

Canadians remain split on what should happen if an MP decides to switch political parties.

National survey released March, 2026
Field: March 1st to March 8th, 2026
Submission 2026-3018

This survey gauges the views of Canadians on members of parliament crossing the aisle.

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,058 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, from March 1st to March 8th, 2026 as part of an omnibus survey. The sample included both land- and cell-lines across Canada. The results were statistically checked and weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information and the sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Canada.

Individuals randomly called using random digit dialling with a maximum of five call backs.

The margin of error for this survey is ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

This study was commissioned by the CTV News and the research was conducted by Nanos Research.

Full data tables with weighted and unweighted number of interviews is [here](#)

Note: Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding

PATH
FORWARD!

WINN
CANDID

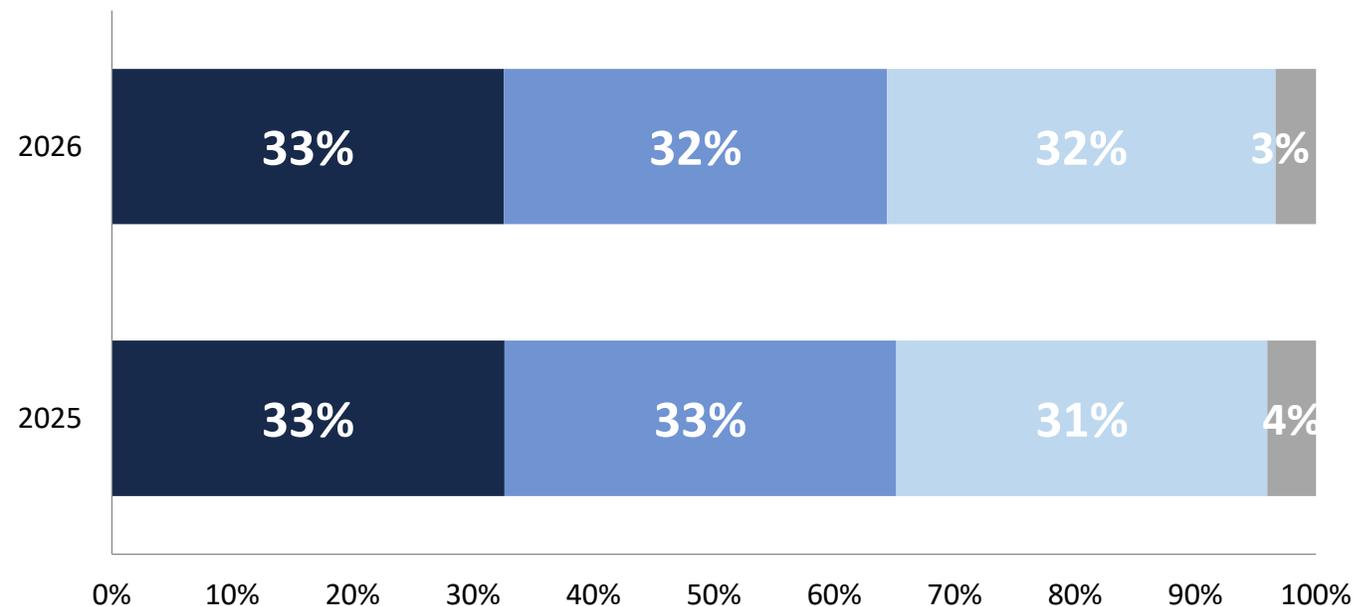
VALIDATE

TEST IDEA

REVIEW RESE

DIAGNOSE
ENV

Q – If a member of parliament (MP) decides to change political parties what should happen?



- An MP who wants to change parties should resign and seek a new mandate through a special by-election under the new party
- An MP who wants to change parties should be allowed to do so
- An MP who disagrees with the party they were elected under should sit as independent until the next election
- Unsure

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Opinions about what should happen if an MP decides to change political parties

Canadians are split

on what should happen if a member of parliament decides to change political parties, with roughly a third of Canadians believing there should be a special by-election under the new party (33%), that they should be allowed to change parties if they want to (32%) or that any MP should sit as an independent until the next election (32%).

