

Canadians divided on what should happen when an MP wants to cross the floor.

National survey released May 2026
Field: May 3 to 6, 2026
Submission 2026-3047

THE GLOBE AND MAIL*



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

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1003 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, from May 3 to 6, 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 dialing with a maximum of five call backs.

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

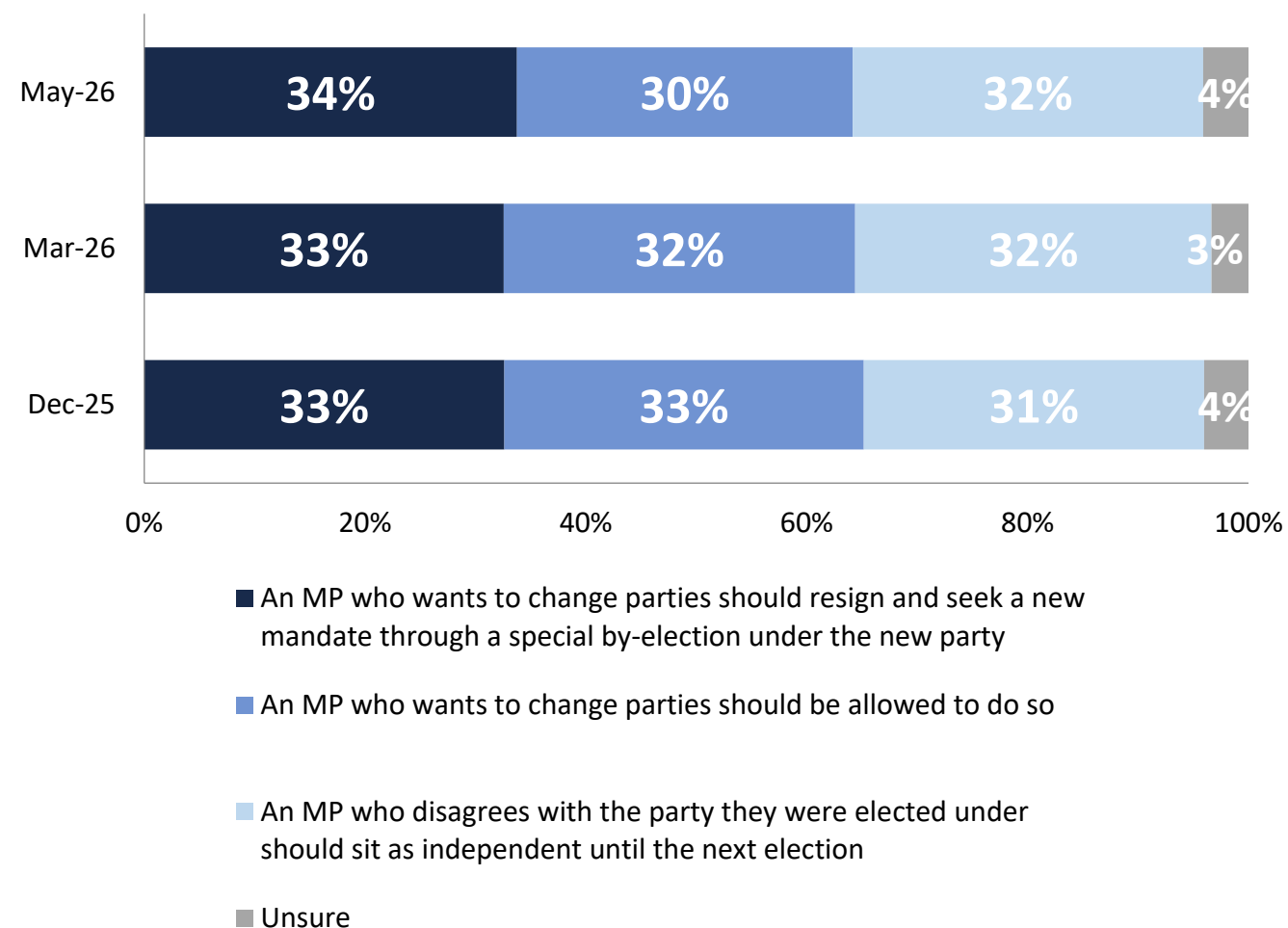
This study was commissioned by the Globe and Mail and the research was conducted by Nanos Research.

