

Hors de portée : La politique étrangère du Canada déconnectée de l'opinion des Canadiens

Partie 1 d'un sondage d'opinion national auprès
des Canadiens mené du 5 au 10 juin 2020

Publié par:

Canadiens pour la justice et la paix au Moyen-Orient (CJPMO)

Voix juives indépendantes Canada (VJI)

Réseau uni pour la justice et la paix en Palestine et en Israël (UNJPPI)



Enquêteurs et auteurs

Michael Bueckert, PhD, VP, CJPMO

Thomas Woodley, MPA, président, CJPMO

Grafton Ross, analyste senior, CJPMO

Sheryl Nestel, PhD, VJI

Stanislav Birko, MA, VJI

Ken McEvoy, UNJPPI

Le 17 juin 2020

Sommaire exécutif

Une récente enquête menée par les Associés de recherche EKOS confirme que **la politique étrangère du Canada est déconnectée des préférences des Canadiens**. Le sondage visait à sonder l'opinion des Canadiens sur des questions internationales d'importance publique immédiate, incluant la réponse du Canada aux plans récents d'annexion de territoires palestiniens, et la candidature du Canada à un siège au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies. Le sondage démontre qu'une **grande majorité des Canadiens veulent que le gouvernement exprime son opposition à l'annexion d'Israël, notamment par l'imposition de sanctions**. Il démontre également que les **Canadiens souhaitent que le Canada renforce son engagement international** sur une série de questions, notamment le maintien de la paix, la lutte contre les changements climatiques, et le soutien aux droits de la personne des Palestiniens.

Les Associés de recherche EKOS (<https://www.ekos.com/>) ont mené **un sondage national en ligne** auprès de 1009 Canadiens, entre les 5 et 10 juin 2020, au nom des Canadiens pour la justice et la paix au Moyen-Orient (<https://fr-cjpme.nationbuilder.com/>), Voix juives indépendantes (<https://www.ijvcanada.org/fr/vji-home-2019/>) et le Réseau uni pour la justice et la paix en Palestine et en Israël (<http://www.unjppi.org/>). La marge d'erreur associée à l'échantillon est de plus ou moins 3,1 points de pourcentage, 19 fois sur 20.

Le sondage a montré que les Canadiens veulent que leur gouvernement s'oppose au plan d'Israël d'annexer des parties de la Cisjordanie. **Une majorité significative (74%) des Canadiens veulent que le gouvernement exprime son opposition à l'annexion israélienne** sous une forme ou une autre. De plus, **42% veulent que le Canada impose des sanctions économiques ou diplomatiques contre Israël**. Les sanctions contre Israël sont populaires parmi les partisans du NPD (68%), du Parti vert (59%), du Bloc québécois (54%) et du Parti libéral (42%).

Ces résultats démontrent que si le gouvernement Trudeau désire prendre des mesures concrètes allant au-delà de simples déclarations d'oppositions au plan d'annexion israélien, **l'imposition de sanctions bénéficierait d'un soutien considérable** au sein du Parti libéral, de la plupart des partis d'opposition et, plus généralement de l'opinion publique canadienne.

Le sondage a également démontré que les Canadiens sont généralement favorables à une augmentation des contributions du Canada à la communauté internationale dans plusieurs domaines spécifiques où le Canada est à la traîne par rapport à ses concurrents dans sa campagne pour un siège au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies (CSNU) :

- **Une grande majorité de Canadiens pensent que le gouvernement devrait renforcer son engagement dans la lutte contre les changements climatiques.**
- **Une petite majorité de Canadiens pensent que le gouvernement devrait accroître sa contribution au maintien de la paix internationale.**

- **Une majorité de partisans du Parti libéral, du NPD et du Parti vert pensent que le gouvernement devrait accroître son soutien pour les droits de la personne des Palestiniens.** Les conservateurs sont moins nombreux à le penser.

Ces résultats confirment que, en prenant des mesures additionnelles pour améliorer son profil international, le gouvernement canadien n'améliorerait pas seulement sa candidature pour un siège au CSNU, mais répondrait également aux priorités des Canadiens.

Les résultats ont également révélé **une polarisation entre les partisans du Parti conservateur et tous les autres** sur la plupart des questions. Cela donne à penser que l'approche pro-israélienne du Canada en matière de politique étrangère est déconnectée du point de vue de la plupart des Canadiens et qu'elle cherche plutôt à privilégier certains groupes politiques.

Commanditaires de l'enquête

Canadiens pour la justice et la paix au Moyen-Orient (CJPMO, <https://fr-cjpme.nationbuilder.com/>) est une organisation dont la mission est de promouvoir la justice, le développement et la paix au Moyen-Orient, et ici au Canada. À travers des campagnes promouvant et rendant possible l'engagement politique, des interactions avec les médias, et des initiatives éducatives, CJPMO cherche à stimuler la compréhension et l'action autour des droits de la personne, en particulier vis-à-vis du Canada et du Moyen-Orient. CJPMO est une organisation pancanadienne qui compte plus de 100 000 adhérents et groupes locaux dans une douzaine de villes canadiennes.

Voix juives indépendantes Canada (VJI, <https://www.ijvcanada.org/fr/>) est une organisation communautaire fondée sur la tradition juive qui s'oppose à toutes formes de racisme et milite pour la justice et la paix pour tous en Israël-Palestine. Notre force provient de nos membres. VJI a des filiales actives dans les villes et sur les campus universitaires à travers le pays.

