



STRENGTHENING CANADIAN DEMOCRACY

**Metro Vancouver Residents' Views
on Democracy, Report of Public
Opinion Survey**

SFU

MORRIS J. WOSK
CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2017, the SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue launched a pan-Canadian initiative called Strengthening Canadian Democracy. Following a series of consultations and research through to the end of January 2018, the Centre decided to undertake a two-year Democracy Demonstration Project to develop and pilot a variety of democratic and civic engagement tools/activities designed to build a stronger commitment to Canadian democracy.

The overall goal of the Project is to pilot and test intervention strategies that could have a measureable impact on the commitment Canadians have to democracy as shown through their participation in democratic processes and activities, the value they attribute to democratic institutions, and their support for the underlying principles of democracy.

A key first step in the Project was to establish baseline measures of perspectives on democracy, and citizen's participation in democratic activities. To this end, the Centre conducted an online survey from August 7-13, 2018 among a representative random sample of 1,506 Metro Vancouver residents, as the initial target population for the initiative. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of 1,506 would carry a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Following is an Executive Summary of the survey findings.

KNOWLEDGE OF AND INTEREST IN CANADA'S DEMOCRACY

Metro Vancouver residents appear quite interested in news and information about Canadian politics and policy issues affecting Canadians. A majority says they follow the news on these subjects at least several times a week while a third are less frequent news consumers.

Residents are somewhat mixed on how much they know about Canada's democracy. While the vast majority correctly asserts that Members of Parliament are elected by voters in a local constituency, and that Canada does not have a republican system of government, they are less sure about how the First Past the Post electoral system works to elect MPs to Parliament, and how Supreme Court judges are appointed. Yet, they are able to identify without much difficulty which policy fields fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

PERFORMANCE OF CANADIAN DEMOCRACY

Metro Vancouver residents place a great deal of importance on Canada being governed democratically, but give only moderately positive reviews for Canada actually being governed in a democratic fashion.

For the most part, residents believe that the current level of democratic protections and freedoms in Canada is sufficient, particularly for freedom of the press and freedom of speech. This is slightly less true for the protection of human rights and for citizens having opportunities to participate in political activities. Some also feel the scope of protections for minority rights is too broad. The greatest perceived deficiency in our democracy is in the area of educating of citizens about their rights and responsibilities.

Residents are unconvinced that voting is an act that gives them any real say about how government runs things; and, there is no consensus as to whether or not they feel they can influence government even if they make the effort. And, most do not believe that elected officials actually care what they think.

COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AS A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Metro Vancouver residents are only moderately committed to democracy as a system of government. Representative democracy gets the nod as a good way to govern Canada, but residents do not strongly embrace it, with most feeling it is only a "somewhat good way". Many are open to alternative forms, including direct democracy, where citizens not elected officials decide, rule by experts, military rule, having a strong leader who could make decisions without interference from Parliament or the courts.

While a solid majority of residents prefer democracy to any other form of government, some feel it doesn't matter whether a government is democratic or not or they believe authoritarian rule is acceptable in some circumstances.

VIEWS ON DEMOCRATIC VALUES & CITIZEN ROLE IN DEMOCRACY

Metro Vancouver residents express strong views that it's important for Canada to have a full range of democratic

values and principles, particularly gender equality, regular multi-party elections, and religious freedoms where all faiths can practice their religion freely. Slightly fewer hold as strong views on free speech when it involves people saying things that some find objectionable.

Residents also strongly believe that citizens role in a democracy is based on active participation as a responsibility not just a right, and on a respect for the views and perspectives of others. Most are also adamant that the legitimacy of democratic outcomes be confirmed through the acceptance of electoral defeat, and that people are tolerant towards views not shared by the majority.

Residents appear open to populist (“common people vs. the elites”) and nativist (Canada-first) appeals from election candidates, as well as to those who support using experts for policy making. They do not react favourably to attacks on the media for bias or producing fake news.

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Metro Vancouver residents express only moderate levels of trust in a broad range of institutions from different sectors of Canadian society. The Supreme Court is the most trusted of all institutions tested. Among institutions tied specifically to government and/or the democratic political system, elections, the RCMP, and the civil service that are ahead of Parliament and the mass media.

PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

Less than one-in-five Metro Vancouver residents say they have never been involved in a wide range of democratic activities related to a particular policy or issue. Of those who have done so over the past 12 months:

- The most frequent activities have been those where residents connect more “passively” with the democratic system (e.g. looked at a variety of news/information sources to get different points of view, signed a petition, or answered a government survey).
- Fewer have been “somewhat active” in reaching out to “contact points” in our democracy, including posting comments online, contacting elected officials, advocacy groups, or the media, or joining a boycott of a company for its policies or actions.
- And, even fewer have been “more active” in democratic activities through direct, frontline participation (e.g.

attending a public consultation meeting, actively trying to get others to take political action, participating in an organized protest or demonstration, or volunteering in an election campaign). Smaller numbers are currently active in their democracy as registered members of a political party or an organization that advances issues important to them.

ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY

Metro Vancouver residents are engaged in their local communities through a variety of activities (e.g. visiting a local library, community centre or recreation centre, volunteering, or attending a cultural/ethnic event). However, fewer residents are as engaged in community-related activities in 2018 than was the case two years ago.

Residents are almost equally divided when it comes to the strength of belonging to their neighbourhood. Notably, the attachment they have to their communities has waned over the past two years.

TOP INFORMATION SOURCES ON POLITICS, GOVERNMENT & ISSUES

Metro Vancouver residents tap into a wide variety of sources to obtain information about politics, government and public issues in which they are interested. Their top ranked sources include broadcast channels CBC, Global, and CTV. Further down the list are news feeds via social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and friends/family. Traditional print and radio are well back in a third tier of sources (e.g. Globe & Mail, Vancouver Sun/Province, community newspapers, News 1130, National Post, and CKNW). Very few give priority to less common sources (e.g. Tye, Rebel).

KEY “STAND OUT” POPULATION SUBGROUPS

Views on democracy and participation in democratic activities do vary between residents who have different socio-demographic characteristics. However, a few Metro Vancouver residents stand out consistently from others for their overall perspectives on democracy and their participation in democratic activities.

- Broadly more positive and active: 65+ years of age, completed professional/graduate degree, born outside Canada in fully democratic countries (e.g. U.S., Australia,

UK), follow news frequently, are currently registered members of a political party/NGO.

- Broadly less positive and less active: completed high school or less, born outside Canada in “flawed” democracies (e.g. Argentina, Indonesia, Colombia, South Africa) or authoritarian countries (e.g. China, Russia), follow news less frequently, are not members of a political party/NGO.

IMPACT OF VIEWS OF DEMOCRACY ON PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

Most Metro Vancouver residents prefer democracy over all other forms of government, regardless of their opinions on democratic values and principles or perceptions of citizens role in a democracy. And while most hold positive views of those same values and principles, residents with less positive perspectives or who have less attachment to an active role for citizens, are less likely to view democracy as the preferred system of government.

BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

BACKGROUND

In June 2017, the SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue embarked on a pan-Canadian initiative called Strengthening Canadian Democracy. Following a series of consultations and research undertaken through to the end of January 2018, the Centre decided to launch a two-year Democracy Demonstration Project using residents of Metro Vancouver as the target population to develop and pilot a variety of democratic and civic engagement tools/activities designed to build a stronger commitment to Canadian democracy.

The overall goal of the Project is to pilot and test intervention strategies that could have a measureable impact on the commitment of Canadians to democracy as shown through their participation in democratic processes and activities, the value they attribute to democratic institutions, and their support for the underlying principles of democracy.

In order to meet this goal, the Project has five main objectives:

1. Engage and leverage expertise and assets of community partners, democracy thought leaders, and the academic community in the Project’s implementation.
2. Understand and explore the commitment Metro Vancouver residents have to Canadian democracy.
3. Develop a set of key and relevant indicators to measure the impact of Project activities.
4. Develop and pilot test a core set of activities designed to build commitment to democracy and engagement in democratic activities. This will help build an understanding of what types of approaches work in what contexts, and why they work.
5. Determine implications of the Project, and make recommendations for how this work could scale to larger populations, including its application in other geographic areas across Canada.

A key first step in the Project was to establish baseline measures of residents’ perspectives on democracy, and their participation in democratic activities, with Metro Vancouver as the initial target population. Working with a Technical Advisory Committee of academics, the Centre developed a questionnaire with a set of key and relevant indicators designed to measure Metro Vancouver residents commitment to democracy. The questionnaire included questions related to 8 key topic areas:

1. Knowledge and Interest in Canadian Democracy
2. Evaluation of the Performance of Canadian Democracy
3. Commitment to Democracy as a System of Government
4. Views on Democratic Values & Citizens Role in Democracy
5. Trust in Institutions
6. Participation in Democracy
7. Engagement in Community
8. Key Sources of Information about Politics, Government, and Issues

The questionnaire was implemented from August 7-13, 2018 among a randomly selected representative sample of 1,506 Metro Vancouver residents via the Angus Reid Forum.

For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of 1,506 would carry a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current age and gender Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Metro Vancouver. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. An additional weight was added based on voter turnout in the 2017 BC provincial election.

Please consult the Appendix for a Profile of Respondents.

APPROACHES TO ANALYSIS & REPORTING

The analysis of survey findings was conducted to draw a comprehensive picture of Metro Vancouver residents' perspectives on democracy. To achieve this, a number of specific analysis approaches were used.

- **Total Population Trends:** Interpretation of findings based on the distribution of responses to survey questions in the total population. Specific grouping of response scales (e.g. topbox, lowbox %'s) was undertaken to bring greater clarity to the interpretation.
- **Socio-Demographic Differences:** Interpretation of findings comparing responses to survey questions by different population subgroups. Comparisons were done based on Metro Vancouver municipality, gender, age, education, income, place of birth, generation, and year came to Canada.
- **Differences based on Attitudes/Views on Democracy:** Interpretation of findings comparing responses to survey questions given by residents who held more positive views on democratic values and principles, and the role of citizens in a democracy with those who held less positive views. In this case, the key dependent variable was the degree to which Metro Vancouver residents expressed a commitment to representative democracy, defined as a system where representatives elected by citizens decide what becomes law.
- **Differences based on Participation in Democratic Activities:** Interpretation of findings comparing responses to survey responses of people who participated in various democratic activities with those who have not participated in these activities. The same dependent variable was used.

Specific findings are highlighted as follows;

- **Black text** is used to highlight stand out trends in the overall population findings.
- **Red text** is used to highlight statistically significant findings between population subgroups where the views of democracy are more positive.
- **Blue text** is used to highlight statistically significant findings between population subgroups where the views of democracy are less positive, though not necessarily negative.
- Lighter shades of red and blue are used in all charts to signal less or more positive views.

In conducting the analysis, we referenced two approaches/ measures used in other survey research on democracy and democratic values:

- **Commitment to Democracy Index – PEW Centre:** The Index breaks populations into three categories – Fully Committed Democrats, Less Committed Democrats, and Non-Democrats. Here, it is commitment to “representative democracy”, where representatives elected by citizens decide what becomes law.
- **Typology of Democracies – Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU):** The typology breaks countries into four categories – Full Democracies, Flawed Democracies, Hybrid, Authoritarian. We used this typology to group respondents based on their country of birth.

SECTION 1: KNOWLEDGE OF AND INTEREST IN CANADA'S DEMOCRACY

Metro Vancouver residents appear quite interested in news and information about Canadian politics and policy issues affecting Canadians. A majority says they follow the news on these subjects at least several times a week while a third are less frequent news consumers; fewer than 1-in-10 never pay attention to the news on politics and public issues.

Survey results are somewhat mixed when it comes to Metro Vancouver residents level of knowledge aspects of Canadian democracy. From a number of “true/false” questions derived from the Canadian citizenship test:

- The vast majority of residents correctly asserts that Members of Parliament are elected by voters in a local constituency, and that Canada does not have a republican

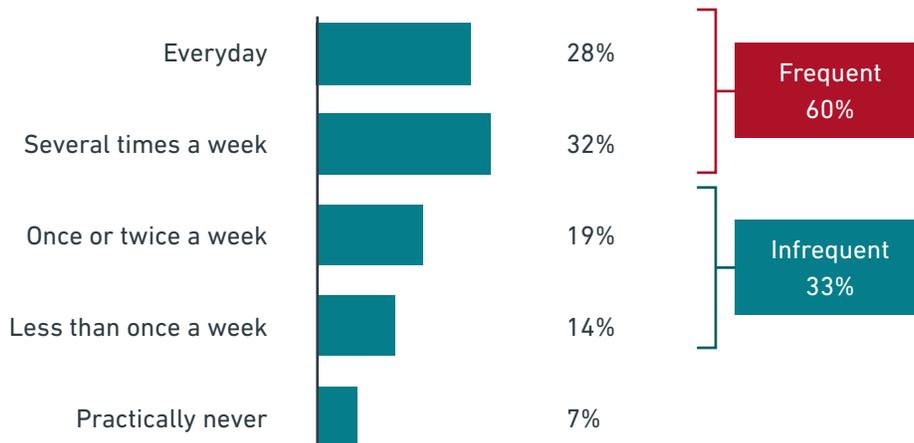
system of government. Further, they are able to identify without much difficulty which policy fields fall under federal government jurisdiction.

