Direction of country

Q. All things considered, would you say the country is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- Wrong direction
- Right direction

BASE: Canadians; most recent data point March 15-17, 2011 (n=half sample)
Q. All things considered, would you say the Government of Canada is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

---

**Direction of government**

**Q.** All things considered, would you say the Government of Canada is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

---

**Wrong direction** — **Right direction**

---

**BASE:** Canadians; most recent data point March 15-17, 2011 (n=half sample)
Most important factor in national decision making

Q. In making important national decisions, which of the following factors do you think should be most important?

Hard evidence of needs/impacts: 34
Fairness and social justice: 29
Affordability and costs: 24
Impacts on social values/morality: 9
DK/NR: 3

BASE: Canadians; March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
**Power gap: who has/who should have power**

*Q. Which of the following groups should have/should have the most influence in defining public policies in Canada?*

- **Lobbyists**: 11% have, 52% should have, GAP = -41
- **Media/Journalists**: 14% have, 46% should have, GAP = -32
- **The Prime Minister**: 34% have, 48% should have, GAP = -14
- **Parliamentarians**: 54% have, 55% should have, GAP = +1
- **Public Servants**: 42% have, 45% should have, GAP = +3
- **Experts/Professionals**: 39% have, 62% should have, GAP = +23
- **Average Citizens**: 26% have, 75% should have, GAP = +49

*Presented in series of random paired choices. Per cent indicates average number of times option is selected over all others.*

**BASE:** Canadians; March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
Trust in occupations

Q. How much trust do you have in each of the following occupational groups or individuals?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>% high level (5, 6, 7)</th>
<th>MEAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientists</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University professors</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalists</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollsters</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priests</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union leaders</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politicians</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloggers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BASE: Canadians; March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
**Most important trait in a national leader**

**Q.** Which of the following traits would you most like to see in a national leader?

- Knowledge and understanding: 51%
- Decency and morality: 20%
- Decisiveness and certainty: 19%
- Compassion and empathy: 8%
- DK/NR: 2%
Attitudes towards science and expertise

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

“*It really bothers me that hard scientific evidence isn’t shaping public policy to the degree that it should be.*”

- Agree (5-7): 69
- Neither agree nor disagree (4): 17
- Disagree (1-3): 11
- DK/NR: 3

“In an era of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Wikipedia, knowledge and expertise can be constructed from ordinary citizens.”

- Agree (5-7): 49
- Neither agree nor disagree (4): 17
- Disagree (1-3): 32
- DK/NR: 3

“I worry that the rule of experts and professionals produces elitism and inequality.”

- Agree (5-7): 36
- Neither agree nor disagree (4): 22
- Disagree (1-3): 39
- DK/NR: 4

“I don’t believe all this talk about greenhouse gas emissions causing global climate change.”

- Agree (5-7): 26
- Neither agree nor disagree (4): 9
- Disagree (1-3): 64
- DK/NR: 1

“I am worried that science is going too far and is hurting society rather than helping it.”

- Agree (5-7): 23
- Neither agree nor disagree (4): 19
- Disagree (1-3): 56
- DK/NR: 1

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BASE: Canadians; March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
Tracking belief in climate change

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “I don’t believe all this talk about greenhouse gas emissions causing global climate change.”?

---

**BASE:** Canadians; most recent data point March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
Tracking concerns over science

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “I am worried that science is going too far and is hurting society rather than helping it.”?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>March 2011</th>
<th>May 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagree (1-3)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither (4)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree (5-7)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK/NR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BASE: Canadians; March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
Perceived changes in violent crime rates

Q. Over the past 10 years, would you say that the crime rate in Canada has been ... ?

- Decreasing (1-3): 29
- Staying the same (4): 30
- Increasing (5-7): 38
- DK/NR: 4

BASE: Canadians; March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
Tracking perceived changes in violent crime rates

Q. Over the past 10 years, would you say that the crime rate in Canada has been ... ?

- Decreasing (1-3)
- Staying the same (4)
- Increasing (5-7)

BASE: Canadians; most recent data point March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
Perceived importance of hard evidence in decision making

Q. Overall, do you think that the use of hard evidence and professional expertise in public decision making is/will be more or less important than it was 10 years ago/10 years from now?

10 years ago

- Less important (1-3): 20
- About the same (4): 32
- More important (5-7): 43
- DK/NR: 6

10 years from now

- Less important (1-3): 7
- About the same (4): 31
- More important (5-7): 55
- DK/NR: 7

BASE: Canadians; March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
Intellectualism versus populism in politics

Q. Do you think that contemporary politics is/should be driven by intellectualism and rational debate or by populism and common sense?

Is driven by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intellectualism and rational debate</th>
<th>Populism and common sense</th>
<th>DK/NR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Should be driven by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intellectualism and rational debate</th>
<th>Populism and common sense</th>
<th>DK/NR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BASE: Canadians; March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
Preferred source of personal guidance

Q. If you were facing a deep personal crisis, which of the following individuals would you prefer to consult?

- A priest, rabbi, or other religious leader: 14%
- A psychiatrist or other professional: 71%
- DK/NR: 15%

**BASE:** Canadians; March 15-17, 2011 (n=984)
Origins of mankind

Q. Which of the following statements comes closest to your point of view?

- Humans were created by God in the last 10,000 years: 14
- Humans evolved over time, but through divine guidance: 19
- Humans evolved through natural selection: 58
- DK/NR: 8
Origins of mankind: Canada versus US

Q. Which of the following statements comes closest to your point of view?

- Humans were created by God in the last 10,000 years
- Humans evolved over time, but through divine guidance
- Humans evolved through natural selection
- DK/NR

*Source: Gallup poll; December 10-12, 2010 (n=1,019). Question worded as follows:
  “Which of the following statements comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings:
  1) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process;
  2) Human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God had no part in this process; or
  3) God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so?”

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Priorities for the next budget

Q. The federal government faces major challenges in dealing with its finances. The country also has major ongoing investment needs. Which of the following three priorities should be the most important principle for dealing with these challenges?

- Investing in social areas such as health, education, and jobs
- Keeping taxes as low as possible
- Keeping the deficit as low as possible

March 2011 vs March 2010
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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