

---

# CANADIAN OPINION ON THE CORONA VIRUS

## PART I

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

MARCH 16, 2020

AUTHOR: JACK JEDWAB, PRESIDENT OF THE ACS

# INTRODUCTION

- On Friday, in response to the Corona Virus/Covid 19 several exceptional measures were introduced by the government of Canada, amongst them, the suspension of Parliament, the delay of the federal budget, new restrictions on international travel and a major fiscal stimulus package. These measures were a testimony to the increasing seriousness of the virus. But during the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> Canadians were somewhat divided on the magnitude of the threat posed by the virus. Public attitudes and behaviors are an important aspect in managing the national crisis arising from the virus. To examine opinion the Association for Canadian Studies commissioned a detailed survey of the people's views over the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> ending the day prior to the PM's announcement. At that time, as revealed in the survey six in ten Canadians were expressed concern about a widespread outbreak and they manifested a variety of other concerns. Still there remains a spectrum or range of concern and anxiety and some differences on the basis age, gender and region. Below is the first of two parts on perceptions about the virus.

## METHODOLOGY

- The survey was commissioned by the Association for Canadian Studies and conducted by the firm Leger Marketing with a sample of 1479 Canadians nationally via web panel during the week of March 9, 2020. It has a probabilistic margin of error of 2.5 percent 19 times out of 20.



# HEALTH CONCERNS



# ONTARIO, BC AND QUEBEC MOST WORRIED ABOUT WIDESPREAD OUTBREAK OF CORONA/COVID 19

	That there will be a widespread outbreak of the Coronavirus/Covid 19 in your city - Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not very worried or not worried at all about...								
	Total	Man	Woman	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL WORRIED	59%	55%	63%	51%	60%	63%	49%	52%	61%
Very worried	20%	16%	24%	16%	26%	20%	18%	18%	16%
Somewhat worried	39%	38%	39%	35%	34%	42%	31%	34%	45%

# SIX IN TEN CANADIANS ARE WORRIED THAT A FAMILY MEMBER MIGHT GET THE CORONA VIRUS WITH WOMEN MORE WORRIED THAN MEN

	That you or someone in your family will get sick from the Coronavirus/Covid 19 - Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not very worried or not worried at all about...								
	Total	Man	Woman	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL WORRIED</b>	59%	56%	62%	57%	62%	58%	55%	52%	63%
Very worried	21%	18%	25%	19%	28%	19%	21%	19%	20%
Somewhat worried	37%	38%	37%	39%	33%	39%	34%	33%	43%

# HALF OF CANADIANS ARE WORRIED ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL HEALTH

Worried about my personal health	Total	Man	Woman	ATLANTIC	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL WORRIED</b>	50%	46%	54%	44%	57%	50%	43%	46%	50%
Very worried	16%	14%	18%	14%	25%	15%	6%	13%	12%
Somewhat worried	35%	32%	36%	30%	33%	35%	37%	33%	38%



# WHAT TO DO? STOCKING UP ON SUPPLIES AND TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF CANADA



# THERE IS A PROFOUND GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCE IN THE PERCEIVED THREAT OF THE CORONA VIRUS, COVID 19

The threat of the Coronavirus/Covid 19 is being exaggerated - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements?						
	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	52%	54%	49%	68%	53%	39%
Strongly agree	19%	20%	17%	28%	19%	12%
Somewhat agree	33%	34%	32%	40%	34%	27%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	45%	43%	47%	28%	44%	58%
Somewhat disagree	26%	25%	28%	19%	29%	30%
Strongly disagree	19%	19%	20%	10%	16%	28%
I prefer not to answer	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%

# SEVEN IN TEN CANADIANS SAY THAT THEY WOULD NOT TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE CORONA VIRUS, COVID 19

Because of the Coronavirus/Covid 19, I would not travel outside the country						
	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	69%	68%	70%	63%	67%	75%
Strongly agree	40%	35%	45%	34%	39%	45%
Somewhat agree	29%	33%	25%	30%	28%	30%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	29%	30%	28%	33%	31%	24%
Somewhat disagree	17%	18%	17%	19%	17%	16%
Strongly disagree	12%	12%	11%	15%	14%	8%
I prefer not to answer	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%

# ONE IN FOUR CANADIANS STOCKING UP ON SUPPLIES BECAUSE OF THE CORONA VIRUS/COVID 19

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements?	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+
Because of the Coronavirus/Covid 19, I have bought a protective mask	12%	13%	11%	14%	15%	8%
Because of the Coronavirus/Covid 19, I am stocking up on supplies (e.g water or food)	26%	26%	26%	25%	28%	25%



# ECONOMIC CONCERNS



# OVER 7 IN 10 CANADIANS ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ECONOMIES WITH SOME 6 IN 10 WORRIED ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL FINANCES

TOTAL WORRIED	Total	Man	Woman	ATLANTIC	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
About the country's economy	72%	71%	73%	74%	63%	74%	78%	89%	65%
About your province's economy	71%	69%	72%	82%	58%	72%	77%	92%	62%
Your personal financial situation	60%	55%	65%	69%	57%	59%	61%	66%	62%

# OVERALL ECONOMIC CONCERNS NOT VASTLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY WERE 12 MONTHS AGO

TOTAL WORRIED	March 2020	March 2019
About the country's economy	72%	73%
About your province's economy	71%	70%
Your personal financial situation	60%	64%



# GOVERNMENT SATISFACTION



# QUEBECERS DIVIDED OVER WHETHER GOVERNMENT IS DOING WHAT IS NEEDED TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE CORONA/COVID 19 VIRUS

The government is doing what is needed to prevent the spread of Corona virus/Covid 19 in Canada -							
	Total	ATLANTIC	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	58%	65%	48%	61%	60%	62%	56%
Strongly agree	13%	16%	8%	15%	7%	13%	14%
Somewhat agree	45%	49%	39%	47%	53%	49%	42%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	38%	30%	47%	35%	36%	33%	40%
Somewhat disagree	24%	20%	33%	22%	23%	21%	21%
Strongly disagree	14%	11%	14%	13%	13%	13%	19%
I prefer not to answer	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%



© 2020 Association for Canadian Studies  
All Rights Reserved.

**Author: Jack Jedwab**

***Canadian Opinion on the Corona Virus - Part I.***

Created on March 16, 2020.



[www.acs-aec.ca](http://www.acs-aec.ca)