Réseau uni pour la justice et la paix en Palestine et en Israël (UNJPPI, <http://www.unjppi.org/>) est un réseau communautaire des membres de l'Église unie qui travaille avec l'objectif d'une paix juste en Palestine et Israël en demandant la fin de l'occupation israélienne illégale des terres palestiniennes et l'égalité des droits pour tous ceux qui vivent en Palestine/Israël à travers l'éducation et la sensibilisation. UNJPPI cherche à sensibiliser aux conditions des Palestiniens sous occupation israélienne illégale et encourage les actions visant à exercer des pressions sur l'État d'Israël pour qu'il mette fin à l'occupation et à la construction de colonies sur les terres palestiniennes.

Table of Contents

SURVEY INTRODUCTION	1
SCOPE OF PART 1 RELEASE OF SURVEY FINDINGS	1
SURVEY METHODOLOGY	1
SURVEY RESULTS	2
1. A STRONG MAJORITY OF CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT CANADA SHOULD OPPOSE ISRAELI ANNEXATION OF PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	2
2. CANADIANS WANT GREATER ALIGNMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY	5

Report Graphs

CHART 1: HOW DO YOU BELIEVE CANADA SHOULD REACT TO ISRAEL'S PLAN TO ANNEX MORE PALESTINIAN TERRITORY?	4
CHART 2: HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE?	8
CHART 3: HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING?	9
CHART 4: HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CANADA'S SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS? ...	10
CHART 5: HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPENDING	11

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge and gratefully appreciate **Earl A. Washburn**, Senior Analyst at EKOS Research Associates for his skill, support, and patient guidance in designing and analyzing this survey. The authors would also like to thank Corey Balsam, MA (IJV), Debbie Hubbard (CJPME) and Jim Miles for their input and advice on the survey questions and resulting analysis.

Survey Introduction

Scope of Part 1 Release of Survey Findings

This report constitutes the first release of results from a June 2020 survey probing the attitudes of Canadians on foreign and domestic policy related to Israel-Palestine. It examines Canadians' attitudes towards Canada's bid for a UN Security Council Seat, and Israel's announcement of plans to annex more Palestinian territory. The results presented in this report constitute only about 25 percent of the complete survey's findings. In the coming months, the remainder of the survey findings will be released.

Survey Methodology¹

EKOS Research Associates (EKOS), an experienced public opinion research firm, was hired to conduct an on-line poll to seek answers to these questions. EKOS is a full-service consulting practice, founded in 1980, which has evolved to become one of the leading suppliers of evaluation and public opinion research for the Canadian government. EKOS specializes in market research, public opinion research, strategic communications advice, program evaluation and performance measurement, and human resources and organizational research.

Between June 5-10, 2020, a random sample of 1,009 Canadian adults from EKOS' online panel, *Probit*, aged 18 and over, completed the survey. The survey was made available to all respondents in either English or French. The margin of error associated with the sample is plus or minus 3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided.

EKOS statistically weighted all the data by age, gender, education and region to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada, based on 2016 census data.

The survey results presented in this report are with residuals excluded. The full data for the survey findings released in this report, both with residuals ("don't know" and "no response" percentages included) and without residuals can be found at <http://cjpme.org/survey2020>, <http://ijvcanada.org/survey2020>, or <https://www.unjppi.org/survey-2020.html>. In the survey data relating to Canada's engagement with the international community, no more than 7% of respondents checked "don't know" or didn't respond and in most cases, fewer than 5% did so. In the survey data relating to Canadians' attitude on Israel's planned annexation of Palestinian territory, the residuals account for 14% of respondents. As such, these responses do not substantially affect the overall results.

Survey Results

1. A Strong Majority of Canadians Believe that Canada Should Oppose Israeli Annexation of Palestinian Territory

Background

In early 2020, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu announced his government's intentions to unilaterally annex huge swaths of the West Bank and all of the Israeli settlements, consisting of territory that Israel has been occupying since 1967. This was codified in Netanyahu's coalition deal with alternate Prime Minister Gantz, which specified the terms by which Israel could pursue annexation as early as July 1, 2020.

Unilateral annexation is blatantly illegal according to international law. The UN Charter forbids territorial conquest, and dozens of UN resolutions have repeatedly confirmed the international community's opposition to Israel's acquisition of territory by force.² Moreover, the land slated to be annexed by Israel is considered to be reserved for a future Palestinian state, undermining the possibility of a negotiated settlement between Israel and the Palestinians. Annexation would therefore "be a severe body blow to the rules-based international order," says UN Special Rapporteur Michael Lynk, and "would crystalize a 21st century apartheid, leaving in its wake the demise of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Legally, morally, politically, this is entirely unacceptable."³

Israel's annexation plans are in clear violation of international law and have been opposed by the Palestinians, and publicly condemned by the UK, France, Germany, the European Union, and many other leaders and international bodies. In fact, the European Union is reportedly considering a number of options for sanctioning Israel if annexation proceeds.⁴ In opposition to the rest of the world, Israel's plans are supported by the erratic US administration of Donald Trump.

