



2014

NATIONAL OPINION POLL:

CANADIAN VIEWS ON ASIA

Asia Pacific
Foundation of
Canada

Fondation Asie
Pacifique du
Canada





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ABOUT THE ASIA PACIFIC FOUNDATION OF CANADA

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada) has been a leader in research and analysis on Canada's relations with Asia for thirty years. Our mission is to develop ideas for action by Canadian businesses, governments, and individuals to help them seize the vast opportunities unfolding in Asia. We do this by offering clear, specific, and actionable policy advice and leadership based on

sound research and analysis. APF Canada's current thematic priorities include trade and investment, energy and the environment, and international education. Engaged in research and convening, APF Canada has developed strong ties with policy-makers, business leaders, academics, and opinion makers in Canada and throughout the Asia Pacific region.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL OPINION POLL: CANADIAN VIEWS ON ASIA

For 10 years, the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada has been conducting regular nation-wide surveys to assess Canadians' attitudes toward, and perceptions of, Canada-Asia relations. Unique in its construction and its objectives, the Foundation's National Opinion Poll (NOP) has been instrumental in drawing a portrait of Canadians' perspectives on Asia and the region's increasing relevance to Canada's prosperity. With a large sample of over 3,400 Canadians, the National Opinion Poll serves as a valuable source of information about how Canadians feel about the rise of Asia.

In past surveys, the Foundation found that Canadians recognize the economic importance of Asian countries but are reluctant to adopt policies for facilitating economic engagement with Asian

partners. The 2014 survey provides two contributions: first, fresh data on Canadian views on Asia, including comparisons to previous years' results; second, an in-depth examination of the factors behind Canadians' reluctance to engage with Asia. For this year's survey, we developed new questions that allow us to measure Canadians' underlying attitudes about issues such as trading with partners perceived to be non-democratic and competing with low-wage countries. We also measured attitudes towards foreign control of Canadian economic assets and the perceived effect of foreign influences on Canada's way of life. The findings provide a basis for a continued conversation about Canada's role in the Asia Pacific region.

METHODOLOGY

From 25 February to 7 March 2014, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 3,487 Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 1.7% for the entire sample. The results have been statistically

weighted according to the current census data on education, age, gender, and region to ensure that the sample is representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The median completion time for the survey was 14 minutes.

KEY FINDINGS

1. CANADIANS' ENTHUSIASM FOR BUILDING CLOSER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TIES WITH ASIA DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

Canadian public opinion in 2014 is decidedly less positive toward the prospect of strengthening social and economic relations with Asia than it was a year ago. Even though a third (33%) of Canadians believe Canada is more a part of the Asia Pacific region than it was a decade ago, they are less convinced today of the potential economic benefits for Canada of building closer ties with Asian countries. Moreover, while Canadians in 2014 are evenly split on whether or not Canada would benefit from more Asian investment in the country (41% agree, 41% disagree), this is a significant shift in opinion from a year ago, when 50% held a positive outlook on Asian investment.

This trend is particularly true in the case of China. The proportion of Canadians who consider China to be highly important to their economic prosperity dropped from 45% in 2013 to 35% in 2014. That is the lowest level ever recorded by APF Canada's National Opinion Poll. Compared to other trading partners, China ranked fourth in importance, falling behind the European Union and the United Kingdom for the first time. Furthermore, just 41% of Canadians see China's growing economic power as more of an opportunity than a threat for Canada; that is a drop of seven points from 48% in 2013. Again, this marks a new low.

The decline in enthusiasm for engagement with Asia translates into much lower support for specific policies designed to strengthen and expand Canada's links with the region. While more than one-third (37%) of Canadians still believe that economic and political relations with Asia should be Canada's top foreign policy priority, that is down significantly from 51% in 2013 and 55% in 2012. That overall perspective also extends to specific policies designed to help facilitate investment between Canada and Asia. For example, half of all Canadians (50%) now oppose giving economic incentives to encourage more Canadian companies to set up operations in Asia (a seven-point increase from 2013), and fewer support the idea of trade missions for Canadian companies to visit Asia (from 58% in 2013 to 47% in 2014). On the social and cultural front, support is down across the board for teaching more about Asia or more Asian languages in schools, for student

exchanges and university agreements with Asia, and for cultural exchanges through the performing arts.

2. SHIFT IN OLDER (55+) CANADIANS' VIEWS OF ASIA DRAGS DOWN OVERALL PERSPECTIVES ON ENGAGEMENT WITH THE REGION

Over the past 12 months, older Canadians (55+) in particular have grown more reluctant to engage with Asia, and are now less convinced of the region's economic importance to Canada. This has dragged down Canadians' views of Asia more generally. By comparison, the views of younger Canadians have remained much more stable.

Older Canadians' views of the benefits of economic engagement with Asian countries have soured considerably. For example, they are much less likely to believe that China is highly important to Canada's prosperity (46% in 2013 to 32% in 2014). This 14-point drop is the lowest ever observed for older Canadians. In contrast, the views of 18- to 29-year-olds regarding China's importance to Canada's prosperity have moved very little in the past year (44% in 2013 to 41% in 2014). Similarly, about half as many older Canadians (17%) consider India important to Canada's prosperity in 2014 than was the case in 2013 (33%), while younger Canadians' views remain virtually unchanged. Older Canadians' perceptions of the importance of all other Asian countries have also declined over the past year.

The growing doubts among older Canadians about Asia's economic importance to Canada extends to their decreased willingness to engage with the region in specific trade, investment, and other policy areas. For example, far fewer now think Canada would benefit from more Asian investment in the country than was the case in 2013 (54% in 2013 and 44% in 2014). In comparison, younger Canadians' views have changed very little (43% in 2013 to 42% in 2014). Furthermore, older Canadians express much greater opposition to free trade agreements with Asian countries than at any other time in the past; year-over-year opposition to free trade with China has risen by 8 points (48% in 2013 to 56% in 2014), 10 points for India (43% to 53%), 8 points for South Korea (38% to 46%), and 10 points for countries in Southeast Asia (41% to 51%). For younger Canadians, shifts in opposition to free trade agreements with all countries are smaller and

KEY FINDINGS

statistically insignificant. Lastly, older Canadians are much more reluctant to place greater emphasis on teaching Asian languages or about Asia in Canadian schools. There has been a nine-point drop in support for teaching about Asia in the schools (52% in 2013 to 43% in 2014), and a nine-point drop for teaching Asian languages (31% to 22%).

What might explain this shift in older Canadians' perspectives on Asia? Interestingly, it is not due to a growing hostility toward or dislike of Asia. Indeed, their feelings ("warm" versus "cold") towards Asian countries have remained remarkably stable. Notably, in the case of Japan and South Korea, there were record high levels of older Canadians who feel "warm" toward these countries (Japan: 39%; South Korea: 22%).

Rather than feeling a growing hostility, it appears that older Canadians simply consider Asian countries to be less important economically, and that reduces their appetite for engagement with the region. Part of this may be due to a slowing of older Canadians' interest in news about Asia over the past two years. In fact, further analysis of the National Opinion Poll data shows there is a direct relationship between paying attention to news about Asia and perceptions of the region's economic importance to Canada. In 2012, 52% of older Canadians said they were paying more attention to Canada's relations with Asia than they had the previous year. This dropped to 38% in 2013 and sits at just 35% in 2014. Among younger Canadians, there was little change in attention to Canada-Asia relations. Although it remains difficult to pinpoint the precise reason why perceptions of Asia shifted, our findings suggest that changes in older Canadians' consumption of Asia-related news had an influence on their views of the region.

3. CANADIANS' SUPPORT FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH ASIA IS DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY FEELINGS OF POLITICAL COMFORT

Canadians' support for strengthening economic ties with Asia is determined by more than just the region's growing economic importance. The economic statistics demonstrate that Asia is increasingly important to Canada's economic prosperity: Asian countries buy an increasing percentage of Canadian exports, and three of Canada's top seven trading partners are now

Asian countries (China, Japan, and South Korea). But Canadians' perceptions and opinions have not always kept pace with the economic facts.

For example, more than a quarter (26%) of Canadians view Australia as highly important to Canadian prosperity, even though it is not a top-10 trading partner. Only half as many Canadians (13%) view South Korea as highly important to Canada's prosperity despite its being Canada's seventh-largest trading partner. Furthermore, while 40% of Canadians view the United Kingdom—which is our third-largest trading partner—as highly important to Canadian prosperity, only 35% of Canadians view China—which is our second-largest trading partner—as highly important.

It seems that Canadians not only underestimate the economic importance of Asia but are also less likely to want to engage economically with Asian countries on a policy level. For instance, there is relatively low support for signing free trade agreements with major Asian trading partners like China (36%), India (38%), and South Korea (41%), but high support for free trade agreements with the European Union (67%) and Australia (69%).

Concerns about economic competition play a role in shaping support for engagement. Canadians who are less likely to want to engage with Asia are also those who prefer increasing economic ties only with countries seen as having wages and labour standards similar to our own. However, these concerns about wages and labour standards extend to engagement with all countries, and they cannot adequately explain why Canadians support engagement with traditional partners but not with Asian or other emerging countries.

The higher support for engagement with the EU and Australia can be explained, in part, by Canadians' relative comfort with partners viewed as familiar and politically like-minded. Respondents expressing a strong concern for political rights (i.e. human rights and democracy) are considerably less willing to support free trade agreements with Asian countries like China, India, and South Korea than those who do not express these concerns. Likewise, Canadians who see their security interests best served by strengthening ties to traditional allies are distinctly less willing to engage with Asian countries than are Canadians who express support for building relations with a broader group of

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countries. In contrast, support for engagement with partners like Australia and the EU remains steadily high among those Canadians expressing a strong concern about political rights and among those expressing a preference for strengthening ties with traditional allies. Overall, the NOP findings show that Canadians' political comfort with a trading partner strongly influences their perceptions of economic importance and their willingness to engage with that country.

4. CANADIANS' VIEWS OF ASIA ARE SIMILAR TO THEIR VIEWS OF OTHER EMERGING COUNTRIES

Asia is not viewed in a distinctly negative way when compared to emerging countries such as Brazil, Russia, South Africa, and Turkey. With respect to attitudes towards importance to Canadian prosperity, most Asian countries are rated as being more important than Brazil (12% of respondents), Russia (8%) and South Africa (6%). The Asian country or region thought to be least important—Southeast Asia—was rated as important to Canadian economic prosperity as Brazil (12%).

Support for economic relations is similar for Asian and non-Asian emerging economies. For example, a free trade agreement with Brazil is supported by just under half (45%) of Canadians, with South Africa by more than one-third (38%), and with Turkey by fewer than one-third (30%). Support for trade and investment with emerging countries is influenced by the same underlying political attitudes toward democracy and security that also shape views of countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Russia is singled out for particularly negative treatment by Canadians. Out of all the countries examined, Russia was the least desirable candidate for a free trade agreement (28%). Opposition to investment from a Russian state-owned enterprise was higher than for any other country (76%). Similarly, the “coolest” feelings were reserved for Russia (34% “cool”). This was likely due to the human rights issues raised during the Olympics and Russia's role in the Ukrainian crisis. Attitudes toward Russia further underline the importance of political factors in determining support for relations with a country.

5. MEN AND THOSE WITH HIGHER EDUCATION ARE MOST SUPPORTIVE OF ENGAGEMENT WITH ASIA

Support for engagement with Asia varies across demographic groups. Men and people with higher levels of education tend to be the most enthusiastic. However, they also tend to support economic engagement with all foreign countries. Those demographic variables do not explain much of the gap between support for Asian and for Western countries. On the other hand, whereas older and younger Canadians have fairly similar views on engagement with Asia, older Canadians are particularly keen to trade with traditional partners.

In relation to every country that was asked about, men are more supportive of free trade agreements. That holds for Asian countries like India (men: 46% support; women: 30% support), emerging non-Asian countries like Brazil (men: 54% support, women: 36% support), and Western countries like Australia (men: 77% support; women: 61% support). There is a particularly sharp gender distinction when it comes to economic engagement with Japan (23 points) and South Korea (26 points). A similar pattern is found when respondents are asked about their support for investment by state-owned enterprises from a range of countries.

Support for engagement with Asia tends to be highest among Canadians with higher levels of education. A majority of Canadians with a university degree support free trade agreements with India, Japan, South Korea, and Southeast Asia. Among those with a high school education or lower, there is not a single Asian country with which a free trade agreement receives majority support.

With a few exceptions, the views of younger and older Canadians on Asia are converging. For India, China, South Korea, and Southeast Asia, there is little difference across the age brackets in support for trade. Attitudes toward Japan are an exception. Older Canadians (55+) are more likely to support a free trade agreement with Japan than are younger Canadians. The largest differences across age are evident when respondents were asked about support for trade with Western countries. Among younger respondents (18-29), under three-fifths (57%) support

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a free trade agreement with Australia compared to almost four-fifths (79%) among older respondents (55+).

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADA

Given the growing importance of Asia, Canada's standard of living and influence in the world will be increasingly tied to strengthening its economic and political relationships with Asian partners. However, our study shows that the Canadian public has reservations about economic engagement with Asia.

A majority of Canadians prefer to strengthen economic ties with traditional western allies. Thus they tend to be more willing to engage with trading partners such as Australia and the United Kingdom, which are widely regarded as friendly and democratic. There is less enthusiasm for engaging with emerging powers, Asian countries included.

Canadian hesitation to engage with Asia is likely to be costly. We risk losing opportunities for economic growth and diversification. Over time, this could translate into Canada losing global clout and the ability to effect change in Asia. Even as Canadians express a preference for remaining tied to traditional economic partners, those very partners are aggressively building stronger political and business ties with Asian countries.

Canada-Asia relations will stagnate unless the apprehensions of Canadians are addressed.

Some of the reluctance to engage with Asia can be overcome by providing Canadians with more information about developments in Asia and by building Asia competence among the next generation of Canadian leaders. Growing familiarity is likely to foster enthusiasm for greater economic and social exchange. Where concerns about security and political rights are likely to continue to play a role in shaping opinions, the public will need reassurance that economic engagement will not come at the cost of compromising Canadian values and national interests.

Greater comfort with Asia will not happen by accident. We have to start with a conscious effort to forge a national consensus on the importance of Asia for our country.

All Canadians have a role to play: political leaders need to work with the public to build support for stronger ties with Asia. Businesses need to invest in Asia strategies. And our educational institutions should place greater emphasis on Asia skills, knowledge, and experience to prepare the next generation of Canadians for a more Asia-centric world.

EXPLAINING CANADIANS' VIEWS ON ASIA

WHY ARE CANADIANS HESITANT TO ENGAGE ASIA?

Although the numbers are down this year, Canadians still perceive Asia as important to the country's economic prosperity, but they are hesitant to support concrete policies to facilitate economic engagement. Why is it that Canadians both recognize Asia's importance but worry about changing our policies to seize economic opportunities? And why is support for engagement with Asian countries so much lower than support for engaging with our traditional trading partners?

