



**Asylum-seekers Crossing Over the Canadian Border:**  
*Most Canadians (70%) Don't Believe the Federal Government Has a Clear  
Plan on How to Deal with the Situation*  
*Majority (58%) Don't Believe the Federal Government has Handled the  
Situation Well*

**July 9, 2018** – Most (70%) Canadians don't believe the Federal government has a clear plan involving thousands of individuals who make an asylum claim following an irregular entry through unofficial entry points – such as simply walking over the border into Canada from the United States at a non-official crossing point – and a majority (58%) don't believe the Federal government has handled the situation well – according to a new national public opinion survey undertaken by **DART Insight**.

A majority (57%) also don't believe the Federal government is providing the right amount of resources for communities to deal with these border crossings. This has become highlighted in the past week as new Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Toronto Mayor John Tory have called on the Trudeau government to up the amount of money paid to look after Federally approved asylum seekers (and refugees) who have been allowed to enter the country and/or are awaiting more months of official processing. And on this point, a further majority (58%) don't believe the Federal government is sending a signal that there are no guarantees asylum-seekers will be able to stay.

Regardless of the issue itself, a full majority (84%) believe the Federal government is ensuring asylum-seekers are treated humanely.



Canada was the world's ninth-largest recipient of asylum claims in 2017 with 47,800 claims, more than double the 23,600 claims in 2016. Between Jan. 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018, it's estimated that more than 5,000 asylum seekers arrived through unofficial entry points. Because of international agreements, such as the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States, these claimants must undergo a due process which prevents them from being easily turned back or deported.

*The **DART** Insight survey was conducted among 5,357 randomly selected Canadian adults who are members of the **Maru/Blue** Online panel. All respondents have the choice to complete the survey in either official language of Canada. The data has been weighted by education, age, gender, and region to match the population, according to the latest Canadian Census to ensure the sample is representative of the entire adult population. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The precision of this **DART** Insight Online poll is measured using a Bayesian Credibility Interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 1.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadian adults been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. Minor discrepancies in the data may occur due to rounding.*

### ***Most (70%) of Canadians Don't Believe the Federal Government Has a Clear Plan on How to Deal with the Situation...***

Most (70% - 35% not at all / 35% not very much) Canadians don't believe that the Federal government has a clear plan on how to deal with the situation of asylum-seekers. This is most likely to be the case for those living in Alberta (78% - 45% not at all) followed by those in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (75% - 38% not at all), Québec (74% - 38% not at all), British Columbia (70% - 31% not at all), Atlantic Canada (65% - 32% not at all) and Ontario (65% - 31% not at all).



Alternatively, three in 10 (30% - very much 5%/somewhat 25%) Canadians believe the Federal government has a clear plan on how to deal with the situation. Those individuals are most likely to reside in Ontario (35% - 6% very much), Atlantic Canada (35% - 3% very much), British Columbia (30% - 4% very much), Québec (26% - 2% very much), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (25% - 5% very much) and Alberta (22% - 4% very much).

There are no significant differences in the demographic/socio-economic descriptors with the exception of older Canadians (55+ - 76%) and those who are University educated (64%) who don't believe the Federal government has a clear plan to deal with this situation.

### ***Majority (58%) Don't Believe the Federal Government has Handled the Situation Well...***

A majority (58% - 32% not at all/26% not very much) of Canadians don't believe that the Federal government has handled the situation well. Those most likely to share this view are from Alberta (67% - 42% not at all), Québec (63% - 36% not at all), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (62% - 36% not at all), Ontario (55% - 30% not at all), British Columbia (54% - 26% not at all) and Atlantic Canada (48% - 24% not at all).

The minority (42% - 9% very much) who believe the Federal government has handled the situation well have the highest support reported in Atlantic Canada (52% - 8% very much) followed by those from British Columbia (46% - 7% very much), Ontario (45% -



11% very much), Saskatchewan/Manitoba 38% - 7% very much), Québec (37% - 6% very much) and Alberta (33% - 8%).

Those most likely to believe that the government has handled the situation well are men (61% compared to 56% of women), older Canadians (60% aged 35-54 and 65% of those aged 55+) compared to their younger counterparts (46% aged 18-34). Those who are less educated (61%) are more likely than those with University + education (48%) believe that the Federal government hasn't handled the situation well.