Annexation also runs counter to Canada's official and long-held position on Israel-Palestine, which supports a negotiated settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, with two nations existing side-by-side with peace and security for all.⁵ Prime Minister Trudeau has noted his "deep concerns and disagreement" with annexation,⁶ and officials have indicated that there is "no chance" that Canada would recognize the annexation.⁷ This would be consistent with the fact that Canada never recognized Israel's annexation of Occupied East Jerusalem (1980) or the Syrian Golan Heights (1981). However, many Canadians have called on Canada to show stronger opposition to annexation. On June 1st, over fifty retired diplomats, ambassadors, and former cabinet ministers, urged Trudeau to start "speaking loudly and clearly on this issue."⁸

Survey Question

The survey sought to find out what Canadians expect their government to do when it comes to addressing the threat of imminent illegal Israeli annexation of large portions of Palestinian territory in the West Bank.

Canadians were asked the following question:

The government of Israel has announced its intention to formally incorporate portions of Palestinian territory into the state of Israel in July, 2020. For years, the Government of Canada has advocated for a peaceful solution between Israel and the Palestinians, where each people has its own country and lives in peace and security with its neighbour. Of the following options, how do you believe the Government of Canada should react to Israel's plan?

- *Support Israel's plan*
- *Do nothing*
- *Express opposition to Israel's plan, but take no other action*
- *Impose economic and/or diplomatic sanctions on Israel*
- *Don't know/No response*

The preamble to this question was set up as a split sample, randomizing the order of the two sentences in the preamble:

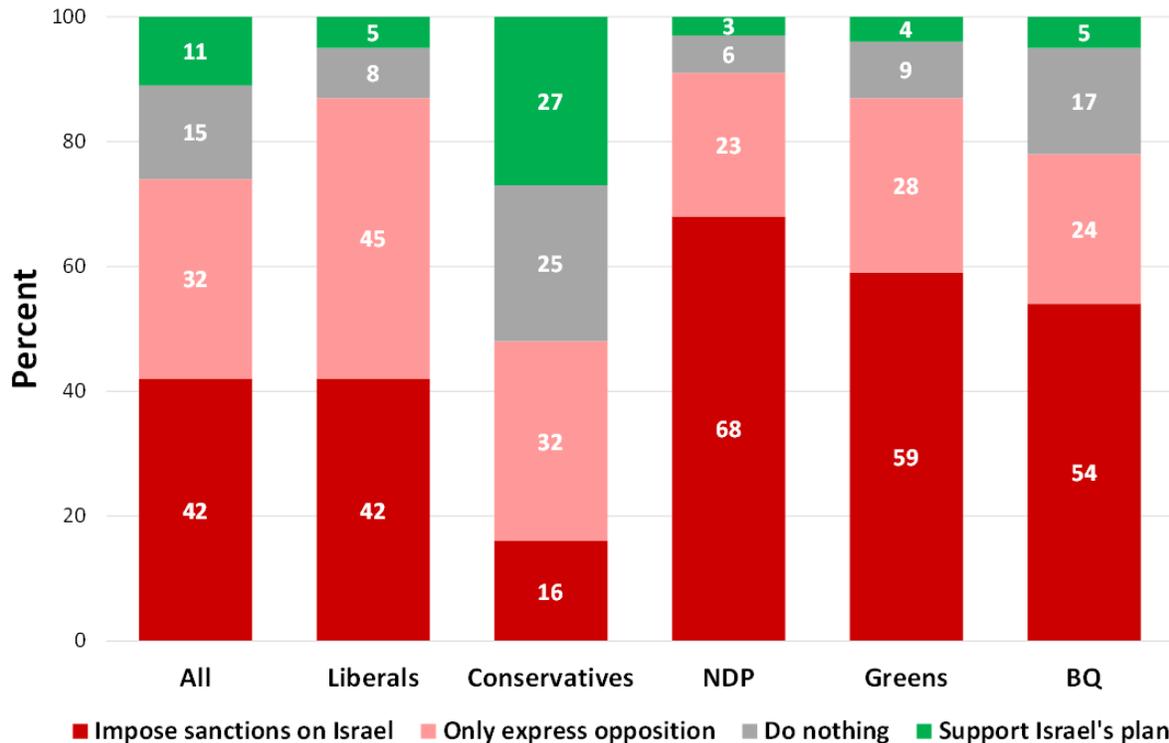
- Half the respondents had the preamble: *"The government of Israel has announced its intention to formally incorporate portions of Palestinian territory into the state of Israel in July, 2020. For years, the Government of Canada has advocated for a peaceful solution between Israel and the Palestinians, where each people has its own country and lives in peace and security with its neighbour."*
- The other half of the respondents had the preamble: *"For years, the Government of Canada has advocated for a peaceful solution between Israel and the Palestinians, where each people has its own country and lives in peace and security with its neighbour. The government of Israel has announced its intention to formally incorporate portions of Palestinian territory into the state of Israel in July, 2020."*

The intention behind this split sample approach was to ensure that any difference in response resulting from the order of the two introductory sentences would not skew the survey results.

Survey Question Results

Chart 1: How do you believe Canada should react to Israel's plan to annex more Palestinian territory?

Three out of four Canadians think that Canada should oppose Israeli annexation of Palestinian territory



The results show that Canadians are clearly opposed to Israel’s plans for annexation. The largest number of respondents (42%) indicated they felt that Canada should impose economic and/or diplomatic sanctions on Israel. The second largest number of respondents said Canada should express opposition to Israel’s plan but take no other action (32%). Together, an overwhelming 74% of Canadians indicated that Canada should oppose annexation, either through words or action.

Only 11% of Canadians indicated that Canada should support Israel’s annexation plans, and 15% said that Canada should do nothing.