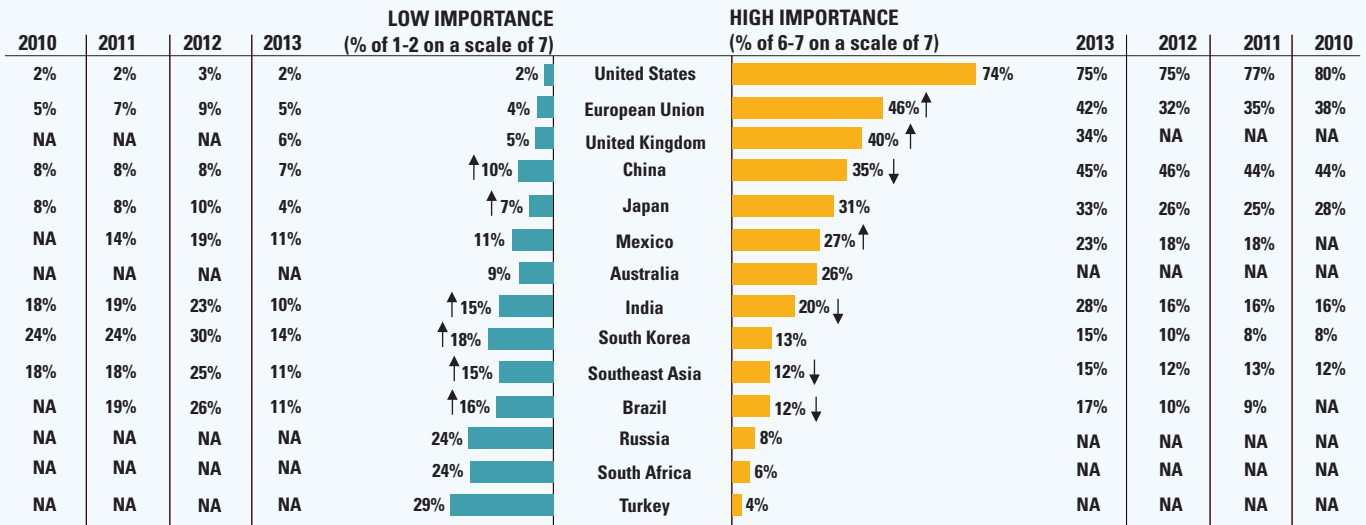
In this analytical section, we examine the attitudinal basis for Canadians' hesitancy toward Asia, focusing specifically on the gap between support for trade and investment with different countries. We find that non-economic factors—particularly security concerns and

Canadians' preference for engaging with democratic countries—are key drivers of opinions about Asia and the broader world.

Canadians view Asia as important to their economic prosperity

The economic facts tell a clear story: Asian countries are increasingly important to Canada's economic prosperity. Canadian exports to Asian markets are rising. China is now Canada's second-largest trading partner. As large Asian economies continue to grow, the livelihoods of Canadians will become increasingly connected with the Asia Pacific region.

Perceived importance of countries to Canada's economic prosperity



"NA": No data available
Arrows indicate statistically significant year-on-year change.

Base: All respondents: 2010 (n = 2,903), 2011 (n = 2,926), 2012 (n = 3,129), 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
Q.6 How important are each of these countries or regions to Canada's prosperity?

EXPLAINING CANADIANS' VIEWS ON ASIA

Canadians, for their part, recognize the economic importance of Asian countries. More Canadians agree that Asia is important to their province's economic prosperity (46%) than disagree (37%). When respondents are asked to rate countries by their importance to Canada's economic prosperity, they tend to view the Asian trade partners as more important than other emerging countries like Brazil, Russia, and South Africa.

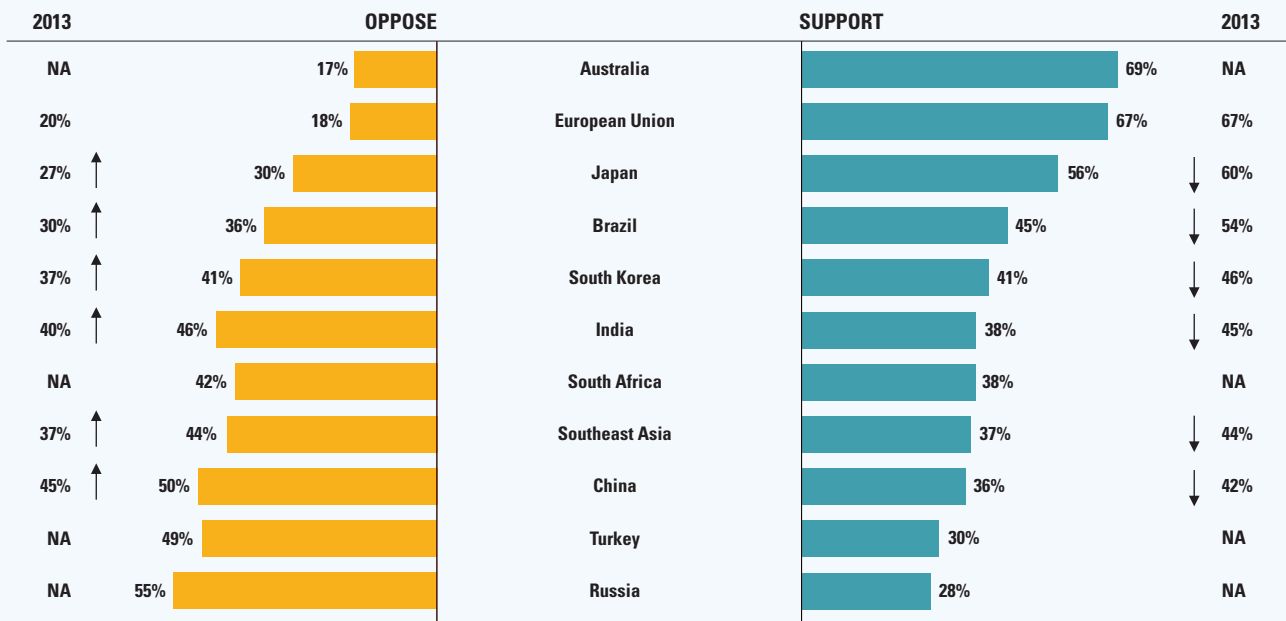
Canadians are hesitant to make policy changes to facilitate economic engagement with Asia

Although they acknowledge Asia's importance, Canadians are reluctant to accept policy adjustments that could facilitate economic engagement with Asian countries. Fewer Canadians agree that strengthening economic relations with Asia is a top foreign policy (37%) than disagree (46%).

Half of all Canadians (50%) disagree with providing incentives to encourage Canadian companies to set up operations in Asia; only 35% agree with that policy. Canadians think Asia is important, but their support for policy engagement is weak.

That is striking when we compare Canadians' support for engagement with Asia to their support for engagement with traditional trade partners. Take, for example, support for free trade agreements. The purpose of free trade agreements is to facilitate economic exchange by lowering tariff barriers and providing clear rules to govern the flow of goods and services. Over two-thirds (67%) of Canadians respond that they support the government signing free trade agreements in general. Strong majorities support free trade with the European Union (67%) and Australia (69%).

Support for free trade agreements: it all depends on the partner



"NA": No data available
Arrows indicate statistically significant year-on-year change.

Base: All respondents : 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
Q.10 Do you support or oppose Canada entering into a Free Trade Agreement with each of the following countries or regions (select support/oppose for each of the countries)

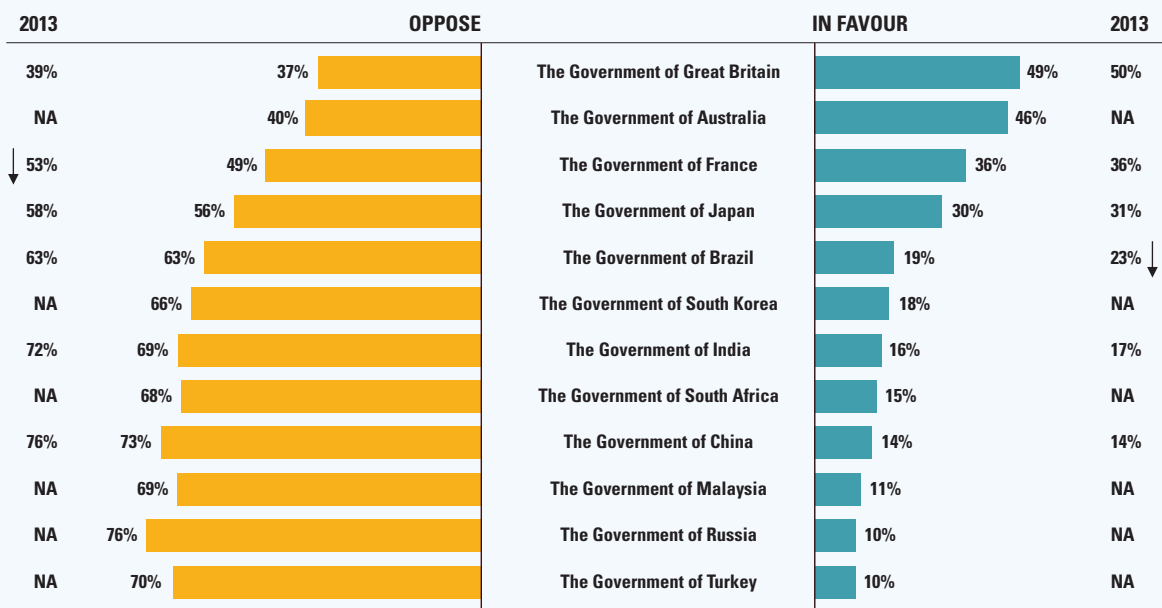
EXPLAINING CANADIANS' VIEWS ON ASIA

Most Canadians are relatively wary of deals with Asian and other emerging countries. A Canada-China free trade deal has about half (36%) the support of a deal with Australia, despite the fact that China is Canada's second-largest trading partner. Support for deals with India (38%), South Korea (41%), and Southeast Asia (37%) are similarly low. Only a deal with Japan receives majority support (56%). There is a large gap between our support for deals with traditional trading partners and with Asian partners. Canadians' support for free trade agreements is conditional on factors beyond perceived economic importance.

The disparity is also present when we examine Canadians' support for investment from firms controlled by foreign governments. In general, Canadians are not enthusiastic about this form of investment, with under one-third (29%)

expressing support for investments from firms controlled by foreign governments. When specific countries are mentioned, support varies greatly. Almost half of Canadians support investment by firms owned by Great Britain (49%) and Australia (46%). There is distinctly less support for investment by firms owned or controlled by Asian countries. For example, China and Malaysia have been two of the countries whose government-controlled firms have made large investments in Canada, but support for investment from firms owned by these countries is extremely low (China: 14%; Malaysia: 11%). Over two-thirds of Canadians express opposition to such investments (China: 73%; Malaysia: 69%).

Canadians are wary of state-controlled foreign enterprises owning a controlling stake in a major Canadian company



"NA": No data available
Arrows indicate statistically significant year-on-year change.

Base: All respondents : 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
Q.9 If a company, bank or investment fund controlled by a foreign government were trying to buy a controlling stake in a major Canadian company, how would you feel if the foreign government were: (in favour, opposed, don't know)

EXPLAINING CANADIANS' VIEWS ON ASIA

Why are Canadians skeptical of engagement with Asia?

Through a comparative analysis of support for trade agreements and state-owned investment, we find that political and socio-cultural factors play an important role in shaping Canadians' views of Asia. In particular, concerns about national security and political rights are important determinants of Canadians' willingness to engage with

Asian countries. Economic concerns about wages and labour standards also have an important influence on public opinion; however, these concerns tend to shape Canadians' views about engagement with all countries. The findings have implication for policy-makers as they set the stage for an honest, informed dialogue about engagement with Asia.

ECONOMIC CONCERNS

Canadians are reluctant to engage with countries that do not have wages and labour standards similar to our own. Those who are concerned about wages and labour standards are skeptical about signing trade deals with Asian and other emerging countries. Furthermore, Canadians do not want to engage in such agreements if they feel other countries just want to take advantage of our resources and advanced technologies.

Canadians are worried about competing with low-wage countries

Canadians worry about being taking advantage of and competing under conditions they consider unfair. Two-thirds (66%) of Canadians agree with the statement "Foreign countries seeking closer economic ties with Canada are primarily interested in taking advantage of our natural resources and advanced technologies." Over half (57%) agree that "Canada should only strengthen economic ties with countries that have labour standards and wages similar to, or better than, our own."

These concerns about competition with low-wage countries are strong when Asia is mentioned. Over four-fifths (82%) agree with the statement "The low cost of labour in Asia makes it difficult for Canadians to compete." Canadians also worry that the economic policies of Asian countries are undercutting Canadian businesses; 53% agree with the statement "State support for business in Asia provides an unfair advantage to Asian companies doing business in Canada."

Canadians who are worried about wages and labour standards are reluctant to engage with Asian and other emerging countries

A relationship exists between economic concerns and support for economic engagement with Asia. Table 1

presents support for free trade agreements by agreement and disagreement with the statement "Canada should only strengthen economic ties with countries that have labour standards and wages similar to, or better than, our own." Among Canadians who agreed with the statement, 33% supported free trade with China, 35% with India, and 39% with South Korea. Those who disagreed with the statement expressed significantly greater support for trade agreements, with 44% supporting a free trade agreement with China, 47% with India, and 50% with South Korea.

TABLE 1: Support for free trade by concern about wages and labour standards

Q: Canada should only strengthen economic ties with countries that have labour standards and wages similar to, or better than, our own...	Prefer Ties with Similar-Wage Countries	Economic Ties Need Not Be Linked to Wages
	% support for free trade with...	
Australia	70%	73%
EU	69%	72%
Japan	55%	63%
Brazil	44%	51%
South Korea	39%	50%
South Africa	36%	46%
India	35%	47%
Southeast Asia	34%	47%
China	33%	44%
Turkey	27%	45%
Russia	26%	34%

Q.10 Do you support or oppose Canada entering into a Free Trade Agreement with each of the following countries or regions? (% support)

EXPLAINING CANADIANS' VIEWS ON ASIA

These concerns about labour standards and wages do not correlate with levels of support for free trade agreements with Western countries. For both Australia and the European Union, the agree/disagree differential is only three percentage points. However, in the case of other emerging economies like South Africa, Turkey, and Brazil, there is also a large drop in free trade agreement support as concerns about wages and labour standards increase.

Those worried that foreign countries will take advantage of Canada are unwilling to engage in trade agreements with all countries, not just Asia

Canadians' concerns about being taken advantage of shape their willingness to make trade pacts with Asian countries and accept investment from firms controlled by Asian governments. However, those worried about being taken advantage of tend to be cool towards economic engagement with most countries, and this factor does little to explain the difference in support across countries.

Table 2 presents support for state-owned investment by agreement or disagreement with the statement "Foreign countries seeking closer economic ties with Canada are primarily interested in taking advantage of our natural resources and advanced technologies." For all countries, those who disagree with the statement are more willing to accept state-owned investment than those who agree. For instance, the agree/disagree differential is eight points for China, India, South Korea, and France. Those who worry that those foreign countries will take advantage of

Canada are, in general, skeptical of all economic ties with all countries.

