

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of a fabric patch. The patch is rectangular and features the Canadian flag, which consists of a white square in the center with a red maple leaf, flanked by two red vertical bars. The patch is embroidered on a light-colored, textured fabric, possibly a military uniform. The text is overlaid on this background.

Canadians who embrace 1.4% or lower threshold for defence spending hits low. Strong majority good with two percent of GDP or greater spending.

National survey released April 2026
Field: March 31 to April 4, 2026
Submission 2026-3030

The research gauged the opinions among Canadians on military spending and defence cooperation. It explores whether Canada should change its defence budget in response to calls for higher NATO contributions.

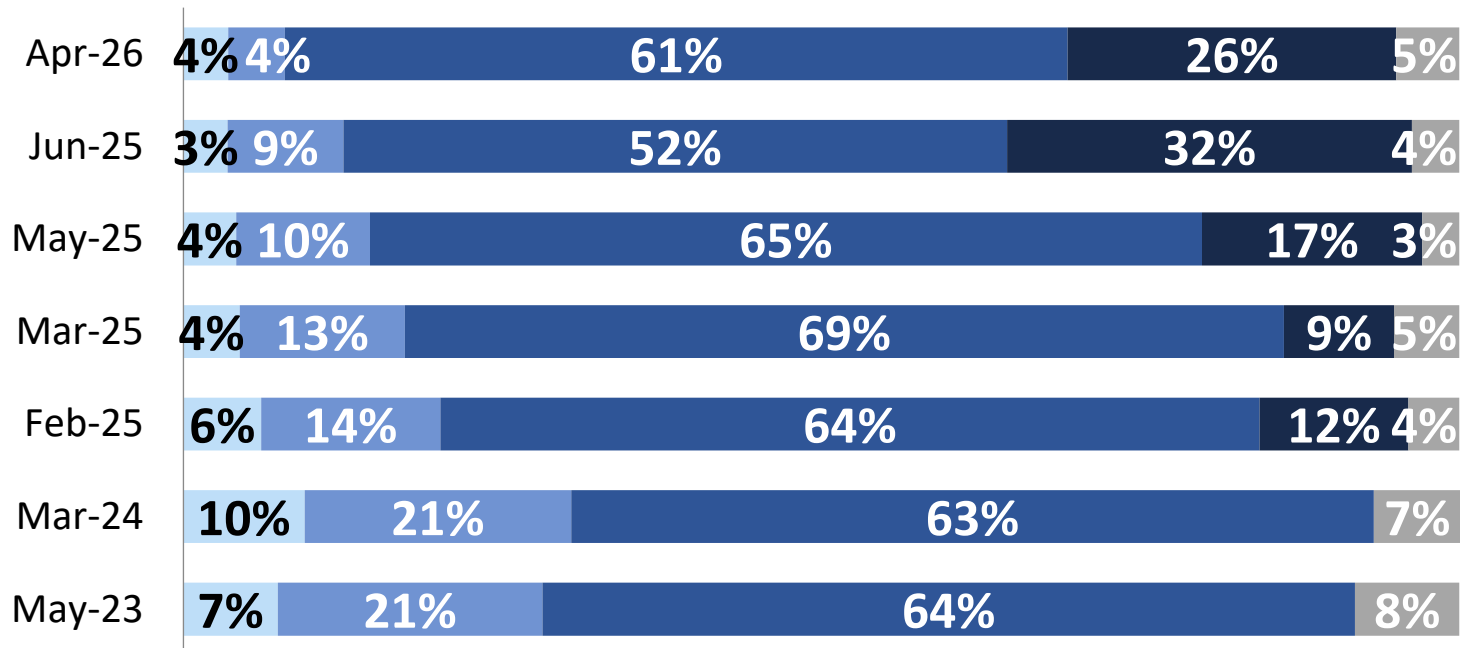
Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1099 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, between March 31 to April 4, 2026 as part of an omnibus survey. The margin of error for this survey is ± 3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

[The statistical tabulations including the unweighted and weighted number of interviews can be accessed here.](#)

The research was commissioned by CTV News and was conducted by Nanos Research.

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

Preferences for Canadian defence spending – Tracking



- Reduce defence spending to less than 1.4%***
- Go back to the old defence spending of 1.4%****
- Keep spending at the 2% NATO ally target*****
- Increase spending to reach the potential new 5% NATO ally target**
- Unsure

*Weighted to the true population proportion.
 *Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
 **Increase spending to reach the potential new 5% NATO ally target is a new response option added in the 2025 waves.
 ***Previously Spend less than the 1.4% we currently spend
 ****Previously Maintain our current level of spending at 1.4%
 *****Previously Increase spending to reach the current 2% NATO ally target

Three in five Canadians would like Canada to spend 2% of GDP on defence spending as per NATO targets. This represents an increase relative to the June 2025 wave. One in four Canadians would prefer increasing spending to 5%, decreasing from about one in three Canadians who held this view in the June 2025 wave. The combined percentage of Canadians reporting that Canada should spend 1.4% of GDP or less on defence spending has reached a new numerical low since the beginning of tracking.