- Yet, they seem confused when it comes to whether or not candidates in a federal election need to get more than 50% of votes to win their riding; and many believe – incorrectly – that Supreme Court judges are appointed by a committee of Canadians representative of the population.

Key demographic subgroups that “stand out” for the attention they pay to news on politics or issues:

- More frequent: Older (65+), men, professional/graduate degree, higher income households (\$80K+), member of a political party or NGO
- Less frequent: Younger (18-34), women, completed high school or less, not member of political party or NGO. Notably, people in these population subgroups are less knowledgeable about aspects of Canadian democracy.

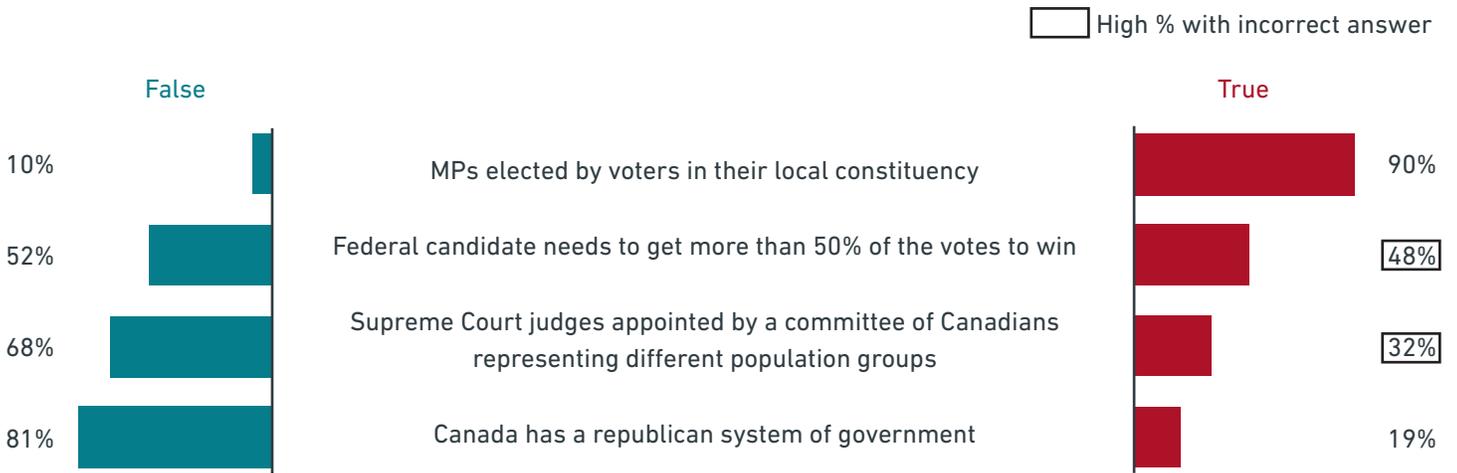
Solid majority of Metro Vancouver residents regularly follows news about Canadian politics or policy issues.



Q1. Generally speaking, do you follow news about Canadian politics or policy issues affecting Canadians ...?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Some Metro Vancouver residents confused about how electoral system works to elect MPs, and how Supreme Court judges are appointed.



Q2. Please indicate whether you think each of the following statements is either true or false:

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Vast majority of Metro Vancouver residents able to identify federal government responsibilities.



Q3. Which one of the following are the responsibilities of federal government?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

SECTION 2: EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF CANADIAN DEMOCRACY

Metro Vancouver residents place a great deal of importance on Canada being governed democratically, i.e., where citizens have a say in decisions made through their elected representatives. Yet, they give only moderately positive reviews to Canada being governed democratically. This is notably true of those for whom being governed democratically is “very important”.

For the most part, residents believe that Canada’s current level of democratic protections and freedoms is sufficient, particularly for freedom of the press and freedom of speech; it is slightly less true for the protection of human rights and for citizens having opportunities to participate in political activities. Further, some think the scope of protections for minority rights is “too much”. The greatest perceived deficiency is in the education of citizens about their rights and responsibilities.

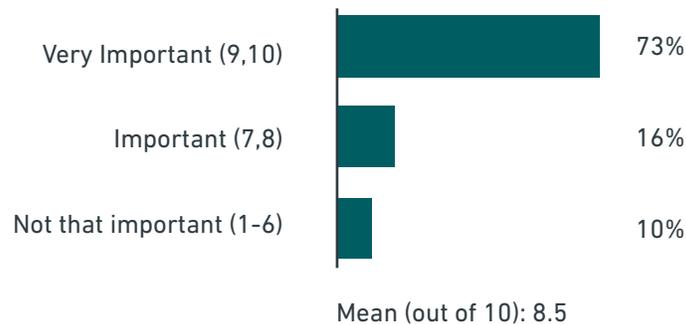
Residents are less sure about their own impact on Canadian democracy. For example, they are unconvinced

that voting gives them a say about how government runs things. And, there is no consensus as to whether or not they feel they can influence government even if they are willing to make the effort. Further, most do not believe that elected officials actually care what they think.

Key “stand out” demographic subgroups for their views on the performance of Canadian democracy:

- More positive: older Canadians (65+), men, 1st generation newcomers to Canada, higher income households (\$80K+).
- Less positive: younger Canadians (18-34), women, native-born Canadians, middle-low income households (<\$80K).
- Protections and freedoms are “too much”: 2nd+ generation newcomers to Canada, and residents born in countries with less democratic or authoritarian systems of government.
- View potential citizen impact and role more positively: live in Vancouver/North Shore; less positively: live in the Fraser Valley.

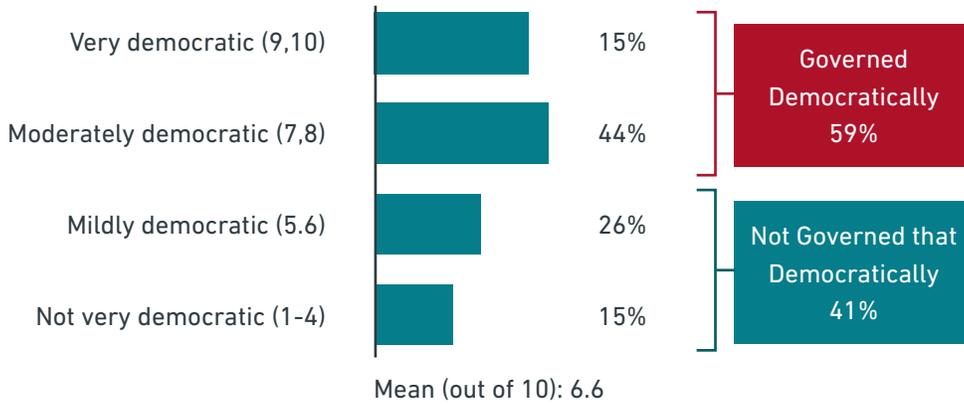
Significant majority of Metro Vancouver residents places great importance on being governed democratically; 1-in-4 unconvinced.



Q4. Would you say it is important or not important for you to live in a country that is governed democratically, that is where, through their elected representatives, citizens have a say in decisions that affect them?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Metro Vancouver residents hold only moderately positive views on extent to which Canada is being governed democratically



Q5. And, in your view, how democratically is Canada being governed today?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Majority feel current level of democratic freedoms and protections in Canada is sufficient; perceived need for more civic education. 1-in-5 think scope of minority rights protections is excessive.

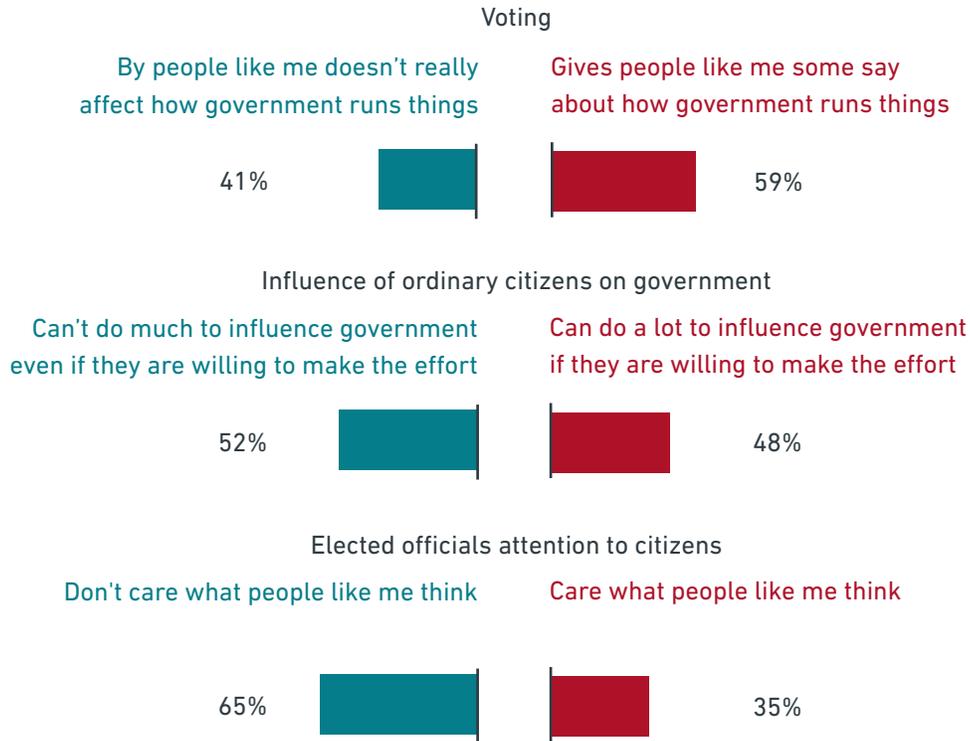


Q6. Do you believe that nowadays in Canada we have too little, enough, or too much of...?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

 Stand out high%

No strong consensus among Metro Vancouver residents on the impact they might have on Canadian democracy through voting or influencing government; majority believes elected officials insensitive to their views.



Q7. Which statement comes closest to your own views, even if neither is exactly right?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

SECTION 3:
COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AS A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Metro Vancouver residents display an overall moderate level of commitment to democracy as a system of government. Moreover, many are open to alternative forms, including military rule or having a strong leader who could make decisions without interference from Parliament or the courts. Representative democracy gets the nod as a good way to govern Canada, but Metro Vancouver residents do not strongly embrace it, most feeling it is only “somewhat good”.

While a solid majority prefer democracy to any other form of government, some feel it doesn't matter whether

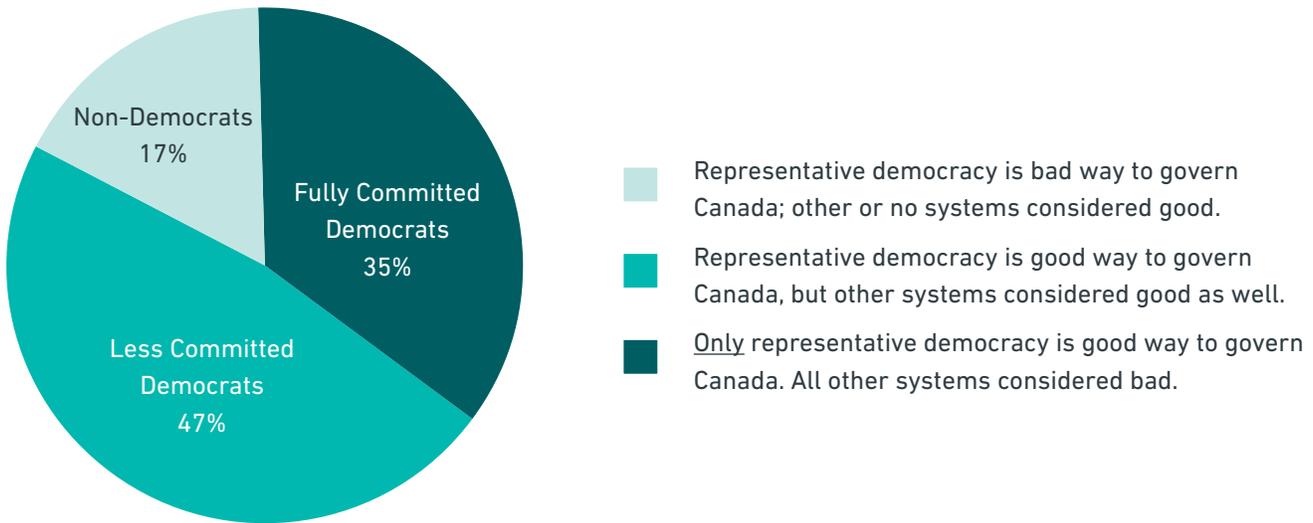
a government is democratic or not while others believe authoritarian rule is acceptable in some circumstances.