TABLE 2: Support for state-enterprise investment by worry about economic exploitation

Q: Foreign countries seeking closer economic ties with Canada are primarily interested in taking advantage of our natural resources and advanced technologies...

	Foreign Countries Taking Advantage	Not Concerned About the Issue
% in favour of state-owned investment from...		
UK	50%	55%
Australia	47%	51%
France	36%	44%
Japan	28%	40%
Brazil	18%	25%
South Korea	17%	25%
India	15%	23%
South Africa	15%	19%
China	13%	21%
Malaysia	10%	15%
Turkey	9%	15%
Russia	9%	14%

Q.9 If a company, bank or investment fund controlled by a foreign government were trying to buy a controlling stake in a major Canadian company, how would you feel if the foreign government were...? (% in favour)

SOCIO-CULTURAL CONCERNS

Canadians who are uneasy about foreign influence are more skeptical about the benefits of engaging economically with all countries, though they are particularly skeptical about engaging with emerging countries. There are at least two possible explanations for that. First, over two-thirds (72%) of respondents identified themselves as being of European descent, and that group may prefer to engage economically with countries they view as sharing their language and customs. Second, Canadians may be less comfortable engaging with Asian countries because they have less direct experience and familiarity with Asian countries.

Canadians express concern about foreign influence

There are signs that Canadians are wary of that which they consider foreign. Well over half (60%) expressed agreement with the statement "These days, I'm afraid that our way of life is threatened by foreign influences." This underlying unease with foreign influence can influence people's openness to Asian cultures and Asian countries. For instance, when asked if the provincial government should "Place more emphasis on teaching Asian languages in your province's schools," a strong majority (61%) disagreed with the statement.

Part of the impression of cultural distance between Canada and Asia may simply be a lack of exposure. According

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to APF Canada's National Opinion Poll, only a small proportion of Canadians (16%) have ever lived in, worked in, or travelled to Asia. Those who are familiar with Asian cultures are much more likely to support their promotion. Among those who have been exposed through working, living, or travelling in Asia, 63% agree with the statement that the government should "Place more emphasis on teaching about Asia in your province's education system." Among those who have not been exposed through work or travel, only 39% agree with the statement.

Canadians concerned about foreign influence are less likely to support engagement with Asia and other emerging countries

Table 3 presents support for free trade with various countries broken down by agreement or disagreement with the question "These days, I'm afraid that our way of life is threatened by foreign influences." For every country in the survey, support for free trade was lower among those expressing a fear of foreign influence. Only one-third (33%) of all respondents who agreed with the statement supported a free trade agreement with India; among those who disagreed with the statement, support was almost half (49%).

For South Korea, support for a free trade agreement among those expressing fear of foreign influence was 37%; among those unconcerned with foreign influence, there was majority (51%) support for a Canada-South Korea free trade agreement. Similar stories can be told of support for free trade with China, Southeast Asia, and Japan.

Support for free trade agreements with other emerging countries was similarly affected by a fear of foreign influence.

CONCERNS ABOUT POLITICAL RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC TIES

Canadians' views on Asia are affected by their views on political rights. Those who want to strengthen ties only with democratic countries that have good human rights records are less likely to want to engage with Asian and other emerging countries. Most Canadians prefer to engage with countries that they believe share their political values, and many are willing to have economic policy in Asia respond to their concerns about political rights.

Among those agreeing with the statement about foreign influence, over one-third (35%) supported a free trade agreement with South Africa; of those who disagreed, just under half (47%) supported free trade with South Africa. The fear of foreign influence had the weakest relationship with support for free trade with Australia and the EU. The agree/disagree differential was only three points for Australia and four points for the EU.

TABLE 3: Support for free trade by concern about foreign influence

Q: These days, I'm afraid that our way of life is threatened by foreign influences...

	Worry about Foreign Influence	Foreign Influence Not a Worry
% support for free trade with...		
Australia	70%	73%
EU	68%	72%
Japan	54%	64%
Brazil	43%	51%
South Korea	37%	51%
South Africa	35%	47%
India	33%	49%
Southeast Asia	33%	47%
China	31%	46%
Turkey	26%	38%
Russia	25%	35%

Q.10 Do you support or oppose Canada entering into a Free Trade Agreement with each of the following countries or regions? (% support)

Most Canadians link concern for political rights and economic engagement

Three-quarters (75%) of respondents agreed with the statement "Canada should only strengthen economic ties with democratic countries that have a good human rights record." These deeply held political values are reflected in views about engaging with Asia. Almost half (47%) of Canadians disagree with the statement "We can't afford to stop doing business with or in Asian countries just because

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of human rights concerns.” The proportion of the population that agrees with that statement is lower (38%).

Canadians who link economic engagement to political rights are less likely to want to trade with Asian and other emerging countries

We see the link between economic engagement and political rights clearly when we examine support for trade with and investment from Asian countries, broken down by expressed concern for political rights.

Table 4 presents support for free trade agreements separated by agreement or disagreement with the statement “Canada should only strengthen economic ties with democratic countries that have a good human rights record.” For all Asian countries but Japan, support for free trade is distinctly lower among those who express a preference to strengthen economic ties only when a country has a strong record on human rights. For those who agree with the statement, only 35% support an agreement with China and only 37% support an agreement with India. Among those who disagree, support for economic ties with these countries is much higher, at 45% for China and 48% for India.

The relationship between a concern for political rights and willingness to engage economically with a country is not limited to Asia. Among those who link political rights and economic engagement there is strikingly low support for a free trade agreement with Russia (27%) and Turkey (29%). In comparison, support for a free trade agreement with the EU is 70% among both groups of respondents. Support for investment from state-owned enterprises follows a similar pattern, with those linking political rights and economic ties being the least likely to support investment from Asian and other emerging countries.

Canadians who link economic engagement and political rights view Asian and other emerging countries as less important to their economic prosperity

Table 5 show the percentage of respondents who view a country as highly important to their economic prosperity broken down by their linking of political rights and economic ties. Those who link political rights and economic ties view emerging countries, particularly Asian countries, as less important to their prosperity. For those who agree with the statement, only 34% see China as highly important and only 18% see India as highly important. For those less concerned

TABLE 4: Support for free trade by concern for human rights and democracy

Q: Canada should only strengthen economic ties with democratic countries that have a good human rights record...		
	Ties Only With Democracies	Ties Not Linked to Democracy
% support for free trade with...		
Australia	72%	69%
EU	70%	70%
Japan	57%	61%
Brazil	45%	54%
South Korea	41%	49%
South Africa	38%	45%
India	37%	48%
Southeast Asia	36%	48%
China	35%	45%
Turkey	29%	40%
Russia	27%	36%

Q.10 Do you support or oppose Canada entering into a Free Trade Agreement with each of the following countries or regions? (% support)

TABLE 5: Economic importance by concern for human rights and democracy

Q: Canada should only strengthen economic ties with democratic countries that have a good human rights record...		
	Ties Only With Democracies	Ties Not Linked to Democracy
% highly important...		
US	77%	74%
EU	48%	45%
UK	42%	38%
China	34%	44%
Japan	32%	34%
Mexico	28%	29%
Australia	27%	23%
India	18%	26%
South Korea	12%	17%
Brazil	12%	12%
Southeast Asia	11%	17%
Russia	7%	12%
South Africa	6%	8%
Turkey	3%	5%

Q.6 How important are each of these countries or regions to Canada's prosperity? (High Importance= 6 or 7 on a scale of 7)

EXPLAINING CANADIANS' VIEWS ON ASIA

with political rights, 44% view China as important and 26% view India as important. This is in stark contrast to Western partners like Australia and the United Kingdom. These

countries are rated as highly important to Canada's economic future by respondents who also prefer to link economic ties to political rights.

CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY AND ECONOMIC TIES

Many Canadians view economic engagement with the rest of the world through the lens of national security. Canadians are less willing to engage in economic relations with Asian and other emerging countries if they have security concerns over foreign control of the economy and/or they only want to strengthen ties with traditional allies.

(49%) support a free trade agreement with China. Of those who agree, only 37% support a free trade agreement with India, while over half (51%) who disagree support such an agreement. The differentials for all other Asian countries are relatively high. By comparison, for Australia, the agree/disagree gap is only two percentage points.

Many Canadians link security and economic relations

Over two-thirds (69%) of Canadians agree with the statement "Foreign control of our economy threatens Canada's national security." While Canadians view foreign economic control of Canada's economy as a security issue, they are split on whether we should limit our ties to allies only. Close to half (45%) of Canadians agree with the statement "To protect the security of Canada, we should strengthen ties with our traditional allies rather than building relations with a broader group of countries." An almost equal percentage (46%) disagree with the statement.

There are reasons security concerns about Asian countries could be particularly acute. A strong majority (60%) of Canadians see China's growing military power as a threat to the Asia Pacific region. Many anticipate military conflict in the region; fully 43% of Canadians agree that "Outright military conflict between countries in the Asia Pacific is likely in the next 10 years." Although this is a decline since 2013 (52%), it is still significantly larger than the 27% of Canadians who disagree with the statement.

Canadians worried that foreign control of the economy threatens national security are less willing to engage with Asian and other emerging countries

Table 6 shows support for free trade by security concerns over foreign control of the economy, demonstrating the importance of this variable. Among those who agree with the statement "Foreign control of our economy threatens Canada's national security," one-third (34%) support free trade with China. Among those who disagree, almost half

TABLE 6: Support for free trade by concern about foreign control of the economy

Q: Foreign control of our economy threatens Canada's national security...	Foreign Control Threatens Security	No Foreign Control Security Threat
	% support for free trade with...	
Australia	72%	74%
EU	69%	74%
Japan	56%	67%
Brazil	45%	53%
South Korea	42%	50%
South Africa	38%	49%
India	37%	51%
Southeast Asia	37%	47%
China	34%	49%
Turkey	30%	36%
Russia	28%	36%

Q.10 Do you support or oppose Canada entering into a Free Trade Agreement with each of the following countries or regions?(% support)

Canadians who want closer ties with traditional allies are more willing to support economic engagement with Western countries

Security concerns also influence the support for investment by state-owned companies. Table 7 shows the

EXPLAINING CANADIANS' VIEWS ON ASIA

support for this form of investment broken down by agreement or disagreement with the statement “To protect the security of Canada, we should strengthen ties with our traditional allies rather than building relations with a broader group of countries.” For those agreeing with the statement, 29% expressed support for state-owned investment from Japan. That percentage rose to 35% among those who disagree with the statement. For most other Asian (and non-Asian) countries there is a similarly modest, positive differential.

Among those agreeing with the statement, over half support investment by a state-owned UK company (54%) and half (50%) support such investment by an Australian company. Among those who disagree with the statement, support drops to 49% for a UK company and 46% for an Australian company. A similar pattern exists when we examine support for free trade.

TABLE 7: Support for state-enterprise investment by support for traditional allies

Q: To protect the security of Canada, we should strengthen ties with our traditional allies rather than building relations with a broader group of countries ...

	Ties with Traditional Allies	Ties with Broader Group of Countries
% in favour of state-owned investment from...		
UK	54%	49%
Australia	50%	46%
France	40%	36%
Japan	29%	35%
Brazil	20%	21%
South Korea	18%	20%
India	15%	19%
South Africa	15%	17%
China	15%	15%
Malaysia	10%	12%
Turkey	10%	12%
Russia	10%	11%

Q.9 If a company, bank or investment fund controlled by a foreign government were trying to buy a controlling stake in a major Canadian company, how would you feel if the foreign government were...? (% in favour)

CONCLUSIONS

Why is it that Canadians perceive Asia as important to their economic prosperity but are hesitant to take concrete policy steps to facilitate economic engagement? Our investigation has highlighted a few reasons, including economic anxiety about wages and labour standards, fear of perceived foreign influence, concern for political rights, and a strategic world-view that tends to privilege engagement with traditional allies.

Further statistical investigation

To identify which of these multiple factors best explains Canadians' opinions, we ran a series of statistical models that included both demographic and attitudinal variables. We examined support for trade agreements and willingness to accept state-owned investments from each country. In addition, we looked at the factors associated with a disparity in support, where a respondent supported ties with

traditional trading partners but not with Asian or other emerging partners. A few findings are worth noting:

First, Canadian views on economic engagement are strongly associated with their views on security issues. Canadians who view foreign control of the economy as a threat to national security are less willing to support trade agreements with Asian countries. Canadians who express favour for traditional allies tend to accept investment from state-owned firms controlled by Western countries but not from those controlled by Asian countries. For many Canadians, economic engagement and security issues go hand in hand.

Second, concern for political rights is an important factor explaining the gap between support for Western and for emerging countries. Canadians who want to strengthen ties only with democratic countries tend to support

EXPLAINING CANADIANS' VIEWS ON ASIA

engagement with commonly recognized democracies, like Australia and Britain, but not with Asian and other emerging countries. Notably, those expressing a preference for strengthening ties with democracies only are less likely to support engagement even with South Korea and India, Asian countries widely accepted as democratic.

Third, concerns about foreign influence are negatively associated with support for engaging with Asian and other emerging countries. In particular, these concerns are strongly associated with low support for state-owned investment from non-Western countries. However, the association tends to be strongest when the country is China or India or is in Southeast Asia. For Japan and South Korea, the association is either small or statistically insignificant. There could be a preference for engaging people who have similar language and customs or simply a lack of familiarity with other cultures. In any case, a feeling of cultural unease does correlate with low support for engagement with Asian countries.

Fourth, support for economic engagement with Asia is influenced by Canadians' economic world-views. Those worried about labour standards and wages are hesitant to engage with any country, whether a traditional and or emerging trading partner. That concern about labour and wages explains some of the gap between support for trade deals with different countries, but it is less useful in explaining differences in support for state-owned investment.

Implications for Canada-Asia Relations

Canadian perceptions of Asia's economic importance have slipped over the past year, but Canadians still tend to view the region as important to their prosperity, especially when compared to other emerging countries. This perceived importance does not translate directly into support for policy action, however. Our examination has exposed several non-economic factors that shape support for engagement with Asia, particularly security concerns, a preference for strengthening ties with countries considered to be democratic, and an underlying anxiety about foreign influence. It is important to recognize and respond to these underlying issues shaping public opinion.

Strategies will depend on the particular challenge. Anxiety about foreign influence is a factor, but there is no reason to

assume that cultural bias is an unchanging, ingrained spoiler of Canadian attitudes toward Asia. Canadians are actually quite favourable toward Japan which, not coincidentally, is a nation with which Canada has a long history of significant cultural and economic interaction. Increasing exchanges with all Asian countries and providing educational opportunities should make the region less "foreign" over time.

Security and political rights issues require a number of responses. For democratic countries, providing accurate and up-to-date information on political rights is likely to ease resistance to closer ties. Furthermore, proponents of closer ties should keep in mind that Canadians do not strictly separate their opinions about economic engagement from other political and security priorities. It is vital that proponents of engagement explain how increasing economic exchanges between nations also furthers the pursuit of security and political rights goals.

