

Canadians' Assessment and Views of the Education System



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Education has climbed the ranks on the public's agenda during the past year. This special *Angus Reid Group/Globe and Mail Report* examines Canadians' current perspectives on the education system in this country – both at the public school and post-secondary levels – and compares them to Angus Reid Group soundings taken earlier this decade.

The survey results presented here stem from a National Angus Reid Poll of 1,515 Canadian adults conducted between May 11th and 16th, 1999. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional, age and sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to 1996 Census data.

With a national sample of 1,515, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the overall results for each survey are within ± 2.5 percentage points of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error will be larger for other sub-groupings of the survey population.

Highlights

Canada's Public School System

- More than one-half of Canadians are satisfied with the overall state of public schools in this country (only about one in ten are “very” satisfied), but over four in ten voice discontent. This is a virtually identical assessment to the one recorded almost three years ago. The primary reasons driving these dissatisfied Canadians’ concerns about the public school system today include: curriculum-related issues; the overall quality of education; funding/spending; student discipline/violence; teachers and their unions; and large class sizes.
- Further reflecting their muted endorsement of the overall state of the public education system, Canadians are split as to whether public schools today provide students with a better or worse education compared to 25 years ago (around one-third each); one-quarter perceive no change. This divided appraisal is more favourable than the one offered by Canadians in 1993 but is not as positive compared to over a decade ago – in 1986, a plurality of four in ten thought students in public schools were getting a better education than 25 years earlier.
- This survey also explored Canadians’ perceptions and views of the public school system via a series of attitudinal statements, listed here in descending order of overall agreement:
 - A solid majority of Canadians – six in ten – believe that private schools provide students with a much better education than public schools.
 - Almost as many Canadians (close to three in five) perceive there is too much emphasis in today’s classrooms on learning how to use computers rather than “the basics” – a view held by fully two-thirds of the older generation.
 - The general public is fairly divided (53% versus 46%) on whether public school boards should accept corporate donations, such as computer equipment for students and teachers, in exchange for allowing companies to have some

advertising in the classroom. The generational divide is again evident, with two-thirds of younger Canadians supportive of this concept while a majority of those 55 and older voice opposition.

- A lack of confidence in teachers' professional training is held by four in ten Canadians (a slight improvement since 1993). Still, a majority believe that teachers are trained adequately to carry out their duties in the classroom.
 - Four in ten Canadians say that high schools prepare students well for today's workforce – a figure which has been improving slowly but steadily since 1993 (up 12 percentage points) – but a solid majority continue to give high schools poor marks on this subject.
 - Similarly, only one-third perceive today's high school graduates to have good reading and writing skills (albeit an 11-point improvement since 1993) compared to twice as many who feel they do not. Once again, older Canadians are particularly critical of the public school system's performance on this "basics" dimension.
- Most Canadians are unhappy with the amount of government spending on the public education system: almost two in three would like to see government funding for public schools in their own provinces increased from current levels, double the number who are satisfied with existing funding levels. Only a handful advocate financial cuts in this area.

Canada's Post-Secondary Schools

- On the skilled trade versus university education debate, a slim majority of Canadians would steer today's young people in the direction of learning a trade/skill at a community or technical college instead of acquiring a more general education at a university (the preferred option of one in three). The trade/skill route has been the majority public choice since the early 1990s and contrasts sharply with Canadians' very divided and uncertain views back in 1986, when each option was chosen by roughly one in three and a similar proportion were unsure as to which approach would be best for young people to take.

- Public support for four potential reforms to post-secondary education in Canada was measured in this survey. Listed in order of the overall support received by each proposal:
 - Canadians are very receptive to allowing the private sector to provide funding for certain post-secondary programs such as business schools – fully nine in ten of those polled expressed overall support.
 - Two-thirds of Canadians would like to see universities specialize in certain areas rather than offer a broad range of programs.
 - A majority – just over half – would also be in favour of establishing some privately owned and operated universities in Canada, but many Canadians continue to be opposed to this prospect.
 - Meanwhile, public opposition has grown to the idea of hiking tuition fees so that university and college students pay more of the actual costs of education: whereas 34 percent of Canadians surveyed in 1993 expressed support for tuition fee increases, this figure has fallen to 19 percent today. In fact, a clear majority now voice “strong” opposition.
- And, similar to their views on funding for public schools, a clear majority of six in 10 Canadians say government funding for post-secondary institutions in their own provinces should be increased from current levels. In comparison, around one in three are satisfied with present government funding of post-secondary education and only a very small minority argue for financial cutbacks in this area.

