



Not ready for takeoff: Canadians remain skeptical of private control at major airports.

National survey released October 2026
Field: September 27th to 29th, 2026
Submission 2026-3128

The research focused on Canadians' views of the federal government's proposal to allow private investors to operate Canada's four largest airports.

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (cell and landlines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,057 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, from September 27th to 29th, 2026 as part of an omnibus survey. The sample included both cell and landlines 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.

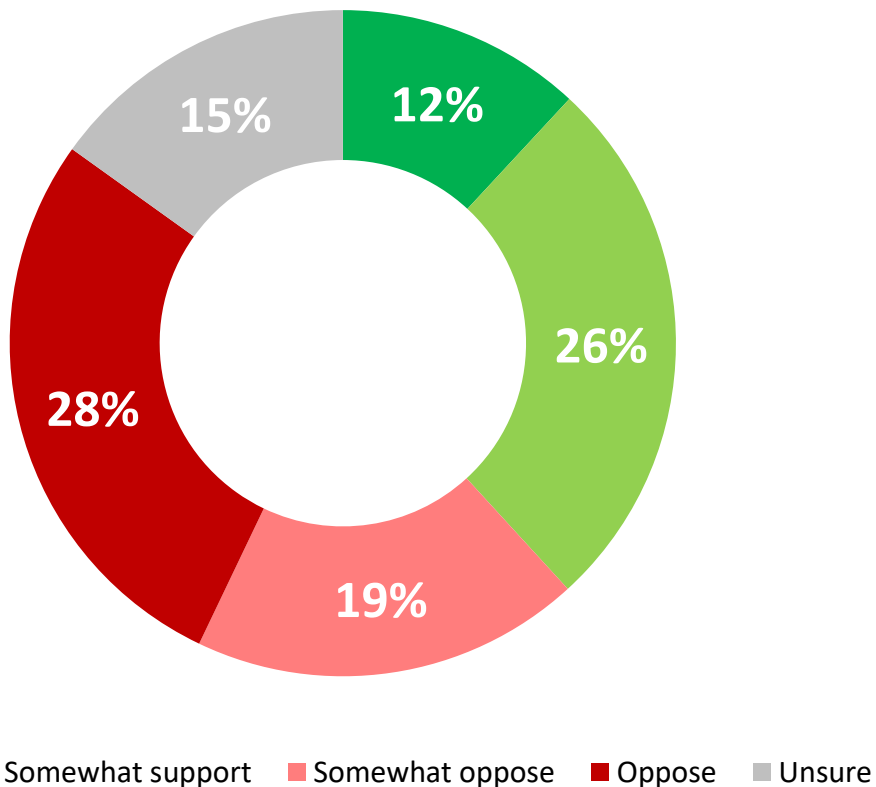
The margin of error for this survey is ± 3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

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

**Full data tables with weighted and unweighted number of interviews is [here](#).
Tables within the report that have significant differences are highlighted in yellow.**

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

Question - As you may know, the federal government has proposed allowing private investors to operate Canada's four largest airports (in Toronto, Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver). Under the proposal, private investors would operate Canada's largest airports under long-term leases while the federal government retains ownership of airport land and assets. Transport Canada would continue to regulate the airports, and the specific rules governing airport fees and charges have not yet been announced. Do you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or oppose this proposal?



*Weighted to the true population proportion.

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

Views on the proposal to allow private investors operating Canada's four largest airports

Canadians

are more likely to oppose or somewhat oppose (47%) allowing private investors to operate Canada's four largest airports rather than support or somewhat support this proposal (38%). Under one fifth are unsure (15%).

Views on the proposal to allow private investors operating Canada's four largest airports – By demographics

Q – As you may know, the federal government has proposed allowing private investors to operate Canada's four largest airports (in Toronto, Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver). Under the proposal, private investors would operate Canada's largest airports under long-term leases while the federal government retains ownership of airport land and assets. Transport Canada would continue to regulate the airports, and the specific rules governing airport fees and charges have not yet been announced. Do you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or oppose this proposal?

	Canada 2026-09 (n=1057)	Atlantic (n=95)	Quebec (n=242)	Ontario (n=350)	Prairies (n=218)	British Columbia (n=152)	Male (n=552)	Female (n=505)	18 to 34 (n=215)	35 to 54 (n=372)	55 plus (n=470)
Support	11.9%	9.0%	9.2%	12.0%	14.0%	14.7%	14.6%	9.2%	11.6%	12.6%	11.4%
Somewhat support	26.3%	30.2%	30.4%	26.2%	23.9%	21.2%	27.7%	25.1%	22.5%	23.7%	30.9%
Somewhat oppose	18.9%	14.8%	18.8%	20.8%	15.1%	20.7%	16.8%	20.9%	17.6%	21.3%	17.9%
Oppose	27.8%	29.1%	22.3%	25.3%	33.0%	36.5%	31.8%	23.9%	30.9%	28.2%	25.4%
Unsure	15.1%	16.9%	19.3%	15.7%	14.1%	7.0%	9.2%	20.9%	17.4%	14.2%	14.5%

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, September 27th to 29th, 2026, n=1057, accurate 3.0 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Element	Description
Research sponsor	CTV News
Population and Final Sample Size	1057 Randomly selected individuals.
Source of Sample	Nanos Insights Lab
Type of Sample	Probability
Margin of Error	±3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.
Mode of Survey	RDD dual frame (cell and landlines) hybrid telephone and online omnibus survey
Sampling Method Base	The sample included both cell and landlines 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	September 27 th to 29 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	12 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 luggage tag switching.
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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EthicStratēgies

Ethic Strategies was created by the founding partners of [PAA Advisory](http://www.paaadvisory.com) and the [Nanos Research Corporation](http://www.nanos.co), 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?



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