DETAILED FINDINGS

SECTION 1: PERCEPTIONS OF ASIA

- Canadians have “warmer” feelings for Western than for non-Western countries. Among Asian countries, Japan is regarded more positively than others, with over one-third (36%) having “warm” feelings toward that country. South Korea (20%) is a distant second but well ahead of China (10%), India (12%), or Southeast Asia (14%). Of all Asian countries, Canadians have the least positive views of China, with 31% having “cool” feelings, just behind Russia (34%).
- Canadians’ views of Asian countries tend to mirror those they hold of other non-Western countries, including Brazil (22% warm), and South Africa (15% warm).
- Canadians are feeling more connected to the Asia Pacific than last year. Over one-fifth of Canadians (22%) agree that Canada is part of the Asia Pacific region, up four percentage points in the past 12 months. It is, however, still fewer than the one-third (29%) who agreed in 2012.
- A full third of Canadians think Canada is “more a part of” the Asia Pacific today than it was 10 years ago. Fewer than 1 in 10 think it is “less a part of the region.”
- Over one-third of Canadians (37%) believe that economic and political relations with Asia should be Canada’s top foreign policy. However, this is a significant 14-point drop from their views in 2013 (51%).

Little change in feelings of warmth toward Asian countries

COLD/UNFAVOURABLE RATING (% of 1-3 on a scale of 10)				WARM/FAVOURABLE RATING (% of 8-10 on a scale of 10)						
2010	2011	2012	2013			2013	2012	2011	2010	
3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	Australia	67%	67%	68%	64%	63%
5%	NA	5%	5%	↓ 3%	United Kingdom	62% ↑	54%	57%	NA	50%
9%	10%	10%	10%	↓ 7%	United States	52% ↑	48%	47%	43%	43%
9%	9%	8%	9%	↓ 6%	France	42%	39%	41%	36%	37%
10%	11%	10%	11%	↓ 8%	Japan	36% ↑	31%	34%	28%	27%
NA	NA	NA	NA	7%	Brazil	22%	NA	NA	NA	NA
24%	24%	22%	21%	18%	South Korea	20% ↑	16%	17%	13%	12%
NA	NA	NA	NA	14%	South Africa	15%	NA	NA	NA	NA
20%	20%	17%	17%	16%	Southeast Asia	14%	14%	14%	11%	11%
23%	23%	23%	21%	23%	India	12%	14%	14%	12%	12%
31%	29%	29%	31%	31%	China	10%	10%	12%	9%	10%
NA	NA	NA	NA	34%	Russia	8%	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	20%	Turkey	7%	NA	NA	NA	NA

"NA": No data available
Arrows indicate statistically significant year-on-year change.

Base: All respondents: 2010 (n = 2,903), 2011 (n = 2,926), 2012 (n = 3,129), 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
Q.1 Please rate your feelings towards some countries or regions, with ten meaning a very warm, favourable feeling, one meaning a very cold, unfavourable feeling, and five meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from one to ten: the higher the number the more favourable your feelings are toward that country.

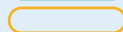
British Columbia has the “warmest” feelings for Asian countries

Warm / favourable rating (% of 8-10 on a scale of 10)

	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATLANTIC	NORTH
Australia	68%	70%	69%	71%	70%	58%	65%	69%
United Kingdom	67%	65%	60%	67%	67%	50%	64%	70%
United States	48%	46%	48%	50%	52%	56%	55%	44%
France	40%	29%	30%	31%	38%	58%	35%	31%
Japan	43%	37%	32%	34%	37%	36%	30%	43%
Brazil	20%	19%	20%	23%	21%	27%	17%	29%
South Korea	25%	19%	16%	16%	19%	19%	15%	35%
South Africa	18%	11%	18%	15%	14%	15%	14%	15%
Southeast Asia	17%	16%	14%	13%	12%	15%	10%	17%
India	15%	11%	14%	13%	11%	13%	8%	27%
China	12%	7%	13%	10%	8%	14%	9%	8%
Turkey	7%	6%	13%	6%	7%	8%	6%	22%
Russia	8%	6%	6%	9%	7%	11%	7%	15%



% is **higher** than other province(s) and statistically significant.



% is **lower** than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

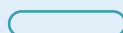
Base: All respondents (n = 3,487)

Q.1: Please rate your feelings towards some countries or regions, with ten meaning a very warm, favourable feeling, one meaning a very cold, unfavourable feeling, and five meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from one to ten: the higher the number the more favourable your feelings are toward that country.

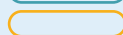
Ontario has the “coolest” feelings toward certain Asian countries

Cold / unfavourable rating (% of 1-3 on a scale of 10)

	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATLANTIC	NORTH
Russia	33%	31%	34%	33%	39%	29%	30%	39%
China	34%	30%	28%	33%	36%	23%	30%	41%
India	22%	22%	20%	18%	29%	17%	21%	6%
Turkey	20%	19%	17%	19%	22%	18%	21%	15%
South Korea	19%	18%	16%	15%	20%	17%	19%	8%
Southeast Asia	14%	15%	15%	14%	19%	13%	17%	19%
South Africa	13%	15%	12%	12%	17%	12%	13%	7%
Japan	9%	4%	9%	5%	10%	8%	10%	4%
Brazil	7%	5%	9%	5%	8%	7%	7%	0%
France	7%	7%	9%	6%	7%	4%	6%	7%
United States	10%	6%	8%	9%	6%	6%	6%	6%
United Kingdom	4%	1%	3%	3%	3%	5%	2%	0%
Australia	4%	1%	1%	0%	1%	3%	1%	0%



% is **higher** than other province(s) and statistically significant.



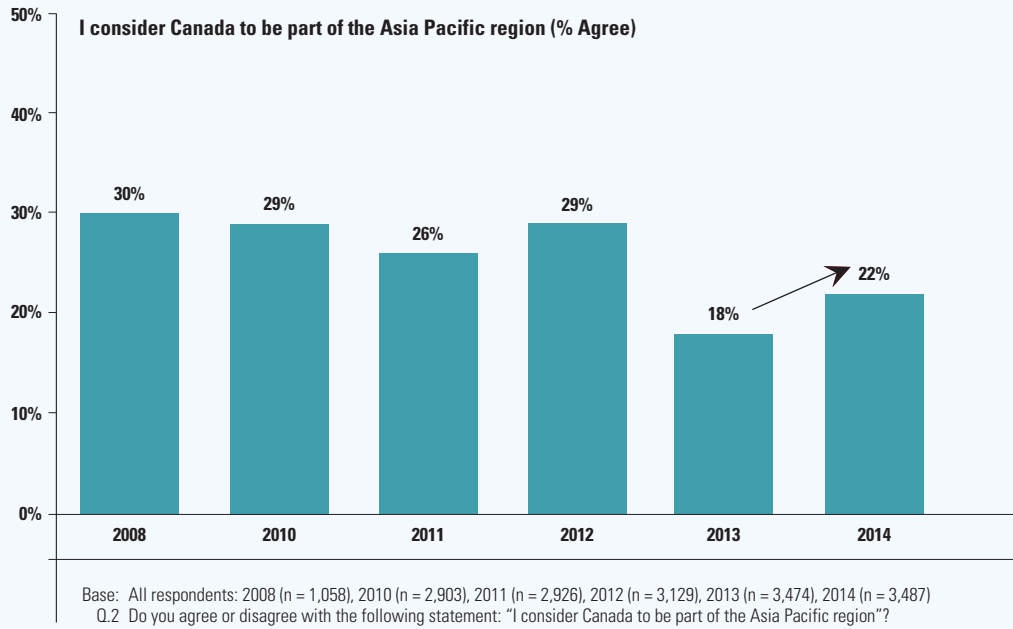
% is **lower** than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

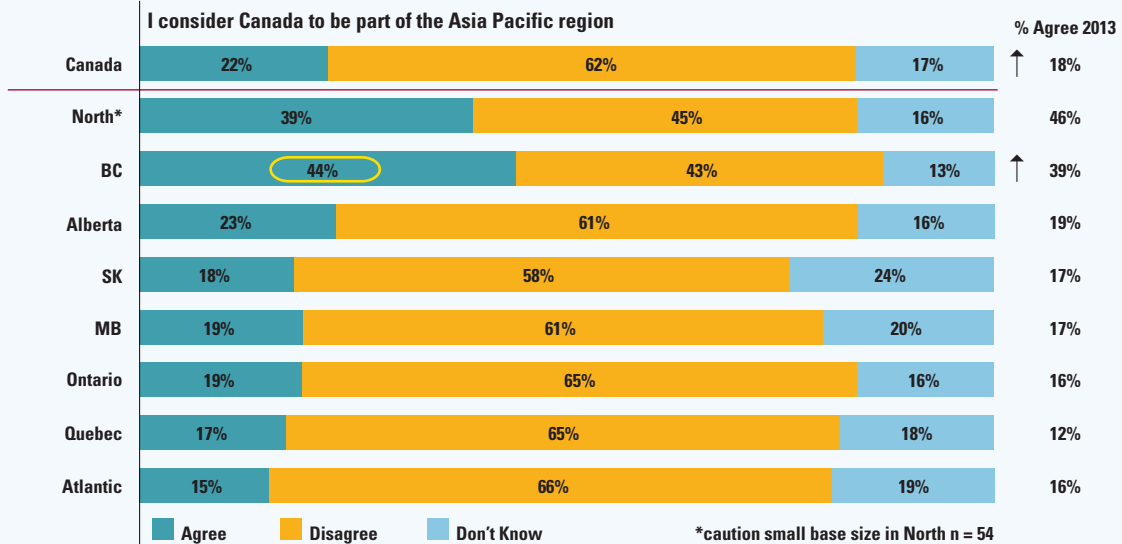
Base: All respondents (n = 3,487)

Q.1: Please rate your feelings towards some countries or regions, with ten meaning a very warm, favourable feeling, one meaning a very cold, unfavourable feeling, and five meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from one to ten: the higher the number the more favourable your feelings are toward that country.

Proportion of Canadians who view Canada as a part of the Asia Pacific region rebounds somewhat in 2014



British Columbia most likely to consider Canada to be a part of the Asia Pacific region

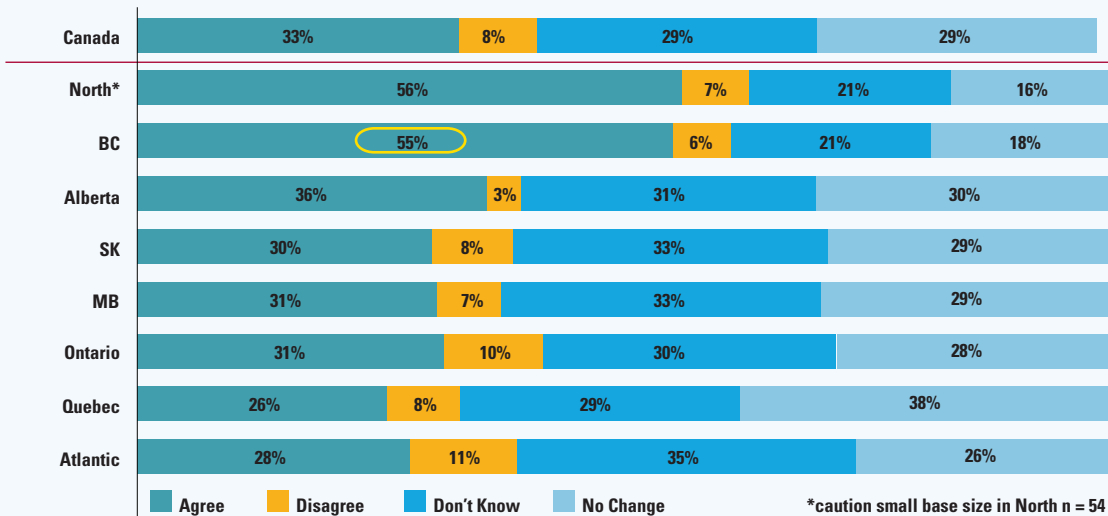


% is **higher** than other province(s) and statistically significant.

Base: All respondents: 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)

Q.2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I consider Canada to be part of the Asia Pacific region"?

Canadians, particularly those in British Columbia, see Canada as more a part of the Asia Pacific region today than it was 10 years ago

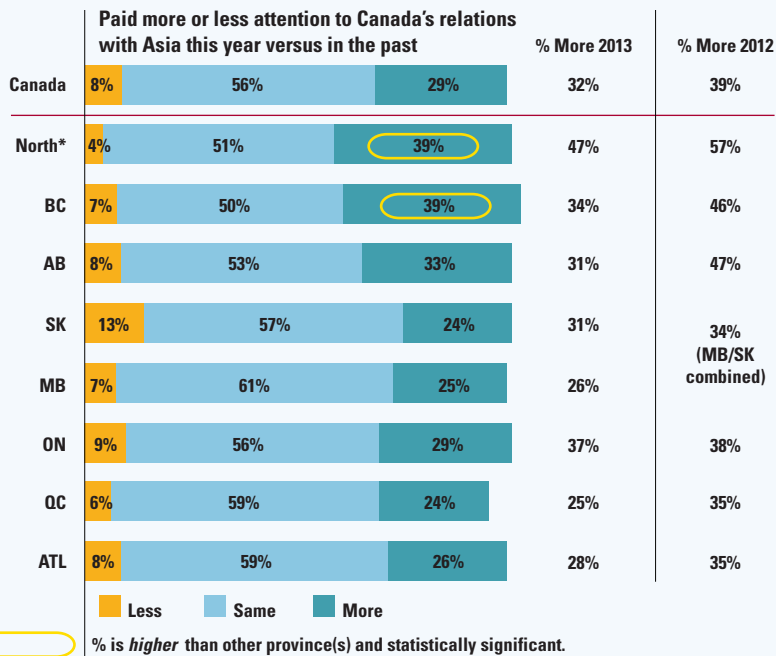


% is **higher** than other province(s) and statistically significant.

Base: All respondents: (n = 3,487)

Q.2 Do you think Canada is more a part of or less a part of the Asia Pacific region today compared to 10 years ago, or has Canada's status in this regard not really changed over the past decade?

