

With Immigration Likely a Hot Topic at Upcoming Leaders' Debates, Two-Thirds (64% - 4) of Canadians Say Federal Government Still Badly Handling Border Crossing Asylum Seeker File and Majority (70% +2) Want it as the Focus of Immigration Avenues for Elected Officials

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A DART & Maru/Blue

Voice Canada Poll

*This public opinion survey is branded as the **DART & Maru/Blue** Voice Canada Poll. Both firms are non-partisan and comprised of well-known national veteran survey/research professionals who have worked together for decades.*

*Once released into the public domain, findings contained herein may be used with source attribution given to the **DART & Maru/Blue** Poll. Descriptions of the findings, methodology and contact persons are provided in this release—with a full set of detailed tables with questions found for easy download at <http://www.dartincom.ca/polls/> A description of **DART & Maru/Blue** Voice Canada Poll can also be found in this release.*

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October 1, 2019 – With immigration likely to be a hot topic as People's Party of Canada leader Maxime Bernier wades into the fray at the upcoming Leaders' Debates on October 7th and 10th, a new poll comparing results from a public sounding exactly one year ago suggests that the atmosphere on stage could be combustible: two-thirds (64% - 4) of Canadians still believe the federal government is doing a bad job of handling issues and the process' involving those who are crossing Canada's borders at unofficial points and claiming asylum. And, of the three avenues for immigration, a majority (70% +2) say *that* specific lane should be the focus for all elected officials, compared with the other onramps of applying for and receiving lawful immigration into Canada (17% -1) or with those normally claiming and attaining refugee status (13% -1).

Despite finding that just one-third (36% +4) of Canadians believe the federal government is doing a good job on the unofficial-border-crossing-asylum-claiming file, a majority (55% + 8) believe the Trudeau Liberals are doing a good job handling those who normally claim and attain refugee status, and an even larger majority (69% +4) with respect to those who apply for, and receive, lawful immigration into the country.

Another aspect of the poll that underpins the potential for a spirited debate is that Canadians have very mixed views when it comes to the *pace* of immigration there should be for those applying for and receiving *lawful immigration* status to Canada: four-in-ten (37% -2) say the country is admitting *too many*, three-in-ten (32% -6) say the number being admitted is *just the right*, while just one-in-ten (13% +1) say *not enough* are being welcomed (with the remaining two-in-ten (18%) indicating they *don't know* enough to proffer an answer.)

The **DART & Maru/Blue Voice Canada Poll** was undertaken for Sun News/Postmedia among 1,520 randomly selected Canadian adults who are members of **Maru/Blue's Voice Canada** Online panel on September 20, 2019 and is considered accurate to within +/- 2.9 percentage points. The survey identified 1,303 decided or leaning voters out of the total sample. *Because of extremely small sample sizes, approval ratings cannot be provided for Prince Edward Island, Nunavut and both the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Any discrepancy between what is reported in this Factum and the actual detailed tables previously or now is the result of rounding.*

Unofficial Point Border Crossing is the Main Avenue of Immigration Where Canadians Want Their Elected Officials Focused...

When asked which of the following immigration categories concern them the most nowadays that their elected officials should focus on (and compared to a year ago) ...

Those who are crossing Canada's borders at unofficial points and claiming asylum (70% +2) -led by those from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (82% +3), followed by those from Ontario (74% +9), Atlantic Canada (73% -4), Alberta (71% -4), British Columbia (68% -2), and Québec (61% -1.)

Those who claim and attain refugee status (13% -1) - led by those in Alberta (16% +5), followed by those from Québec (15% +3) and British Columbia (15% -1), Atlantic Canada (12% +2), Ontario (11% -6) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (9% -1.)

Those who apply for and receive lawful immigration into Canada (17% -1) - led by those from Québec (24% -1), followed by those from British Columbia (17% +3), Atlantic Canada (15% +1), Ontario (14% -3), Alberta (13% -1) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (9% -3.)

Trudeau Liberals Continue to Get Bad Marks on Handling of Unofficial Border Crossing Asylum Seekers ...

When asked how they think the Federal Government is handling issues and the process' involving each of the following groups in their entry into Canada (and compared to a year ago), Canadians are definitive:

Those who are crossing Canada's borders at unofficial points and claiming asylum – only one third (36% +4) believe the federal government is doing a *good job* compared with two-thirds (64% -4) who believe the government is doing a *bad job*.

Those most likely to believe the government is doing a *good job* are from British Columbia (42% +7), followed by those from Atlantic Canada (41% +1), Ontario (37% +1), Québec (35% +9), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (28% +5) and Alberta (24% - no change.)

Those most likely to believe the government is doing a *bad job* are from Alberta (76%-no change) followed by those from Québec (65% -9), Ontario (63% -1), Atlantic Canada (59% -1), and British Columbia (58% -7.)

