Je vais maintenant vous présenter quelques mesures prises par le gouvernement du Canada...

AFFICHER À L'ÉCRAN :

Le gouvernement du Canada coordonne des initiatives dans tout le pays et prend des mesures immédiates pour lutter contre le vol de voitures, à savoir :

- **Étudier la possibilité d'apporter d'éventuelles modifications au code pénal**, notamment en revoyant les infractions et les sanctions existantes relatives au vol de véhicules.
- **Collaborer avec des entreprises canadiennes, y compris l'industrie automobile**, afin de mettre au point des solutions innovantes pour protéger les véhicules contre le vol.
- **Rechercher tous les moyens d'interdire les dispositifs utilisés pour voler des véhicules**, tels que le Flipper Zero (un outil de piratage portable qui peut copier les signaux sans fil pour l'entrée sans clé à distance).
- **Renforcer la capacité de l'Agence des services frontaliers du Canada (ASFC)** à mener davantage d'enquêtes relatives aux véhicules volés et d'examins de véhicules volés.
- **Favoriser un meilleur échange de renseignements entre la police locale et la police des chemins de fer** afin qu'elles puissent identifier et retrouver les voitures volées avant qu'elles n'arrivent dans les ports.

- **Collaborer avec des partenaires dans le domaine de la sécurité de partout au Canada et à l'étranger** afin d'accroître la collaboration et l'échange de renseignements.
- **Moderniser les normes de sécurité des véhicules automobiles du Canada** pour s'assurer qu'elles tiennent compte des progrès technologiques visant à décourager et à prévenir le vol de voitures.
- **Travailler avec les autorités portuaires à l'élaboration de mesures et de plans de sécurité** visant à remédier aux vulnérabilités liées à la manutention des marchandises.
- Quelles sont vos premières réactions à la lecture de ces mesures?
- Parmi les mesures figurant dans la liste, y en a-t-il qui, selon vous, ne sont particulièrement importantes?
- Parmi les mesures figurant dans la liste, y en a-t-il qui, selon vous, ne devraient pas y figurer? Pourquoi dites-vous cela?
- Dans l'ensemble, pensez-vous que ces mesures auront un impact majeur, mineur ou aucun impact sur la lutte au vol de véhicules au Canada? Pourquoi?
- Diriez-vous que vous êtes pour, contre, ou ni pour ni contre les plans du gouvernement du Canada pur lutter contre le vol de véhicules? Pourquoi?

PARENTS – COÛT DE LA VIE (45 minutes) Parents de l'Ontario dont les enfants sont inscrits dans une garderie ou à la recherche d'une garderie

- Comment décririez-vous généralement la gestion du gouvernement du Canada de l'économie?
 - Est-il généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie? Pourquoi?
- En tant que parent, quels enjeux économiques vous préoccupe le plus et ont le plus gros impact sur vous?
 - Le gouvernement du Canada comprend-il les enjeux économiques qui vous préoccupent le plus et qui ont le plus d'impact sur vous? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?
 - DEMANDER AU BESOIN : Qu'en est-il de l'abordabilité et du coût de la vie?
- Pouvez-vous me donner des exemples de choses qui sont devenues moins abordables dans votre vie de tous les jours?

- Avez-vous modifié certaines de vos habitudes quotidiennes en réaction à l'augmentation du coût de la vie?
- Que fait le gouvernement du Canada face à l'augmentation du coût de la vie?
- Êtes-vous au courant de quelconques politiques, programmes, services, prestations ou allocations du gouvernement du Canada dont bénéficient les parents?
- Qui parmi vous a entendu parler de...?
 - L'Allocation canadienne pour enfants (ACE)
 - La Prestation dentaire canadienne (PDC)
 - SI ENTENDU PARLER : Que savez-vous de chaque programme?

CLARIFIER AU BESOIN : L'Allocation canadienne pour enfants (ACE) est un programme de soutien du revenu pour les familles canadiennes, calculé en fonction des moyens financiers. Il s'agit d'un versement mensuel non imposable fait aux familles admissibles pour les aider à subvenir aux besoins de leurs enfants. L'ACE est indexée en fonction de l'inflation.