Q – President Donald Trump has called on all NATO countries to increase their military spending to 5% of GDP, up from the current target of 2%. Canada just hit the 2% target for the first time since the 1990s, and in 2024, Canada spent approximately 1.4 per cent of GDP on defence spending. Which of the following paths forward would you prefer?
 Q – [asked in 2025] President Donald Trump has now called on all NATO countries to increase their military spending to 5% of GDP, up from the current target of 2%. Canada hasn't hit the current spending threshold of 2% since the 1990s, and in 2024, Canada is estimated to have spent approximately 1.4 per cent of GDP on defence spending. Which of the following paths forward would you prefer?
 Q – [ASKED IN 2024] In the 2023-24 fiscal year, Canada is estimated to spend approximately 1.4 per cent of GDP on defence spending. Our commitment as a NATO ally is to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence spending. Canada has not spent 2% of GDP on defence since the 1980s. Which approach would you prefer for Canada's defence spending?
 Q – [ASKED IN 2023] In 2021, Canada spent approximately 1.4 per cent of GDP on defence spending. Our commitment as a NATO ally is to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence spending. Canada has not spent 2% of GDP on defence since the 1980s. Which approach would you prefer for Canada's defence spending?

Preferences for Canadian defence spending – by demographics

Q – President Donald Trump has called on all NATO countries to increase their military spending to 5% of GDP, up from the current target of 2%. Canada just hit the 2% target for the first time since the 1990s, and in 2024, Canada spent approximately 1.4 per cent of GDP on defence spending. Which of the following paths forward would you prefer?

	Canada 2026-04 (n=1099)	Atlantic (n=120)	Quebec (n=206)	Ontario (n=362)	Prairies (n=246)	British Columbia (n=165)	Male (n=578)	Female (n=521)	18 to 34 (n=183)	35 to 54 (n=412)	55 plus (n=504)
Reduce defence spending to less than 1.4%	3.5%	0.9%	4.1%	2.3%	5.1%	5.3%	3.5%	3.5%	7.2%	3.2%	1.4%
Go back to the old defence spending of 1.4%	4.4%	2.5%	4.6%	4.8%	3.3%	5.5%	5.3%	3.6%	7.5%	3.2%	3.4%
Keep spending at the 2% NATO ally target	61.3%	61.7%	71.3%	60.8%	52.3%	57.6%	55.6%	66.9%	60.5%	65.4%	58.7%
Increase spending to reach the potential new 5% NATO ally target	25.7%	31.5%	14.3%	28.3%	32.5%	26.5%	31.9%	19.9%	16.2%	24.3%	33.0%
Unsure	4.9%	3.5%	5.6%	3.9%	6.8%	5.2%	3.7%	6.2%	8.6%	3.8%	3.5%

Quebec residents are more likely than Prairie residents to report that they would like to keep defence spending at the 2% NATO ally target. This is also the case for women relative to men. Quebec residents are less likely than the national average to report that they would like to see defence spending increase to 5% of GDP. Men and Canadians aged 55 and over are more likely than women and Canadians aged 18 to 34 respectively to report a preference for an increase in defence spending to 5% of GDP.

Element	Description	Element	Description
Research sponsor	CTV News	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
Population and Final Sample Size	1099 Randomly selected individuals.	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.
Source of Sample	Nanos Probability Panel	Excluded Demographics	Individuals younger than 18 years old; individuals without land or cell lines, and individuals without internet access could not participate.
Type of Sample	Probability	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.
Margin of Error	±3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.	Estimated Response Rate	13 percent, consistent with industry norms.
Mode of Survey	RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online omnibus survey	Question Order	Question order in the preceding report reflects the order in which they appeared in the original questionnaire.
Sampling Method Base	The sample included both land- and cell-lines RDD (Random Digit Dialed) across Canada.	Question Content	Topics on the omnibus ahead of the survey content included: views on political issues and views on economic issues.
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.	Question Wording	The questions in the preceding report are written exactly as they were asked to individuals.
Fieldwork/Validation	Individuals were recruited using live interviews with live supervision to validate work, the research questions were administered online	Research/Data Collection Supplier	Nanos Research
Number of Calls	Maximum of five call backs to those recruited.	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.
Time of Calls	Individuals recruited were called between 12-5:30 pm and 6:30-9:30pm local time for the respondent.	Tabulations	By region, age and gender
Field Dates	March 31 to April 4, 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/		



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Any questions?



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