Close to a third of Canadians paid more attention to Canada's relations with Asia this year than in the past

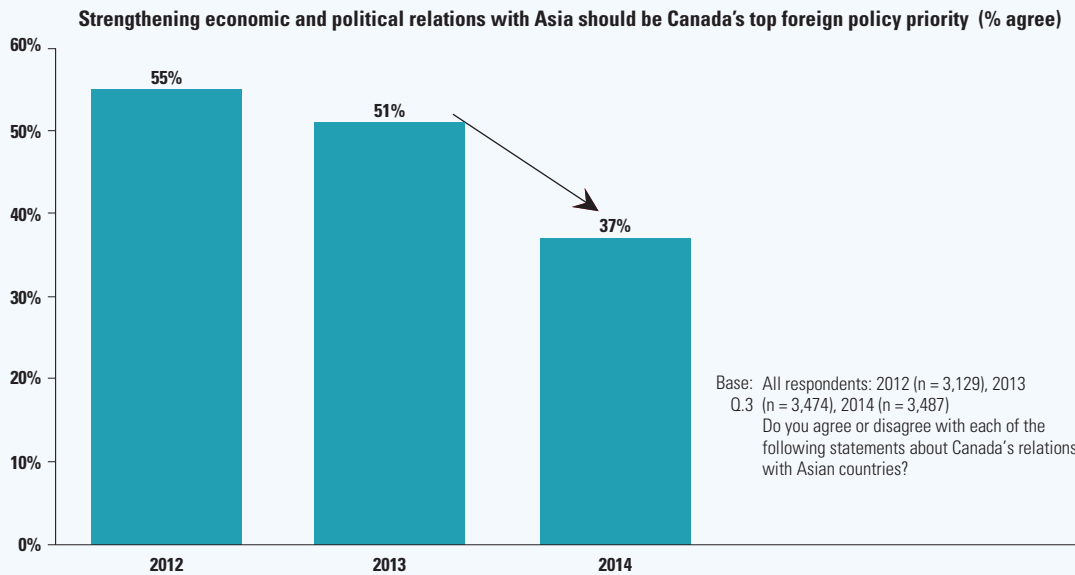


Base: All respondents: 2012 (n = 3,129), 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
 Q.5 Generally speaking, in the past year, would you say you've paid more attention or less attention to Canada's relations with Asia than you have in the past?

Respondents who answered "do not know" are excluded from these tables meaning totals may not add up to 100

*caution small base size in North n = 54

Decline in Asia's importance as Canada's top foreign policy priority



Base: All respondents: 2012 (n = 3,129), 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
 Q.3 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Canada's relations with Asian countries?

DETAILED FINDINGS

SECTION 2: VIEWS OF CANADA-ASIA ECONOMIC RELATIONS

- **Canadians are more likely to see traditional trading partners as important to Canada's prosperity than emerging countries. Their view of the United States (74%) stands well above the others, unchanged from previous years. Views of the European Union (46%, up four points from 2013) and the United Kingdom (40%, up six points) have grown more positive over the past year. By way of contrast, only a third, or fewer, of Canadians consider any Asian country to be important to Canada's prosperity. The list is headed by China (35%) and Japan (31%), followed by India (20%), South Korea (13%), and Southeast Asia (12%).**
- **British Columbians rank the importance of China (41%), Japan (37%), India (25%), and South Korea (16%) higher than any other province.**
- **Canadians increasingly view the growth of China and India less as an opportunity than a threat. Between 2012 and 2014, there was a nine-point drop in Canadians who viewed a growing China more as an opportunity than a threat (from 50% to 41%) and a seven-point drop in those viewing India more as an opportunity than a threat (from 57% to 50%).**
- **Canadians express strong concerns about labour and business practices in Asia. More than four-fifths (82%) agree that the low cost of labour in Asia makes it difficult for Canadians to compete. Over half (53%) agree that state support for business in Asia gives an unfair advantage to Asian companies doing business in Canada.**
- **Support for free trade agreements with most Asian countries is highest in Alberta. It is the only province where a majority (52%) support a free trade deal with South Korea.**

British Columbia ranks Asian countries higher in importance for Canada's economy (percentage of 6 or 7 on a scale of 7)

	CANADA	NORTH	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATLANTIC
United States	74%	94%	78%	71%	73%	66%	76%	72%	73%
European Union	46%	56%	45%	40%	42%	38%	45%	53%	42%
United Kingdom	40%	42%	38%	38%	38%	33%	46%	34%	42%
China	35%	49%	41%	38%	35%	31%	35%	31%	36%
Japan	31%	28%	37%	27%	29%	25%	32%	31%	30%
Mexico	27%	36%	24%	29%	29%	20%	24%	34%	24%
Australia	26%	29%	26%	21%	33%	27%	27%	26%	26%
India	20%	20%	25%	17%	20%	13%	21%	19%	15%
South Korea	13%	21%	16%	12%	10%	12%	13%	12%	11%
Southeast Asia	12%	13%	15%	16%	15%	10%	11%	11%	12%
Brazil	12%	7%	12%	9%	12%	12%	11%	16%	9%
Russia	8%	13%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%	8%
South Africa	6%	1%	6%	3%	8%	5%	6%	9%	8%
Turkey	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	5%	5%



% is *higher* than other province(s) and statistically significant.

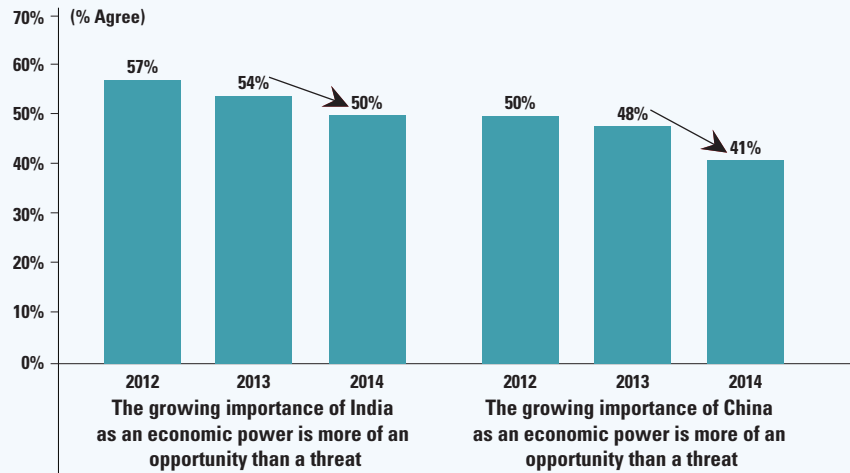
% is *lower* than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

Base: All respondents: 2014 (n = 3,487)

Q.6 How important are each of these countries or regions to Canada's prosperity?

Fewer Canadians view the growing economic power of China, India as more of an opportunity than a threat



Base: All respondents: 2012 (n = 3,129), 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
 Q.3 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Canada's relations with Asian countries?

Western provinces most likely to view India's growth as an opportunity rather than threat

		NORTH*	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATL
The growing importance of India as an economic power is more of an opportunity than a threat	% Agree	73%	55%	56%	52%	45%	48%	50%	43%
	% Disagree	27%	32%	31%	33%	41%	39%	32%	36%
The growing importance of China as an economic power is more of an opportunity than a threat	% Agree	38%	41%	44%	48%	38%	39%	43%	40%
	% Disagree	56%	47%	43%	39%	51%	49%	45%	45%



% is *higher* than other province(s) and statistically significant.

% is *lower* than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

Base: All respondents: 2014 (n = 3,487)

Q.3 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Canada's relations with Asian countries?

Canadians are concerned about competing with low-cost labour, state-supported business in Asia





"NA": No data available
Arrows indicate statistically significant year-on-year change.

Base: All respondents: 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
Q.7 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements on Canada's economic relations with Asia?

Ontario and British Columbia more worried than other provinces about low wages, state support for business in Asia

		NORTH*	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATL
Canada would benefit from more Asian investment in the country	% Agree	50%	43%	40%	38%	34%	41%	43%	34%
	% Disagree	43%	46%	40%	47%	47%	44%	34%	41%
Canada should provide economic incentives to encourage more Canadian companies to set up operations in Asia	% Agree	21%	35%	36%	32%	31%	34%	42%	23%
	% Disagree	69%	53%	49%	52%	54%	51%	42%	55%
The Canadian government should do more to facilitate trade and investment missions for Canadian companies to visit Asian countries	% Agree	45%	51%	44%	47%	42%	47%	50%	41%
	% Disagree	44%	36%	37%	35%	30%	36%	32%	38%
It would be bad for Canadians if Asian countries surpassed us economically	% Agree	50%	59%	54%	56%	53%	60%	61%	51%
	% Disagree	40%	28%	29%	25%	27%	25%	22%	27%
The low cost of labour in Asia makes it difficult for Canadians to compete	% Agree	86%	86%	74%	74%	81%	84%	81%	77%
	% Disagree	11%	9%	15%	14%	9%	7%	10%	10%
State support for business in Asia provides an unfair advantage to Asian companies doing business in Canada	% Agree	58%	60%	52%	49%	50%	58%	45%	45%
	% Disagree	17%	17%	20%	21%	20%	15%	27%	18%

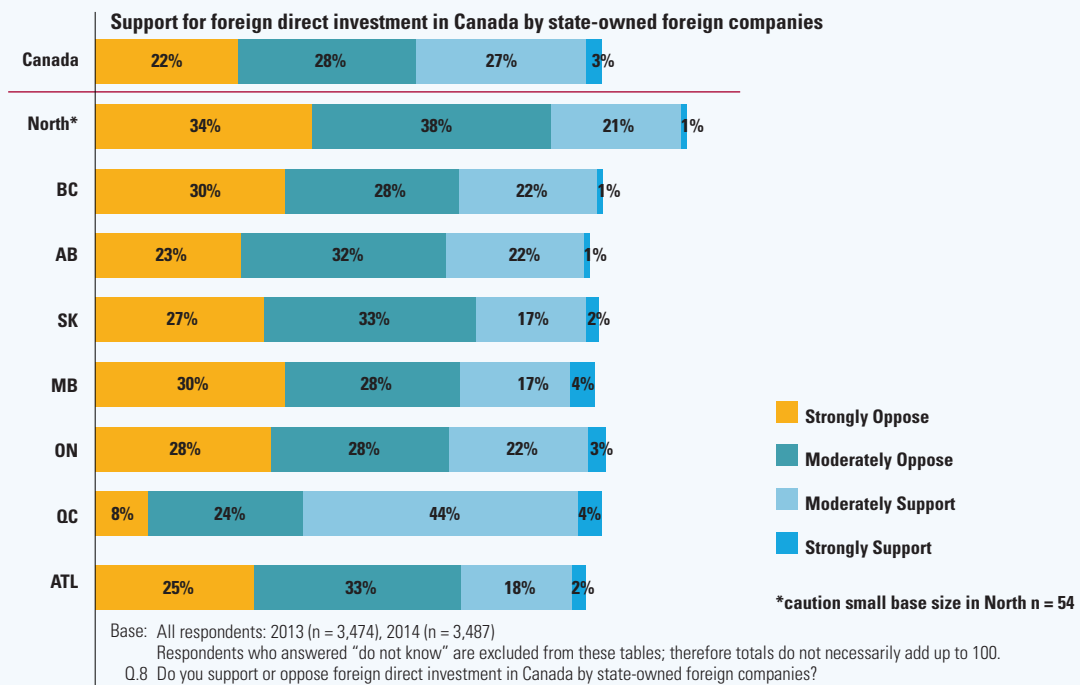
 % is higher than other province(s) and statistically significant.

 % is lower than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

Base: All respondents: 2014 (n = 3,487)
Q.7 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements on Canada's economic relations with Asia?

Quebec is the province most supportive of investment by state-owned foreign companies



Investment by state-owned companies supported only if companies are from Great Britain or Australia; Atlantic Canadians least supportive of state-owned companies from Asia

		CANADA	NORTH*	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATLANTIC
The government of Great Britain	% Agree	49%	64%	49%	48%	46%	47%	53%	45%	49%
	% Disagree	37%	32%	41%	40%	39%	40%	36%	37%	38%
The government of Australia	% Agree	46%	56%	42%	44%	48%	46%	48%	44%	43%
	% Disagree	40%	40%	46%	42%	37%	39%	40%	37%	42%
The government of France	% Agree	36%	34%	28%	29%	28%	29%	36%	50%	28%
	% Disagree	49%	62%	57%	57%	55%	55%	51%	35%	56%
The government of Japan	% Agree	30%	39%	28%	32%	23%	29%	31%	32%	22%
	% Disagree	56%	58%	61%	55%	62%	58%	56%	50%	62%
The government of Brazil	% Agree	19%	26%	14%	17%	18%	19%	19%	24%	14%
	% Disagree	63%	65%	67%	64%	62%	63%	65%	56%	67%
The government of South Korea	% Agree	18%	24%	19%	19%	18%	18%	19%	16%	14%
	% Disagree	66%	72%	67%	66%	66%	67%	67%	64%	67%
The government of India	% Agree	16%	25%	16%	16%	15%	20%	17%	15%	12%
	% Disagree	69%	68%	72%	71%	67%	66%	71%	65%	71%
The government of South Africa	% Agree	15%	22%	13%	13%	15%	19%	14%	19%	10%
	% Disagree	68%	69%	70%	70%	66%	64%	70%	60%	73%
The government of China	% Agree	14%	16%	14%	11%	13%	13%	15%	16%	11%
	% Disagree	73%	78%	76%	77%	75%	74%	74%	68%	74%
The government of Malaysia	% Agree	11%	18%	13%	9%	11%	14%	11%	9%	8%
	% Disagree	69%	67%	68%	73%	67%	65%	70%	66%	73%
The government of Russia	% Agree	10%	18%	7%	6%	10%	10%	10%	13%	7%
	% Disagree	76%	78%	81%	81%	75%	76%	77%	69%	77%
The government of Turkey	% Agree	10%	17%	9%	8%	12%	11%	11%	11%	9%
	% Disagree	70%	73%	74%	74%	67%	70%	70%	66%	74%



% is **higher** than other province(s) and statistically significant.