Imposing sanctions on Israel was the clear preference for a majority of those who support the NDP (68%), Green Party (59%), and Bloc Quebecois (54%). Among Liberal party supporters, 42% favour sanctions, while 45% thought Canada should express opposition but take no further action. Only 5% of Liberals want Canada to support Israel’s plan, and 8% would prefer Canada do nothing.

Conservative supporters are the most favourable towards Israel's annexation plan. Half of Conservative supporters think that Canada should either support Israel's plan (27%) or do nothing (25%). Another 32% say that Canada should express opposition, and only 16% say that Canada should impose sanctions.

An overwhelming majority of Canadians 18-34 years old want Canada to oppose Israel's plans: 59% said Canada should impose sanctions on Israel, and another 24% said Canada should express opposition but take no other action. Imposing sanctions on Israel is most popular with Canadians who have higher levels of education, but Canadians of all education levels favoured sanctions over the other options.

Discussion

There is very little support for Israeli annexation among the Canadian public. Apart from supporters of the Conservative Party, of whom a quarter (27%) want Canada to support Israel's plan, there is no more than 5% support for annexation within any other political party. In fact, even among supporters of the Conservative Party, almost half (48%) want Canada to express opposition to annexation in some form.

Not only do three out of four Canadians oppose Israel's planned annexations, but (42%) support imposing diplomatic or economic sanctions against Israel. These results demonstrate that the Trudeau government would have strong majority support if it opposed the annexations, and considerable public support to go further and impose sanctions on Israel. In fact, from a political standpoint, it would be risky for the Trudeau government to stay quiet in the face of this violation of international law planned by Israel.

2. Canadians Want Greater Alignment with International Community

Background

Canada's bid for a two-year, temporary seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) comes to a vote on June 17, 2020. Canada is running against Ireland and Norway. Trudeau announced Canada's candidacy for the position in March 2016,⁹ months after winning the federal election and declaring to the world that "Canada is back."¹⁰ The last time that Canada competed for a seat was in 2010 under Prime Minister Stephen Harper, which it lost to Portugal and Germany. Most observers believe that Canada's previous bid was unsuccessful due to its unconditional support for Israel, cuts to development assistance, and an underwhelming response to climate change.¹¹

The weaknesses evident in Canada's previous bid for UNSC have not been corrected in the decade since. This is most noticeable in the Israel-Palestine conflict, where Canada continues to deepen bilateral ties with Israel despite that country's brutal and decades-long military

occupation of the Palestinian territories. While the Trudeau government provides aid to Palestinian refugees, it also provides diplomatic cover for Israel's abuses against Palestinians.

In voting at the UN, Canada frequently finds itself aligned with Israel, the United States, and a handful of small countries, putting Canada in opposition to the vast majority of the rest of the world. More recently, while Canada waited until June 2nd before expressing disagreement with Israel's recent plans for annexation, the Foreign Affairs ministers of Ireland and Norway have been speaking out on this issue since at least December 2019 (Ireland)¹² and January 2020 (Norway).¹³

There are several other important areas where Canada's international reputation does not fare well compared to either Ireland or Norway:

- Canada spends less per capita on foreign aid. In 2019, Canada contributed an equivalent of 0.27% of its Gross National Income (GNI) on official development assistance (ODA), while Ireland spent 0.31% of its GNI and Norway spent an impressive 1.02% of its GNI.¹⁴
- Despite Canada's history as a champion of peacekeeping, as of March 2020 Canada contributes only 43 peacekeeping personnel, while Norway contributes 66 and Ireland contributes 523.¹⁵
- The Climate Change Performance Index, which monitors and ranks countries according to indicators such as greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, and climate policy, rank Norway at 12, Ireland at 41, and Canada at 55 or "very low."¹⁶

These are all factors which may influence the vote of UN members in determining whether Canada should have a seat at the table.

Survey Question

This survey question sought to gauge whether average Canadians supported the type of policy changes that would likely improve Canada's international reputation and lead to a better chance of a UNSC seat. The survey also sought to shed light on two other things, notably 1) how Canadians' interest in Israel-Palestine compared to their interest in other international files, and 2) how Canadians felt about Canada's position on Palestinian human rights.

This question took a split sample approach:

- Half the respondents were asked to what degree they agreed with an **increase** in Canada's support for an issue, while
- The other half of the respondents were asked to what degree they agreed with a **decrease** in Canada's support for an issue.

The intention behind this split sample approach was to minimize the possibility of leading respondents into answering all options in the same way.

The preamble to the question also sought to avoid telling respondents whether a particular response would help or harm Canada's prospects for a UNSC seat. The question was stated as follows:

Canada is competing for a seat on the United Nations Security Council this year. According to some experts, Canada's candidacy may be influenced, positively or negatively, by the key factors mentioned below. Using a five point scale, how much would you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- *Canada should **[increase/decrease]** its international development spending*
- *Canada should **[increase/decrease]** its contribution to international peacekeeping*
- *Canada should **[increase/decrease]** its commitment to combatting climate change*
- *Canada should **[increase/decrease]** its support for Palestinian human rights*

