



PRESS RELEASE | British Columbia

**Methodology:**

Results are based on an online study conducted from March 28 to March 31, 2019, among 800 adults in British Columbia. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region in British Columbia. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is +/- 3.5 percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.

**All things considered, which of these options would you prefer for the Senate of Canada?**

- The Prime Minister appointing Senators – 8%
- Having a selection committee that would appoint non-partisan Senators – 14%
- Reforming the Senate to allow Canadians to elect their senators – 36%
- Abolishing the Senate of Canada altogether – 17%
- Not sure - 25%

**As you may know, there will be a vacant British Columbia seat in the Senate of Canada later this year. The Province of Alberta has held several non-binding elections to choose nominees for appointment to the Senate. Would you agree or disagree with holding a similar election in British Columbia?**

- Agree – 64%
- Disagree – 12%
- Not sure – 25%

**British Columbians Would Like to Elect Their Next Senator**

Almost two thirds of residents would like to have a non-binding ballot similar to the ones that have taken place in Alberta.

Vancouver, BC [April 9, 2019] – Many British Columbians want to play a role in the selection of the province's next representative in the Red Chamber, a new Research Co. poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative provincial sample, 64% of British Columbians would agree to hold a non-binding election—similar to the ones that have taken place in Alberta—to choose a nominee for appointment to the Senate.

In mid-November, British Columbia Conservative Senator Richard Neufeld will step down after reaching the age of mandatory retirement.

When asked which option they prefer for the Senate of Canada, more than a third of British Columbians (36%) say they would reform the Senate to allow Canadians to elect its members.

Smaller proportions of residents would prefer to abolish the Senate of Canada altogether (17%), have a selection committee that would appoint non-partisan Senators (14%) or have the sitting prime minister appoint members of the upper house (8%).

“The appetite for Senate reform in British Columbia is strongest among residents aged 55 and over,” says Mario Canseco, President of Research Co. “The notion of an Independent Advisory Board that would take care of Senate appointments, which has been in place under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, is not particularly popular.”

Only 11% of respondents correctly identified the fact that British Columbia has six seats in the 105-member Red Chamber.

A similarly low proportion (13%) was able to identify at least one of British Columbia's current Senators: Mobina Jaffer, Larry Campbell, Yonah Martin, Richard Neufeld, Yuen Pau Woo and Bev Busson.

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**About Research Co.**

Simply put, we are curious about what people think and the decisions they will make. Some call it public opinion, others call it polling or public affairs. We never compromise facts for profit. Our agenda is the truth.



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We have a global network of partners in the qualitative, data collection and data visualization specialities.

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**Media contact:**

Mario Canseco, President, Research Co.

[c] 778.929.0490

[e] mario.canseco@researchco.ca

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mario.canseco  
@researchco.ca



mario\_canseco



778.929.0490



Mario Canseco