***Majority (57%) Don't Believe the Federal Government is Providing the Right Amount of Resources for Communities to Deal with These Border Crossings...***

Six in 10 (57% - 24% not at all/34% not very much) Canadians don't believe that the Federal government is providing the right amount of resources for communities to deal with these border crossings. Those most likely to embrace this view are from Alberta (63% - 30% not at all) followed by those from Québec (60% - 28% not at all), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (57% - 25% not at all), British Columbia (57% - 19% not at all), Ontario (56% - 22% not at all) and Atlantic Canada (50% - 20% not at all).

Four in 10 (43% - 10% very much/32% somewhat) believe that the Federal government is providing the right amount of resources for communities to deal with these border crossings. Those who believe this are most likely to be from Atlantic Canada (50% - 7% very much) followed by those from Ontario (44% - 12% very much), British Columbia



(43% – 9% very much), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (43% – 9% Québec (40% – 10% very much) and Alberta (37% – 9% very much).

There is very little demographics/socio-economic differentiation except those who are younger (51% aged 18-34) are most likely to believe that the Federal government is providing the right amount of resources whereas their older counterparts (36% aged 55+) are the least likely to hold this view.

***Majority (58%) Don't Believe the Federal Government is Sending a Signal That There are No Guarantees Asylum-Seekers Will Be Able to Stay...***

Six in 10 (57% – 29% not at all/29% not very much) don't believe that the Federal government is sending a signal to would be asylum-seekers that there are no guarantees they will be able to stay in Canada. This sentiment is most likely to be found in Québec (66% – 33% not at all) followed by those in Alberta (65% – 36% not at all), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (61% – 31% not at all), Ontario (55% – 27% not at all), British Columbia (50% – 24% not at all) and Atlantic Canada (49% – 26% not at all).

Those who do believe that the Federal government is sending a signal that there are no guarantees asylum-seekers will be able to stay in Canada (42% – 12% very much), are most likely to come from Atlantic Canada (51% – 11% very much), followed by British Columbia (50% – 15% very much), Ontario (45% – 13% very much), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (39% – 13% very much), Alberta (35% – 10% very much) and Québec (34% – 7% very much). Younger (46% aged 18 – 34) and higher educated (48% University +) Canadians are most likely to believe the government is sending a signal a



compared to those who are older with the opposite point of view (60% aged 55+/59% aged 35-54) and less educated (62% College and Tech School/59% Highschool or less).

### ***Majority (84%) Believe the Federal Government is Ensuring Asylum-Seekers are Treated Humanely...***

A majority (84% – 37% very much/47% somewhat) believe that the Federal government is ensuring that these asylum-seekers are being treated humanely. Those expressing the most confidence that this is taking place are from Atlantic Canada (91% – 44% very much) followed by those in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (89% – 44% very much), British Columbia (88% – 39% very much), Ontario (86% – 39% very much), Alberta (83% – 37% very much) and Québec (77% – 29% very much).

Only 16% of Canadians believe that asylum-seekers are not being treated humanely – and are most likely to be found in the province of Québec (23%) followed by those from Alberta (17%), Ontario (14%), is Columbia (12%) and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (11%).

There are no significant demographic/socio-economic differences.

*These are some of the topline findings of a **DART** Insight poll conducted June 8-13, 2018 as part of a regular sounding of Canadians on various issues and matters that affect their lives as citizens, consumers, and voters. The research is created and analyzed under the direction of veteran pollster John Wright, CEO of **DART Insight** which is a division of **DART** Insight and Communications Limited in partnership with Canada's national survey sample research provider **Maru/Blue** that curates a vast Online Panel and provides data collection services.*



For a copy of this document with the detailed tables complete with questions asked visit <http://www.dartincom.ca/polls/> and download the results freely.

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*About **DART Insight** and **Maru/Blue**...*

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Public releases of polling results, including detailed tables (weighted/unweighted), questions used and analysis, are provided freely at <http://www.dartincom.ca/polls/>

**DART Insight and Communications** is a member in good standing with the Marketing Intelligence and Research Association (MIRA) of Canada. Accuracy of any Online polling results are measured using a Bayesian Credibility Interval which is endorsed by MIRA and the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR).



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