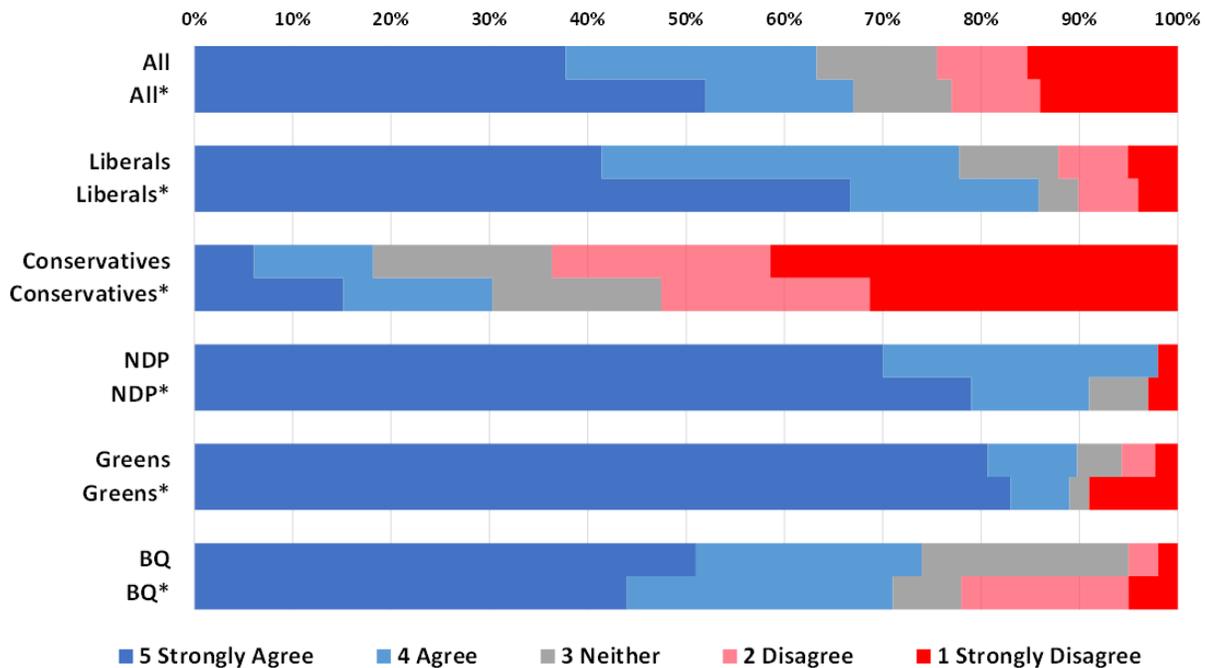
Survey Question Results

Note: Unless otherwise noted, in the discussion below we have grouped together those who responded "agree" with "strongly agree," as well as those who responded "disagree" with "strongly disagree." We have also left out of our discussion those who responded neither agree nor disagree.

Climate change

Chart 2: How much do you agree or disagree with Canada's commitment to combatting climate change?

Three out of five Canadians feel Canada should increase its commitment to combatting climate change



* Data from split sample where respondents were asked the question in the opposite way. i.e. *Strongly disagree* with a *decrease* in Canada's efforts to combat climate change has been aligned on this graph below *strongly agree* with an *increase* in efforts to combat climate change, and so on.

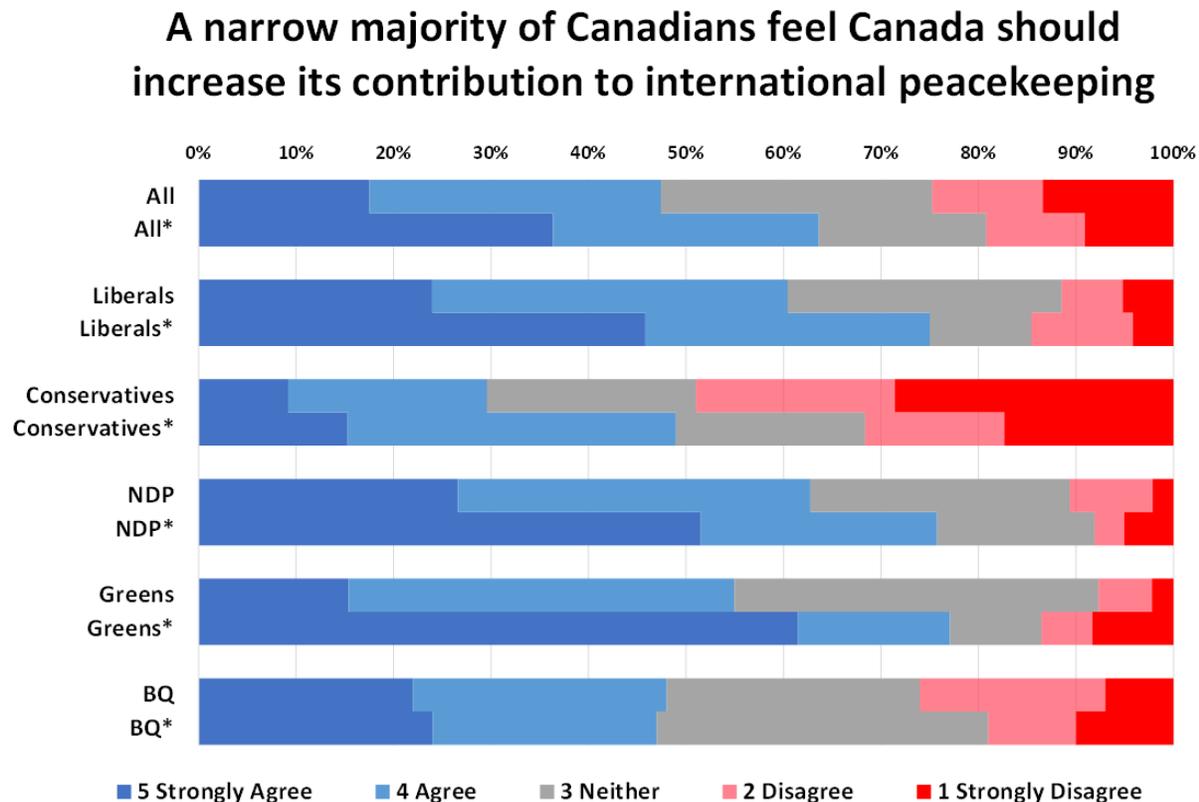
More than any other category, climate change received overwhelming support from Canadians. When asked if Canada should *increase* its commitment to combatting climate change, 63% agreed and 25% disagreed. Notably, the intensity of support is one-sided, as a considerable 38% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement, and only 16% strongly disagreed. In terms of demographics, it is notable that 81% of respondents 18-34 years old agreed that Canada's commitment to fighting climate change should be increased, and women also expressed notably more support than men. This issue was most polarized in the Prairies, where 47% agreed and 47% disagreed. Increasing Canada's commitment to combatting climate change also received high support from Liberal (77%), NDP (98%), and Green (90%) supporters. However, among Conservative supporters, the statement only had support from 18%, while 64% disagreed.

