

No clear verdict: Canadians divided on giving provinces the power to appoint superior-level court judges

National survey released November, 2026
Field: October 31st to November 2nd, 2026
Submission 2026-3155

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

NANOS



METHODOLOGY

This research gauged the opinions of Canadians on their views towards the power of appointments of judges to superior-level courts being transferred from the federal government to provincial governments.

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (cell and landlines) hybrid telephone and online random survey of 1,058 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, from October 31st to November 2nd, 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 dialling 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 the Globe and Mail and the research was conducted by Nanos Research.

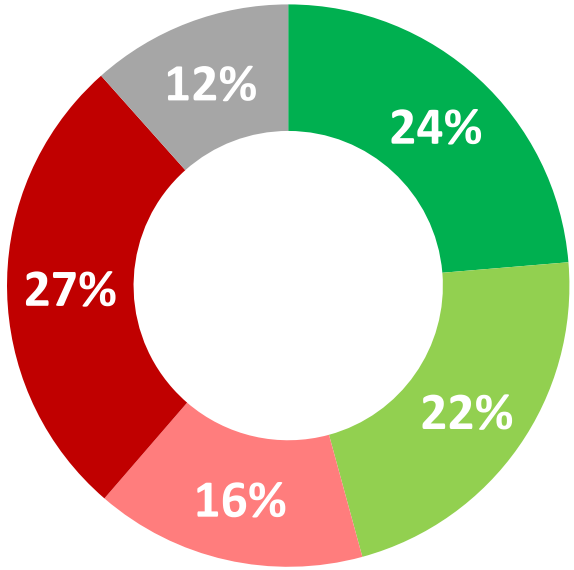
Full data tables with weighted and unweighted number of interviews is here. Cells within the tabulations that have significant differences are highlighted in yellow.

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

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Views on power to appoint superior-level court judges being transferred to provincial governments

Q – Currently, the federal government appoints judges to superior-level courts (such as Supreme Courts in B.C. and Atlantic provinces, Court of King's Bench, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and the Superior Court of Québec) and appeal courts. Do you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or oppose transferring that power of appointment to provincial governments?



Canadians are divided

over whether they support or oppose transferring the power to appoint judges to superior-level courts from the federal government to provincial governments.

*Weighted to the true population proportion.
*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame hybrid telephone and online random survey, October 31st to November 2nd, 2026, n=1058, accurate 3.0 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

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Views on power to appoint superior-level court judges being transferred to provincial governments – by demographics

Q – Currently, the federal government appoints judges to superior-level courts (such as Supreme Courts in B.C. and Atlantic provinces, Court of King's Bench, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and the Superior Court of Québec) and appeal courts. Do you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or oppose transferring that power of appointment to provincial governments?

	Canada 2026-11 (n=1058)	Atlantic (n=102)	Quebec (n=216)	Ontario (n=371)	Prairies (n=216)	British Columbia (n=153)	Men (n=552)	Women (n=506)	18 to 34 (n=213)	35 to 54 (n=371)	55 plus (n=474)
Support	23.7%	21.2%	28.1%	16.8%	32.2%	25.7%	27.0%	20.4%	17.8%	28.6%	23.6%
Somewhat support	22.1%	26.4%	27.0%	20.7%	16.7%	22.6%	24.0%	20.3%	23.5%	22.7%	20.7%
Somewhat oppose	15.6%	17.9%	18.1%	15.3%	14.2%	13.0%	14.0%	17.2%	17.1%	14.0%	15.9%
Oppose	27.1%	25.7%	13.0%	34.7%	31.0%	25.1%	28.2%	26.0%	24.7%	22.7%	32.0%
Unsure	11.6%	8.7%	13.9%	12.6%	5.9%	13.5%	6.8%	16.2%	16.9%	12.1%	7.8%

Quebec residents are more likely to outright oppose the power to appoint judges to superior-level courts being transferred to provincial governments (13%) compared to the national average, while Prairie residents are more likely than the national average to outright support it (32%).

TECHNICAL NOTE

Element	Description
Research sponsor	The Globe and Mail
Population and Final Sample Size	1058 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	October 31st to November 2nd, 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, tariffs, holiday spending, immigration and spending on children's activities.
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

ABOUT NANOS

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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

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Any questions?



Nanos Research

(613) 234-4666, ext. 237

ea@nanosresearch.com

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

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