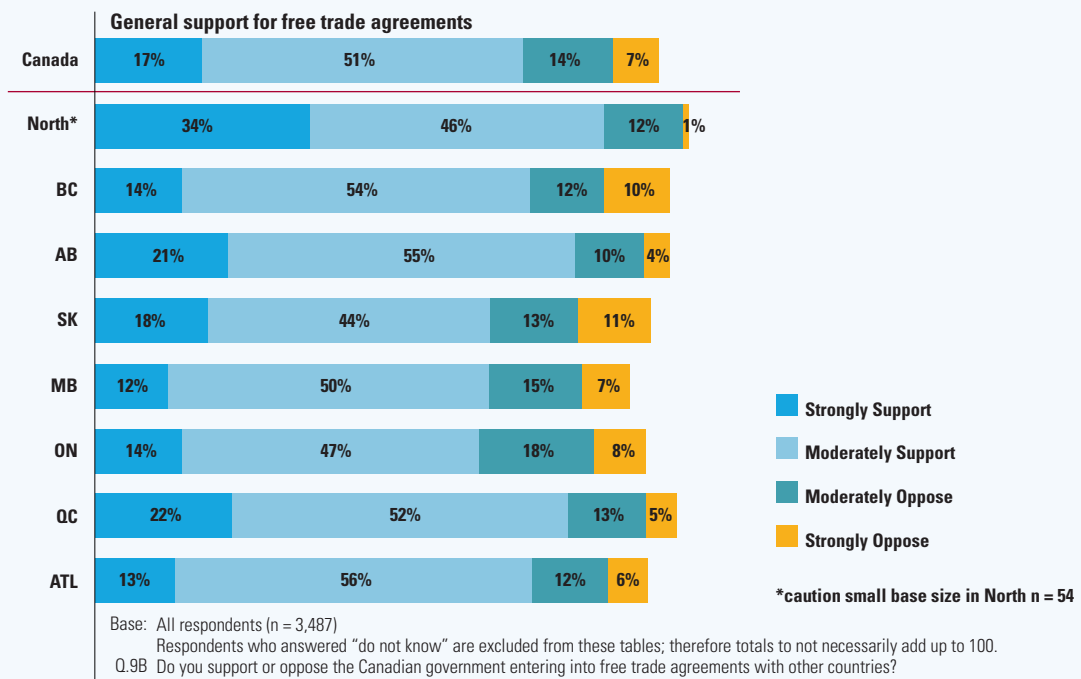
% is **lower** than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

Base: All respondents: n = 3,487

Q.9 If a company, bank or investment fund controlled by a foreign government were trying to buy a controlling stake in a major Canadian company, how would you feel if the foreign government were...? (in favour, opposed, don't know)

Canadians support free trade agreements



Alberta tends to be more supportive than other provinces of free trade agreements

		CANADA	NORTH*	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATLANTIC
Australia	% Agree	69%	82%	68%	74%	68%	69%	68%	69%	66%
	% Disagree	17%	13%	20%	11%	17%	16%	18%	15%	18%
EU	% Agree	67%	79%	67%	69%	61%	63%	65%	73%	64%
	% Disagree	18%	14%	19%	14%	22%	20%	21%	13%	18%
Japan	% Agree	56%	66%	57%	64%	57%	53%	55%	56%	52%
	% Disagree	30%	25%	31%	21%	27%	30%	32%	29%	31%
Brazil	% Agree	45%	59%	41%	51%	41%	43%	41%	50%	42%
	% Disagree	36%	30%	39%	29%	38%	37%	39%	32%	36%
South Korea	% Agree	41%	66%	41%	52%	41%	41%	41%	37%	36%
	% Disagree	41%	25%	42%	31%	38%	41%	43%	43%	45%
India	% Agree	38%	58%	41%	44%	37%	37%	36%	38%	36%
	% Disagree	46%	34%	46%	41%	44%	44%	49%	44%	47%
South Africa	% Agree	38%	47%	39%	46%	40%	37%	36%	37%	39%
	% Disagree	42%	39%	42%	35%	39%	42%	45%	43%	42%
Southeast Asia	% Agree	37%	54%	40%	47%	37%	33%	34%	37%	34%
	% Disagree	44%	32%	43%	34%	43%	46%	47%	43%	46%
China	% Agree	36%	45%	36%	42%	41%	30%	32%	40%	34%
	% Disagree	50%	46%	52%	44%	44%	54%	54%	46%	50%
Turkey	% Agree	30%	43%	32%	34%	31%	26%	28%	29%	32%
	% Disagree	49%	36%	47%	44%	43%	51%	52%	48%	47%
Russia	% Agree	28%	53%	29%	29%	30%	25%	26%	31%	26%
	% Disagree	55%	39%	55%	52%	50%	57%	59%	50%	56%



% is *higher* than other province(s) and statistically significant.



% is *lower* than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

Base: All respondents: n = 3,487

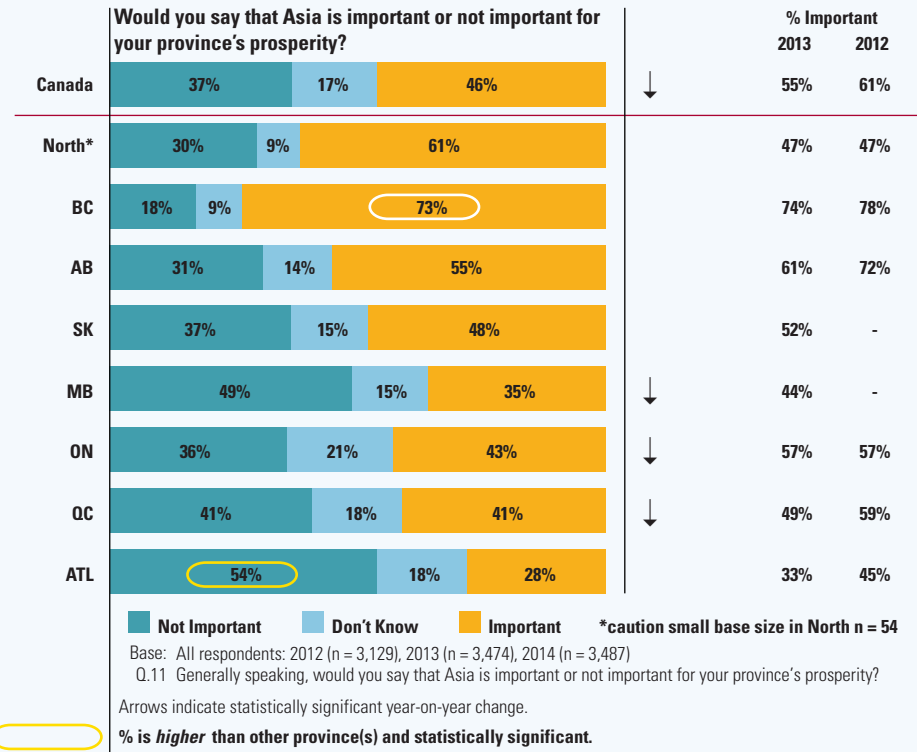
Q.10 Do you support or oppose Canada entering into a Free Trade Agreement with each of the following countries or regions?
(select support/oppose for each of the countries)

DETAILED FINDINGS

SECTION 3: PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES ON CANADA-ASIA RELATIONS

- Overall, Canadians are less convinced today of Asia's importance for their province's prosperity than they were a year ago (down nine points from 55% in 2013 to 46% in 2014); that continues a decline from a high of 61% in 2012. While a majority of British Columbians (73%) and Albertans (55%) consider Asia important, far fewer people in Manitoba (35%), Ontario (43%), Quebec (41%), and the Atlantic provinces (28%) share that sentiment.
- Support for provincial policies promoting closer ties with Asia has also fallen. While a majority of British Columbia (56%) residents back the opening of trade offices in Asia, fewer do so in the rest of the country. Support for trade offices reaches a low of 35% in the Atlantic provinces. Moreover Canadians in all provinces have become less supportive of this idea, the greatest decline being among Ontarians (14 points, 57% in 2013 to 43% in 2014) and Manitobans (11 points, 51% to 40%).
- Majorities in all provinces are in favour of their provincial governments encouraging cultural exchanges with Asia through performing arts and other exhibitions. Canadians in all provinces are quite opposed to placing more emphasis on teaching Asian languages in their province's schools, with about 6 in 10 against the idea in most provinces. Support for all social and cultural policies has also declined significantly in the past 12 months.

Belief in importance of Asia to provincial prosperity is in decline



Canadians reluctant to embrace trade and investment policies to strengthen ties with Asia



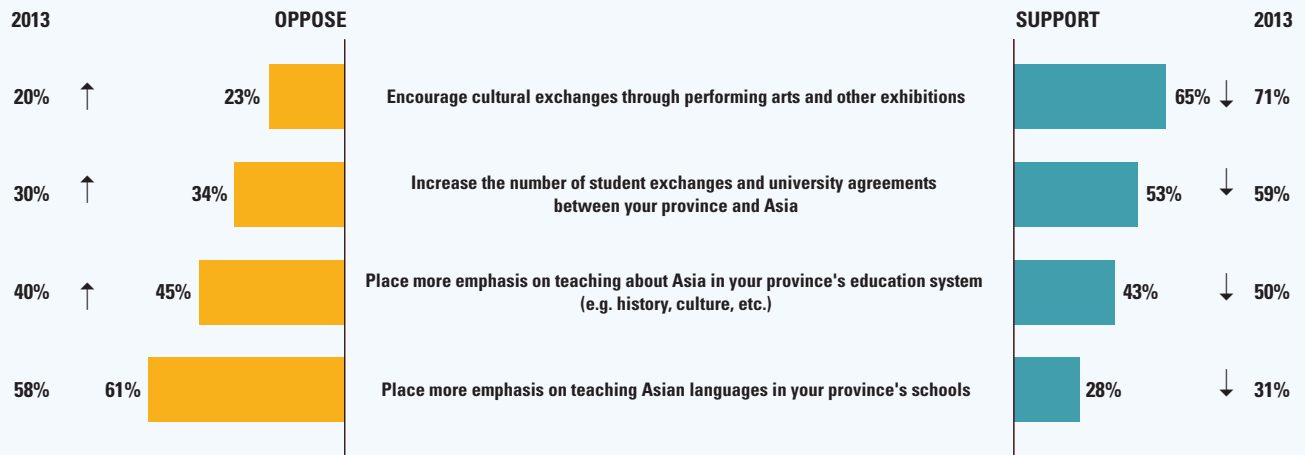
British Columbia and Quebec are more supportive than other provinces of action to strengthen economic ties with Asia

		NORTH*	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATL
Open provincial trade offices in Asia	% Agree	40%	56%	50%	45%	40%	43%	43%	35%
	% Disagree	49%	28%	36%	36%	43%	38%	39%	42%
Give priority to investment from Asian countries in your province	% Agree	12%	24%	20%	17%	16%	21%	31%	17%
	% Disagree	82%	62%	67%	61%	69%	65%	53%	63%

56% % is **higher** than other province(s) and statistically significant.
35% % is **lower** than other province(s) and statistically significant.
***caution: small base size in North n = 54**

Base: All respondents (n = 3,487)
 Q.12 Would you support or oppose your provincial government doing each of the following to build stronger ties with Asia?

Canadians continue to support some provincial government policy actions in culture and education, but support declines



Base: All respondents: 2012 (n = 3,129), 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
 Q.12 Would you support or oppose your provincial government doing each of the following to build stronger ties with Asia?
 Arrows indicate statistically significant year-on-year change.

Quebec more supportive of student exchanges than other provinces, British Columbia most supportive of Asian-language education

		NORTH*	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATL
Encourage cultural exchanges through performing arts and other exhibitions	% Agree	77%	66%	69%	62%	60%	64%	66%	59%
	% Disagree	17%	22%	23%	26%	29%	25%	21%	26%
Increase the number of student exchanges and university agreements between your province and Asia	% Agree	58%	52%	54%	51%	51%	48%	60%	58%
	% Disagree	17%	37%	36%	34%	38%	39%	27%	28%
Place more emphasis on teaching about Asia in your province's education system (e.g. history, culture, etc.)	% Agree	42%	45%	47%	40%	41%	42%	39%	47%
	% Disagree	52%	43%	43%	44%	44%	47%	47%	40%
Place more emphasis on teaching Asian languages in your province's schools	% Agree	18%	38%	29%	21%	25%	26%	27%	26%
	% Disagree	78%	52%	61%	66%	63%	63%	61%	59%



% is *higher* than other province(s) and statistically significant.



% is *lower* than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

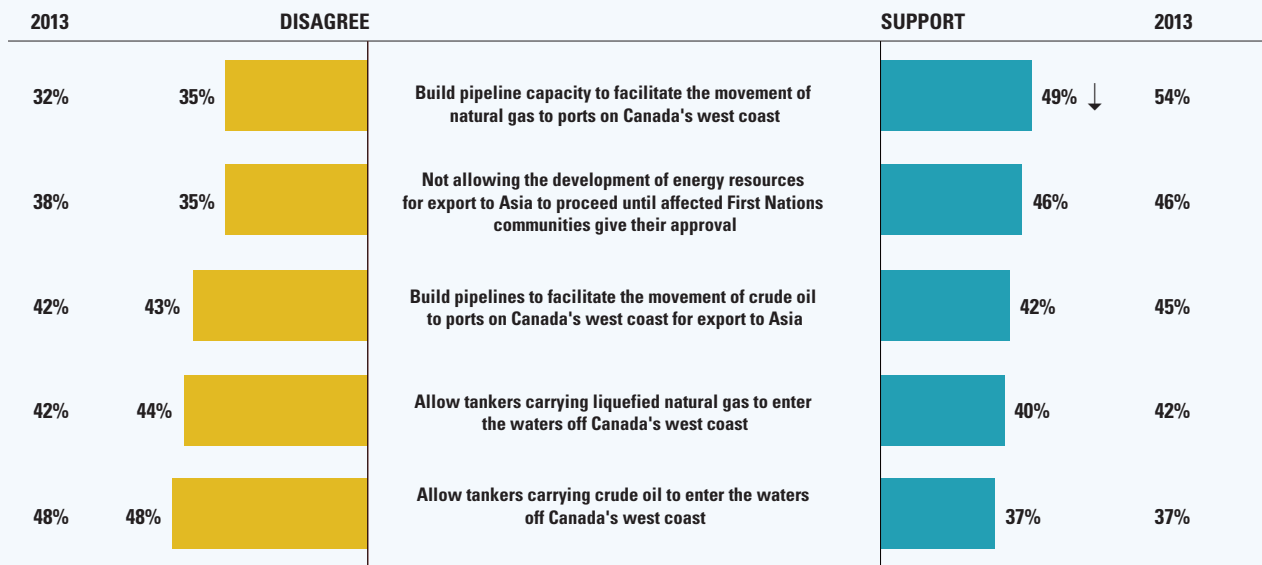
Base: All respondents (n = 3,487)
 Q.12 Would you support or oppose your provincial government doing each of the following to build stronger ties with Asia?

DETAILED FINDINGS

SECTION 4: CANADA-ASIA ENERGY RELATIONS

- Canadians are increasingly of the view that on energy matters, Canada should give priority to our relations with the United States rather than venturing into Asia too quickly. A majority (54%) of the population now holds this view compared to 49% in 2013.
- The Canadian population remains divided in its views of building pipelines to move crude oil (43% support vs. 42% opposed). There is more support for building pipelines to move natural gas to ports on the west coast for export to Asia (49% support vs. 35% opposed). However, support for natural gas pipelines has dropped five points in the past 12 months, from 54% in 2013 to 49% in 2014.
- Canadian public opinion is also split on whether tankers carrying natural gas should be allowed to enter west coast waters (40% support vs. 44% oppose). There is less support for allowing tankers carrying crude oil (37% support vs. 48% oppose). These figures have changed very little over the past year.
- Canadians are not convinced that the economic benefits of exporting oil and liquid natural gas to Asia outweigh the environmental risks associated with transporting these commodities. A majority (54%) believe that the environmental risks outweigh the economic benefits, up from 51% in 2013.
- Canadian's are open to the practice of consulting with First Nations communities on energy issues. Almost half of Canadians (46%) think First Nations consent should be a prerequisite for the development of energy resources for export to Asia. More than one-third (35%) disagree with the idea. This pattern remains unchanged from 2013.