CLARIFIER AU BESOIN : Le gouvernement du Canada met en œuvre la Prestation dentaire canadienne (PDC) pour aider à réduire les coûts des soins dentaires pour les familles admissibles dont le revenu est inférieur à 90 000 \$.

NOTE À L'INTENTION DU MODÉRATEUR SI ON LUI DEMANDE CE QU'IL FAUT ENTENDRE PAR « FAMILLES ADMISSIBLES » :

Parents et tuteurs peuvent être admissibles s'ils paient les soins dentaires d'un enfant de moins de 12 ans ne bénéficiant pas d'un régime d'assurance dentaire privé.

- Quelles sont vos réactions à ces programmes?
 - Avez-vous des questions concernant l'un ou l'autre de ces programmes?
- Pour ce qui est de rendre le coût de la vie plus abordable, dans quelle mesure ces programmes auront-ils un impact, le cas échéant, sur vous et votre famille?
 - Diriez-vous que l'Allocation canadienne pour enfants et la Prestation dentaire canadienne sont des mesures importantes quant à rendre la vie plus abordable pour les parents? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?

GARDE D'ENFANTS (40 minutes) Parents de l'Ontario dont les enfants sont inscrits dans une garderie ou à la recherche d'une garderie

Lorsque vous avez été recruté(e) pour ce groupe de discussion, vous avez indiqué que vous aviez actuellement accès à un service de garde pour vos enfants ou être à la recherche d'un service de garde.

- Levez la main pour savoir qui, parmi vous, a actuellement accès à des services de garde d'enfants pour ses enfants, c'est-à-dire que vos enfants fréquentent une garderie, un service de garde d'enfants à domicile, etc. Qui parmi vous s'emploie actuellement à prendre des dispositions en matière de garde d'enfants?
 - Quel est le coût de vos services de garde d'enfants ou combien prévoyez-vous qu'ils vous coûteront?
 - En quoi ces coûts sont-ils comparables à vos autres frais de subsistance?
 - Ces coûts ont-ils changé au fil du temps?
 - A-t-il été facile ou difficile de trouver et d'obtenir une place en garderie pour votre enfant?
 - La disponibilité des places en garderie a-t-elle changé au fil du temps?
 - Comment décririez-vous la qualité des services de garde d'enfants offerts dans votre région?
 - La qualité a-t-elle changé au fil du temps?
 - SI DES CHANGEMENTS SONT MENTIONNÉS : Qu'est-ce qui explique ce changement?
 - De manière générale, à quelles principales difficultés diriez-vous que vous êtes confronté(e) en matière de garde d'enfants? À des difficultés sur le plan de l'abordabilité, de la disponibilité, ou à des difficultés d'une autre nature?

- Avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu quoi que ce soit au sujet du gouvernement du Canada en rapport avec l'actualité internationale?

DEMANDER : Le gouvernement du Canada a conclu des accords avec les provinces et les territoires afin de réduire le coût des services de garde d'enfants à un taux moyen de 10 \$ par jour et de créer 250 000 places de garde d'enfants dans tout le pays d'ici 2025-2026. En Ontario, les frais moyens encourus par les parents pour des services de garde d'enfants réglementés et financés pour enfants de moins de 6 ans ont été réduits de 50 % depuis décembre 2022. Cet accord permettra aux familles ontariennes de bénéficier de services de garde d'enfants à un coût moyen de 10 dollars par jour d'ici à la fin du mois de mars 2026.

- Quelles sont vos réactions à ce plan?
 - Y a-t-il des éléments de ce plan dont vous n'aviez pas connaissance avant aujourd'hui?
 - Avez-vous des questions ou des préoccupations concernant ce plan?
 - Quels impacts, le cas échéant, ce plan a-t-il eus sur votre famille? Quels impacts pensez-vous qu'il aura sur votre famille à l'avenir?
 - Que pensez-vous de la façon dont le plan sur la garde d'enfants a été mis en œuvre jusqu'à présent?

- Lorsque vous pensez aux différentes politiques que le gouvernement du Canada pourrait adopter pour réduire le coût de la vie, pensez-vous qu'il soit important d'investir dans des mesures visant à réduire le coût des services de garde d'enfants? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?
 - Quels impacts pourraient, selon vous, avoir des services de garde d'enfants à la fois plus abordables et plus accessibles sur l'économie? Diriez-vous que ces impacts positifs ou négatifs? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?
 - SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Quel impact cela pourrait-il avoir sur la capacité des parents à travailler?