Discussion

Canada's education system has experienced its share of concerns and challenges in recent years. Financial issues have been among those at the very head of the class, primarily how to continue providing quality education in the face of rising costs and reduced government funding. As part of the largely nationwide deficit-reduction effort in the second half of this decade, the

provinces – which have constitutional responsibility for education – cut back or held the line on spending for social programs, including education. Their actions were partly fuelled by the federal government's focus on slashing the deficit, which included a \$6 billion reduction in Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) payments to the provinces between 1995 and 1998.

As a result, education has been a climbing concern on the public's agenda in the second half of the 1990s. Ever since the Angus Reid Group's *Issue Watch* tracking began in 1988, the education system had typically been flagged "top-of-mind" as a priority issue by under 5 percent of surveyed Canadians. By October of 1996, mentions of this issue reached double-digits (11%) and have been increasing fairly steadily since then, surpassing the 20 percent mark for the first time this past March. Currently, education (at 21%) shares the No.3 spot on Canadians' list of the most important issues facing the country, tied with unemployment and behind the Kosovo conflict and health care.

In addition to generating heightened public concern these days, the education system is not inspiring confidence on the part of a great many members of the general public. Our survey shows that almost half of all Canadians continue to be dissatisfied with the overall state of the public education system. A slim plurality even go so far as to say that public schools today provide students with a worse education than they did 25 years ago – not exactly a strong vote of

confidence. Satisfaction with the public school system is lowest in Ontario, where the Harris Conservative government has made major cuts and changes to education, and has been locked in battle with the province's teachers.

Canadians' criticism of the public school system is mainly directed toward curriculum issues, both in general and specifically concerning the perceived lack of emphasis on "the basics". Among those respondents who said they are unhappy with the public education system, fully one in three singled out issues relating to the curriculum/courses. Other survey findings underline Canadians' discontent on this front: two-thirds believe that high school graduates today do not have good reading and writing skills; six in ten say high schools are not doing a good job of preparing students for today's workforce; and, interestingly, a clear majority perceive there is too much classroom attention paid to learning how to use computers rather than the basics. Clearly, Canadians are worried that the public school system these days may not be providing students with some of the important fundamentals.

Government funding for education is another major concern held by Canadians. Along with being one of the most popular complaints offered by those dissatisfied with the public school system, this poll found solid majority support for increased government funding for public schools and for post-secondary institutions. Schools at both of these levels have had to find ways to

cope with limited financial resources, such as eliminating programs and staff, increasing class sizes and bypassing capital improvements. Tuition fees at universities and colleges have also risen significantly to help cover rising costs, despite the fact that a huge majority of surveyed Canadians do not want to see students shoulder a greater share of education costs. In light of the Liberal government's recent restoration of \$2.5 billion in CHST monies to the provinces thanks to the healthy budget surplus, the provinces can be expected to plead for more federal funding at the annual premiers' conference to be held this August in Québec City.

And where does corporate Canada fit into the education picture? As revealed by this research, Canadians feel the private sector has a role to play indeed. In terms of the institutions of higher learning, there is strong public support for businesses to provide funding for certain post-secondary programs, and more modest support for the establishment of some privately owned and operated universities. The public evidently understands the financial pressures being faced by the post-secondary sector and is willing to accept some "privatization" in this area. Many Canadian universities have actually been very successful in their private sector fund-raising campaigns: the University of Toronto, for example, recently solicited \$575 million in private donations. However, in their efforts to make up for revenue shortfalls, Canada's post-secondary schools run the risk of feeling obligated or pressured to cater to the interests of big private

donors, at the expense of academic freedom, integrity and their mandate to serve the public good.

