THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE IN THE 2021 FEDERAL ELECTION

CONDUCTED FOR CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS FROM CANADA’S LEADING PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MARKET RESEARCH EXPERTS
METHODOLOGY

The following survey was conducted by Abacus Data on behalf of the CMA. The survey was conducted from September 3rd to September 6th, 2021, with a sample of n=2,000 eligible voters in Canada. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey online from a set of partner panels based on the Lucid exchange platform. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source. The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/- 2.17, 19 times out of 20.

3,137 panelists who were invited to complete the survey entered the survey. We are unable to determine how many were initially invited. Of the 3,137 who started the survey, 2000 or 63.7% completed it, 453 or 14.4% qualified but did not complete the survey, and 684 individuals or 21.8% were disqualified. The survey was live from September 3rd at 1pm EST to September 6th at 5pm EST.

Only respondents who had completed the full set of questions were used in the analysis of data, all partial responses were removed in the data analysis. The data were weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Canada’s population according to age, gender, educational attainment, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The condition of Canada’s healthcare system is on the minds of Canadians, especially in the context of the upcoming federal election – many would be swayed to vote for a political party that prioritizes the health of all Canadians.

2. Most Canadians feel that the healthcare system is in need of some degree of improvement and investment over the next 10 years, from investments to a complete overhaul.

3. Of areas for improvement in the next 4 years, about 3 in 10 would want to see more healthcare workers and better collaboration between provinces and the federal government.

4. When considering specific issues to address, nearly all agree that we need to fix long-term care for seniors and that our healthcare workers need more support.

5. 3 in 4 agree that the federal government needs to make preparing for the next pandemic a priority, and that addressing climate change will lead to better health for Canadians. Just less than that believe that reconciliation with our Indigenous people will improve their health overall.

6. Atlantic Canadians, Quebecers (including BQ voters), and older Canadians demonstrate the highest concern for our healthcare system among questions tested.
In which of the following areas would you MOST like to see the federal government invest in?

- Healthcare: 24%
- The economy/jobs: 22%
- Affordable housing: 21%
- Climate change: 17%
- Managing the pandemic: 16%
FEW THINK THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IS GOOD THE WAY IT IS.

I think the current system is funded sufficiently to address the needs of all Canadians. 10%

I think governments will need to make more investments to improve the system and increase capacity over the next decade. Invest in it now so it is there when we need it. 47%

I think the system needs a lot of work and improvements if it will be able to serve Canadians over the next 10 years. 29%

I think the healthcare system is crumbling. It is time for a complete overhaul. 13%

Thinking specifically about Canada’s healthcare system over the next 10 years, which of the following comes closest to your view?
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM NEEDS IN THE NEXT 4 YEARS

What do you think the healthcare system needs most in the next four years?

- More health workers: 33%
- Better collaboration between provinces and the federal government: 28%
- More federal funding: 18%
- More innovation like virtual care: 12%
- Better collaboration between provinces: 9%
We need to fix long-term care for our seniors. They deserve better. 89%

Supporting our health care workers will improve access and ensure quality of care. 87%

Federal government must make it a top priority to get ready for the next pandemic. COVID is only the beginning. 76%

By addressing climate change, we will ensure better health for all Canadians, particularly for generations to come. 75%

Reconciliation with our Indigenous people will improve their health and health outcomes. 66%

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?
“On election day, the political party that prioritizes the health of all Canadians will get my vote.”

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

- Strongly agree: 60%
- Agree: 39%
- Disagree: 10%
- Strongly disagree: 4%
- Unsure: 26%