- Avez-vous d'autres choses à ajouter concernant votre expérience en matière de garde d'enfants ou des suggestions à ce sujet?

DÉFIS POUR LES COLLECTIVITÉS (20-25 minutes) Ville de Québec, région de la Mauricie

Maintenant, je voudrais qu'on se concentre sur votre communauté locale...

- **Ville de Québec, région de la Mauricie** Quels sont les principaux enjeux à Québec auxquels le gouvernement devrait tout particulièrement accorder la priorité? - Quels sont les principaux enjeux dans votre région auxquels le gouvernement devrait tout particulièrement accorder la priorité?
 - **Ville de Québec** SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Aux investissements dans les infrastructures locales?

- **Ville de Québec** Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu récemment au sujet du gouvernement du Canada et des infrastructures de la ville de Québec?

- **Ville de Québec** Avez-vous remarqué des changements ou des développements en ce qui concerne les infrastructures locales?
- **Ville de Québec** En général, quel type de projets locaux d'infrastructure vous semblent les plus essentiels pour la ville de Québec? Qu'est-ce qui ferait vraiment une différence pour vous personnellement?

Ville de Québec Passons à un autre sujet...

- **Ville de Québec, région de la Mauricie** Quels sont les plus importants secteurs d'activités et industries pour votre communauté locale?
- **Ville de Québec, région de la Mauricie** Quels sont les secteurs d'activités et les industries de votre région qui, selon vous, ont le plus besoin d'aide?

Région de la Mauricie *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 ces secteurs. Qu'est-ce que le gouvernement du Canada devrait faire de plus pour soutenir ces secteurs?*

- **Ville de Québec, région de la Mauricie** Les pénuries de main-d'œuvre posent-elles problème au sein de votre collectivité?
 - **Ville de Québec, région de la Mauricie** SI OUI : Ces pénuries de main-d'œuvre touchent-elles certains secteurs en particulier?
 - **Ville de Québec, région de la Mauricie** SI OUI : Lesquels?
 - **Ville de Québec, région de la Mauricie** À quoi sont dues ces pénuries de main-d'œuvre à votre avis?
 - **Ville de Québec, région de la Mauricie** Quelles sont, selon vous, les solutions pouvant être envisagées pour aider à limiter les pénuries de main-d'œuvre?

IMMIGRATION (30 minutes) Ville de Québec :

Passons à un autre sujet...

- Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu récemment au sujet du gouvernement du Canada et l'immigration?
 - AU BESOIN : Et au sujet du gouvernement du Canada et des étudiants étrangers?

DEMANDER : Le gouvernement du Canada a annoncé la mise en place d'un plafond temporaire de réception des permis d'étude sur une période de deux ans. En fixant ce plafond, le gouvernement du Canada s'attend à ce que 364 000 permis d'étude soient approuvés en 2024.

- Quelles sont vos réactions à cette nouvelle? Quels en seront les impacts, selon vous?
- En gardant cette décision à l'esprit, diriez-vous que le gouvernement du Canada est généralement sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie quand il s'agit de gérer le système d'immigration? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?
 - SI SUR LA MAUVAISE VOIE : Que doit faire le gouvernement du Canada pour être sur la bonne voie?
- Comment décririez-vous l'état actuel du système d'immigration au Canada?
- Quels sont, selon vous, les avantages liés au fait d'accueillir de nouveaux immigrants au Canada?
- Dans quelle mesure êtes-vous d'accord ou en désaccord avec l'énoncé suivant? :
« Le Canada doit accueillir davantage de nouveaux immigrants pour contrer les pénuries de main-d'œuvre et contribuer à la croissance de l'économie »
 - Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?
- Avez-vous de quelconques appréhensions concernant l'accueil de nouveaux immigrants?
 - SI OUI : Quelles sont vos appréhensions? Que devrait faire le gouvernement du Canada pour répondre à ces préoccupations?
- Pensez-vous que le gouvernement du Canada devrait augmenter, réduire ou maintenir le taux d'immigration à peu près au même niveau? Pourquoi?
 - SI AUGMENTER OU RÉDUIRE : Quels impacts cela aurait-il au Canada, que ce soit sur le plan social ou économique?
- Avant de passer à la section suivante, avez-vous d'autres réflexions dont vous voudriez nous faire part concernant le système d'immigration canadien?