Overall, based on the PEW Centre's Commitment to Democracy Index formulation, a majority of residents are considered “Less Committed Democrats” or “Non-Democrats”.

Key “stand out” demographic subgroups for their views on the performance of Canadian democracy:

- Committed to representative democracy: 65+ years of age, born outside Canada in countries considered “full democracies”.
- Less Committed to representative democracy: not born in Canada, 18-34 years of age, completed high school or less education, born outside Canada in countries with less democratic or authoritarian systems of government.

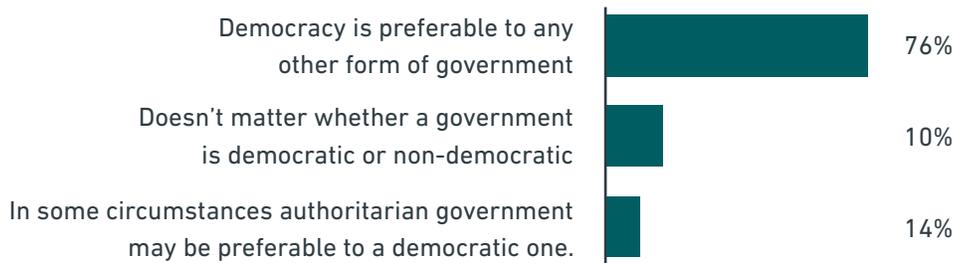
Only a third of Metro Vancouver residents are considered “Committed Democrats”.



Q9. Do you think each of the following types of political systems is a good way or a bad way to govern Canada?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

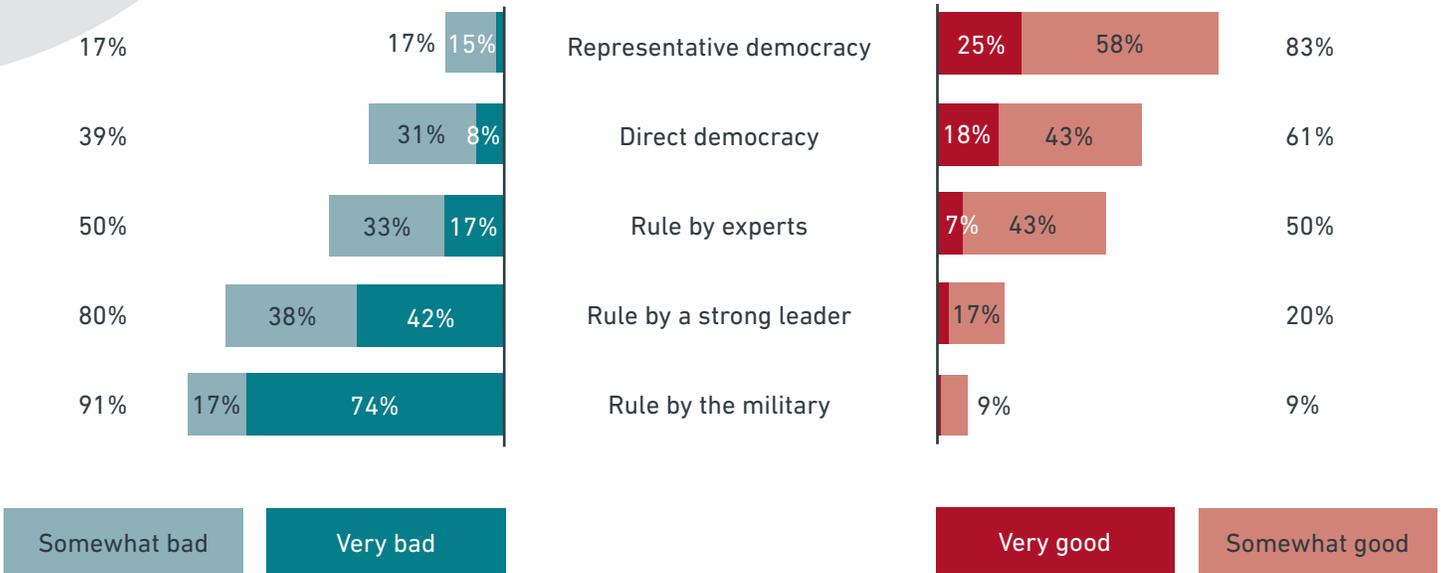
Significant majority of Metro Vancouver residents prefer democracy as form of government. BUT 1-in-4 don't feel having a democracy matters or they are open to authoritarian rule.



Q8. Which of the following statements do you agree with the most? Please select one only.

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Metro Vancouver residents only moderately approve representative democracy as good way to govern Canada; many open to alternative forms of non-democratic rule.



Q9. Do you think each of the following types of political systems is a good way or a bad way to govern Canada?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

SECTION 4:
VIEWS ON DEMOCRATIC VALUES & CITIZEN ROLE IN DEMOCRACY

Metro Vancouver residents feel strongly that it is important Canada have a full range of democratic values and principles. This is particularly true for gender equality, regular multi-party elections, and religious freedom where all faiths can practice their faith freely. Slightly fewer hold as strong views on free speech when it involves people saying things that some find objectionable.

- Notably, residents believe others would largely approve of them holding the same views. However, in each case, the percentage who felt others would approve of them was lower than the proportion who actually held the opinion, suggesting the underlying principle with each value may have only a weak influence on residents' behaviour.

Metro Vancouver residents also strongly believe that citizens role in a democracy is based on active

participation, and a respect for the views and perspectives of others. In particular, a majority feel citizen participation is considered a responsibility, not just a right. Residents are also adamant that the legitimacy of democratic outcomes be confirmed through the acceptance of electoral defeat, and that people are tolerant of views not shared by the majority. Further, there is great openness among Metro Vancouver residents for respecting those with different political views, but very little desire to see public speech disrespectful of minorities suppressed with physical force.

- Notably, residents feel that others would also approve of them if they shared each of these views. Here, however, there is virtually no percentage point gap between those who hold these views personally vs. their expected views of others, except for citizen participation where, again, the percentage is lower. This suggests once again a likely weak influence of the underlying democratic principle on residents behaviour.

Metro Vancouver residents appear open to populist ("common people vs. the elites") and nativist (Canada-first)

appeals from election candidates, as well as those who support using experts for policy making. However, they do not react favourably to candidates who attack the media for bias or producing fake news.

Key “stand out” demographic subgroups for their views on having democratic values in Canada:

- More positive on importance of having democratic values: live in Burnaby/New Westminister, 65+ years of age, born outside Canada in countries considered “full democracies”, not a member of political party or advocacy organization.
- Less positive on importance of having democratic values: born outside Canada in countries with authoritarian/less democratic rule, member of political party or advocacy organization.

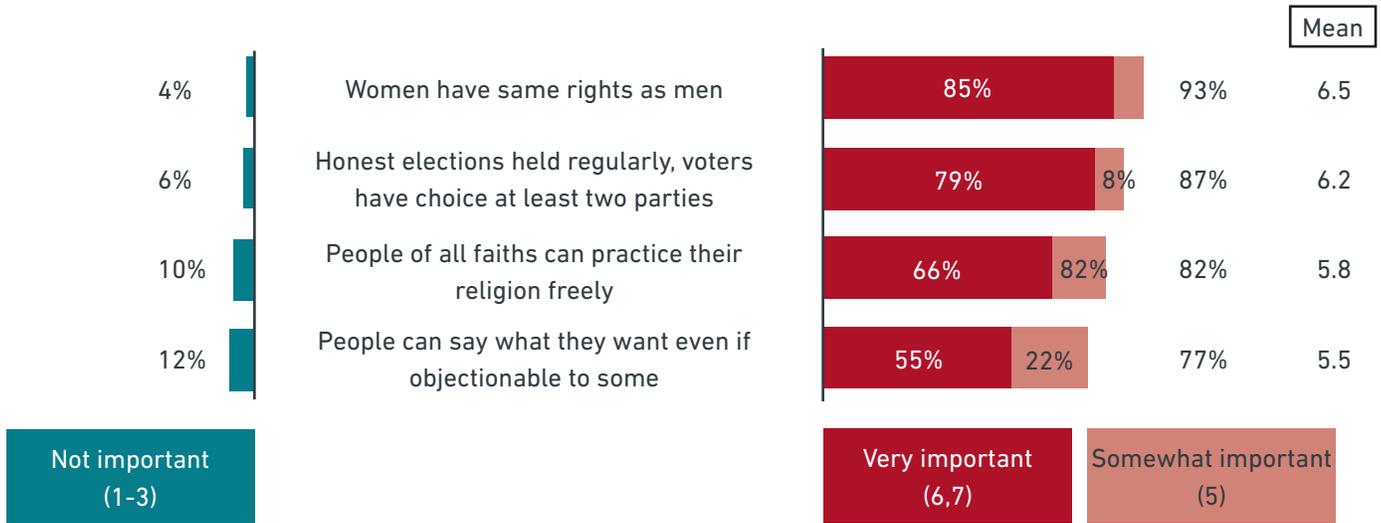
Key “stand out” demographic subgroups for their views on citizens role in democracy:

- More positive views of citizens role: live in Burnaby/New Westminister or Richmond/Delta, 65+ years of age.
- Less positive views of citizens role: born outside Canada in countries with authoritarian/less democratic rule, live in Vancouver/North Shore, member of political party or advocacy organization.

Key “stand out” demographic subgroups for their views on candidates’ populist/nativist appeals to voters:

- More likely to vote for candidate using populist/nativist appeals: 65+ years of age
- Less likely to vote for candidate using populist/nativist appeals: 18-24 years of age

Majority thinks it is very important for Canada to have a range of democratic values and principles, particularly gender equality, multi-party elections, and religious freedom. Less strongly held views on free speech.



Q10. Is it important or not important to you that in Canada....?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

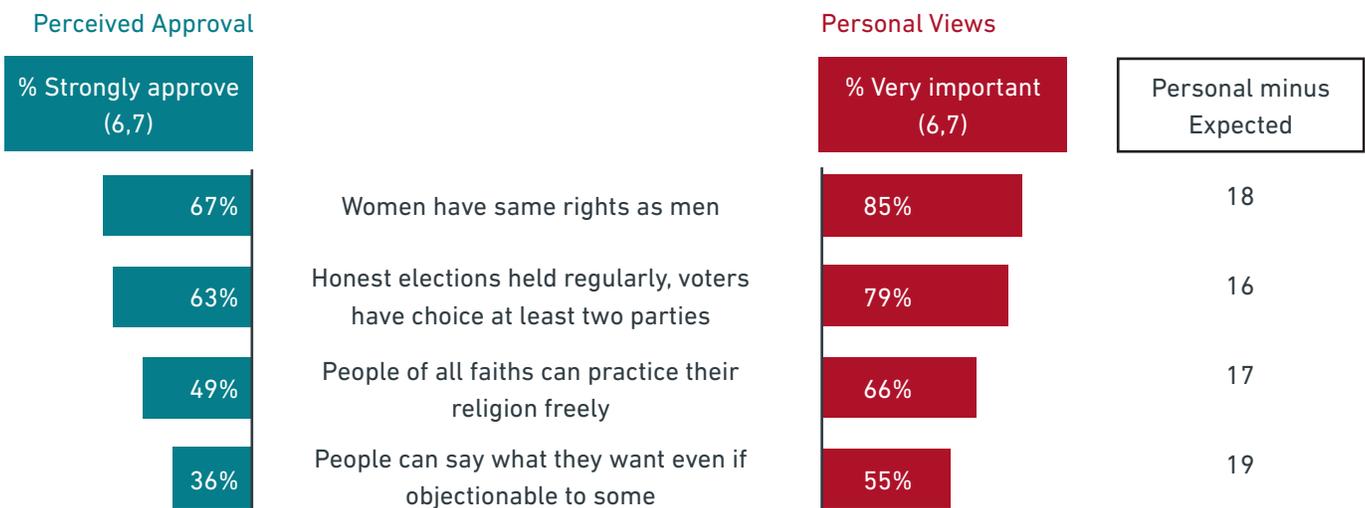
Residents largely believe others would approve of their views on democratic values and principles; less strongly for freedom of religion and speech.



