
UNSAFE THIRD COUNTRY AGREEMENT: CANADIANS NO LONGER TRUST THE US TO FAIRLY PROCESS ASYLUM/REFUGEE CLAIMS

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AUGUST 7, 2020

INTRODUCTION: CANADIANS NO LONGER TRUST US TO FAIRLY ADJUDICATE ASYLUM/REFUGEE CLAIMS

Last week Canada's Federal Court ruled that the US is no longer a safe country for refugees sent back from Canada due to the risk of imprisonment. The decision means that in six months the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) between Canada and the United States may no longer apply. An Association for Canadian Studies- Leger survey conducted July 31 to August 2, 2020 reveals that the majority of Canadians no longer trust the capacity of the US government to fairly process asylum/refugee claims and thus contend that Canada should take sole responsibility for adjudicating them. The results counter previous polls which saw a plurality of Canadians supporting the STCA (<http://angusreid.org/safe-third-country-asylum-seekers/>).

The agreement calls for both countries to recognize each other as "safe" countries for asylum seekers to submit a claim. As part of that, asylum seekers must make their claim in the first safe country in which they arrive. That means an asylum seeker who lands in the U.S. must make a claim in the U.S. and cannot head to a Canadian border checkpoint to submit an application for asylum there — but a loophole means the claimant can do exactly that by being intercepted while crossing the border at unofficial points of entry.

The Federal court decision comes at a time when the degree of trust of the United States is near an all time low and the border between our two countries is closed owing to the affects of the pandemic. That border is likely to be closed for several months.

SIX IN TEN CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SHOULD NO LONGER TRUST THE USA TO ASSESS THE CLAIMS OF ASYLUM SEEKERS/REFUGEES

- Canada and the United States have an agreement whereby the Government of Canada will not examine the claims of asylum seekers/refugees that have been refused admission by American authorities. Some Canadians think we should trust the US asylum/refugee assessment system while others believe the decisions are often unfair. Given this situation do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree that the Government of Canada ...Should continue to trust the government of the United States to assess the claims of asylum seekers /refugees

| | Total | Man | Woman |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| TOTAL AGREE | 27% | 35% | 19% |
| Strongly agree | 11% | 15% | 7% |
| Somewhat agree | 16% | 20% | 12% |
| TOTAL DISAGREE | 61% | 55% | 66% |
| Somewhat disagree | 28% | 27% | 30% |
| Strongly disagree | 33% | 29% | 36% |
| Don't know / Refuse | 12% | 9% | 15% |

TWO IN THREE CANADIANS THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SHOULD TAKE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSESSING THE CLAIMS OF ASYLUM SEEKERS/REFUGEES WHO COME TO CANADA FROM THE USA

Canada and the United States have an agreement whereby the Government of Canada will not examine the claims of asylum seekers/refugees that have been refused admission by American authorities. ... The Government of Canada should take sole responsibility for assessing the claims of asylum seekers /refugees who come to Canada from the United States -

| | Total | Man | Woman |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| TOTAL AGREE | 66% | 63% | 69% |
| Strongly agree | 37% | 34% | 41% |
| Somewhat agree | 29% | 29% | 28% |
| TOTAL DISAGREE | 22% | 26% | 18% |
| Somewhat disagree | 12% | 14% | 9% |
| Strongly disagree | 10% | 12% | 9% |
| Don't know / Refuse | 12% | 11% | 13% |

MOST CANADIANS NOW AGREE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IS TAKING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO MANAGE IRREGULAR BORDER CROSSINGS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE USA

The Government of Canada is taking appropriate measures to manage the irregular crossings between points of entry on the Canada-U.S. border - Canada and the United States have an agreement whereby the Government of Canada will not examine the claims of asylum seekers ...The Government of Canada is taking appropriate measures to manage the irregular crossings between points of entry on the Canada-U.S. border -

| | Total | Atl. | QC | ON | MB/SK | AB | BC |
|-----------------------|-------|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| TOTAL AGREE | 48% | 48% | 69% | 42% | 32% | 37% | 46% |
| Strongly agree | 19% | 17% | 40% | 10% | 12% | 10% | 19% |
| Somewhat agree | 29% | 30% | 28% | 32% | 20% | 27% | 27% |
| TOTAL DISAGREE | 32% | 25% | 21% | 38% | 40% | 39% | 28% |
| Somewhat disagree | 16% | 17% | 11% | 19% | 18% | 17% | 14% |
| Strongly disagree | 16% | 8% | 10% | 19% | 23% | 21% | 14% |
| Don't know / Refuse | 20% | 27% | 10% | 20% | 27% | 24% | 26% |

METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From July 31 to August 2, 2020

1531 Canadians 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1531 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$, 19 times out of 20,

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

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Created on August 7 , 2020



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