ENJEUX LIÉS AUX ÉTUDES POSTSECONDAIRES (25 minutes) Étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver

- Pensez-vous qu'il privilégie les étudiantes et les étudiants lorsqu'il prend des décisions? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?

- Que pourrait faire le gouvernement du Canada pour atteindre les étudiantes et les étudiants?
- Qui ici est au courant de quelconques mesures prises par le gouvernement du Canada visant à rendre plus abordables les études postsecondaires et le remboursement des prêts étudiants?

Je vais vous présenter quelques mesures prises par le gouvernement du Canada et vous demander d'y réagir.

AFFICHER À L'ÉCRAN :

- **Élimination définitive des intérêts fédéraux** sur les prêts d'études canadiens et les prêts canadiens aux apprentis.
- **Augmentation des bourses d'études canadiennes** de 40 %, portant ainsi à 4 200 \$ le montant offert aux étudiants à plein temps.
- **Amélioration du Programme d'aide au remboursement** afin qu'une personne dont le revenu annuel est inférieur à 40 000 dollars ne soit plus obligée de rembourser ses prêts étudiants, le seuil de revenu augmentant en fonction de la taille des familles.
- Que pensez-vous de ces mesures? Quels impacts auront, à votre avis, ces mesures?
- Y a-t-il autre chose que le gouvernement du Canada devrait, selon vous, faire pour venir en aide aux étudiants?

BUDGET (30 minutes) Étudiants de niveau postsecondaire de l'île de Vancouver

Passons à un autre sujet...

- Comment se porte, à votre avis, l'économie canadienne dans son ensemble? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis? (AU BESOIN : Et en matière de croissance, de création d'emplois, d'inflation?)
 - SI L'ÉCONOMIE SE PORTE MAL : Que faudrait-il qu'il se passe pour que vous commenciez à être optimiste concernant l'économie canadienne?

Comme vous le savez peut-être, le gouvernement du Canada présentera bientôt un nouveau budget exposant ses priorités en matière de dépenses pour le prochain exercice financier.

SONDAGE : Je vais procéder à un autre sondage. J'aimerais que vous sélectionniez les éléments que devrait, selon vous, privilégier le gouvernement du Canada dans le prochain budget. Vous pouvez

choisir un maximum de trois éléments. **LE RESPONSABLE DU SOUTIEN TECHNIQUE AFFICHERA LES TITRES À L'ÉCRAN ET LE MODÉRATEUR EN FERA LA LECTURE AVANT DE PROCÉDER AU SONDAGE.**

Abordabilité et coût de la vie
Soutenir la classe moyenne
Ouvrir des voies vers la classe moyenne
Augmenter l'offre de logements
Accroître l'offre de bonnes carrières
Croissance économique à long terme grâce aux technologies et à l'énergie propres
Aider les Canadiens à épargner en vue de leur retraite
Protéger l'octroi de prestations de vieillesse
Lutter contre le changement climatique
Assurer la saine gestion d'un plan responsable en matière de dépenses publiques
Améliorer le système de soins de santé
Augmenter les impôts des Canadiens les plus fortunés

LE MODÉRATEUR PASSERA EN REVUE LES CHOIX

- Pourquoi avez-vous fait ce choix?
- Lorsqu'on parle des « Canadiens les plus fortunés », qui ou qu'est-ce qui vous vient à l'esprit?
 - Quel est, selon vous, le revenu annuel moyen des « Canadiens les plus fortunés »?
(Demander au besoin : 150 000 \$ ou plus, 250 000 \$, 500 000 \$, plus que cela?)
- À MAIN LEVÉE : Qui, parmi vous, estime faire partie de la classe moyenne?
- Selon vous, que signifie être de la classe moyenne?
 - À quoi ressemble d'après vous pour vous un mode de vie propre à la classe moyenne?
- Qu'entend-on, selon vous, par « ouvrir des voies vers la classe moyenne »?
 - Quelles sont les voies vers la classe moyenne?
 - Comment le gouvernement du Canada peut-il soutenir au mieux les personnes qui tentent de rejoindre la classe moyenne?
 - Quels types d'investissements aideraient, selon vous, les Canadiens à rejoindre la classe moyenne et à y demeurer?
- Le gouvernement du Canada devrait-il prioriser de tels investissements? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?