Those who claim and attain refugee status – a majority (55% +8) believe the government is doing a *good job* in managing this file compared with 45% (-8) who believe the government is doing a *bad job* in doing so.

Those most likely to believe the government is doing a *good job* are from British Columbia (61% +12), followed by those from Québec (59% +14), Ontario (57% +9), Atlantic Canada (53% -2) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (39% -3.)

Those most likely to believe the government is doing a *bad job* hail from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (61% +3), followed by those from Alberta (53% -8), Atlantic Canada (47% +2), Ontario (43% -9), Quebec (41% -14), and British Columbia (39% -12.)

Those who apply for and receive lawful immigration into Canada – a full majority (69% +4) believe the government is doing *good job* handling this avenue of immigration compared with just three in ten (31% -4) who believe they are doing a *bad job*.

Those most likely to believe the government is doing a *good job* are from British Columbia (71% +5) and Ontario (71% +4), followed by those from Atlantic Canada (69% - no change), Québec (68% +7), Alberta (63% +4), and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (60% -6.)

Those most likely to believe the government is doing a *bad job* are from Manitoba/Saskatchewan (40% +6) followed by those from Alberta (37% -4), Québec (32% -7), Atlantic Canada (31% - no change), Ontario (29% -4), and British Columbia (29% -5.)

Canadian Public Has Very Mixed Views on the Pace of Lawful Immigrants to be Admitted to Canada—Too Many, Not Enough or Just the Right Number...

For those who apply for and receive *lawful immigration* into Canada, Canadians think (and compared to a year ago) the Country is admitting...

- **Too many** – 37% (-2): led by those from Manitoba/Saskatchewan 49% (+11), followed by those from Alberta (40% (-4) and Québec (40% -2), Ontario (36%-no change) and Atlantic Canada (36% +1), and British Columbia (28% -11.)
- **Not enough** – 13% (+1) led by those from and Alberta (16% +6) and British Columbia (16% +3), followed by those from Atlantic Canada (14% -3) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (14% +3), Ontario (12% - no change), and Québec (11% +2.)
- **Just the right number** – 32% (-6) led by those from Québec (36% -4) and Ontario (36% -2), British Columbia (33% -4), Atlantic Canada (24% -13) and Alberta (24% -10), and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (22% -17.)

Those who indicated that they don't know what level is appropriate were one in five (18% +6.)

Methodology

*These are some of the topline findings of a **DART & Maru/Blue Voice Canada** conducted 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, who is a Partner of **DART C-Suite Communicators**. Data was collected by Canada's national survey sample research provider **Maru/Blue** using their **Voice Canada** Omni Online curated panel.*

***DART & Maru/Blue** are members of the Canadian Research Insights Council and adhere to the professional disclosure standards which can be accessed at:*

<https://canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/standards/>

*The survey was conducted among 1,517 randomly selected Canadian adults who are members of **Maru/Blue's** Online panel on September 20, 2019. Respondents could opt in for either official language. The results have been weighted by education, age, gender, and region to match the population, according to Census data. This is to ensure the sample is representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Reporting of results from Prince Edward Island, Nunavut and both the Yukon and Northwest Territories is excluded because of extremely small sample sizes. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. Voter intent is weighted by past vote and demographics. The precision of this **DART & Maru/Blue Voice Canada Poll** is measured using a Bayesian Credibility Interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 2.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadian adults been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population and individual provinces.*

The comparisons made in this survey analysis can be found in the 2018 public sounding here: <https://dartincom.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Immigration-Postmedia-Tables-Oct-23-2018.pdf>

Visit <http://www.dartincom.ca/polls/> for the written release and detailed tables.

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About **DART** & **Maru/Blue**

DART C-Suite Communicators is a team of high-level insight specialists and seasoned communicators who partner with the C-Suite, Executive leadership, or the Board to advance and protect crucial interests, brands, assets, and reputations requiring vital intelligence and pivotal communication strategies. Differentiated by our C-Suite peer-level bench strength, **DART C-Suite Communicators** consultants are smart, strategic thinkers who bring experienced fresh-eyes to tough communications assignments knowing the right questions to ask, the internal and external audiences to heed, and the tools and tempo to deliver actionable solutions and accountability. Together, the **DART C-Suite Communicators** team discreetly and seamlessly fills the gaps in existing resources by either doing the work needed or by providing advice and counsel. We are C-Suite confidants who bring integrity, honesty, ideation, and trustworthy sound-boarding to every assignment.

DART C-Suite Communicators is independent and not tied to any political organization.

It is a partnership founded by veteran pollster **John Wright** and communications specialist **Victoria Ollers**.

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

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