Corporate involvement in Canada's elementary and secondary schools is more contentious from the standpoint of public opinion. This issue, currently being debated in many parts of Canada, stems from an initiative by Montreal-based Athena Educational Partners Inc. to produce a TV news and current affairs show for school classrooms. The program, Youth News Network, is 12.5 minutes in length including 2.5 minutes of commercials from corporate advertisers. Schools which obtain the package would be required to air it to their students on a daily basis for 80 percent of the academic year, in exchange for a minimum of \$150,000 worth of free televisions and multimedia computers. The prospect of receiving this amount of free equipment poses a tough dilemma for public school boards who are caught between the parents' and public's demand for quality education and a shortage of funding to purchase these expensive items. The divisive nature of this issue is illustrated by our survey results, with only a narrow majority of Canadians supportive of this concept; clear majority support was found only in Québec.

The education system is the backbone of any modern society. Education ensures the human development, quality of life and prosperity of a country's citizens. An infobite: according to UNESCO, the top five countries with the most

university students per 100,000 population are Canada (6,980), United States (5,546), Korea (4,756), New Zealand (4,675) and Norway (4,111). And Canada has enjoyed the No.1 ranking on the United Nations' Human Development Index for each of the past five years. But clearly, there are many important issues and public concerns regarding the state of Canada's education system right now. These challenges will need to be met by all key stakeholders – federal and provincial governments, schools and school boards, the business community and the general public – if Canada is to maintain its high standard of living in the 21st century.

Research Findings

The presentation of the research findings starts with a look at Canadians' opinions concerning the public education system, followed by views on post-secondary education in Canada. The survey results presented here stem from a National Angus Reid Poll of 1,515 Canadian adults conducted between May 11th and 16th, 1999.

Canada's Public School System

The first half of our "centrepiece feature" focuses on the public education system in this country, that is, elementary and secondary schools. Our discussion includes: levels of satisfaction with public schools and reasons for dissatisfaction;

perceived quality of public school education today versus 25 years ago; attitudes and perceptions regarding the public education system; and views on the adequacy of current government funding for public schools.

Overall Satisfaction with Public Schools

A majority of Canadians are satisfied with the public school system in this country, however, almost as many are disappointed. Slightly more than one-half (54%) of survey respondents expressed satisfaction with the overall state of Canada's public schools (although only 7% said they are "very satisfied"). This level of content is not much higher than the 45 percent who voiced dissatisfaction (14% "not at all satisfied"). These results are almost identical to those that emerged almost three years ago in a 1996 sounding of this same question (53% satisfied, 43% dissatisfied).

Regionally speaking, overall satisfaction with the public school system hovers around the six in 10 level in all major regions except Ontario (48%), where the Harris Conservative government has come under fire for its actions on the education front.

Majority satisfaction with the public school system also exists across other socio-demographic segments of the national population. This includes those surveyed

Canadians who presently have children attending public schools (57%) and those who do not (53%).

And what concerns are driving Canadians' discontent with public schools today? The 45 percent of survey respondents who indicated they are "not very" or "not at all" satisfied were asked via an open-ended question to state their reasons. The top-of-mind responses volunteered with the greatest frequency are highlighted below:

- **Curriculum-related issues** were the most common complaints, mentioned on an unaided basis by 37 percent of those dissatisfied (which translates to 16% of the total survey sample). Specifically, 16 percent were unhappy with the courses/curriculum in general or thought the system does not challenge students enough; 14 percent believed there is insufficient attention paid to "the basics"; and another 7 percent of the dissatisfied said students do not receive adequate job skills and training. Issues pertaining to what is being taught and learned in public schools were raised more often in the 1996 survey (47%).
- Next on the list was the **overall quality** of education provided to students (23%, or 10% of all respondents).

- Just as many unsatisfied respondents cited **financial concerns** such as the lack of funding or poor spending of monies for the public education system (22%, or 10% of all Canadians).
- **Student discipline and violence** was also pinpointed by one in five (21%) of the discontented (or 9% of all respondents), an increase from the 16 percent recorded in the 1996 poll.
- Another popular criticism was directed toward **teachers and their unions** (19%, or 8% of the general public as a whole). One in ten (13%) of the dissatisfied perceived teachers to be of poor quality or overpaid, and 6 percent were critical of teachers' unions.
- **Large class sizes** or teachers' lack of attention paid to students was singled out by around one in seven polled Canadians who were unhappy with the overall state of the public school system today (14%, or 6% of the entire population).

Public School Education Today versus 25 Years Ago

Canadians are split on whether public schools provide students with a better education today than over two decades ago, further reflecting Canadians' less than enthusiastic endorsement of the public school system. Respondents were equally likely to perceive that children in public schools today are getting a better (35%) or worse (37%) education than they would have 25 years ago; one-quarter (26%) opted for "about the same."