We found similar results when the question was asked in the opposite way. When asked if Canada should decrease its commitment to combatting climate change, 67% of respondents disagreed, and only 23% agreed. In fact, an impressive 52% of respondents strongly disagreed, while only 14% strongly agreed. (Once again, 80% of respondents 18-34 years old disagreed, as did 77% of respondents from Quebec. Respondents were also far more likely to disagree if they had higher levels of education.) There was overwhelming opposition to decreases from Liberal

(86%), NDP (91%) and Green (89%) supporters, with Conservative supporters again proving to be the outliers: only 30% oppose decreases and a majority (52%) support them.

Peacekeeping

Chart 3: How much do you agree or disagree with Canada's contribution to international peacekeeping?



* Data from split sample where respondents were asked the question in the opposite way. i.e. *Strongly disagree* with a *decrease* in Canada's contribution to peacekeeping has been aligned on this graph below *strongly agree* with an *increase* in Canada's contribution to peacekeeping, and so on.

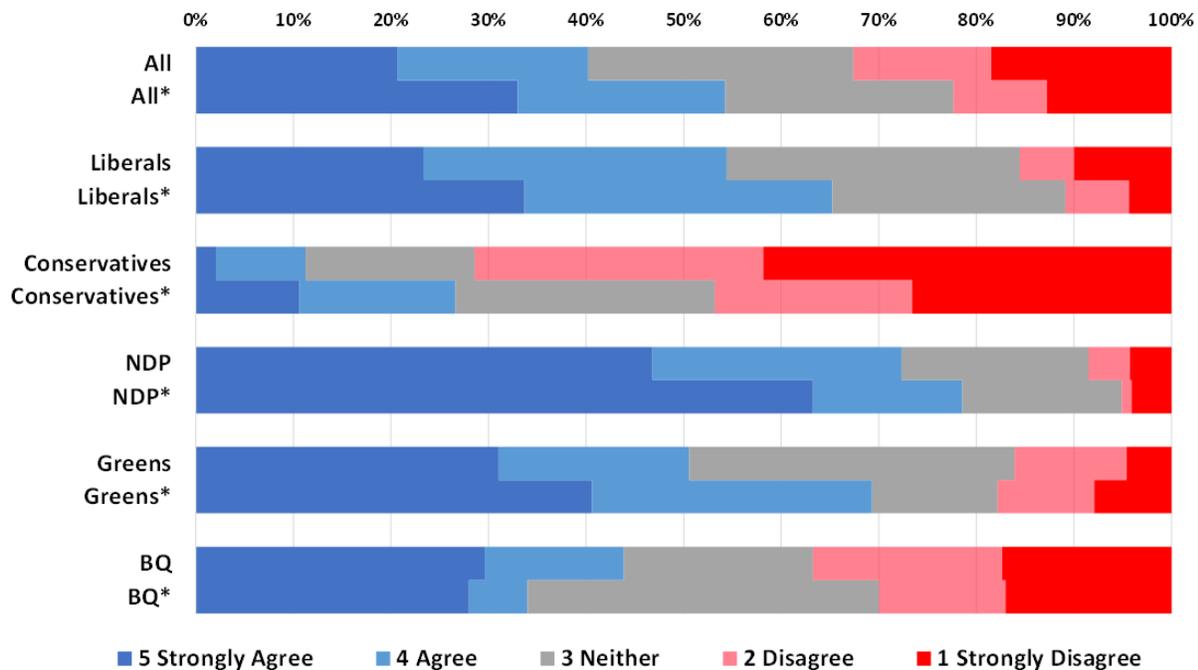
Nearly half of Canadians (48%) agreed with the statement that Canada should *increase* its contribution to international peacekeeping, while only 24% disagreed. This issue had strong support from Liberal (60%) and NDP (63%) supporters, whereas Conservative supporters expressed far lower support (30% agreed).

When the question was asked in the opposite way, if Canada should *decrease* its contribution to international peacekeeping, 64% of respondents disagreed, while 19% agreed. Opposition to decreases was particularly notable in Ontario, where 74% of respondents disagreed. The answers also broke down along party lines, as decreases to peacekeeping was overwhelmingly opposed by Liberal (75%), NDP (76%), and Green (78%) party supporters, while Conservative supporters were divided on the issue, with 49% opposing decreases and 31% in support.

Palestinian Human Rights

Chart 4: How much do you agree or disagree with Canada's support for Palestinian human rights?