- Comment décririez-vous la performance globale du gouvernement du Canada en matière de soutien à la classe moyenne?
 - Dans quelle mesure avez-vous bon espoir, le cas échéant, que le gouvernement du Canada sera en mesure de soutenir la classe moyenne et ceux qui tentent de la rejoindre?
- Quelle est votre définition d'une « bonne carrière »? Une bonne carrière diffère-t-elle d'un « bon emploi »?
 - SI OUI : En quoi diffère-t-elle? Est-il préférable d'aspirer à l'une plutôt qu'à l'autre?
- Qu'est-ce qui vous vient à l'esprit lorsque vous pensez aux technologies propres? L'énergie propre?
- Le gouvernement du Canada devrait-il encourager des investissements dans les technologies propres? Et dans l'énergie propre?
 - AU BESOIN : Cela pourrait comprendre des investissements dans la fabrication de batteries pour véhicules électriques, l'amélioration de l'infrastructure de recharge pour les véhicules électriques, la construction d'un réseau électrique national alimenté par des sources d'énergie propres (notamment l'énergie éolienne, solaire et hydroélectrique), la mise en place d'incitatifs pour l'adoption et la fabrication de technologies vertes (notamment des panneaux solaires et des éoliennes) et le développement de sources de combustibles propres (notamment l'hydrogène), pour n'en nommer que quelques-unes.
- Croyez-vous que le fait d'investir dans des technologies et des énergies propres favorise la croissance économique à long terme? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?

UKRAINE (90 minutes) Membres de la diaspora ukrainienne de centres de moyenne taille et de grands centres de la Saskatchewan

- Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu au sujet du gouvernement du Canada au cours des derniers jours? Que pensez-vous de ce que vous avez vu, lu ou entendu?
 - SI CE N'EST PAS MENTIONNÉ : Et de la récente visite du gouvernement canadien en Ukraine au cours de laquelle il s'est engagé à fournir une aide financière et militaire de trois milliards de dollars à l'Ukraine en 2024?
 - Avant aujourd'hui, qui avait connaissance de cette annonce?
 -
 - Quel sera l'impact de cet engagement, le cas échéant?
- Avec quel degré d'attention suivez-vous la guerre en Ukraine, le cas échéant?

- À CEUX QUI LA SUIVENT : Pouvez-vous nous faire part de ce que vous avez appris ou entendu à son sujet?
- Dans quelle mesure êtes-vous préoccupé(e), le cas échéant, par la guerre en Ukraine?
 - À CEUX QUI SONT PRÉOCCUPÉS : Quels aspects de la guerre vous préoccupent le plus?
- La guerre en Ukraine vous affecte-t-elle ou affecte-t-elle quelqu'un que vous connaissez personnellement?
- En quoi a-t-elle influencé, le cas échéant, votre vision du monde et de la place qu'y occupe le Canada?
- Selon vous, quelles ont été les répercussions mondiales de la guerre en Ukraine?
 - Constatez-vous des répercussions directes ou indirectes sur le Canada?
- À votre avis, est-il important que le Canada vienne en aide à l'Ukraine? Pourquoi?

Nous utiliserons la fonction de clavardage pour la prochaine question. Veuillez prendre une minute pour repérer la fonction de clavardage et vous assurer d'avoir sélectionné [modérateur] comme destinataire.

- Si vous deviez choisir un mot pour décrire l'approche du gouvernement du Canada par rapport à la guerre en Ukraine, quel mot choisiriez-vous? Veuillez saisir votre mot dans la boîte de clavardage.
 - LE MODÉRATEUR DEMANDERA À CHAQUE PARTICIPANT ET PARTICIPANTE : Pouvez-vous expliquer pourquoi vous avez choisi ce mot?
- Diriez-vous qu'en ce qui concerne son approche de la guerre en Ukraine, le gouvernement du Canada est sur la bonne voie ou sur la mauvaise voie? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?
 - SI SUR LA BONNE VOIE : Qu'est-ce qui vous fait dire cela? (Le modérateur interrogera les participants au sujet de l'aide financière, de l'aide militaire, de l'aide humanitaire et des visas temporaires du Canada, entre autres)
 - SI SUR LA MAUVAISE VOIE : Que devrait faire le gouvernement du Canada pour se mettre sur la bonne voie?
- Votre avis sur la performance du gouvernement fédéral a-t-il changé avec le temps?
 - SI OUI : Qu'est-ce qui vous a fait changer d'avis?
- Le gouvernement du Canada devrait-il, selon vous, en faire plus ou en faire moins en réponse à la guerre en Ukraine? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?