The current split assessment is somewhat more favourable than was observed in the previous two readings of this question, when clear pluralities thought public schools were providing students with a worse education relative to 25 years earlier (40% in 1995, 46% in 1993). But today's appraisal compares unfavourably to the one recorded back in 1986 when a plurality (42%) of Canadians chose the "better than 25 years ago" option.

Perceptions on this count display significant regional variations. Atlantic Canadians (56%) are especially inclined to believe that public school students are receiving a superior education than they would have 25 years earlier. This view is also shared by pluralities in Alberta and Manitoba /Saskatchewan (47% and 44% respectively). Conversely, a plurality of Ontarians (40%) and British Columbians (41%) perceive that public schools today provide an inferior education compared to 25 years ago; the balance of opinion also tips in this direction among residents of Québec (36% worse versus 27% better).

A generational skew is also evident. Whereas a plurality of younger Canadians (41% of those 18 to 34) take the view that public schools today offer a better education than 25 years ago, their middle-aged and older counterparts lean toward the opposite perspective (four in 10 think it is worse today).

Other Perceptions and Attitudes About Canada's Public Schools

Canadians' views on the public school system were also probed via their levels of agreement or disagreement with a half-dozen different attitudinal statements. Generational differences are perhaps the most interesting. For example, older Canadians are more inclined to believe that high schools today are not doing a good job of providing students with reading and writing skills, and that there is too much emphasis on computers than on the basics. The older generation is also the least receptive to the idea of schools accepting corporate donations in exchange for some advertising in the classroom.

These survey findings are discussed below in descending order of respondents' overall agreement with these attitudinal statements.

- ***Students in private schools receive a much better education than students in public schools*** – By a margin of almost two to one (61% versus 34%), polled Canadians agreed either “strongly” or “somewhat” that private schools provide students with a much superior quality of education compared to public schools. More than one-half of respondents from all major population segments gave the nod to private schools over public schools, but residents of Ontario (64%) and British Columbia (63%) were more apt to do so than their counterparts elsewhere in the country, as were individuals with not more than a high school education themselves (66%).

- ***There is too much emphasis in the classroom today on using computers instead of doing the basics*** – That learning how to use computers is taking precedence over learning the basics met with overall agreement from a majority of those surveyed (56% versus 42% who disagreed). The pro-basics

perspective becomes more popular with age, rising from 50 percent of younger Canadians to two-thirds (66%) of those 55 and older. Also sharing this concern more so than others were respondents with a high school education or less (63%, dropping steadily to 46% of the university educated) and members of lower-income households (67%, sliding to 46% of their higher-income cohorts).

- ***Public school boards should accept corporate donations, such as computer equipment for students and teachers, in exchange for allowing companies to have some advertising in the classroom*** – Public reaction to this proposal – currently a contentious issue in some provinces across the country – is very divided (53% agreed with the statement, 46% disagreed). This idea receives solid support in Québec (62%) but elicits a mixed response in the other major regions. Once again the generational divide can be seen, with clear support found among younger Canadians (64%) in contrast to majority opposition among older people (55%); the middle-aged are split on this idea.
- ***Teachers are not adequately trained to carry out the job which is required of them*** – A lack of confidence in teachers' training for their jobs was expressed by four in ten (42%) Canadians surveyed – down 6 percentage points since 1993 – but more than half (57%) said teachers have the necessary skills for the classroom. Teachers' image in this regard has improved the most since over the past six years among residents of Ontario (40% agree with the statement, down from 50% in 1993) Most critical of teachers' training were respondents with the lowest levels of education and affluence (47% each).
- ***High schools do a good job of preparing students for today's workforce*** – Only about four in ten (38%) of those surveyed praised today's high schools for ensuring its graduates are well equipped to enter the modern workforce

(60% disagreed). Significantly, however, the proportion who give high schools a pat on the back on this dimension has been inching slowly upwards during the '90s – 5 points higher than was measured in a 1995 sounding and 12 points above the level of agreement recorded in 1993. British Columbians are the most critical of the job that high schools are doing to prepare students for today's workforce (only 33% agreed they are doing a fine job), in sharpest contrast to their neighbours next door in Alberta (46%, a jump of 23 points since 1993 – the largest increase among all regions).