Canadians remain divided on transportation of energy resources

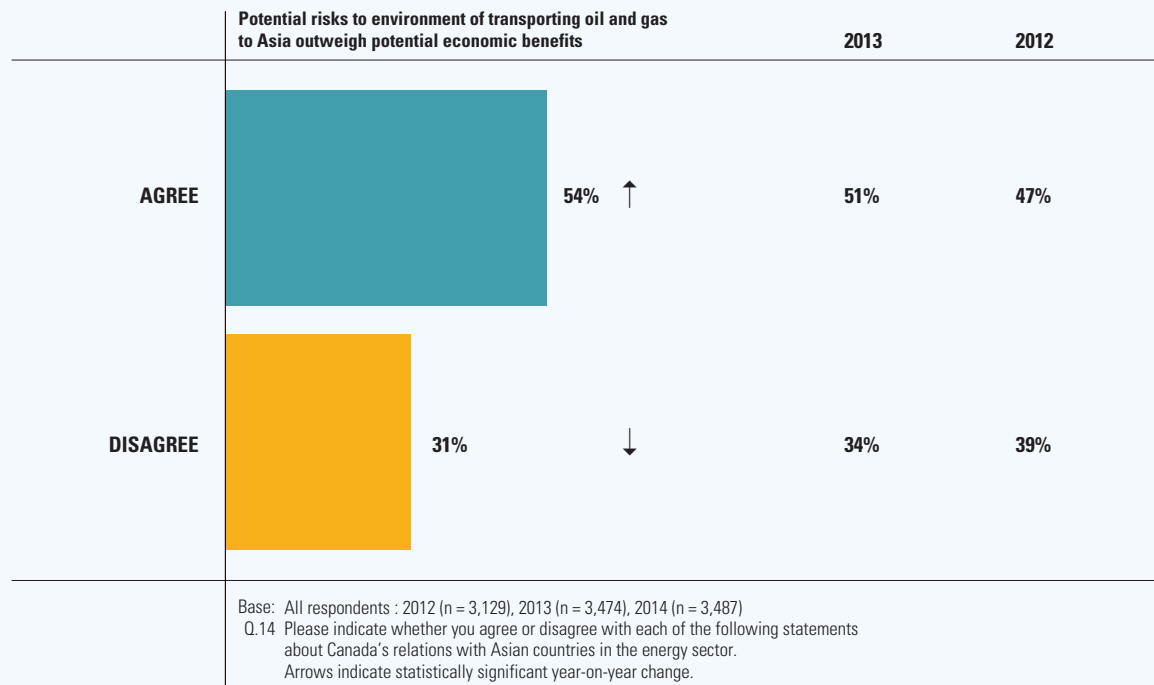


Base: All respondents: 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)

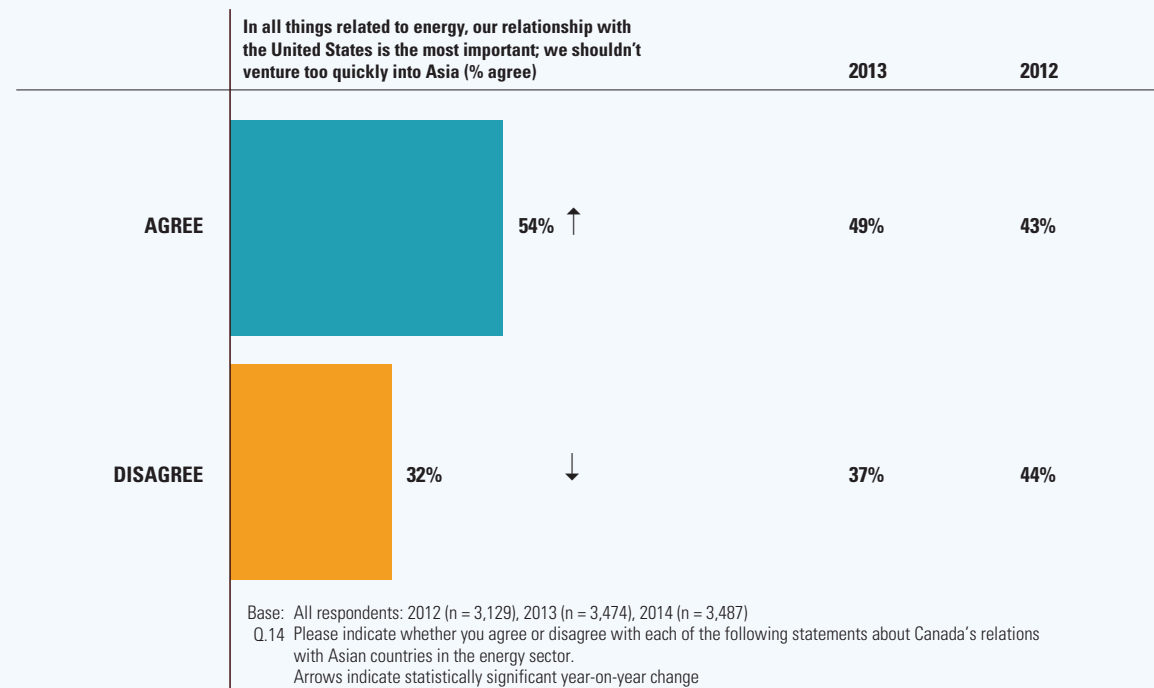
Q.13 Would you support or oppose the Canadian government taking each of the following actions for pursuing opportunities with Asian countries in the energy sector?

Arrows indicate statistically significant year-on-year change.

Canadians increasingly believe risks to environment of transporting oil and gas to Asia may not be worth the potential economic benefits



Increasingly, Canadians want to turn to the United States on energy matters; more hesitant to move too quickly into Asia

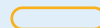


Albertans more in favour of transporting energy exports to Asia; less hesitant to embrace Asia and move away from U.S.

		NORTH*	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATL
In all things related to energy, our relationship with the United States is the most important; we shouldn't venture too quickly into Asia	% Agree	53%	47%	37%	50%	56%	57%	59%	55%
	% Disagree	41%	41%	50%	38%	30%	29%	24%	29%
Build pipeline capacity to facilitate the movement of natural gas to ports on Canada's west coast	% Support	68%	48%	68%	56%	48%	47%	48%	41%
	% Oppose	26%	43%	20%	29%	37%	38%	35%	38%
The potential risks to the environment of transporting oil and gas to Asia outweigh the potential economic benefits (e.g. jobs, economic development, etc.)	% Agree	35%	58%	39%	45%	50%	57%	55%	50%
	% Disagree	60%	32%	46%	39%	31%	27%	26%	34%
Not allowing the development of energy resources for export to Asia to proceed until affected First Nations communities give their approval	% Support	54%	44%	33%	37%	42%	52%	48%	43%
	% Oppose	40%	40%	49%	44%	42%	33%	28%	35%
Build pipelines to facilitate the movement of crude oil to ports on Canada's west coast for export to Asia	% Support	60%	39%	64%	51%	44%	39%	40%	38%
	% Oppose	35%	53%	24%	34%	43%	46%	41%	44%
Allow tankers carrying liquefied natural gas to enter the waters off Canada's west coast	% Support	54%	43%	51%	41%	39%	37%	38%	35%
	% Oppose	33%	47%	31%	42%	46%	47%	44%	46%
Allow tankers carrying crude oil to enter the waters off Canada's west	% Support	50%	31%	50%	42%	33%	33%	41%	31%
	% Oppose	45%	61%	35%	44%	51%	51%	43%	50%



% is *higher* than other province(s) and statistically significant.



% is *lower* than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

Base: All respondents (n = 3,487)

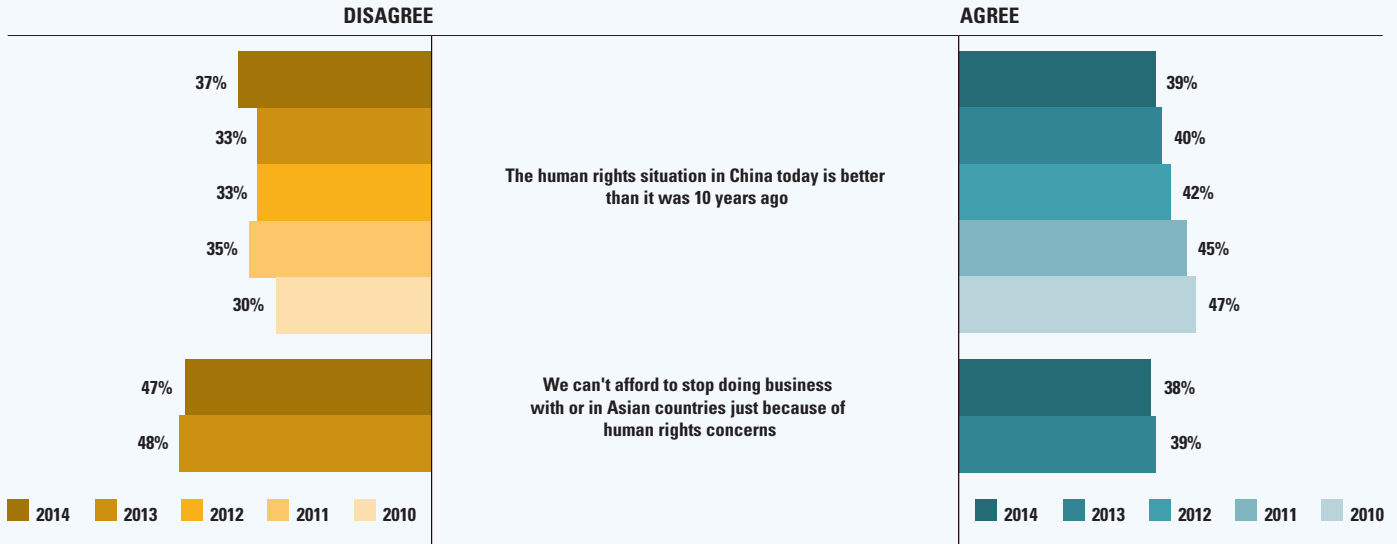
Q.13 Would you support or oppose the Canadian government taking each of the following actions for pursuing opportunities with Asian countries in the energy sector?

DETAILED FINDINGS

SECTION 5: PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASIA

- **Canadians are evenly divided in their views of whether or not the human rights situation in China today is better than it was 10 years ago. 39% believe the situation has improved, 37% disagree.**
- **While views on the progress in China's human rights record remain unchanged from 2013, the five-year trend line shows a steady drop in the optimism among the Canadian public that China's human rights record is improving (from 47% in 2010 to 39% in 2014).**
- **Canadians also tend to link commerce and human rights concerns. Over one-third (38%) of Canadians believe that Canada can't afford to stop doing business with or in Asian countries just because of human rights concerns. Almost one-half (47%) disagree.**

Canadians are becoming less convinced that the human rights situation in China is improving



Base: All respondents: 2010 (n = 2,903), 2011 (n = 2,926), 2012 (n = 3,129), 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
 Q.15 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Canada's relations with Asian countries in the area of human rights?

Atlantic Canadians most likely to link commerce with human rights concerns

		NORTH*	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATL
The human rights situation in China today is better than it was 10 years ago	% Agree	49%	43%	37%	42%	36%	39%	40%	37%
	% Disagree	44%	40%	38%	31%	40%	37%	37%	36%
We can't afford to stop doing business with or in Asian countries just because of human rights concerns	% Agree	42%	40%	41%	39%	36%	36%	42%	31%
	% Disagree	55%	52%	43%	46%	52%	48%	42%	53%



% is *higher* than other province(s) and statistically significant.



% is *lower* than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

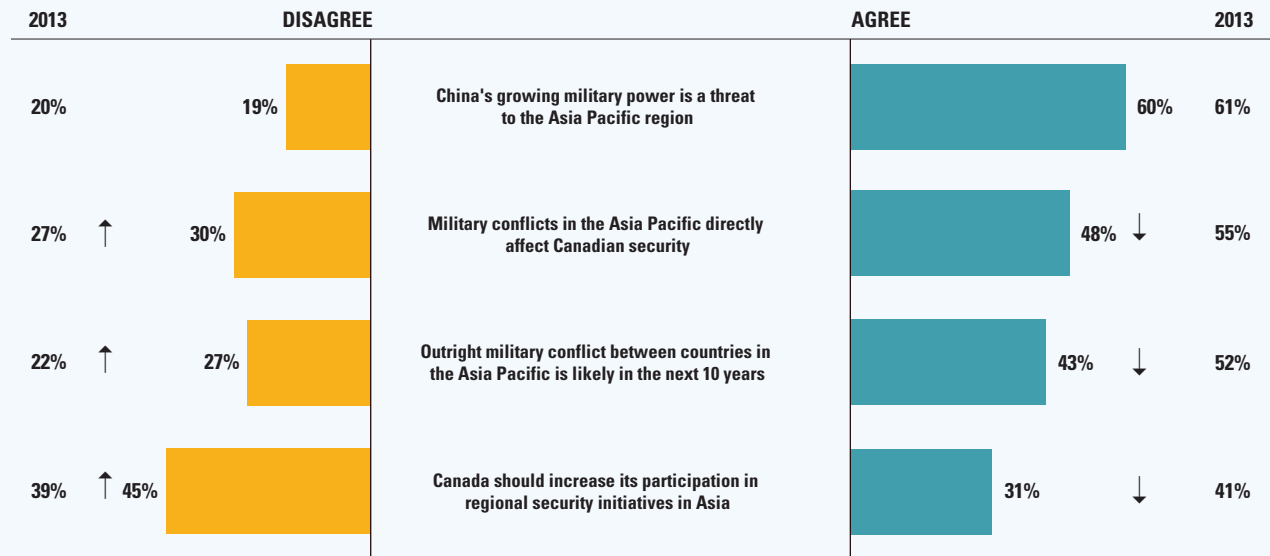
Base: All respondents (n = 3,487)
 Q.15 For each of the statements below, please state if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree or don't know.

DETAILED FINDINGS

SECTION 6: CANADA-ASIA SECURITY ISSUES

- Compared to a year ago, fewer Canadians now think there's a chance of outright military conflict between countries in the Asia Pacific region within the next 10 years (43% in 2014 compared to 52% in 2013). That is despite the fact that a solid majority of Canadians (60%) continue to believe China's growing military power is a threat to peace in the Asia Pacific.
- In line with the overall perception of a safer Asia, the proportion of Canadians who believe that military conflicts in the Asia Pacific directly affect our security dropped from a high of 55% in 2013 to 48% in 2014. Though this view is still held by half the population, Canadians' willingness to engage militarily in the Asian arena through regional security initiatives has also declined 10 points over the past 12 months (from 41% in 2013 to 31% in 2014).
- In most provinces, a majority of respondents think that Canadian security is affected by conflicts in the Asia Pacific. But only 38% in Quebec and 44% in Saskatchewan agree with that view.

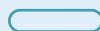
Canadians see fewer security problems in the Asia Pacific; still worry about China's growing military power



Base: All respondents : 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)
 Q.17 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Canada's relations with Asian countries?
 Arrows indicate statistically significant year-on-year change.

