

BACK TO IN PERSON CLASSES: PARENTS WITH CHILDREN ARE MORE SUPPORTIVE OF SENDING CHILDREN BACK TO IN PERSON SCHOOL; QUEBECERS ARE MOST SUPPORTIVE OF DOING SO WHILE ONTARIANS ARE DIVIDED OVER THE ISSUE

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INTRODUCTION

Many schools across the country have now reopened. But the degree of uncertainty about the return to in person classes is still quite high amongst Canadians as the threat of Covid 19 persists. Despite schools taking important measures to contain the spread of the virus there is widespread fear over the spread of the virus and many Canadian parents appear reluctant to send their children to school. A survey conducted by the firm Leger Marketing in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that a slight majority of Canadians favor the idea of sending children back to school. By contrast the majority of Americans oppose the idea. It is in Quebec where the level of comfort with sending children back to school is by far the highest (though there is a difference of views on the issue between francophone and non-francophone Quebecers with the former overwhelming in support and the latter much less so). The survey was conducted with some 1500 Canadians and 1000 Americans over the period September 4 to 6, 2020 with a probabilistic margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$, 19 times out of 20.

QUEBECERS ARE THE MOST SUPPORTIVE OF A RETURN TO IN PERSON SCHOOL WITH ONTARIANS DIVIDED OVER THE ISSUE

Canada	Do you think children should be going back to school in-person?						
September 4 to 6	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	52%	52%	73%	43%	47%	55%	38%
No	35%	36%	19%	43%	29%	29%	46%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	14%	12%	7%	15%	24%	16%	16%

Do you think children should be going back to school in-person?						
September 4 to 6	Total	NE	MW	South	West	
Yes	39%	32%	41%	43%	34%	
No	48%	50%	46%	44%	55%	
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	13%	17%	12%	13%	11%	

**CANADIANS UNDER 35 ARE THE LEAST SUPPORTIVE OF IN PERSON RETURN TO SCHOOL;
FRANCOPHONES ARE BY FAR THE MOST FAVORABLE TO A RETURN TO IN PERSON SCHOOL**

Canada	Do you think children should be going back to school in-person?					
September 4 to 6	18-34	35-54	55+	French	English	Others
Yes	39%	52%	60%	78%	44%	49%
No	48%	32%	28%	15%	41%	36%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	13%	16%	12%	7%	16%	15%

THE MAJORITY OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN AT HOME ARE SUPPORTIVE OF SENDING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IN PERSON

Do you think children should be going back to school in-person?	Are there any children who are UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE living in your household? (IF SO): Are any of them 12 YEARS OLD AND OLDER or LESS THAN 12 years old?				Total
	Yes: 12 years of age and OLDER ONLY	Yes: 12 years of age and older AND younger than 12 years old	Yes: YOUNGER than 12 years old ONLY	No children under 18 years old at all in the household	
Yes	60.6%	64.8%	53.0%	50.0%	51.7%
No	27.5%	32.4%	37.0%	35.4%	34.6%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	12.0%	2.8%	10.0%	14.6%	13.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

AMONGST PARENTS WITH CHILDREN EASTERN CANADIANS ARE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THEY'RE SENDING THEM TO SCHOOL

Now that the new school year is upon us, and assuming there is some form of in classroom instruction at least a few days a week, will you send your children to school or keep them at home?

Parents with children	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
I am sending them to school	61%	75%	75%	51%	67%	66%	47%
I am keeping them at home	18%	3%	4%	28%	18%	12%	25%
I don't know / Does not apply	21%	22%	20%	21%	15%	22%	28%

ONLY THE MOST FEARFUL OF GETTING THE VIRUS ARE OPPOSED TO CHILDREN BEING SENT BACK TO SCHOOL IN PERSON

Do you think children should be going back to school in-person?	Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?			
	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
Yes	22.2%	44.5%	66.4%	78.5%
No	60.9%	42.7%	19.8%	12.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	17.0%	12.8%	13.8%	9.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

THOSE CANADIANS THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A SECOND WAVE OF THE VIRUS ARE MORE RELUCTANT TO SEND CHILDREN TO IN PERSON CLASSES

Do you think children should be going back to school in-person?	Do you think there will be a second wave of the virus?			Total
	Yes	No	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	
Yes	47.6%	74.8%	60.1%	51.7%
No	39.7%	17.2%	15.0%	34.7%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	12.7%	7.9%	24.9%	13.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

MOST CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE CHILDREN'S FAMILIES THAT ARE MOST AT RISK WITH THE RETURN IN PERSON CLASSROOMS

Who do you think is most at risk if children go back to the physical classrooms for in-person learning?							
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
The children	18%	28%	11%	23%	18%	15%	13%
The children's families	47%	43%	54%	46%	43%	38%	51%
The teachers	17%	11%	19%	15%	13%	25%	17%
The administration	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	3%
The school nurse	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Other	4%	7%	4%	4%	5%	6%	2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	13%	10%	12%	11%	20%	15%	14%

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