- De quels types d'aides l'Ukraine a-t-elle le plus besoin, le cas échéant, à l'heure actuelle?
SONDER AU BESOIN : D'une aide humanitaire? D'une aide militaire? De soutien diplomatique?
D'un renforcement des partenariats économiques?
- Avez-vous connaissance d'une quelconque aide humanitaire apportée par le Canada à l'Ukraine jusqu'à présent?
 - SI OUI : Que pensez de l'aide humanitaire fournie par le Canada à l'Ukraine jusqu'à présent?
 - Comment décririez-vous la qualité de l'aide humanitaire qui a été fournie?
- Êtes-vous au courant des sanctions que le gouvernement du Canada a imposées à la Russie à la suite de son invasion de l'Ukraine?
 - SI OUI : Que pensez-vous des sanctions imposées par le gouvernement du Canada?
 - Pensez-vous que des sanctions contre la Russie constituent un moyen efficace de venir en aide à l'Ukraine? Pourquoi ou pourquoi pas?
- Êtes-vous au courant de l'engagement du gouvernement du Canada à aider des Ukrainiens déplacés à venir au Canada?
 - SI OUI : Que pensez-vous du nombre d'Ukrainiens déplacés qui viennent au Canada?
 - Estimez-vous que le gouvernement en fait assez, devrait en faire plus ou devrait en faire moins pour accueillir des Ukrainiens déplacés arrivant au Canada? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?

FOURNIR LES ÉCLAIRCISSEMENTS SUIVANTS : Le gouvernement du Canada a créé l'autorisation de voyage d'urgence Canada-Ukraine (AVUCU) pour aider les Ukrainiens et les membres de leur famille à venir au Canada le plus rapidement possible et pour leur permettre de travailler et d'étudier durant leur séjour au Canada.

L'autorisation de voyage d'urgence Canada-Ukraine a permis aux ressortissants ukrainiens vivant à l'étranger d'obtenir un visa de visiteur pour venir temporairement au Canada, jusqu'à ce qu'ils puissent retourner en Ukraine en toute sécurité. Ce visa de visiteur leur offre également la possibilité de demander un permis de travail en même temps ou d'obtenir le statut d'étudiant s'ils sont âgés de moins de 18 ans et souhaitent étudier au Canada. En vertu des mesures spéciales prévues dans le cadre de l'AVUCU, le dernier jour pour entrer au Canada est le 31 mars 2024. Les personnes arrivées avant cette date peuvent demander une prolongation de leur séjour pour une durée maximale de trois ans ou jusqu'à expiration de leur passeport.

- Connaissez-vous quelqu'un qui est arrivé au Canada en vertu de l'AVUCU?
- Êtes-vous au courant de la marche à suivre que doivent respecter les Ukrainiens et les membres de leur famille pour obtenir le statut de résident permanent?

- Êtes-vous pour ou contre cette initiative? Et pourquoi?
 - Quel sera, à votre avis, son impact sur le Canada? Et sur votre collectivité?
- Quelles sont, selon vous, les mesures de soutien importantes à adopter pour aider les Ukrainiens après leur arrivée au Canada?
- Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu, le cas échéant, au sujet de la réponse du gouvernement du Canada à la guerre en Ukraine?

FOURNIR LES ÉCLAIRCISSEMENTS SUIVANTS : Lors de la visite du président Zelenskyy au Canada en septembre 2023, le gouvernement du Canada s'est engagé à fournir une aide financière et militaire de 650 millions de dollars sur trois ans, qui comprendra la fourniture à l'Ukraine de 50 véhicules blindés fabriqués au Canada. Cela s'ajoute au soutien militaire que fournit le Canada à l'Ukraine en offrant des formations aux soldats et au personnel ukrainiens, en fournissant de l'équipement et du matériel militaire ainsi que des armes et des munitions.