British Columbia is optimistic about peace in Asia Pacific; Quebec does not agree that such a regional conflict affects Canadian security

		NORTH*	BC	ALBERTA	SK	MB	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATL
China's growing military power is a threat to the Asia Pacific region	% Agree	67%	60%	56%	66%	59%	62%	58%	62%
	% Disagree	23%	22%	21%	14%	20%	17%	20%	17%
Military conflicts in the Asia Pacific directly affect Canadian security	% Agree	60%	55%	50%	44%	51%	51%	38%	52%
	% Disagree	29%	28%	31%	30%	28%	28%	35%	25%
Outright military conflict between countries in the Asia Pacific is likely in the next 10 years	% Agree	60%	37%	41%	45%	42%	45%	42%	45%
	% Disagree	29%	36%	30%	22%	28%	25%	27%	22%
Canada should increase its participation in regional security initiatives in Asia	% Agree	44%	37%	32%	31%	29%	29%	32%	25%
	% Disagree	43%	42%	44%	42%	45%	47%	44%	47%



% is **higher** than other province(s) and statistically significant.



% is **lower** than other province(s) and statistically significant.

*caution: small base size in North n = 54

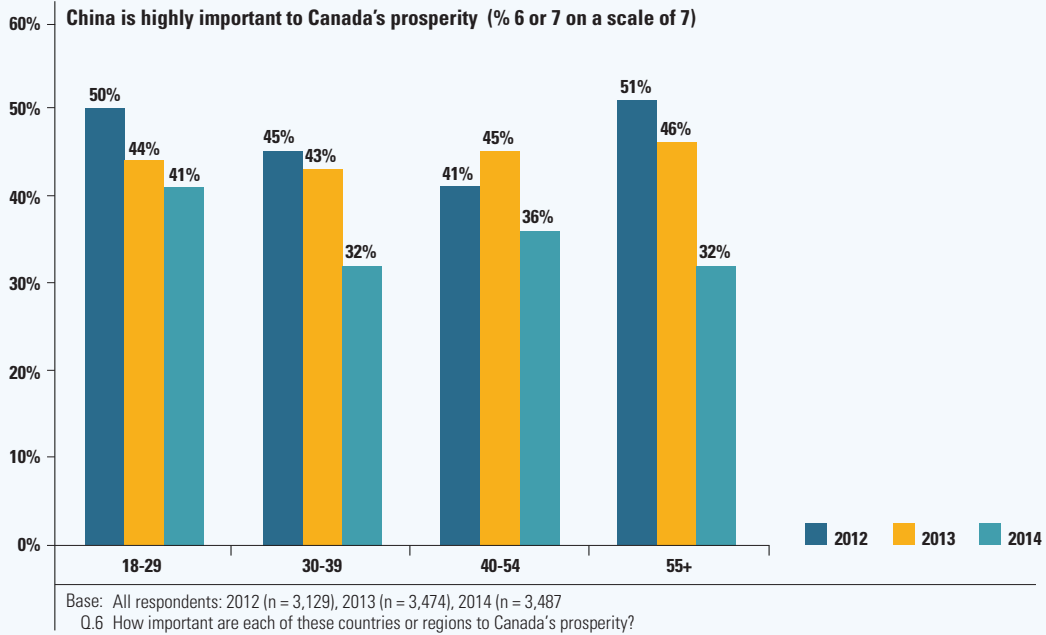
Base: All respondents (n = 3,487)
 Q.17 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Canada's relations with Asian countries?

DETAILED FINDINGS

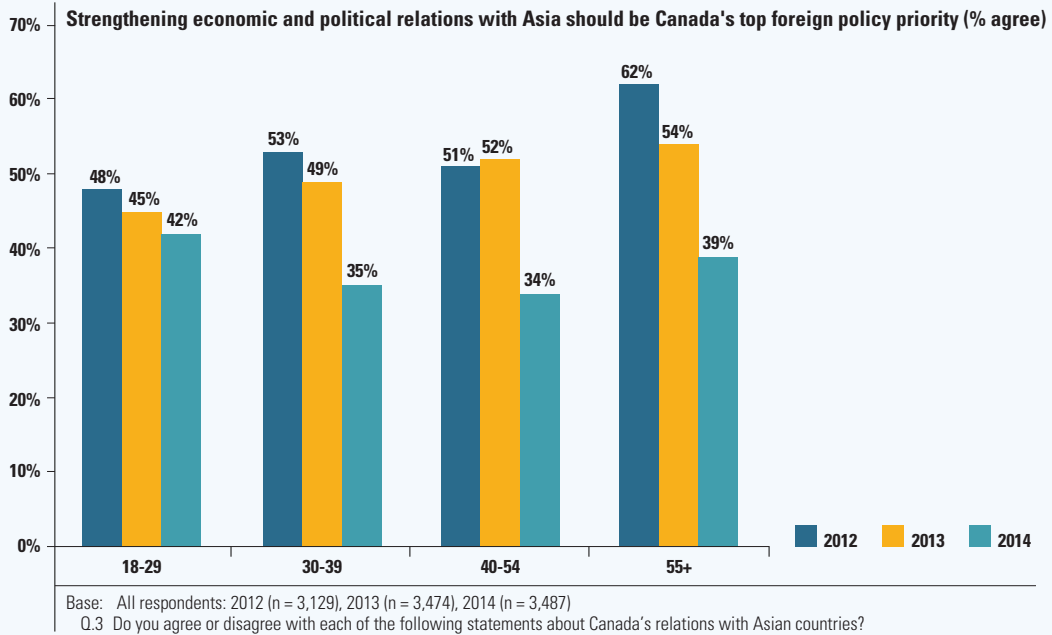
SECTION 7: DEMOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

- Recent declines in Canadians' views about the economic importance of Asia and support for policy engagement have been sharpest among older Canadians.
- Since 2012, there has been a nine-point drop among younger Canadians (18-29) who view China as highly important to Canada's prosperity (from 50% to 41%). Among older Canadians (55+), there has been a 19-point drop (51% to 32%).
- Similarly, older Canadians' agreement that Asia is a foreign policy priority has dropped 23 points since 2012 (62% to 39%). Among younger Canadians (18-29), the drop was only 6 points (48% to 42%).
- This could be due to shifts in attention given to Canada-Asia relations. In 2012, more than half (52%) of older Canadians said they paid more attention to Canada's relations with Asia than they had in the past. In 2014, only 35% of older Canadians said they paid more attention than in the past. In contrast, there has been no significant shift in the attention that younger people have paid to Canada-Asia relations.
- Men and those with higher levels of education view Asian countries as more important to Canada's prosperity, are more supportive of free trade with Asian countries, and are more supportive of investment by state-owned firms.

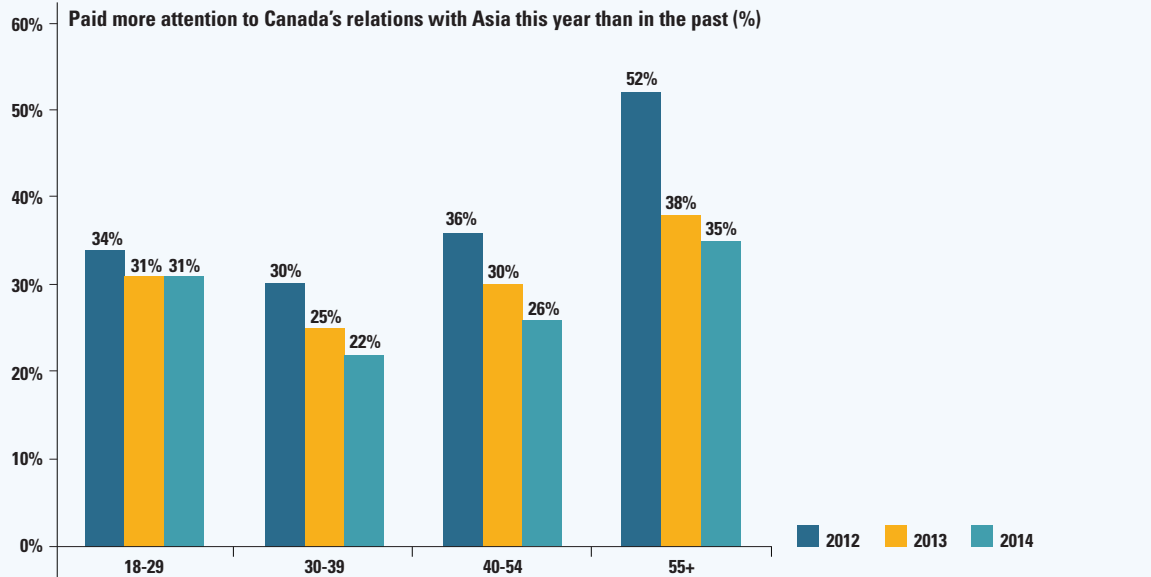
China's perceived importance dropped more among older Canadians



Drop in view of Asia as a top foreign policy priority greatest among older Canadians



Decline in paying attention to Canada-Asia relations greatest among older Canadians



Base: All respondents : 2012 (n = 3,129), 2013 (n = 3,474), 2014 (n = 3,487)

Q.5 Generally speaking, in the past year, would you say you've paid more attention or less attention to Canada's relations with Asia than you have in the past?

Percentage who feel country is important to Canada's prosperity

	China	India	Japan	South Korea	SE Asia	EU	UK	US	Australia	Russia	Brazil	South Africa	Turkey	Mexico
AGE														
18 – 29	41%	24%	26%	11%	14%	40%	33%	62%	17%	8%	9%	5%	4%	22%
30 – 39	32%	24%	30%	13%	11%	44%	32%	69%	18%	6%	12%	8%	6%	28%
40 – 54	36%	18%	34%	12%	13%	47%	39%	75%	27%	10%	11%	10%	4%	26%
55+	32%	17%	32%	14%	12%	50%	50%	83%	35%	7%	15%	7%	2%	30%
GENDER														
Male	41%	23%	38%	18%	15%	51%	42%	78%	28%	9%	14%	7%	4%	32%
Female	29%	16%	26%	7%	10%	41%	38%	70%	24%	7%	10%	6%	4%	22%
EDUCATION														
High School or Less	31%	16%	29%	11%	10%	39%	36%	70%	28%	9%	11%	7%	4%	24%
Some Post-Secondary	35%	20%	33%	13%	13%	48%	42%	76%	26%	7%	12%	6%	4%	27%
Post-Secondary Credential	46%	28%	34%	16%	16%	58%	40%	80%	21%	8%	15%	6%	5%	34%
	<p>is higher than other population group(s) and statistically significant.</p> <p>is lower than other population group(s) and statistically significant.</p>													
	<p>Base: All respondents: 2014 (n = 3,487)</p> <p>Q.6. How important are each of these countries or regions to Canada's prosperity?</p>													

Percentage who support free trade agreement with countries

	China	India	Japan	South Korea	SE Asia	EU	Australia	Russia	Brazil	South Africa	Turkey
AGE											
18 – 29	35%	38%	52%	37%	37%	58%	57%	24%	41%	35%	33%
30 – 39	35%	40%	55%	44%	44%	65%	65%	33%	47%	40%	33%
40 – 54	36%	36%	54%	40%	40%	67%	67%	26%	43%	36%	27%
55+	37%	39%	61%	42%	42%	74%	79%	30%	48%	41%	29%
GENDER											
Male	41%	46%	68%	54%	46%	76%	77%	35%	54%	46%	36%
Female	31%	30%	45%	28%	29%	59%	61%	21%	36%	31%	24%
EDUCATION											
High School or Less	32%	31%	48%	33%	30%	60%	62%	24%	38%	29%	25%
Some Post-Secondary	38%	40%	61%	44%	40%	71%	73%	29%	47%	41%	29%
Post-Secondary Credential	43%	51%	69%	55%	50%	79%	79%	36%	57%	54%	41%
	<p><input type="text"/> % is higher than other population group(s) and statistically significant.</p> <p><input type="text"/> % is lower than other population group(s) and statistically significant.</p>										
	<p>Base: All respondents (n = 3,487)</p> <p>Q.10 Do you support or oppose Canada entering into a Free Trade Agreement with each of the following countries or regions (select support/oppose for each of the countries)</p>										

Percentage who support investment by state-owned enterprises from different countries

	China	India	Japan	South Korea	Malaysia	Australia	France	UK	Russia	Brazil	South Africa	Turkey
AGE												
18 – 29	21%	22%	37%	24%	15%	46%	42%	49%	14%	20%	14%	15%
30 – 39	11%	17%	29%	19%	13%	44%	39%	45%	9%	21%	15%	11%
40 – 54	13%	12%	26%	15%	9%	41%	33%	45%	9%	17%	14%	10%
55+	14%	16%	32%	17%	8%	50%	36%	57%	10%	19%	17%	8%
GENDER												
Male	17%	21%	40%	26%	15%	51%	40%	54%	14%	25%	20%	14%
Female	11%	11%	21%	10%	7%	40%	33%	44%	7%	13%	10%	7%
EDUCATION												
High School or Less	16%	15%	27%	16%	10%	42%	34%	47%	12%	17%	12%	10%
Some Post-Secondary	12%	15%	31%	17%	10%	49%	38%	52%	8%	19%	16%	9%
Post-Secondary Credential	15%	21%	36%	23%	15%	49%	40%	51%	8%	24%	21%	14%
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> % is higher than other population group(s) and statistically significant.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> % is lower than other population group(s) and statistically significant.</p>											
	<p>Base: All respondents (n = 3,487) Q.9 If a company, bank or investment fund controlled by a foreign government were trying to buy a controlling stake in a major Canadian company, how would you feel if the foreign government were: (in favour, opposed, don't know)</p>											

APPENDIX: READING THE TABLES

Dividing the Sample:

We divide our sample on the basis of a respondent's answer to the question in this cell. Those agreeing with the question are placed in the "Prefer Ties with Similar Wage Countries" column, those disagreeing in the "Economic Ties Need Not Be Linked to Wages" column.

Reading the Tables:

We chose this presentation format because it allows us to present a large quantity of data in a limited space. We provided this additional tutorial to help access the results.

TABLE 1: Support for free trade by concern about wages and labour standards

Q: Canada should only strengthen economic ties with countries that have labour standards and wages similar to, or better than, our own...

	Prefer Ties with Similar-Wage Countries	Economic Ties Need Not Be Linked to Wages
% support for free trade with...		
Australia	70%	73%
EU	69%	72%
Japan	55%	63%
Brazil	44%	51%
South Korea	39%	50%
South Africa	36%	46%
India	35%	47%
Southeast Asia	34%	47%
China	33%	44%
Turkey	27%	45%
Russia	26%	34%

Q.10 Do you support or oppose Canada entering into a Free Trade Agreement with each of the following countries or regions? (% support)

Defining the Result:

This cell indicates the result displayed in the table. Results are displayed by country.

In this case, it is the percentage answering "support" to the question:

"Do you support or oppose Canada entering into a Free Trade Agreement with each of the following countries or regions?"

Example #1

Among respondents who want to strengthen ties only with countries that have similar wages and labour standards, 39% support a free trade agreement with South Korea.

Example #2

Among respondents who do not link economic ties with labour standards and wages, 44% support a free trade agreement with China.



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