Canadians are divided by party on whether Canada should increase support for Palestinian human rights



* Data from split sample where respondents were asked the question in the opposite way. i.e. *Strongly disagree* with a *decrease* in Canada's support for Palestinian human rights has been aligned on this graph below *strongly agree* with an *increase* in Canada's support for Palestinian human rights, and so on.

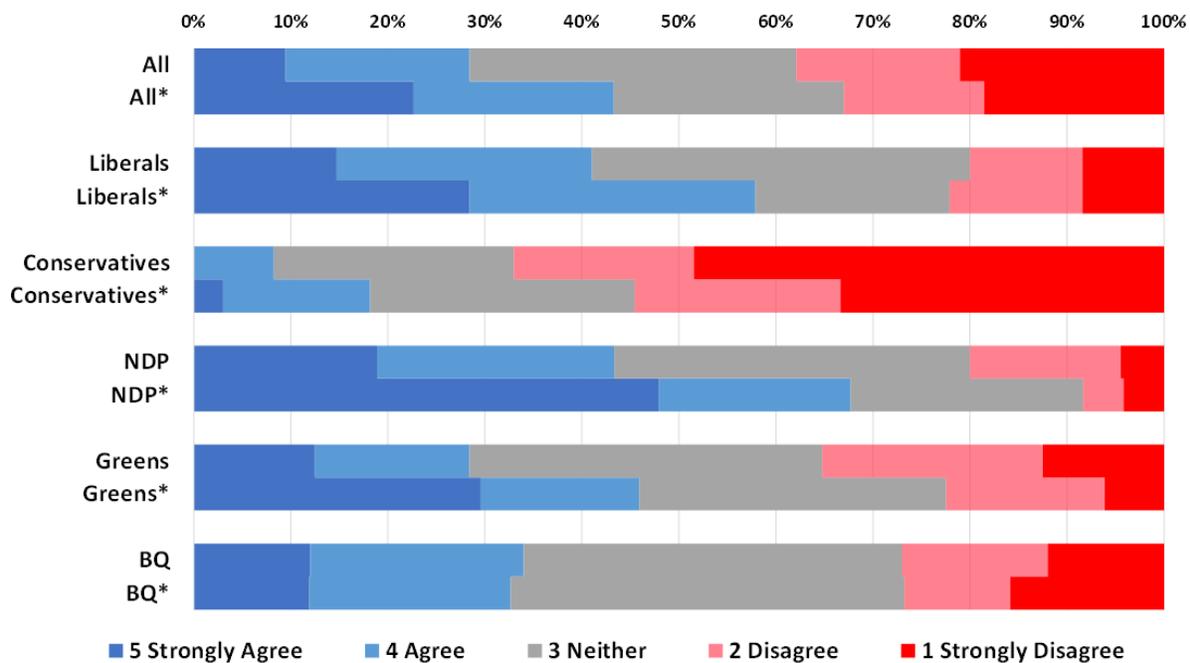
When asked if Canada should *increase* its support for Palestinian human rights, 40% of Canadians agreed, and 32% disagreed. The strongest support for this question came from BC (55% agree to 23% disagree), and the least support was in the Prairies (29% agree to 45% disagree). A majority of respondents who support the Liberals (55%) and NDP (73%) agreed that support for Palestinians should be increased, compared to only 11% Conservative supporters.

When asked if Canada should *decrease* its support for Palestinian human rights, 54% of respondents disagreed, while 23% agreed. There were high levels of disagreement from supporters of Liberals (65%), NDP (79%), and Green (69%), with very few who indicated their agreement. Among Conservative supporters, in contrast, only 26% disagreed, while almost half (47%) agreed that support for Palestinians should be decreased. Opposition was strongest among those 18-34 years old (70%), and respondents in Ontario (62%), while the issue was most polarized in the Prairies (37% disagree to 36% agree) and among those 55-64 years old (45% disagree to 40% agree). Similar to the issue of climate change, there is a strong correlation between higher levels of education and support for Palestinian human rights.

International development spending

Chart 5: How much do you agree or disagree with Canada's international development spending

Canadians are divided on whether Canada should increase its international development spending



* Data from split sample where respondents were asked the question in the opposite way. i.e. *Strongly disagree* with a *decrease* in Canada's spending on int'l development has been aligned on this graph below *strongly agree* with an *increase* in Canada's spending on int'l development, and so on.

The results of this question are mixed. When asked if they agree that Canada should *increase* its development spending, only 29% agreed, whereas 38% of Canadians disagreed. While there was substantial support for this proposal among NDP (44%) and Liberal (41%) voters, a significant 66% of Conservative supporters disagreed that international development spending should be increased.

However, when the question was asked in the opposite way, if Canada should *decrease* its international development spending, 43% of respondents disagreed with this proposal, and only 33% agreed. There was strong opposition to spending decreases from NDP (67%) and Liberal (58%) supporters, while 55% of Conservative party supporters agreed that spending should be decreased, and 33% of them strongly agreed.

These results suggest that Canadians are highly polarized by political party around the question of international development spending. It also shows that, while more Canadians preferred not to increase spending, a greater number also opposed decreasing it. This may reflect a lack of

knowledge or interest in what international development spending is, and whether it is valuable. It is also notable that this survey was conducted during the COVID-19 crisis, which may have impacted how Canadians view the value of spending on development outside of Canada.

