



Methodology:

Results are based on an online survey conducted from September 10 to September 12, 2026, among 1,008 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 +/- 3.1 percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.

At this point, do you think Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a threat or an opportunity for humanity?

A threat – 60% (+10)
An opportunity – 31% (-6)
Not sure – 9% (-4)

From what you have seen, read or heard about Artificial Intelligence (AI), which of these options would you prefer?

Continuing to develop Artificial Intelligence (AI) as quickly as possible – 20% (-4)
Slowing down the development Artificial Intelligence (AI) – 51% (+2)
Abandoning the development Artificial Intelligence (AI) altogether – 18% (+5)
Not sure – 11% (-3)

Perceptions on Artificial Intelligence Sour Across Canada

More than seven-in-ten Canadians call for either a slowdown (51%) or the abandonment (18%) of the technology.

Vancouver, BC [September 24, 2026] – Negative views on artificial intelligence (AI) have increased in Canada in the past year, a new Research Co. poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, three-in-five Canadians (60%, up 10 points since a similar Research Co. poll [conducted in July 2025](#)) think AI is a threat to humanity, while fewer than one third (31%, -6) consider it an opportunity.

As was the case last year, Canadians aged 35-to-54 are the least likely to regard AI as a threat (44%, -2) compared to their counterparts aged 18-to-34 (60%, +7) and aged 55 and over (63%, +12).

Just over half of Canadians (51%, +2) would like to slow down the development of AI, while one-in-five (20%, -4) believe the technology should continue to be developed as quickly as possible. The proportion of Canadians who would prefer to abandon the development of AI altogether grew from 13% in 2025 to 18% this year.

More than three-in-five Canadians (63%, +7) have followed news stories about AI “very closely” or “moderately closely” over the past 12 months—including 70% of Canadians aged 18-to-34, 70% of Quebecers and 74% of Canadians in the highest household income bracket.

More than four-in-five Canadians are worried about AI leading to less intelligent students at schools of universities (82%, +3) and AI taking over jobs currently performed by humans (also 82%, +3), while just under three-in-four are concerned about AI causing an event that leads to the loss of human life (74%, +3).

The level of concern is also high on other questions. Just over four-in-five Canadians are worried about AI confusing people about the position of political candidates through “deep fake” videos (82%), AI taking over their own identity through “deep fake” videos (81%) and the cost and energy demands of Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centres (specialized large-scale warehouse facilities equipped with advanced graphic processors designed to train and run AI models) (also 81%).



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More than seven-in-ten Canadians are also concerned about AI scraping websites and datasets to extract information and photos (78%) and AI bots removing funds from their bank account (74%).

Just over three-in-five Canadians sometimes think it is hopeless to protect themselves against AI-related intrusions (61%) and think AI will negatively impact them, or someone in their family, in the future (62%).

"Two thirds of Canadian women (67%) foresee Artificial Intelligence having a negative impact on themselves or their families," says Mario Canseco, President of Research Co. "Just under three-in-five Canadian men (58%) share this view."

Large proportions of Canadians admit they are having harder time trusting the images they see online because they could be AI-generated and not real (80%) and having a harder time trusting the information they see online because it could be AI-generated and not verified reporting (77%).

Canadians continue to place the highest level of trust for the development and management of AI on doctors and nurses (59%, -2) and universities (56%, +2), followed by the federal government (45%, +7) and provincial governments (43%, +5). The confidence rating is lower for tech executives (38%, -2), international governments (33%, +4) and business executives and CEOs (31%, +1).

Almost three-in-five Canadians (59%) have relied on or used AI—such as ChatGPT, Claude, Google Gemini or Grok—in the past month.

Canadian AI users are primarily focused on writing and editing (40%), translation (33%) and image creation and image modification (31%). Fewer are relying on AI for trip planning (25%), task planning (23%), meal planning (22%), exercise and workout planning (21%), note organization (19%), home design (17%) or coding (9%).

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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





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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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