Residents of Quebec (43%) are more likely to believe the MP should sit as an independent and are less likely to report that an MP who wants to change parties should be able to do so. Comparatively, residents of BC (42%) are more likely to believe that an MP who wants to change parties should be allowed to do so. Additionally, residents of BC are less likely to believe an MP who wants to change parties should resign and seek a new mandate through a special by-election under the new party than the Canadian average at 23 percent.

Opinions about what should happen if an MP decides to change political parties – by demographics

Q – If a member of parliament (MP) decides to change political parties what should happen?

	Canada 2026-03 (n=1058)	Atlantic (n=104)	Quebec (n=219)	Ontario (n=360)	Prairies (n=223)	British Columbia (n=152)	Male (n=562)	Female (n=496)	18 to 34 (n=181)	35 to 54 (n=469)	55 plus (n=408)
An MP who wants to change parties should resign and seek a new mandate through a special by-election under the new party	32.6%	25.3%	32.1%	36.4%	35.3%	22.7%	38.0%	27.4%	29.6%	33.8%	33.5%
An MP who disagrees with the party they were elected under should sit as independent until the next election	32.3%	32.3%	42.6%	26.7%	32.8%	30.0%	31.4%	33.1%	35.9%	30.3%	31.4%
An MP who wants to change parties should be allowed to do so	31.8%	41.8%	21.6%	33.7%	29.2%	42.2%	29.2%	34.3%	33.1%	31.9%	30.9%
Unsure	3.4%	0.6%	3.7%	3.3%	2.7%	5.2%	1.4%	5.2%	1.5%	4.0%	4.1%

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, March 1st to March 8th, 2026, n=1058, accurate 3.1 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Element	Description
Research sponsor	CTV News
Population and Final Sample Size	1058 Randomly selected individuals.
Source of Sample	Nanos Insights Lab
Type of Sample	Probability
Margin of Error	±3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.
Mode of Survey	RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online omnibus survey
Sampling Method Base	The sample included both land- and cell-lines RDD (Random Digit Dialed) across Canada.
Demographics (Captured)	Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, British Columbia; Men and Women; 18 years and older. Six-digit postal code was used to validate geography.
Fieldwork/Validation	Individuals were recruited using live interviews with live supervision to validate work, the research questions were administered online
Number of Calls	Maximum of five call backs to those recruited.
Time of Calls	Individuals recruited were called between 12-5:30 pm and 6:30-9:30pm local time for the respondent.
Field Dates	March 1 st to March 8 th , 2026.
Language of Survey	The survey was conducted in both English and French.
Standards	Nanos Research is a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC) and confirms that this research fully complies with all CRIC Standards including the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements. https://canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/standards/

Element	Description
Weighting of Data	The results were weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information (2021) and the sample is geographically stratified to ensure a distribution across all regions of Canada. See tables for full weighting disclosure
Screening	Screening ensured potential respondents did not work in the market research industry, in the advertising industry, in the media or a political party prior to administering the survey to ensure the integrity of the data.
Excluded Demographics	Individuals younger than 18 years old; individuals without land or cell lines, and individuals without internet access could not participate.
Stratification	By age and gender using the latest Census information (2021) and the sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Canada. Smaller areas such as Atlantic Canada were marginally oversampled to allow for a minimum regional sample.
Estimated Response Rate	13 percent, consistent with industry norms.
Question Order	Question order in the preceding report reflects the order in which they appeared in the original questionnaire.
Question Content	Topics on the omnibus ahead of the survey content included: views on political issues, views on economic issues and views on vacations.
Question Wording	The questions in the preceding report are written exactly as they were asked to individuals.
Research/Data Collection Supplier	Nanos Research
Contact	Contact Nanos Research for more information or with any concerns or questions. http://www.nanos.co Telephone:(613) 234-4666 ext. 237 Email: info@nanosresearch.com.
Tabulations	By region, age and gender



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ABOUT NANOS

Any questions?



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