Q11. How much do you think other Canadians would approve or disapprove if you said you believed each of the following?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Personal views on democratic values are somewhat inconsistent with the perceived expected approval from others



Q10. Is it important or not important to you that in Canada...?

Q11. How much do you think other Canadians would approve or disapprove if you said you believed each of the following?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Metro Vancouver residents believe strongly in citizen participation as a responsibility, as well as the legitimacy of electoral outcomes and majority rule, free speech, and respecting political opponents.



Q13. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Canada's democracy?
 Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

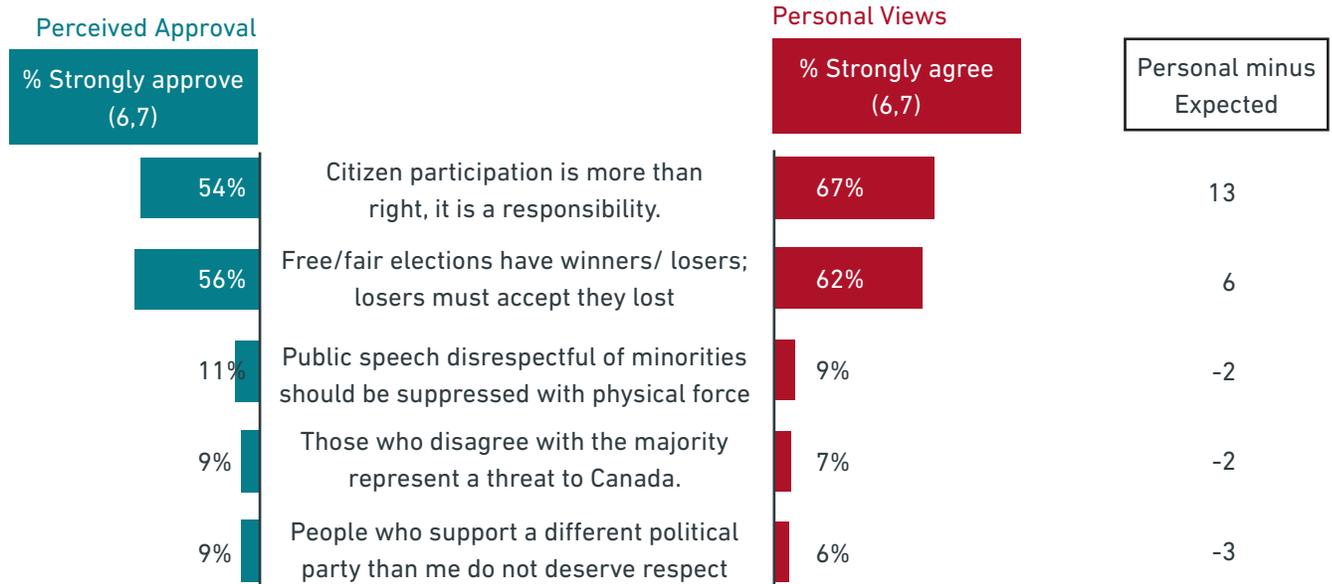
Residents believe others would approve of their views on citizen participation, but disapprove on views that do not respect diversity of perspectives.



Q14. How much do you think other Canadians would approve or disapprove if you said you believed each of the following?
 Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)



Personal views on citizen participation and respect for diverse perspectives are largely consistent with perceived expected norm others hold; citizen participation the exception.

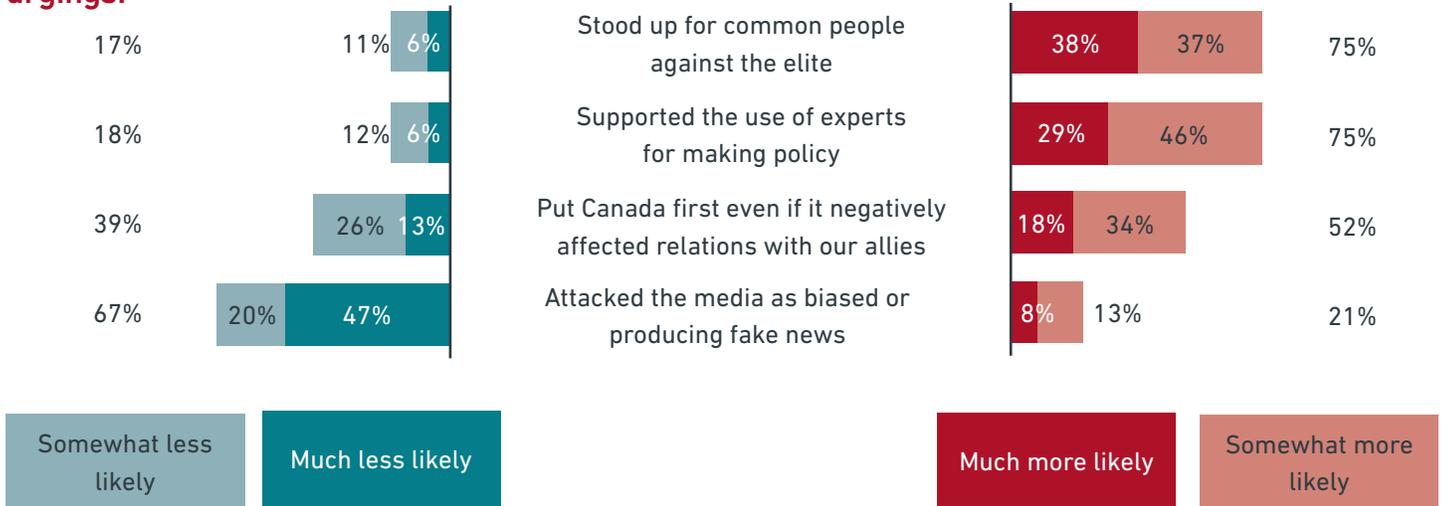


Q13. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Canada's democracy?

Q14. How much do you think other Canadians would approve or disapprove if you said you believed each of the following?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

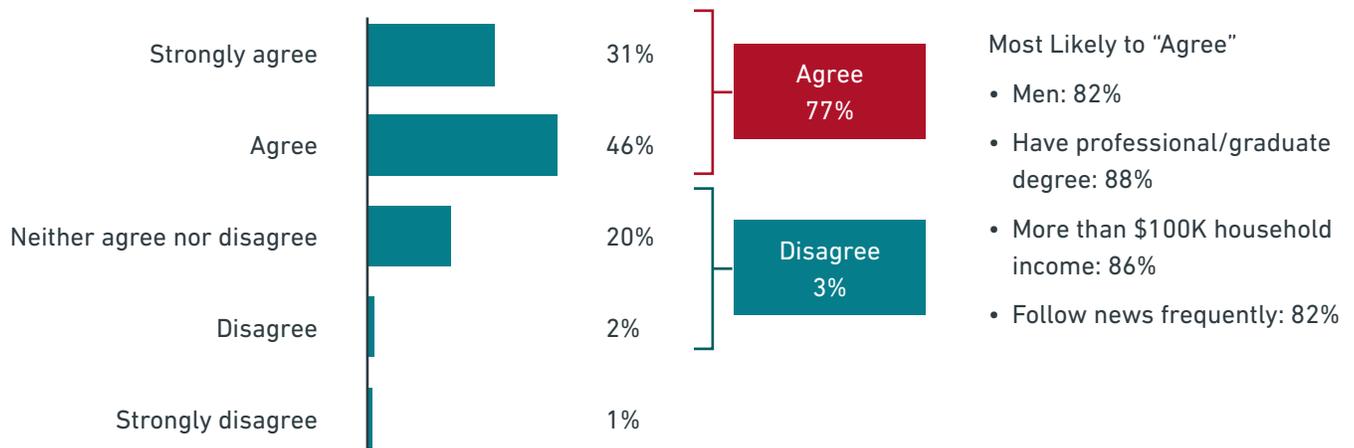
Metro Vancouver residents susceptible to candidates anti-elite populist appeals, and support using experts to make policy. Less support for attacks on media; divided on Canada-first nativist urgings.



Q12. Thinking about what is important and what is not important to you when deciding what candidate to vote for in an election, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate if they...?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Metro Vancouver residents largely tolerant of opposing ideas on policy.



Q15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "People I disagree with on politics can make important contributions to conversation on policy issues."

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)



SECTION 5: TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Metro Vancouver residents express only moderate levels of trust in a range of institutions from all sectors of Canadian society. The average level of overall trust (“A lot/ Somewhat”) across the 9 institutions tested is 67%, with an average of just 14% trusting “a lot”.

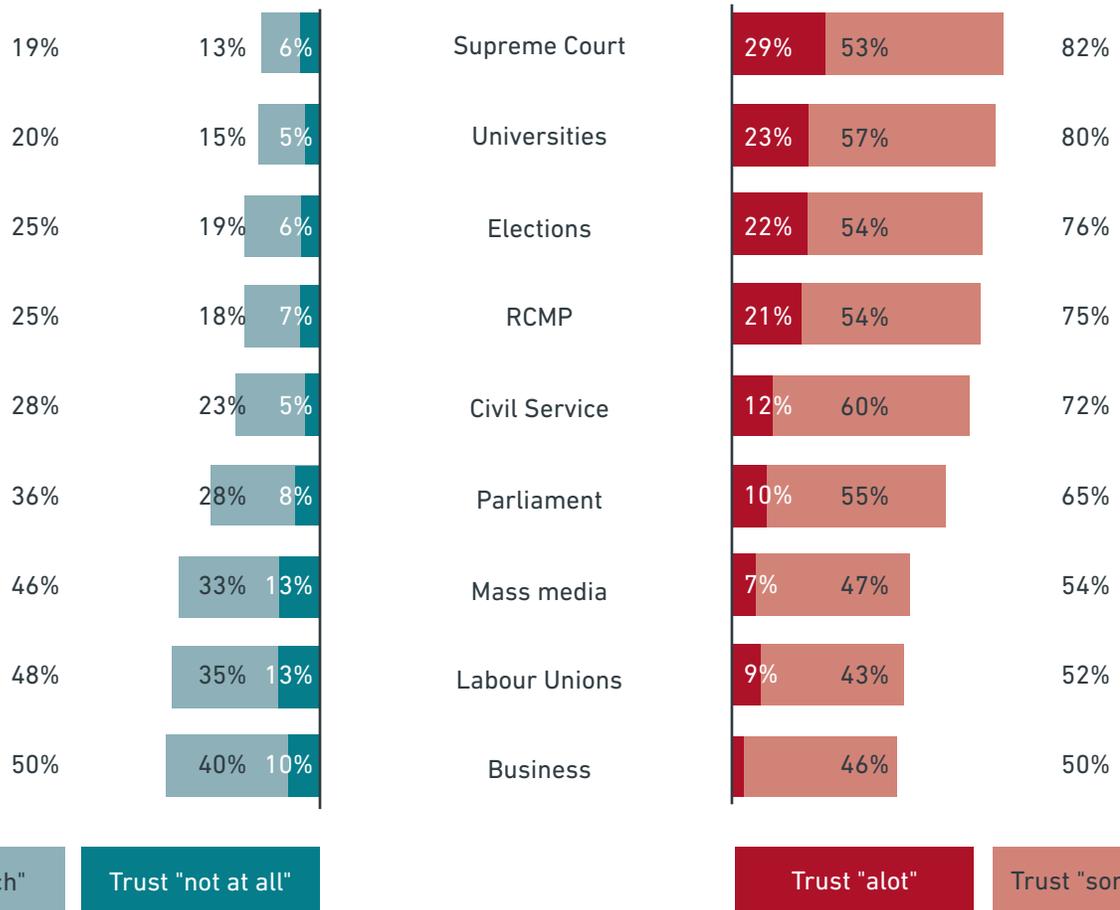
- Among the institutions tied specifically to government and/or the democratic political system, the Supreme Court, tops the list of all institutions. Elections, the RCMP,

and the civil service are ahead of Parliament and the mass media, with business and labour unions trailing slightly behind.

Key “stand out” demographic subgroups for their trust in institutions:

- More trusting of institutions: 18-24 years of age, completed post-secondary education (notably professional/graduate degree), follow the news frequently, member of political party or advocacy organization.
- Less trusting of institutions: completed high school or less

Metro Vancouver residents only moderately trustful of important Canadian institutions. Supreme Court top list of key democratic bodies trusted, ahead of elections, Parliament and media.



Q16. To what extent do you trust each of the following. . . ?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)



SECTION 6: PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES

Approximately 1-in-5 Metro Vancouver residents say they had never taken part in any of the 12 democratic activities tested in this survey, that did not include voting in elections.

