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# HOW DO CANADIANS FEEL ABOUT SCHOOL CLOSINGS?

JACK JEDWAB

PRESIDENT ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

CHAIR COVID-19 SOCIAL IMPACTS NETWORK

MAY 3, 2021

# INTRODUCTION: SCHOOL CLOSURES SECURE SUPPORT IN ONTARIO AND BC BUT NOT IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY

On Monday, April 12, Premier Doug Ford alongside Education Minister Stephen Lecce, announced Ontario schools will stay closed indefinitely to in-person learning as COVID-19 cases continued to surge in the province. The Premier declared that "We're moving school online only after the April break, we will keep a constant eye on the data, on case numbers, hospital capacity, and ICU admissions to determine when we get kids back in the classrooms,"

An April 9th-11th survey by Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that the decision would likely secure the majority of support from Ontarians. And while it is the only province that announced school closures, a majority of British Columbians might also favor such closures. Elsewhere in the country however, such closures would not secure the majority of support though differences persist amongst demographic groups. Overall families with children are less favorable to school closures.

The Leger-ACS survey was conducted via web panel with 1504 Canadians over the period April 9-11, 2021 and has a probabilistic margin of error of  $\pm 2.52\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

# MOST CANADIANS WANT SCHOOLS TO STAY OPEN BUT NOT IN ONTARIO AND BRITISH COLUMBIA WHERE MOST FAVOR CLOSING SCHOOLS

Schools - In your opinion, should each of the following where you live be closed or be allowed to open/stay open (regardless of whether they are currently open or closed)?

April 11-13, 2021 Canada	Total	Man	Woman	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Yes	No
Be closed	48%	51%	45%	26%	42%	58%	41%	37%	53%	41%	51%
Be allowed to open / stay open	52%	49%	55%	74%	58%	42%	59%	63%	47%	59%	49%

# ONTARIANS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 ARE NOT FAVORABLE TO SCHOOL CLOSURES IN CONTRAST TO THOSE WITHOUT CHILDREN THAT ARE LESS FAVORABLE

Schools - In your opinion, should each of the following where you live be closed or be allowed to open/stay open (regardless of whether they are currently open or closed)?	ONTARIO Are there any children under 18 years old living in your household?		Total
	Yes	No	
Be closed	47.9%	62.1%	58.0%
Be allowed to open / stay open	52.1%	37.9%	42.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# IN QUEBEC FAMILIES WITHOUT CHILDREN ARE MORE FAVORABLE TO SCHOOL CLOSINGS THAN THOSE WITH CHILDREN

Schools - In your opinion, should each of the following where you live be closed or be allowed to open/stay open (regardless of whether they are currently open or closed)?	QUEBEC...Are there any children under 18 years old living in your household?		Total
	Yes	No	
Be closed	34.5%	43.8%	41.6%
Be allowed to open / stay open	65.5%	56.2%	58.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# IN ONTARIO, TORONTONIANS MORE FAVORABLE TO SCHOOL CLOSING WHILE OTTAWA RESIDENTS ARE MORE DIVIDED WHILE IN QUEBEC, MONTREALERS ARE LESS FAVORABLE TO SCHOOL CLOSURES THAN OTHER QUEBECERS

Schools - In your opinion, should each of the following where you live be closed or be allowed to open/stay open (regardless of whether they are currently open or closed)?	Ontario		Quebec	
	Toronto	Ottawa	MTL RMR	OTHER REGIONS of Quebec
Be closed	64%	49%	48%	34%
Be allowed to open / stay open	36%	51%	52%	66%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# QUEBEC FRANCOPHONES ARE UNFAVORABLE TO SCHOOL CLOSURES, A VIEW THAT IS NOT SHARED BY THE MAJORITY OF NON-FRANCOPHONES

Schools - In your opinion, should each of the following where you live be closed or be allowed to open/stay open (regardless of whether they are currently open or closed)?	Quebec		Total
	Francophone	Non- Francophone	
Be closed	36.3%	60.0%	41.6%
Be allowed to open / stay open	63.7%	40.0%	58.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# METHODOLOGY

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

From April 9-11, 2021 some 1504 Canadians were surveyed via web panel

Using data from the 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 1504 Canadians would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.5\%$ , 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 May 3, 2021



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