

### **Methodology:**

Results are based on an online survey conducted from April 11 to April 13, 2026, among 1,002 adults in Canada. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region in Canada. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

### **Who are, in your view, the best four prime ministers Canada has ever had? Please select up to four choices.**

Pierre Trudeau – 30%  
Mark Carney – 29%  
Stephen Harper – 29%  
John A. Macdonald – 27%  
Jean Chrétien – 27%  
Brian Mulroney – 23%  
Wilfrid Laurier – 19%  
Lester B. Pearson – 18%

### **And who are, in your view, the worst four prime ministers Canada has ever had? Please select up to four choices.**

Justin Trudeau – 47%  
Stephen Harper – 23%  
Pierre Trudeau – 23%  
Mark Carney – 21%  
Kim Campbell – 20%  
Joe Clark – 17%  
Brian Mulroney – 14%  
Jean Chrétien – 12%

### **Close Race to the Top as Canadians Ponder Best Prime Ministers**

*Almost half (47%) include Justin Trudeau on their list of the worst heads of the federal government.*

Vancouver, BC [April 23, 2026] – There is no clear favourite when Canadians are asked to pick the best stewards of the federal government, a new Research Co. poll has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample asked Canadians to select up to four of Canada's 24 prime ministers as the best—and worst—the country has ever had.

Five men are included as the list of “best ever” prime ministers by more than one-in-four Canadians: Pierre Trudeau (30%), Mark Carney (29%), Stephen Harper (also 29%), John A. Macdonald (27%) and Jean Chrétien (27%).

The ranking among male respondents featured Macdonald in first place (31%), followed by Harper (30%), Pierre Trudeau (27%), Chrétien (also 27%) and Wilfrid Laurier (24%). Among women, Carney (36%) is ahead of Pierre Trudeau (33%), Harper (28%), Chrétien (27%) and Macdonald (25%).

Pierre Trudeau receives the largest proportion of “votes” from Baby Boomers (34%), followed by Brian Mulroney with 32% and Lester Pearson with 31%. Generation X puts Harper in first place with 37%, followed by Pierre Trudeau with 34% and Chrétien and Mulroney each with 33%.

Just over three-in-ten Millennials (31%) include Chrétien on their ballot, followed by Carney with 28% and Pierre Trudeau with 27%. Generation Z has Carney in first place (32%), followed by Justin Trudeau (28%) and Macdonald (27%).

On the “worst ever” question, 47% of Canadians give Justin Trudeau one of their four votes. Harper and Pierre Trudeau are tied with 23%, followed by Carney (21%) and Kim Campbell (20%).

Justin Trudeau is at the top of this list among all gender and age groups—and reaches 51% in Ontario and 63% in Alberta.

The survey also asked the questions that Research Co. has tracked [since July 2020](#), which focus on the prime ministers and opposition leaders of the past 58 years.

Harper (17%, +1 [since August 2024](#)) is slightly ahead of Pierre Trudeau (16%, -1) and Carney (15%, new) as the best prime



minister since 1968, followed by Chrétien (10%, +1) and Mulroney (8%, -7).

Just over a third of Canadians (34%, -4) pick Justin Trudeau as the worst prime minister since 1968, followed by Harper (11%, -3), Pierre Trudeau (9%, +2) and Carney (8%, new).

When assessing recent opposition leaders, more than a third of Canadians believe three of them would have made “very good” or “good” prime ministers: Jack Layton (47%, -5), Pierre Poillievre (39%) and Robert Stanfield (34%, +1).

The rating is lower for Preston Manning (32%, -1), Tom Mulcair (30%, -4), Andrew Scheer (29%, +2), Erin O’Toole (28%, -3), Michael Ignatieff (24%, +2), Stockwell Day (also 24%, -2), Stéphane Dion (23%, -1) and Rona Ambrose (also 23%, -4).

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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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