Of those who did, they have been active in a wide range of activities related to a particular policy or issue they were concerned about. Many have done so over the past 12 months.

- The most frequent activities have been those where residents connect more **“passively”** with the democratic system (e.g. looked at a variety of news/information sources to get different points of view, signed a petition, or answered a government survey). On average, close to two-thirds have ever done these activities, and half have done so in the past 12 months.
- Fewer have been **“somewhat active”** in reaching out to “contact points” in our democracy, including posting comments online (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, website, blog, chat room, webinar), contacting elected officials, advocacy groups, or the media, or joining a boycott of a company for its policies or actions. Three-in-ten, on average, have ever done these activities; one-in-six in the past 12 months.

- And, slightly fewer have been **“more active”** in democratic activities through more direct or frontline participation – attending a public consultation meeting, actively trying to get others to take political action, participating in an organized protest or demonstration, or volunteering in an election campaign. A quarter of residents, on average, have ever done these activities; one-in-ten in the past 12 months.
- Further, approximately 1-in-5 Metro Vancouver residents are currently active in their democracy as registered members of a political party or an organization that advances issues important to them.

Key “stand out” demographic subgroups for their **participation across a full range of democratic activities:**

Most active: live in Fraser Valley, 65+ years of age, men, have professional/graduate degree, follow news frequently, member of political party/NGO, born outside Canada in “full democracies”,

Least active: live in Richmond/Delta or Surrey/White Rock, women, completed high school or less, follow news less frequently, not a member of political party/NGO, born outside Canada in countries with less democratic or authoritarian systems of government.

Metro Vancouver residents are most active in more “passive” democratic activities; less likely to have direct contact with government or to be on the “front lines” of democratic activism.

	Ever Done	Done in Past 12 months
Looked at a variety of news/information sources to get different points of view	68%	54%
Signed a petition (online or in-person)	65%	46%
Answered government survey (i.e. through online survey)	58%	46%
Posted comments online (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, website, blog, chat room, webinar)	39%	28%
Contacted elected official (e.g. MP, MLA, Mayor, etc.) phone, email, social media	36%	21%
Joined in a boycott of a company for its policies or actions	31%	18%
Attended a public consultation meeting	29%	12%
Actively tried to get others to take political action for or against the issue	26%	14%
Participated in an organized protest or demonstration	22%	7%
Contacted the media (e.g. letter to newspapers, call-in to radio, etc.)	21%	9%
Contacted a non-government organization that advances the issue	20%	10%
Volunteered in an election campaign	15%	5%
None of the above	16%	24%

More "Passive"

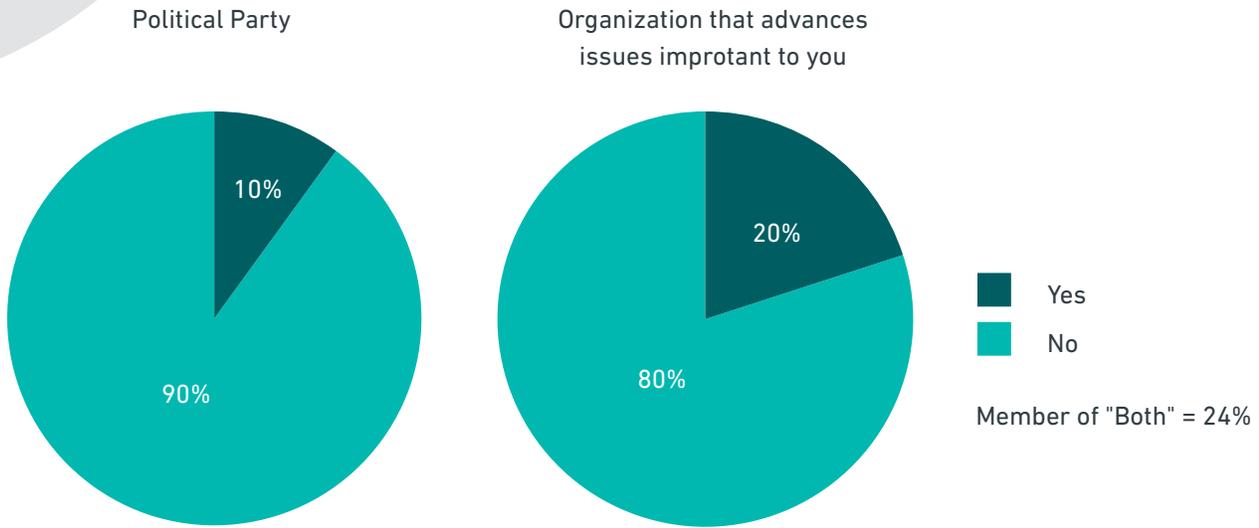
Somewhat "Active"

More "Active"

Q19/20. [In the last 12 months,] have you [ever] done each of the following activities in relation to a particular issue or policy that you were concerned about or interested in?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Minority of Metro Vancouver residents members of key vehicles for democratic participation.



Q17. Are you currently a registered member of...?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

SECTION 7:
ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY

Metro Vancouver residents are engaged in their local communities through a variety of activities, notably visiting a local library, community centre or recreation centre, volunteering their time to an organization, or attending a cultural/ethnic event put on by a cultural or ethnic group different than their own. However, fewer residents are engaged in 2018 in community-related activities than was the case two years ago as shown in the Vancouver Foundation Vital Signs survey.

Residents are almost equally divided when it comes to their sense of belonging to their neighbourhoods. Notably, the attachment they have to their communities has waned over the past two years. Yet, there is an increased sense among them that their neighbourhoods are welcoming to newcomers.

Most Metro Vancouver residents say they would know of opportunities for becoming involved in their community. Again, however, this is less the case than two years ago.

Key “stand out” demographic subgroups for their **engagement in community:**

- Most engaged in community activities: 18-34 years of age, follow news frequently, member of political party/NGO.
- Least engaged: completed high school or less education, follow news less frequently, not a member of political party/NGO.

Key “stand out” demographic subgroups for their **connection to community:**

- Most connected: follow news frequently, member of political party/NGO.
- Least connected: follow news less frequently, not a member of political party/NGO.

Metro Vancouver residents less active in their community than 2 years ago, particularly in attending neighbourhood meetings.



Q22. The next question is about different things people may or may not do during the year. Thinking about the last 12 months, please indicate if you have done any of the following in your community

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

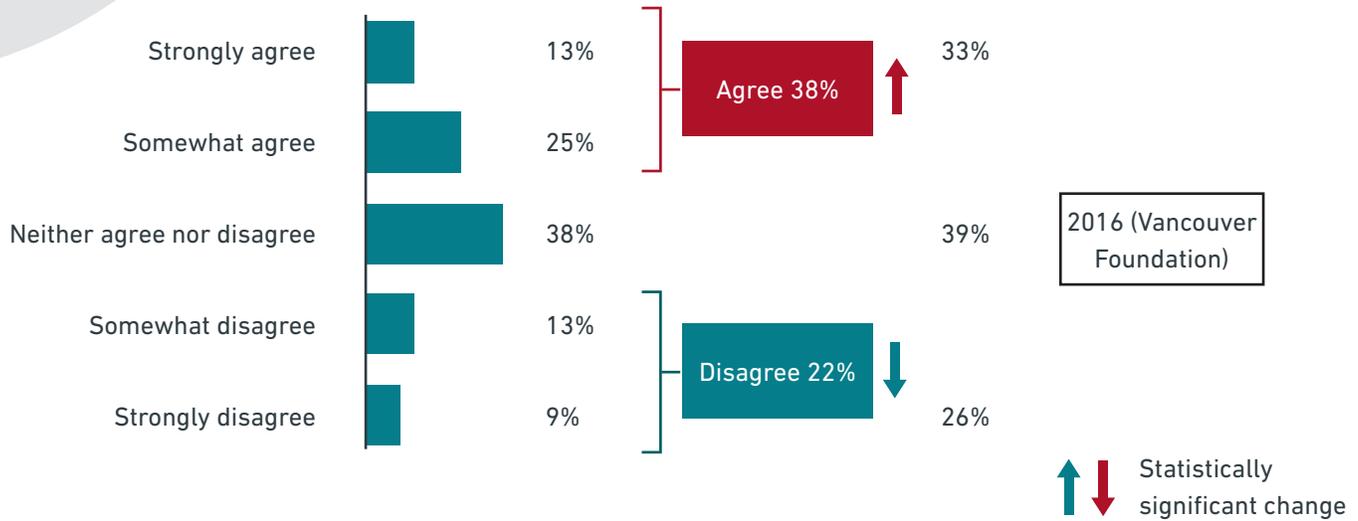
Metro Vancouver residents feel connected to their neighbourhood, but less so than 2 years ago.



Q23. How would you describe your sense of belonging to your local neighbourhood? Would you say it is...?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

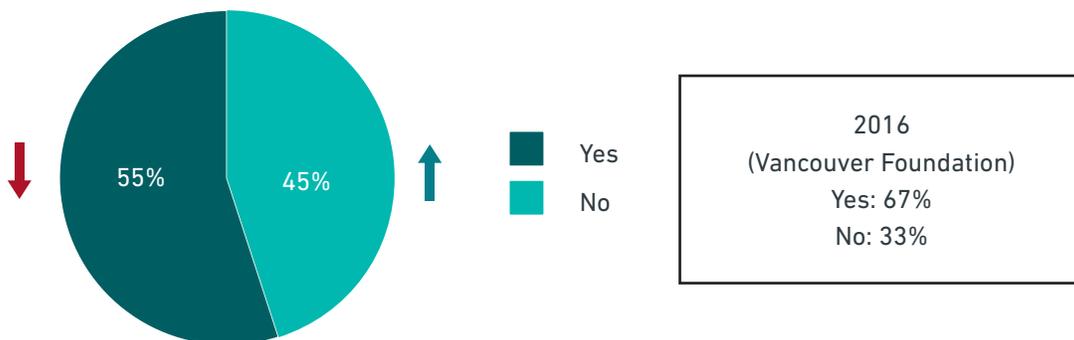
Metro Vancouver residents feel their neighbourhood is welcoming, and more than 2 years ago.



Q24. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: "When someone new moves onto my street, they are welcomed into the neighbourhood"?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Majority of Metro Vancouver residents know what opportunities exist to become involved in their community, but less so than 2 years ago.



Q25. If you wanted to contribute to or be more involved in your community, would you know what opportunities exist?

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

SECTION 8:

TOP INFORMATION SOURCES ON POLITICS, GOVERNMENT & ISSUES

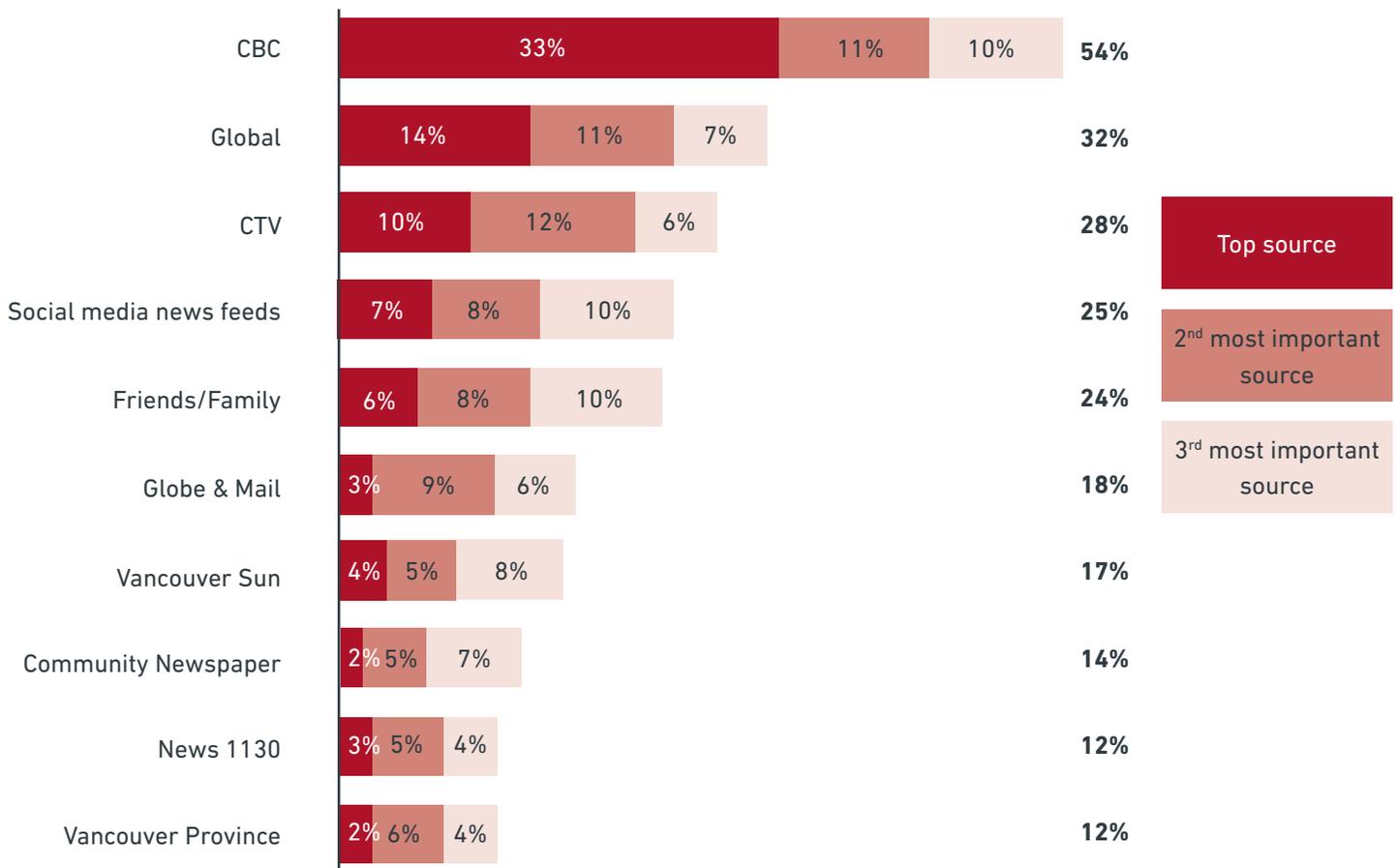
Metro Vancouver residents tap into a wide variety of sources to obtain information about politics, government and public issues in which they are interested. Their top ranked sources include broadcast channels CBC, Global, and CTV.