- Quelles sont vos réactions à cela?
- Êtes-vous pour ou contre le fait que le Canada fournit ce type d'aide militaire et financière? Pourquoi?
- Qui parmi vous a récemment vu, lu ou entendu quoi que ce soit au sujet de l'accord de libre-échange entre le Canada et l'Ukraine? Pouvez-vous nous faire part de ce que vous savez à ce sujet?

FOURNIR LES ÉCLAIRCISSEMENTS SUIVANTS : L'Accord de libre-échange Canada-Ukraine vise à améliorer les relations commerciales entre le Canada et l'Ukraine. L'Accord de libre-échange Canada-Ukraine vise à améliorer les relations commerciales entre le Canada et l'Ukraine. À cette fin, cet accord prévoit un traitement spécial des marchandises échangées entre les deux pays et établit de nouvelles règles pour le commerce des services et les investissements. L'accord comporte désormais des articles supplémentaires portant tout particulièrement sur le commerce équitable, ce qui inclut un soutien aux petites entreprises, la garantie que le commerce profite de manière égale tant aux hommes qu'aux femmes, et qu'il soit avantageux pour les populations autochtones. Cet accord vise à apporter un soutien à l'Ukraine dans le cadre de la reconstruction de son économie après l'invasion de la Russie.

- Dans quelle mesure est-il important, le cas échéant, d'avoir un accord de libre-échange avec l'Ukraine?
- De quel type de soutien à long terme, le cas échéant, pensez-vous que l'Ukraine aura besoin de la part du Canada et de la communauté internationale une fois le conflit résolu?

- Dans quelle mesure est-il important, le cas échéant, que le Canada continue à soutenir l'Ukraine tout au long de sa reconstruction économique?
- Quelle a été selon vous l'ampleur de l'impact, le cas échéant, du soutien global qu'apporte le Canada à l'Ukraine? Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?
- Avez-vous eu connaissance d'informations relatives à l'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie qui vous ont semblé fausses ou trompeuses? Can you provide any examples?
- À votre connaissance, les informations fausses ou trompeuses concernant la guerre en Ukraine constituent-elles un problème majeur, un problème mineur ou sont-elles tout à fait sans importance?
- Quelle incidence, le cas échéant, les informations fausses ou trompeuses ont-elles sur votre capacité à formuler une opinion fondée sur des faits au sujet du conflit?

ÉNERGIE À BASE D'HYDROGÈNE (25 minutes) Région de la Mauricie

- Qui parmi vous a déjà entendu parler de l'hydrogène propre?
 - SI FAMILIER : Qu'avez-vous vu, lu ou entendu au sujet de l'hydrogène propre?

AFFICHER À L'ÉCRAN :

Électricité propre (soit l'électricité produite à partir de sources hydroélectriques, éoliennes et solaires) et d'autres sources d'énergie renouvelable peuvent être converties en hydrogène en émettant peu ou pas d'émissions.

Une fois produit, l'hydrogène peut être utilisé comme source d'énergie durable pour une variété de processus industriels, dont la fabrication de l'acier. Elle peut également être convertie en électricité, qui peut ensuite servir à diverses fins, notamment à alimenter des véhicules, des centrales électriques et des bâtiments.

- Lorsque vous pensez à l'hydrogène propre, avez-vous certaines préoccupations ou y a-t-il certains inconvénients qui vous viennent à l'esprit?
- Dans quelle mesure l'énergie à base d'hydrogène contribuerait-elle à réduire les émissions? Comment savez-vous cela?
- À votre avis, combien d'emplois pourraient être créés, le cas échéant, dans le secteur de l'hydrogène propre? Quelle serait la nature de ces emplois? Quel impact, le cas échéant, ces emplois pourraient-ils avoir sur votre économie locale?



- Lorsqu'on pense aux investissements dans les énergies propres de façon plus générale, quelle priorité le gouvernement du Canada devrait-il accorder à l'hydrogène propre, par rapport à d'autres investissements dans les énergies propres?
 - Pourquoi êtes-vous de cet avis?

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.