



PRESS RELEASE | Canada

Methodology:

Results are based on an online survey conducted from February 11 to February 13, 2026, among a representative sample of 1,001 adults in Canada. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region Canada. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is +/- 3.1 percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.

As you may know, Canadians elect the members of the House of Commons through a system called “first-past-the-post”, where a candidate wins a constituency by receiving more votes than any others. All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with this electoral system?

Satisfied – 65% (+3)
Dissatisfied – 20% (-7)
Not sure – 16% (+5)

Existing Electoral System OK for Almost Two Thirds of Canadians

More than half would welcome a move to proportional representation for elections to the House of Commons.

Vancouver, BC [March 12, 2026] – The perceptions of Canadians on the way federal politicians are elected have not gone through a significant shift in the past two years, a new Research Co. poll has found.

Canadians elect the members of the House of Commons through a system called “first-past-the-post”, where a candidate wins a constituency by receiving more votes than any others.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 65% of Canadians say they are satisfied with the “first-past-the-post” system (+3 since a similar Research Co. poll [conducted in February 2024](#)), while 20% (-7) are dissatisfied and 16% (+5) are not sure.

Satisfaction with “first-past-the-post” is highest among Canadians aged 18-to-34 (67%, =) and also encompasses majorities of those aged 55 and over (64%, +3) and aged 35-to-54 (61%, +4).

More than two thirds of British Columbians (67%) and Atlantic Canadians (also 67%) are satisfied with the electoral system currently used in Canadian federal elections, along with 65% of respondents who reside in Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The proportion is lower, albeit still a majority, in Alberta (54%).

Almost two thirds of Canadians who voted for the Conservative Party (65%, +7) or the New Democratic Party (NDP) (also 65%, +3) in the 2025 federal election are satisfied with “first-past-the-post”—along with 74% (-2) of Liberal Party voters.

Respondents to this survey were provided with the definitions of three electoral systems that are used in other countries.

A majority of Canadians (55%, -1) are in favour of electing all members of the House of Commons through Party-List Proportional Representation, a system in which parties make lists of candidates to be elected, and seats get allocated to each party in accordance with the number of total votes the party receives.

While almost two thirds of Canadians aged 18-to-34 (65%, +3) agree with adopting Party-List Proportional Representation for federal elections, the proportion drops to 55% (-2) among those aged 35-to-54 and to 45% (-4) among those aged 55 and over.



Atlantic Canada is home to the lowest proportion of respondents who are in favour of relying on Party-List Proportional Representation for federal elections (43%). The numbers are higher in British Columbia (54%, -6), Alberta (55%, +4), Quebec (56%, +2), Saskatchewan and Manitoba (also 56%, +5) and Ontario (57%, =).

Fewer than half of Canadians (48%, +2) would support adopting the Single Transferable Vote system, where votes are initially allocated to a voter's most preferred candidate, and as the count proceeds and candidates are either elected or eliminated, they are transferred to other candidates in accordance to the voter's stated preferences.

Once again, Canadians aged 18-to-34 are more open to electoral reform, with 56% endorsing a move to Single Transferable Vote. Fewer Canadians aged 35-to-54 (51%) and aged 55 and over (38%) share this view.

More than two-in-five Canadians (46%, +5) would choose to elect the members of the House of Commons through Mixed Member Proportional Representation MMP—a hybrid method that would use Party-List Proportional Representation for a portion of the legislature, and first-past-the-post for another portion.

Support for this system is lowest among Conservative voters (48%) and rises among those who cast ballots for candidates belonging to the Liberals (50%) or the NDP (53%) in 2025.

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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.

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

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