Further down the list are news feeds via social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and friends/family.

Traditional print and radio are well back in a third tier of sources (e.g. Globe & Mail, Vancouver Sun/Province, community newspapers, News 1130, National Post, and CKNW).

Very few give priority to less common sources (e.g. Tyee, Rebel).

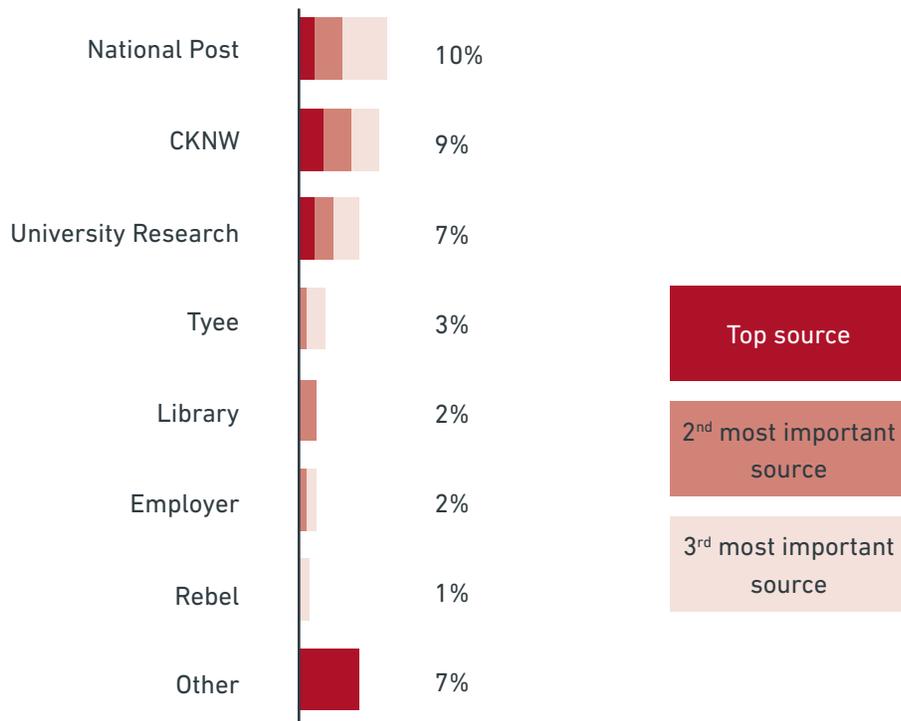
CBC tops list of key sources for information on politics, government, public issues. Other broadcast channels, social media, and friends/family distant second.



Q21. What are your top three sources when you are looking for information on politics, government, and public issues you're interested in? Please rank them, with 1 being your number one source, 2 your second most important source, and 3 your third most important source.

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

Other Key Sources of Information about Politics, Government, Public Issues



Q21. What are your top three sources when you are looking for information on politics, government, and public issues you're interested in? Please rank them, with 1 being your number one source, 2 your second most important source, and 3 your third most important source.

Base: All respondents – (N=1,506)

SECTION 9:

IMPACT OF VIEWS OF DEMOCRACY ON PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

As has been noted above, most Metro Vancouver residents prefer democracy over all other forms of government. Further analysis reveals that the less positive their opinions on democratic values and principles or their perceptions of citizens role in a democracy the less likely they are to prefer democracy. This relationship is outlined in the summaries below. Findings for each summary are in the Tables that follow (the summary # corresponds to the Table #).

1. Lower Sense of Personal Agency Related to Lower Level of Preference for Democracy

Residents who are less likely to believe voting gives them a say in how government is run are more likely to think it doesn't really matter whether a government is democratic or not, or to feel that authoritarian government is OK in some circumstances. This same pattern is true among those who don't feel they can influence government even if they make an effort.

2. Views That Democratic Freedoms & Protection in Canada are Excessive in Some Cases are Associated with a Lower Level of Preference for Democracy

Metro Vancouver residents who believe Canada has too much freedom of the press or too many protections

for minority rights are more likely to think having a democratic government doesn't matter or to accept that authoritarian government could be a valid option, depending on the context.

3. Views that the Scope of Citizens Role in Democracy is Too Broad are Related to Lower Preference for Democracy

Metro Vancouver residents who believe that Canada has too many opportunities for political participation or too much education on citizens rights and responsibility are also those more likely to think that living in a democratic system really doesn't matter all that much or to give credence to authoritarian government.

4. Less Importance Placed on Democratic Values is Associated with Lower Preference for Democracy

Metro Vancouver residents who place less importance on Canada having gender equality, religious freedom, freedom of speech, or multi-party elections are also more likely to think having a democratic government doesn't matter or to accept that authoritarian government could be a valid option, depending on the context.

5. Populist Appeals by Candidates Have Mixed Impact on Preference for Democracy

Metro Vancouver residents who are more likely to vote for a candidate who stands up for the common people against the elite or who supports experts helping to make policy are also more likely to prefer democracy as a system of government. However, residents more likely to vote for a candidate who attacks the media for bias or fake news are more likely to think it doesn't matter if a government is democratic or not than those who would not support that candidate.

6. Less Openness to Diverse Perspectives is Associated with Lower Preference for Democracy

Metro Vancouver residents more likely to agree that supporters of other political parties don't deserve their respect or that people who disagree with the majority are a threat to Canada are also more likely to think that living in a democratic system really doesn't matter all that much or to give credence to authoritarian government. Moreover, residents who are more likely to disagree that losing candidates in an election and their supporters need to accept the defeat are also more likely to feel having a democratic government doesn't really matter.

7. Lack of Acceptance of Citizen Participation as a Democratic "Responsibility" Related to Lower Level of Preference for Democracy

Metro Vancouver residents who do not feel that citizen participation in their democracy is a responsibility rather than just a right are more likely to believe having a democratic government doesn't matter or to accept that authoritarian government could be a valid option, depending on the context.

8. Participation in Democratic Activities Associated with Higher Level of Preference for Democracy

Metro Vancouver residents who in the past 12 months have contacted a non-government organization, looked at a variety of news and information sources to get different points of view, signed a petition, or answered a government online survey are more likely to believe democracy is preferable to other forms of government. Notably, residents who have not taken part in any democratic activities are more likely to feel having a democratic government makes a difference.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: KNOWLEDGE OF AND INTEREST IN CANADA'S DEMOCRACY

Population Subgroups Most Likely to ...

Follow news more frequently	Follow news less frequently
(All residents = 60%)	(All residents = 33%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in the Northeast (76%) or Richmond/Delta (72%) • Men (70%) • 65 years of age or more (75%) • Have a professional or graduate degree (83%) • Earn more than \$100K in annual household income (72%) • Member of a political party or advocacy group (73%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Burnaby/New Westminister (48%) • Women (40%) • 18-34 years of age (38%) • High school or less (45%) • Earn less than \$100K in annual household income (38%) • Not member of political party or advocacy group (36%)

Incorrectly Answer "True/False" statements

"Federal candidates need to get more than 50% of votes to win" (All residents who say "TRUE" = 48%)

- Live in the Northeast (59%), Surrey/White Rock (53%)
- Women (55%)
- Less than \$40K in annual household income (61%)
- Born in "Flawed Democracy" countries (62%)
- Follow news infrequently (55%)

"Supreme Court judges appointed by committee of Canadians representing different population groups" (All residents "TRUE" = 32%)

- Women (38%)
- 18-34 years of age (41%)
- Follow news infrequently (44%)

APPENDIX 2: EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF CANADIAN DEMOCRACY

Views on Canada Being Governed Democratically — Population Subgroups Most Likely to Hold Views

<p>Not that important Canada governed democratically (All residents = 10%)</p>	<p>Very important Canada governed democratically (All residents = 73%)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in the Northeast (18%) • 18-34 years of age (15%) • Live in the Northeast (18%) • 18-34 years of age (15%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in the Fraser Valley (86%) • 65+ years of age (86%) • Born in “Full Democracy” countries (81%) • Earn more than \$100K in annual household income (81%)
<p>Canada is not governed that democratically (All residents = 41%)</p>	<p>Canada is governed democratically (All residents = 59%)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in the Fraser Valley (60%) • 50-64 years of age (52%) • Have High School or less (53%) • Earn less than \$40K in annual household income (51%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Burnaby/New Westminster (65%) • 65+ years of age (65%) • Have BA (64%) or professional/graduate (65%) degree

Views on Democratic Protections and Freedoms — Population Subgroups Most Likely to Hold Views

	To little of	Too much of	Enough of
<p>“Education of citizens about their rights and responsibilities”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women (64%) • Born in Canada (63%) • <\$80K annual household income (63%) 	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st generation Canadians (39%) • \$80K+ annual household income (45%)
<p>“Opportunities for political participation of citizens”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in Canada (41%) • 2nd + generation Canadians (43%) 	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65+ years of age (63%) • 1st generation Canadians (60%)

APPENDIX 2:
EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF CANADIAN DEMOCRACY (CONT.)

**Views on Democratic Protections and Freedoms (Cont.) —
Population Subgroups Most Likely to Hold Views**

	To little of	Too much of	Enough of
"Protection of rights for minorities"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women (43%) • <\$80K annual household income (37%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men (23%) • 2nd + generation Canadians (24%) • Follow news frequently (23%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men (53%) • Not born in Canada (57%) • 1st generation Canadians (53%)
"Protection of human rights"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Burnaby/New Westminster (41%) • Live in Fraser Valley (38%) • Women (35%) • Born in "Full Democracy" countries (41%) • <\$80K annual household income (36%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-34 years of age (20%) • Born in "Author./Hybrid" countries (28%) 	N/A
"Freedom to express political views without fear"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (33%) • <\$40K in annual household income (32%) 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Burnaby/New Westminster (83%) • Live in Richmond/Delta (81%) • Have BA or higher (74%) • \$80K+ in annual household income (76%)
"Freedom of the press"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in Canada (19%) • Born in "Full Democracies" (18%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in "Flawed Democracies" (21%) • Born in "Author./Hybrid" countries (21%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in the Northeast (86%) • 65+ years of age (78%) • Have post-secondary education (73%) • \$80K+ in annual household income (76%)

APPENDIX 2:
EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF CANADIAN DEMOCRACY (CONT.)

