

The Montreal Economic Institute

Pan-Canadian Survey Report

May 2004

**The Opinion of Canadians
on Access to Private Sector Healthcare**

31 May 2004
13026-002



507 Place d'Armes, Suite 700, Montréal (Québec) H2Y 2W8 • Tel: 514-982-2464 • Fax: 514-987-1960 • www.legermarketing.com

Methodological Reminder

This survey was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 2,092 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

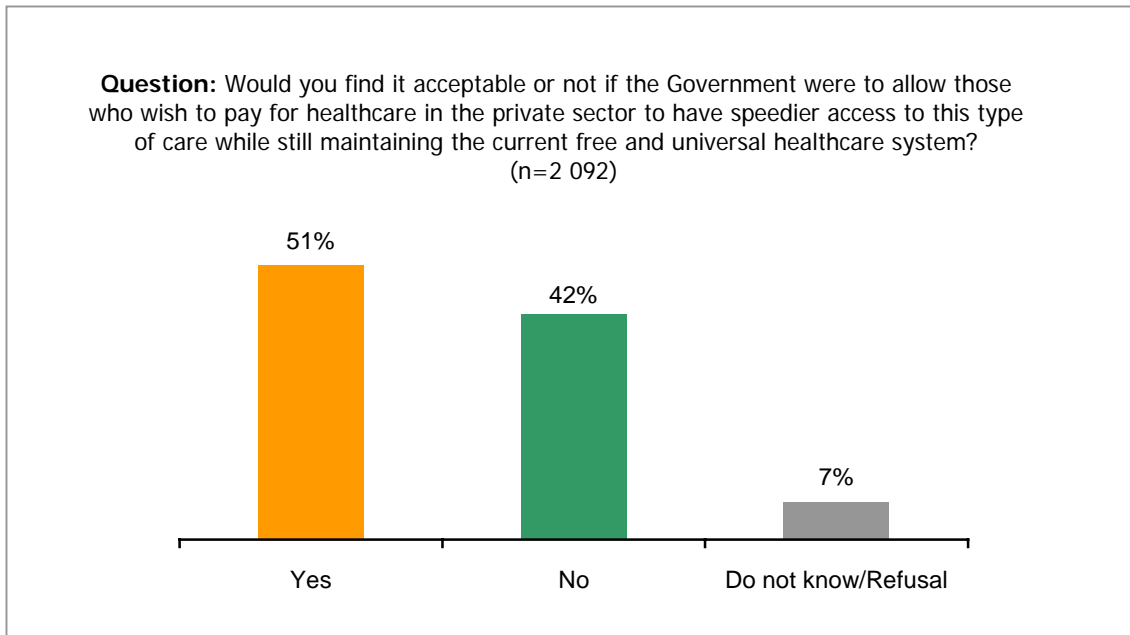
The interviews were conducted from our Montreal call centre between May 28 and May 30, 2004. Up to ten call-backs were made in the case of non-response.

Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to geographic location, gender and language spoken at home to ensure a sample representative of the entire Canadian adult population. In the end, the maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 2,092 respondents is $\pm 2.14\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Survey Results

1. Canadians are divided on the question of increased access to healthcare in the private sector for those who would assume the cost of such services.

- Half of Canadians (51%) would accept that the Government allow speedier access to health care to those who wish to pay for these services in the private sector while maintaining the current free and universal health care system. However, 42% of the respondents interviewed would not accept this type of arrangement. A proportion of 7% do not have an opinion on the question.







Among respondents who would accept that the Government allow speedier access to healthcare in the private sector to those who wish to pay for the services, we observe stronger proportions among the groups with the following profiles:

- Francophones (67%)
- Quebeckers (68%)
- Those who intend to vote for the Conservative Party (55%) and those who intend to vote for the Bloc Québécois (72%)

Respondents who would not accept that the Government allow this type of access are significantly more prevalent among the following people:

- People between 45 and 54 years of age (48%)
- Anglophones (46%)
- Residents of the Atlantic Provinces (48%) and Ontarians (48%)
- Those who intend to vote for the New Democratic Party (57%)

Distribution based on Voting Intentions

	Population as a Whole (n=2 092)	 Liberal <small>www.liberal.ca</small>	 Parti conservateur du Canada	 NPD	 BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS
Yes	51%	54%	55%	39%	72%
No	42%	41%	38%	57%	26%
Do not know pas/Refusal	7%	5%	7%	4%	1%

Distribution according to Canadian Regions

N=2 092	Yes	No	Do not know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	42%	48%	10%
Québec	68%	30%	1%
Ontario	45%	48%	7%
Prairies	57%	37%	6%
Alberta	53%	39%	9%
British Columbia	49%	42%	8%
Canada	51%	42%	7%

Note: Last January 2004, Quebecers were asked the same question and 71.7% of the people interviewed answered "yes" compared to 24.1% who answered "no".