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

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



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



*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

in terms of their views of what should happen if an MP decides to change parties, with similar proportions of Canadians believing that an MP who wants to change parties should resign and seek a new mandate through a special by-election under the new party (34%), that an MP who disagrees with the party they were elected under should sit as an independent until the next election (32%) and that an MP who wants to change parties should be allowed to do so (30%). This is consistent with both of the previous tracking waves.

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? [RANDOMIZE]

	Canada 2026-05 (n=1003)	Atlantic (n=100)	Quebec (n=213)	Ontario (n=319)	Prairies (n=217)	British Columbia (n=154)	Male (n=516)	Female (n=487)	18 to 34 (n=159)	35 to 54 (n=332)	55 plus (n=512)
An MP who wants to change parties should resign and seek a new mandate through a special by-election under the new party	33.8%	24.8%	32.7%	32.1%	42.7%	33.2%	42.1%	25.8%	32.2%	40.6%	29.4%
An MP who disagrees with the party they were elected under should sit as independent until the next election	31.7%	34.2%	45.0%	28.0%	20.6%	33.1%	27.0%	36.3%	31.1%	31.4%	32.4%
An MP who wants to change parties should be allowed to do so	30.4%	38.3%	15.7%	37.0%	32.2%	30.3%	28.3%	32.4%	31.2%	23.2%	35.5%
Unsure	4.1%	2.7%	6.6%	3.0%	4.5%	3.4%	2.6%	5.6%	5.5%	4.7%	2.7%

*Differences beyond the margin of error are shaded in yellow.

Men are more likely than women to report believing an MP changing political parties should resign and seek a new mandate through a special by-election, while respondents in Quebec are more likely than those in the Prairies to report believing the MP who disagrees with their party should sit as an independent until the next election. Ontarians are more likely than Quebecers to report believing an MP who wants to change parties should be able to do so.

Element	Description	Element	Description
Research sponsor	The Globe and Mail	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	1003 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 Insights Lab	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	±3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.	Estimated Response Rate	11 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, views on economic issues, US trade relations, NATO, and cost of living
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	May 3 to 6, 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/		



As one of North America’s premier market and public opinion research firms, we put strategic intelligence into the hands of decision makers. The majority of our work is for private sector and public facing organizations and ranges from market studies, managing reputation through to leveraging data intelligence. Nanos Research offers a vertically integrated full service quantitative and qualitative research practice to attain the highest standards and the greatest control over the research process. www.nanos.co

nanos dimap analytika



This international joint venture between [dimap](#) and [Nanos](#) brings together top research and data experts from North American and Europe to deliver exceptional data intelligence to clients. The team offers data intelligence services ranging from demographic and sentiment microtargeting; consumer sentiment identification and decision conversion; and, data analytics and profiling for consumer persuasion. www.nanosdimap.com

EthicStratēgies

Ethic Strategies was created by the founding partners of [PAA Advisory](#) and the [Nanos Research Corporation](#), both recognized leaders in research, advocacy, and advisory. Ethic provides bespoke strategic counsel, advice, and communications strategies to organizations facing serious issues. www.ethicstrategies.com

ABOUT NANOS



Any questions?



Nanos Research

(613) 234-4666, ext. 237

ea@nanosresearch.com

For more information on the firm, please visit www.nanos.co



NANOS IS YOUR GO-TO HIGH-STAKES RESEARCH PARTNER.

Delivering world-class solutions since 1987,
we are the leader in high velocity data insights and visualization.

Market | Consumer | Reputation | Policy | Insight

For more information about our services, please visit us at:

www.nanos.co