**Views on Citizen Impact/Role in Canadian Democracy —
Population Subgroups Most Likely to Hold Views**

<p>Voting doesn't matter (All residents = 41%)</p>	<p>Voting matters (All residents = 59%)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (65%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Vancouver/North Shore (64%) • Live in Burnaby/New Westminster (60%)
<p>Ordinary citizens can't influence government (All residents = 52%)</p>	<p>Ordinary citizens can influence government (All residents = 48%)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (62%) • Not born in Canada (60%) • Born in "Authoritarian/Hybrid" countries (79%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Vancouver/North Shore (58%) • 18-24 years of age (62%) • Born in Canada (51%) • Born in "Full Democracies" (54%), "Flawed Democracies" (47%)
<p>Elected officials don't care what people think (All residents = 65%)</p>	<p>Elected officials care what people think (All residents = 35%)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (82%) • 25-34 years of age or more (72%) • Have High School or less (73%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in the Northeast (41%) or Vancouver/North Shore (38%) • 65+ years of age (43%) • Have professional/graduate degree (49%)

APPENDIX 3:
COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AS A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

**Commitment to Democracy as System of Government —
 Population Subgroups Most Likely to Hold Views**

<p>Democracy preferable to any other form of government (All residents = 76%)</p>	<p>Doesn't matter if government democratic or non-democratic (All residents = 10%)</p>	<p>Authoritarian rule Ok under some circumstances (All residents = 14%)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65+ years of age (83%) • Born in Canada (80%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Northeast (14%) • Live in Burnaby/New Westminister (13%) • Not born in Canada (15%) • 1st generation Canadians (12%) • High School or less (18%) • <\$40K in annual household income (14%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men (18%) • Not born in Canada (20%) • Born in "Flawed Democracies" (27%) • Have professional/graduate degree (20%)

**Commitment to Democracy as System of Government —
 Population Subgroups Most Likely to Hold Views**

<p>Fully Committed Democrats (All residents = 35%)</p>	<p>Less Committed Democrats (All residents = 47%)</p>	<p>Non-Democrats (All residents = 17%)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (53%) • 65+ years of age (55%) • Follow news frequently (41%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-34 years of age (60%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (24%) • High school or less (24%) • Follow news less frequently (24%)

APPENDIX 3:
COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AS A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT (CONT.)

	System is “Bad Way” to govern Canada	System is “Good Way” to govern Canada
"Representative Democracy"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (24%) • High School or less (24%) • Follow news less frequently (24%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Burnaby/New Westminster (95%) • Have BA or professional/graduate degree (86%) • Follow news frequently (88%)
"Direct democracy"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Richmond/Delta (46%) • Follow news frequently (43%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in the Fraser Valley (85%) • Follow news less frequently (68%)
"Rule by experts"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (62%) • Live in the Northeast (61%) • 65+ years of age (65%) • Born in “Full Democracies” (56%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Richmond/Delta (63%) • 18-34 years of age (61%) • Born in “Flawed Democracies” (65%)
"Rule by strong leader"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (88%) • 18-24 years of age (92%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Vancouver/North Shore (29%) • High school or less (29%)
"Rule by military"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in “Full Democracies” (94%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men (12%) • 25-34 years of age (17%) • Not born in Canada (13%) • Born in “Authoritarian/Hybrid” countries (23%)

APPENDIX 4:
VIEWS ON DEMOCRATIC VALUES & CITIZEN ROLE IN DEMOCRACY

**Views on Importance of Having Democratic Values in Canada —
 Population Subgroups Most Likely to Hold Views**

	Not Important That in Canada... (1,2,3 out of 7)	Important That in Canada... (5,6,7 out of 7)
“Women have same rights as men”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in “Authoritarian/Hybrid” countries (11%) • Member of political party/NGO (10%) <p>Not Important That in Canada... (1,2,3 out of 7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (97%), Northeast (95%) • Live in Burnaby/New Westminster (96%) • 65+ years of age (97%) • Born in “Full Democracy” countries (98%) • Not member political party/NGO (95%) <p>Important That in Canada... (5,6,7 out of 7)</p>
“Honest elections held regularly, voters have choice at least two parties”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in “Authoritarian/Hybrid” countries (16%) • Member of political party/NGO (14%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Burnaby/New Westminster (96%) • 65+ years of age (96%) • Born in “Full Democracy” countries (92%) • Not member political party/NGO (91%)
“People of all faiths can practice their religion freely”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of political party/NGO (13%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not member political party/NGO (84%)
“People can say what they want even if objectionable to some”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (22%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (88%)

APPENDIX 4:
VIEWS ON DEMOCRATIC VALUES & CITIZEN ROLE IN DEMOCRACY (CONT.)

**Views on Citizens Role in Democracy —
 Population Subgroups Most Likely to Hold Views**

	Disagree That... (1,2,3 out of 7)	Agree That... (5,6,7 out of 7)
“Citizen participation is more than right, it is a responsibility”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men (11%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Richmond/Delta (92%), Fraser Valley (89%) • 65+ years of age (91%)
“Free and fair elections have winners and losers; losers must accept they lost”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in “Authoritarian/Hybrid” countries (11%) • Member of political party/NGO (16%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in the Fraser Valley (89%), Richmond/Delta (85%) • Live in Northeast (85%) • 65+ years of age (90%) • Born in “Flawed Democracies” (88%), “Full Democracies” (87%) • Not member of political party/NGO (82%)
“Public speech disrespectful of minorities should be suppressed with physical force”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (77%), Richmond/Delta (76%) • Live in Burnaby/New Westminster (76%), Northeast (73%) • 65+ years of age (76%) • 2nd+ generation Canadians (74%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Vancouver/North Shore (29%) • Not born in Canada (31%) • 1st generation Canadians (24%) • Born in “Authoritarian/Hybrid” countries (44%)
“Those who disagree with the majority represent a threat to Canada”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Burnaby/New Westminster (82%), Fraser Valley (78%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (17%), Northeast (15%)
“People who support a different political party than me do not deserve respect”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65+ years of age (93%) • Born in Canada (86%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not born in Canada (15%)

APPENDIX 4:
VIEWS ON DEMOCRATIC VALUES & CITIZEN ROLE IN DEMOCRACY (CONT.)

**Views on Populist & Nativist Appeals to Voters —
 Population Subgroups Most Likely to Hold Views**

	Less Likely to Vote for Candidate if they...	More Likely to Vote for Candidate if they...
“Stood up for common people against the elite”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Vancouver/North Shore (31%) • Not born in Canada (23%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in the Northeast (87%) • 65+ years of age (87%) • Born in Canada (78%) • Earn more than \$100K annual household income (80%)
“Supported the use of experts for making policy”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (33%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Vancouver/North Shore (80%) • 18-24 years of age (92%) • Have professional/graduate degree (81%)
“Put Canada first even if it negatively affected relations with our allies”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (22%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (88%)
“Attacked the media as biased or producing fake news”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-24 years of age (82%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in “Authoritarian/Hybrid” countries (32%)

APPENDIX 5: TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Population Subgroups Most Likely to Hold Views

	Trust “Not that much/ Not at all”	Trust “A lot/Somewhat”
“Supreme Court”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (38%) • High school or less (31%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-24 (91%), 65+ (87%) years of age • Have completed post-secondary education (84%)
“Universities”	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-24 years of age (92%)
“Elections”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50-64 years of age (36%) • High school or less (36%) • Follow news less frequently (32%) • Not member of political party/ NGO (27%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Richmond Delta (87%) • 18-24 (79%), 65+ (86%) years of age • Have completed post-secondary education (79%) • Follow news frequently (81%) • Member of political party/NGO (84%)
“RCMP”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in “Full Democracy” countries (43%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in “Flawed Democracies” (75%), Authoritarian/Hybrid” (77%)
“Civil Service”	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have professional/graduate degree (82%)
“Parliament”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50-64 years of age (47%) • High school or less (48%) • <\$40K annual household income (49%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have BA (68%), professional/graduate degree (68%)
“Mass Media”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow news less frequently (57%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65+ years of age (63%) • Follow news frequently (62%)
“Labour Unions”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men (55%) • Not born in Canada (58%) • Not member of political party/ NGO (52%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women (59%) • Born in Canada (56%) • Have professional/graduate degree (62%) • Member of political party/NGO (66%)
“Business”	N/A	N/A

APPENDIX 6: PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES

Population Subgroups “Most” and “Least” Likely

	“Most Likely” to Have Ever Done	“Least Likely” to Have Ever Done
“None”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st generation Canadians (19%) • Follow news less frequently (26%) • Not member of political party/NGO (20%) • Vancouver/North Shore (19%), Northeast (22%) residents • 25-49 years of age (19%) • Born outside Canada (24%), in “Flawed Democracies (33%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd+ generation Canadians (36%) • Professional/Graduate degree (28%) • Follow news frequently (30%) • Member of political party/NGO (18%)
“Signed a petition (online or in-person)”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (78%) • Born in Canada (68%) • Born in “Full Democracies” (71%) • Follow news frequently (70%) • Member of political party/NGO (77%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Richmond/Delta (48%) • Not born in Canada (55%) • Born in “Flawed Democracies” (46%), “Authorit./Hybrid” (47%) • Follow news less frequently (57%) • Not member of political party/NGO (61%)
“Answered government survey (i.e. through online survey)”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (79%) • Men (63%) • Follow news less frequently (66%) • Member of political party/NGO (79%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in NE (54%), Van./North Shore (56%), Rich./Delta (57%) • Women (53%) • Follow news less frequently (46%) • Not member of political party/NGO (51%)
“Posted comments online (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, website, blog, chat room, webinar)”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (75%) • Men (44%) • Born in “Full Democracies” (48%) • Follow news frequently (47%) • Member of political party/NGO (59%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live outside Fraser Valley (38%) • Women (34%) • Born in “Flawed Democracies” (25%), “Authorit./Hybrid” (30%) • Follow news less frequently (27%) • Not member of political party/NGO (32%)

APPENDIX 6:
PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Population Subgroups “Most” and “Least” Likely (Cont.)

	“Most Likely” to Have Ever Done	“Least Likely” to Have Ever Done
“Contacted elected official (e.g. MP, MLA, Mayor, etc.) phone, email, social media”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (54%) • Men (43%) • 65+ years of age (50%) • Born in “Full Democracies” (51%) • Have professional/graduate degree (51%) • Follow news frequently (46%) • Member of political party/NGO (64%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Richmond/Delta (24%), Surrey/White Rock (24%) • Women (30%) • 18-34 (27%) • Born in “Flawed Democracies” (29%), “Authorit/Hybrid” (21%) • High school or less (23%) • Follow news less frequently (20%) • Not member of political party/NGO (27%)
“Joined in a boycott of a company for its policies or actions”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have professional/graduate degree (40%) • Follow news frequently (41%) • Member of political party/NGO (52%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school or less (18%) • Follow news less frequently (16%) • Not member of political party/NGO (24%)
“Contacted the media (e.g. letter to newspapers, call-in to radio, etc.)”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have professional/graduate degree (33%) • Follow news frequently (29%) • Member of political party/NGO (45%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school or less (12%) • Follow news less frequently (9%) • Not member of political party/NGO (14%)
“Contacted a non-government organization that advances the issue”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Fraser Valley (32%) • Have professional/graduate degree (33%) • Follow news frequently (27%) • Member of political party/NGO (51%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Richmond/Delta (24%), Surrey/White Rock (24%) • High school or less (14%) • Follow news less frequently (13%) • Not member of political party/NGO (21%)
“Attended a public consultation meeting”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65+ years of age (41%) • Have professional/graduate degree (44%) • Follow news frequently (40%) • Member of political party/NGO (57%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Richmond/Delta (24%), Surrey/White Rock (24%) • High school or less (14%) • Follow news less frequently (13%) • Not member of political party/NGO (21%)

APPENDIX 6:
PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Population Subgroups “Most” and “Least” Likely (Cont.)