- *Today's high school graduates have solid reading and writing skills* – Similarly, only a minority of Canadians believe that high schools today are imparting good reading and writing skills to students (34% agree, 65% disagree). Nonetheless, agreement with this statement has grown by 11 percentage points over the 23 percent registered in the 1993 reading. The perception that students are graduating from high schools with these basic skills is fairly uniform across the country, but it has increased to the greatest extent among residents of Québec (since 1993, up 17 points to 33%) and Alberta (rising 13 points to 40%). A positive assessment of today's high schools when it comes to providing students with these "basics" is also in the minority across the generations, and it becomes less prevalent with age (44% of 18 to 34-year-olds agreed with the statement, dropping to 30% of the middle-aged and to 27% of those 55 and older).

Government Funding for Public Schools

Most Canadians are dissatisfied with the current amount of government funding for the public school system. Nearly two in three (63%) survey respondents said government funding for public schools in their own provinces should be

increased from current levels. About half as many were satisfied, saying the current level of government funding in this area should be maintained (34%). Only a handful (2%) advocated cutting back current government funding for public schools.

Increased government funding for public schools is supported by a majority of Canadians from all walks of life. Support ranged from a high of 70-71 percent among Albertans, Atlantic Canadians and younger people to a “low” of 52 percent among those 55 and older.

Canada's Post-Secondary Schools

The second half of this “centrepiece feature” turns our attention to Canada’s post-secondary education system, namely the colleges, technical schools and universities in this country. Included in this discussion will be: views on whether today’s young people should learn a skilled trade or acquire a general university education; public support for potential reforms to post-secondary education; and government funding for post-secondary educational institutions.

The Best Path for Today’s Youth: Skilled Trade vs. University Education?

Canadians would advise young people today to learn a skilled trade rather than to acquire a more general university education. Over one-half (52%) of

those surveyed said today's youth should be encouraged to get a trade or skill at a community college instead of going to university to get a general education (36%).

The trade/skill route continues to be the majority choice (52% today compared to 56% in 1995 and 50% in 1993), in sharp contrast to more than a decade ago when Canadians were very divided on this question (39% trade/skill versus 31% general university education, with 30% being unsure). It is interesting to note, however, that the current gap between trade/skill and general education (a 16-point spread) is narrower than it was in the polls taken four years ago (24 points) and six years ago (23 points).

A large plurality or majority of Canadians from virtually all major population sub-groupings say they would steer young people toward acquiring a trade or skill rather than a general university education. Across regional lines, the gap in favour of learning a trade/skill is widest among British Columbians (a spread of 27 points), while it is narrowest among residents of Alberta (6 points) and Ontario (9 points). Interestingly, since the previous sounding taken in 1995, this gap has shrunk in Western Canada and Ontario, but has stayed the same in Québec and has widened in the Atlantic region (from an 8-point spread in favour of a trade/skill to a 23-point spread today).

In terms of other population segments, the gap in favour of acquiring a trade/skill is relatively larger among younger Canadians (22 points) compared to their 55-plus counterparts (9 points). The gap is also more pronounced among Canadians in households where no one is presently attending a post-secondary school (18 points) and among those individuals currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution (15 points) compared to those households which have children currently pursuing a post-secondary education (only a 5-point spread).

The biggest variation, however, can be found when looking at Canadians' educational status. Specifically, individuals with less than a high school education are heavily in favour of encouraging young people to get a trade or skill whereas university-educated Canadians are fairly divided on which path would be advisable. The point-spread in favour of a trade/skill was fully 35 points among respondents without a high school diploma (64% trade/skill versus 29% general university education). The gap was somewhat less pronounced among high school graduates (20 points) and those with some post-secondary education (27 points). On the other hand, the gap was minus 8 points among respondents who had completed a university degree (37% would recommend a trade/skill compared to 45% who would encourage youth to get a general university education instead).

This research measured public support for four selected reforms that could potentially be made to Canada's post-secondary education system, all of which were also assessed in the 1993 benchmark survey. Canadians' reaction to these proposals is outlined below, in descending order of the support received by each potential measure.