Discussion

The survey found that Canadians are generally supportive of increasing Canada's contributions to the international community, although it varies by issue, and especially by party preference. This shows that, overall, Canadians support actions perceived to improve Canada's international reputation, improving its candidacy for a seat at the United Nations Security Council. Interestingly, Canadians are more likely to oppose decreasing these contributions than they are to support increasing them.

The exceptions are supporters of the Conservative Party, who expressed broad support for reducing Canada's international commitments. In this way, their views sharply diverge with Liberal, NDP and Green voters.

Well over twice as many Canadians expressed support for Canada increasing its commitment to **combatting climate change** (inc: 63% vs. 25%; dec: 67% vs. 23%) – a result that was also highly influenced by political party preference. In fact, Liberal supporters were **at least six times** more likely to agree with a greater commitment to combatting climate change than to oppose it. NDP and Green respondents were at least **nine times** more likely.

In addition, at least twice as many Canadians expressed support for increasing Canada's contribution to **international peacekeeping** (inc: 48% vs. 24%; dec: 64% vs. 19%) – a result that was highly influenced by political party preference. In fact, Liberal, NDP and Green respondents were **at least five times** more likely to agree with greater support for international peacekeeping than to oppose it.

On the question of **Canada and Palestinian human rights**, there was again a strong polarization among respondents by political party. While overall, there was more support for increasing Canada's support for Palestinian human rights, this support was far stronger among Liberal, NDP and Green voters. In fact, Liberal, NDP and Green respondents were **at least three times** more likely to agree with greater support for Palestinian human rights than to oppose them.

Given the survey findings, of the four topics considered, Canadians are most interested in seeing Canada make a greater commitment to combatting climate change, followed by an interest in seeing Canada increase its contribution to international peacekeeping. After this, Canadians are next interested in seeing an increase in Canadian support for Palestinian human rights. Finally, Canadians seem divided on Canada's spending on international development.

¹ In the discussion of the survey results, we frequently refer to survey “respondents,” although it would be more statistically appropriate to use the term “Canadians,” as the survey results were weighted by EKOS.

² For example, see “Israel’s Settlements Have No Legal Validity, Constitute Flagrant Violation of International Law, Security Council Reaffirms,” United Nations Security Council, December 23, 2016, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12657.doc.htm>

³ “Israeli annexation plans would lead to ‘cascade of bad human rights consequences’, says UN expert,” United Nations Human Rights (UNHR) Office of the High Commissioner, May 1, 2020, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25857&LangID=E>

⁴ Noa Landau, “EU Discusses Sanctions Against Israeli Annexation That Will Not Require Consensus,” *Haaretz*, May 15, 2020, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-the-eu-discusses-sanctions-against-israeli-annexation-that-will-not-require-consensu-1.8849054>

⁵ Government of Canada, “Canadian policy on key issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” last modified March 13, 2019, https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/mena-moan/israeli-palistinian_policy-politique_israelo-palestinien.aspx?lang=eng

⁶ “Canada concerned some of Israel and China’s policies undermine freedom, Trudeau says,” *Global News*, June 2, 2020, <https://globalnews.ca/news/7016506/israeli-chinese-policies-trudeau/>

⁷ Evan Dyer, “Critics say Canada’s silence speaks volumes as Israel races towards annexation,” *CBC*, May 21, 2020, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/israel-netanyahu-gantz-west-bank-annexation-trudeau-1.5577888>

⁸ “Dozens of Former Canadian Diplomats Urge Trudeau to Speak Out Opposing Israel’s Annexation Plans,” *Canada Talks Israel Palestine*, June 1, 2020, <https://canadatalksisraelpalestine.ca/2020/06/02/dozens-of-former-canadian-diplomats-urge-trudeau-to-speak-out-opposing-israels-annexation-plans/>

⁹ “Prime Minister announces Canada’s bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council,” Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, March 16, 2016, <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2016/03/16/prime-minister-announces-canadas-bid-non-permanent-seat-united>

¹⁰ “‘Canada is back,’ says Trudeau in Paris. ‘We’re here to help,’” *The Star*, November 30, 2015, <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/11/30/busy-day-for-trudeau-at-paris-climate-change-talks.html>;

“‘We’re back,’ Justin Trudeau says in message to Canada’s allies abroad,” *National Post*, October 20, 2015, <https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/were-back-justin-trudeau-says-in-message-to-canadas-allies-abroad>

¹¹ Steven Edwards, “Canada loses UN Security Council seat despite guarantees,” *Global News*, October 13, 2010, <https://globalnews.ca/news/99271/canada-loses-un-security-council-seat-despite-guarantees/>; John Ibbitson and Joanna Slater, “Security Council rejection a deep embarrassment for Harper,” *Globe and Mail*, October 12, 2019, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/security-council-rejection-a-deep-embarrassment-for-harper/article1370239/>

¹² Stephen O’Brien, “Simon Coveney urges EU action over ‘creeping annexation’ of West Bank,” *Sunday Times*, December 15, 2019, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/simon-coveney-urges-eu-action-over-creeping-annexation-of-west-bank-x3zc60lfs>

¹³ “Statement by Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Sørensen on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” Government of Norway, January 29, 2020, https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/statement_conflict/id2688192/

¹⁴ “Official Development Assistance 2019,” Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), April 16, 2020, <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/official-development-assistance.htm>

¹⁵ UN Peacekeeping, “Troop and Police Contributors,” as of March 31, 2020, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>

¹⁶ Climate Change Performance Index 2020, <https://www.climate-change-performance-index.org/country/canada>