	“Most Likely” to Have Ever Done	“Least Likely” to Have Ever Done
“Actively tried to get others to take political action for or against the issue”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have professional/graduate degree (35%) • Follow news frequently (33%) • Member of political party/NGO (57%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school or less (19%) • Follow news less frequently (16%) • Not member of political party/NGO (16%)
“Participated in an organized protest or demonstration”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have BA (27%), professional/graduate degree (30%) • Follow news frequently (29%) • Member of political party/NGO (46%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school or less (10%) • Follow news less frequently (11%) • Not member of political party/NGO (14%)
“Volunteered in an election campaign”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65+ years of age (25%) • Follow news frequently (21%) • Member of political party/NGO (38%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 65 years of age (13%) • Follow news frequently (6%) • Member of political party/NGO (8%)

APPENDIX 6:
PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

Population Subgroups “Most” and “Least” Likely

	“Most Likely”	“Least Likely”
“Registered member of political party”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow news frequently (13%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow news less frequently (6%)
“Registered member of organization that advocates on issues important to you”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Vancouver/North Shore (27%), Burnaby/New West (26%) • Have professional/graduate degree (31%) • Follow news frequently (25%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (8%) • High school or less (12%) • Follow news less frequently (14%)
“Registered member of both”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Vancouver/North Shore (30%), Burnaby/New West (34%) • Born in “Full Democracies (34%) • Follow news less frequently (29%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (10%) • Born in “Flawed Democracies” (16%), “Authorit./Hybrid “(19%) • Follow news less frequently (16%)

APPENDIX 8:
TOP INFORMATION SOURCES ON POLITICS, GOVERNMENT & ISSUES

**Engagement in Community Activities in Past 12 Months —
Population Subgroups “Most” and “Least” Likely**

	“Most Likely”	“Least Likely”
“Visited a local library, community centre or recreation centre”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-34 years of age (73%) • Have BA (75%), professional/graduate (77%) degree • Follow news frequently (74%) • Member of political party/NGO (78%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50+ years of age (59%) • High school or less (51%) • Follow news less frequently (56%) • Not member of political party/NGO (63%)
“Volunteered time to an organization”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of political party/NGO (55%) • 18-34 (48%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50+ years of age (36%) • Not member of political party/NGO (36%)
“Registered member of both” “Attended a cultural or ethnic event put on by a cultural or ethnic group different than yours”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Burnaby/New Westminister (49%) • 18-34 years of age (42%) • Have BA (48%), professional/graduate (49%) degree • Follow news frequently (44%) • Member of political party/NGO (50%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (23%) • 65+ years of age (27%) • High school or less (19%) • Follow news less frequently (31%) • Not member of political party/NGO (35%)
“Attended a neighbourhood or community meet”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have professional/graduate degree (36%) • Follow news frequently (30%) • Member of political party/NGO (41%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school or less (8%) • Follow news less frequently (14%) • Not member of political party/NGO (17%)
“Participated in a neighbourhood or community project”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow news frequently (20%) • Member of political party/NGO (26%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow news frequently (9%) • Member of political party/NGO (13%)

APPENDIX 8:
TOP INFORMATION SOURCES ON POLITICS, GOVERNMENT & ISSUES (CONT.)

**Connection to Community —
Population Subgroups “Most” and “Least” Likely**

“Strong sense of belonging”	“Weak sense of belonging”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65+ years of age (58%) • Have professional/graduate degree (61%) • Follow news frequently (58%) • Member of political party/NGO (67%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-24 years of age (71%) • High school or less (61%) • Follow news less frequently (60%) • Not member of political party/NGO (52%)
“Neighbourhood welcoming to newcomers”	“Neighbourhood NOT welcoming to newcomers”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow news frequently (41%) • Member of political party/NGO (47%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Richmond/Delta (41%) • Born in “Authoritarian/Hybrid” countries (29%)
“Know what opportunities for involvement exist”	“Not know what opportunities for involvement exist”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Vancouver/North Shore (58%) • Have professional/graduate degree (69%) • More than \$100K household annual income (66%) • Follow news frequently (63%) • Member of political party/NGO (74%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in Surrey/White Rock (61%) • High school or less (57%) • <\$40K household annual income (55%) • Follow news less frequently (56%) • Not member of political party/NGO (51%)

APPENDIX 9

IMPACT OF VIEWS OF DEMOCRACY ON PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

1. Residents who feel voting gives them a voice, or believe citizens can influence government are more likely to prefer democracy

VOTING...	Gives me a say in how government runs things	Doesn't really affect how government runs things
Democracy is preferable to any other form of government	84%	65%
Doesn't matter whether a government is democratic or non-democratic	6%	16%
In some circumstances authoritarian government may be preferable to a democratic one.	11%	19%
ORDINARY CITIZENS CAN...	Do a lot to influence government if they make the effort	Not do much to influence government, even if they make the effort
Democracy is preferable to any other form of government	82%	71%
Doesn't matter whether a government is democratic or non-democratic	5%	14%
In some circumstances authoritarian government may be preferable to a democratic one.	12%	16%

2. Residents who feel scope of democratic protections/freedoms is “too much” are less likely to think democracy matters compared to see adequate levels of protections/freedoms.

IN CANADA, HAVE ___ FREEDOM OF THE PRESS	Too much	Enough	Too little
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	64%	79%	72%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	20%	7%	14%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	17%	14%	14%
IN CANADA, HAVE ___ PROTECTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS	Too much	Enough	Too little
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	62%	77%	82%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	15%	9%	8%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	23%	14%	10%

3. Residents who feel scope of citizen involvement is “too much” are less likely to think democracy matters compared to those who feel scope is adequate or lacking.

IN CANADA, HAVE ___ OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION	Too much	Enough	Too little
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	39%	80%	76%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	32%	6%	11%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	29%	14%	12%
IN CANADA, HAVE ___ EDUCATION ON RIGHTS/RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP	Too much	Enough	Too little
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	48%	74%	80%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	36%	8%	9%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	16%	18%	12%

4. Residents who place less importance on democratic values are more likely to think democracy doesn't matter compared those who judge democratic values more positively.

IN CANADA, IT IS ___ THAT WOMEN HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS MEN	Important	Not important
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	80%	35%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	7%	46%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	13%	19%
IN CANADA, IT IS ___ THAT HONEST ELECTIONS HELD REGULARLY WITH VOTERS HAVING CHOICE OF AT LEAST TWO PARTIES	Important	Not important
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	80%	32%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	6%	45%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	14%	23%
IN CANADA, IT IS ___ THAT PEOPLE CAN SAY WHAT THEY WANT EVEN IF IT IS OBJECTIONABLE TO SOME	Important	Not important
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	80%	45%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	6%	32%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	14%	24%
IN CANADA, IT IS ___ THAT PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS CAN PRACTICE THEIR RELIGION FREELY	Important	Not important
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	82%	51%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	7%	23%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	12%	26%

% Statistically significant difference
 % from % in other column

5. Populist appeals by candidates have mixed impact on residents' views of democracy as a preferred system of government

WILL BE ____ TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATE IF THEY ATTACK THE MEDIA	More likely	Less likely
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	67%	81%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	20%	6%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	14%	13%
WILL BE ____ TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATE IF THEY STAND UP FOR THE COMMON PEOPLE AGAINST THE ELITE	More likely	Less likely
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	81%	58%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	7%	21%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	12%	21%
WILL BE ____ TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATE IF THEY SUPPORT EXPERTS MAKING POLICY	More likely	Less likely
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	79%	67%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	7%	18%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	14%	15%

6. Residents less open to diverse perspectives are less likely to think democracy matters than those more open to diversity.

PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES DON'T DESERVE RESPECT	Agree	Disagree
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	64%	81%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	21%	7%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	16%	13%
THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH THE MAJORITY REPRESENT A THREAT	Agree	Disagree
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	59%	84%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	19%	6%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	22%	10%
LOSERS MUST ACCEPT OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS	Agree	Disagree
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	80%	61%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	7%	27%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	13%	12%

7. Residents who do not see citizen participation as a responsibility are less likely to prefer democracy.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THEIR DEMOCRACY IS MORE THAN JUST A RIGHT — IT IS A RESPONSIBILITY	Agree	Disagree
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	81%	35%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	7%	29%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	12%	36%

% Statistically significant difference
 % from % in other column

8. Residents who participated in some democratic activities in past 12 months are more likely to prefer democracy

CONTACTED A NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION	Yes	No
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	91%	75%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	0%	11%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	9%	15%
LOOKED AT A VARIETY OF NEWS AND INFORMATION SOURCES TO GET DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW	Yes	No
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	85%	65%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	4%	17%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	11%	18%
SIGNED A PETITION	Yes	No
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	84%	69%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	5%	14%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	11%	17%
ANSWERED A GOVERNMENT ONLINE SURVEY	Yes	No
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	81%	72%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	5%	14%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	14%	14%
DID NONE OF THE ACTIVITIES IN PAST 12 MONTHS	Yes	No
Democracy preferable to any other forms of gov't	64%	80%
Doesn't matter if gov't democratic	19%	7%
Authoritarian gov't OK in some instances	17%	13%

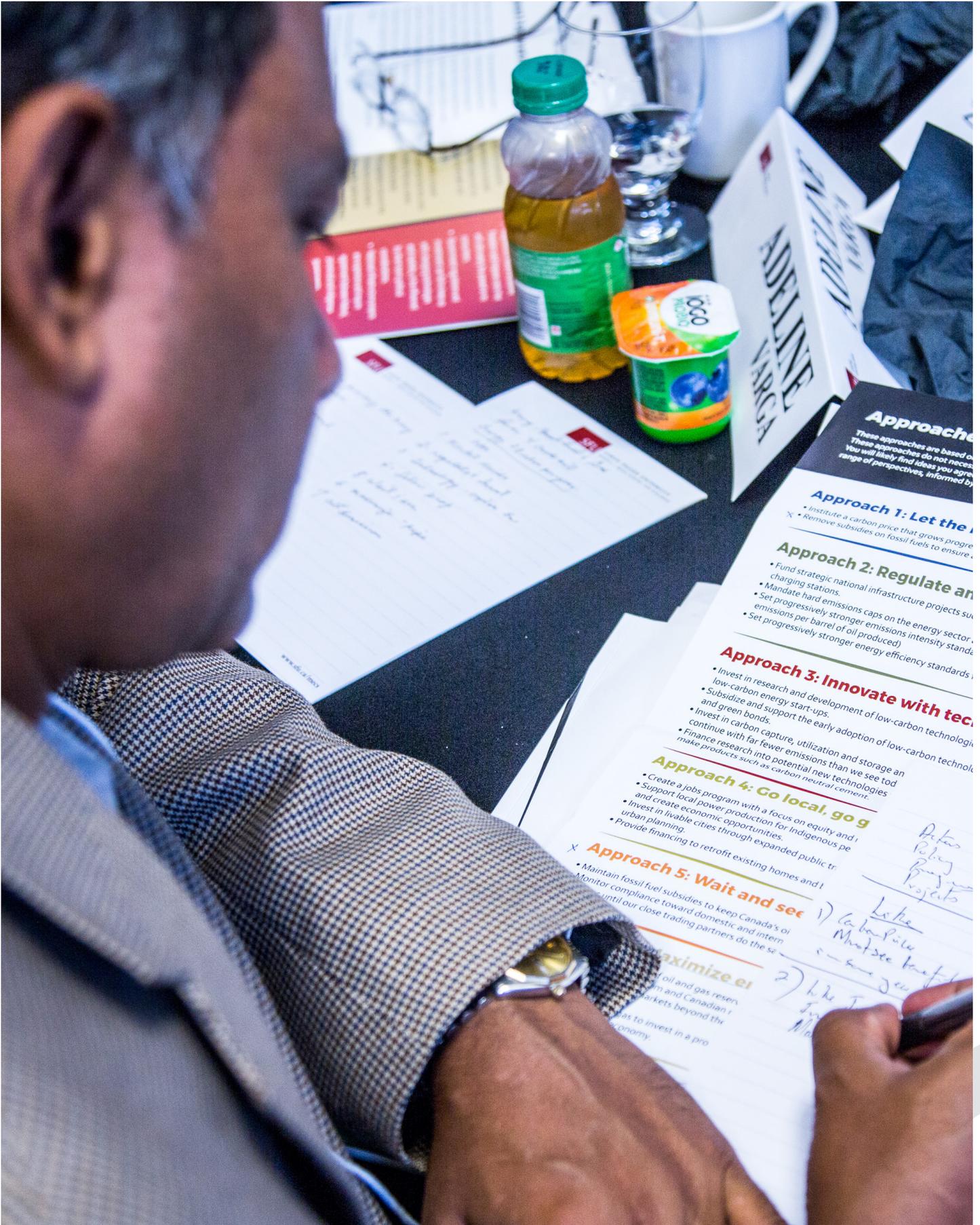
APPENDIX 10

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

CITY IF VANCOUVER REGION	%
Vancouver/North Shore	34%
Burnaby/New Westminster	14%
Richmond/Delta	10%
Surrey/White Rock	16%
Northeast	15%
Fraser Valley	11%
SEX	%
Male	48%
Female	52%
AGE	%
18-24	10%
35-34	23%
35-49	26%
50-64	23%
65+	18%
Average age	45.6%
EDUCATION	%
High school diploma or less	20%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	5%
College, CEGEP, or other non-university certificate or diploma	20%

EDUCATION (CONT.)	%
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BA, BSc, BEd)	36%
Professional degree (e.g., law, medicine, veterinary medicine)	6%
Master's or PhD/doctorate degree	11%
GROUP IDENTIFY WITH	%
Visible minority	24%
First Nations/Inuit/Métis	4%
Persons with disabilities	7%
LGBTQ2S+	6%
Newcomer to Canada	1%
None	58%
BORN IN CANADA	%
Yes	73%
No	27%
PARENTS BORN...	%
Both in Canada	44%
One in Canada/One elsewhere	10%
Both elsewhere	46%
POLITICAL SYSTEM BIRTH COUNTRY	%
Full Democracy	33%
Flawed Democracy	30%
Hybrid	6%
Authoritarian	30%







MORRIS J. WOSK
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