
PANDEMIC GOVERNANCE: WHICH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT DO YOU THINK HAS DONE THE BEST JOB IN ADDRESSING CRISIS AND WHO DO YOU TRUST MOST?

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

For over 42 weeks Leger and the Association for Canadian Studies have tracked the rates of satisfaction with federal and provincial governments with respect to their handling of the COVID-19 crisis. In that which follows we ask respondents to rank which level of government they feel has done the better job in fighting the virus and include municipal governments in the ranking. We also ask which level of government (federal vs provincial) is deemed most trustworthy by Canadians in addressing issues of health care. As we present the results it is worth noting that health care is within the jurisdiction of the provinces. But since the outbreak of the contagion the federal government provided considerable economic and social support to the population and made its presence felt in so many areas that when it comes to health care its visibility was significantly enhanced. While the Leger-ACS survey has the provinces win out in both doing the better job and in trust, the data point to important regional variation in opinion in this regard. The results further reveal that those Canadians that are most fearful about getting COVID-19 are somewhat more likely to believe that the federal government is doing best in addressing the virus.

These findings arise from a survey conducted via web panel by Leger in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies between January 2 and January 3, 2021 with 1523 Canadians and while no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample, for comparative purposes the national sample would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

MOST CANADIANS THINK THAT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE DONE THE BEST JOB IN ADDRESSING COVID-19 BUT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS VIEWED BEST IN PRAIRIES AND ALBERTA AND ROUGHLY EQUAL IN ONTARIO

Of the three levels of government, rank in order which you think has done the best job in addressing the COVID-19 crisis to date:

1 st Choice	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Federal government	34%	30%	26%	37%	53%	39%	25%
Provincial Government	47%	56%	64%	40%	33%	25%	58%
Municipal Government	19%	13%	10%	23%	14%	36%	17%

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MORE TRUSTED THAN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN PRAIRIES AND ALBERTA AND LESS TRUSTED IN ATLANTIC, QUEBEC AND BC

When it comes to dealing with health care issues, I trust...							
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
The federal government more than the provincial government	21%	10%	13%	23%	37%	30%	15%
The provincial government more than the federal government	31%	48%	46%	22%	22%	17%	38%
Equally trust the Federal and Provincial governments	24%	24%	21%	28%	26%	14%	25%
Neither the federal nor provincial governments	24%	18%	19%	26%	15%	39%	22%

THOSE SAYING THEY'RE MOST AFRAID OF GETTING COVID-19 ARE MOST LIKELY TO FEEL THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS DOING THE BEST JOB IN ADDRESSING THE CRISIS

Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?				
Which of the three levels of government has done the best job in addressing the COVID-19 crisis to date:	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
Federal government	42.1%	34.9%	27.1%	34.9%
Provincial Government	36.5%	47.4%	56.6%	37.5%
Municipal Government	21.3%	17.6%	16.5%	27.6%

THOSE MOST AFRAID OF GETTING COVID-19 ARE SLIGHTLY MORE LIKELY TO TRUST THE FEDERAL OVER THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTH CARE ISSUES; THOSE LEAST FEARFUL MOST LIKELY NOT TO TRUST THE GOVERNMENT

When it comes to dealing with health care issues, I trust...	Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?			
	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
The federal government more than the provincial government	27.8%	23.0%	13.7%	18.5%
The provincial government more than the federal government	24.5%	31.1%	39.8%	22.5%
Equally trust the Federal and Provincial governments	23.1%	26.4%	23.6%	17.9%
Neither the federal nor provincial governments	24.5%	19.5%	22.8%	41.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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