- **Encouraging businesses to provide funding to certain post-secondary programs such as business schools** – Widespread public support exists for allowing the private sector to provide funding for specific university training programs such as business education: overall support was indicated by fully nine in ten (89%) of those polled, with just shy of half (47%) saying they “strongly” support such a policy. Broad support is essentially unchanged from the level measured in the 1993 study, although the proportion voicing strong support has slipped 11 points since then. British Columbians display the most enthusiasm for this potential measure (a majority of 51% strongly support it), while the percentage of strong advocates has declined considerably since 1993 in Québec (down 24 points to 44%) and Atlantic Canada (dropping 22 points to 46%).
- **Moving toward having universities specialize in certain programs rather than having them all offer a wide range of programs as they do today** – The public reacts positively to the suggestion that moves should be made so that universities would specialize in certain programs rather than having them provide their current broad range of programs – two in three (66%) respondents said they at least somewhat favour this proposal, up slightly (6 points) since the 1993 sounding. Support for narrowing individual universities' program offerings hovers around the two-thirds mark among Canadians from nearly all walks of life, with the exception of greater support among

Québécois (73%) and Canadians with children currently attending a post-secondary school (74%), and weaker support from Albertans (54%). The appeal of this proposal has grown significantly in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (from 51% in 1993 to 65% today).

- **Encouraging the establishment of one or more privately owned and operated universities in Canada** – The concept of some privatization in the post-secondary education sector meets with the overall support of a narrow majority of Canadians (53% support versus 44% oppose), unchanged from the 1993 survey findings. Residents of British Columbia (65%) are particularly attracted to this idea. Majority support, albeit slim in most instances, also exists among virtually all other major segments of the population, with the notable exception of Albertans (45%). The prospect of establishing some private universities has also become more appealing to residents of Manitoba/Saskatchewan compared to seven years ago (rising from 40% to 52%).

- **Increasing tuition fees so that university and college students pay more of the actual costs of education** – Meanwhile, Canadians' opposition to hiking tuition fees for post-secondary students has hardened since earlier this decade. A large majority (80%) of survey respondents voiced opposition to raising tuition fees so that students shoulder more of the costs of their schooling, an increase of 15 percentage points since the 1993 poll. Further underlining their resistance to this idea, fully 55 percent were "strongly" opposed, compared to 42 percent in the early '90s. Opposition to tuition fee increases varies to the greatest degree by region: the percentage "strongly" opposed peaks in Atlantic Canada (71%) but falls below the majority level in Québec and British Columbia (44% and 46% respectively). In addition, the level of strong opposition has climbed most significantly in Ontario (shooting

up 21 points since 1993), Alberta (a 16-point increase) and the Atlantic region (15 points higher). Firm resistance to this proposal is also relatively more evident among the following population groups: younger Canadians (64% strongly oppose, sliding to 49% among respondents 55+); women (61% versus 50% of men); the least educated (61%, dropping to 49% of the university educated); the least affluent (61%, declining to 50% of those from \$60,000+ households); as well as among Canadians currently pursuing a post-secondary education (73%).

Government Funding for Post-Secondary Schools

The Canadian public would like to see more government funding for post-secondary education in this country. Close to six in ten (58%) survey respondents said government funding for post-secondary schools in their own province should be increased from current levels (compared to slightly more, 63%, who wanted more funding for elementary/secondary schools). Satisfaction with current government funding for post-secondary education was expressed by roughly one in three (37%) Canadians, while very few (4%) advocated cuts in this area.

More money for post-secondary institutions was championed by at least one-half of polled Canadians from all major population segments, but especially Atlantic Canadians (65%), the university educated (64%) and individuals who are currently pursuing a post-secondary education (70%).

And how do Canadians' views on government funding for post-secondary education compare to their perspectives on funding for the public school system?

- From a regional and generational perspective, those groups which are just as likely to advocate increased government funding for post-secondary institutions as they are to support more money for public schools, include: residents of Ontario (60% post-secondary versus 62% elementary/secondary), Québec (57% and 60% respectively) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (60% each); and people who are middle-aged (62% versus 64%) and at least 55 years of age (50% compared to 52%).
- Meanwhile, the following sub-groups were more likely to call for increased funding for public schools than for post-secondary institutions: residents of British Columbia (66% public versus 49% post-secondary), Alberta (70% and 59% respectively) and the Atlantic provinces (71% versus 65%); and Canadians between 18 and 34 years old (71% compared to 61%).

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