

Montreal Economic Institute

Pan-Canadian Survey Report

December 2005

**The Opinion of Canadians
on Access to Health Care**

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MEMBER/MEMBRE **GALLUP**
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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Methodology

This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1,500 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

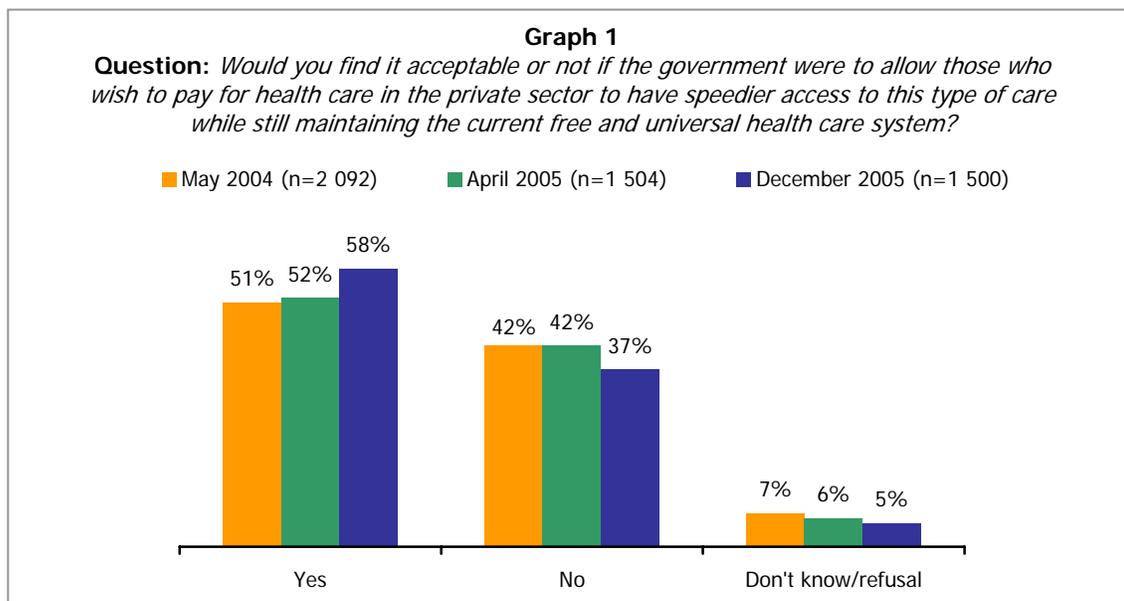
The interviews were conducted from our Montreal call centre from December 6 to December 11, 2005. Up to ten call-backs were made in the case of non-response.

Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to gender, region, 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 1,500 respondents is $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Survey Results

1. Canadians Opinion on Allowing Speedier Access to Private Sector Health Care¹

- Fifty-eight per cent (58%) of the Canadian population would accept that the government allow speedier access to health care to those who wish to pay for this type of care in the private sector, while maintaining the current free and universal health care system. However, 37% of people surveyed would oppose these measures. A proportion of 5% did not express an opinion.
- ⇒ When examining how these results have evolved, the trend is upward among the proportions of Canadians who would find it acceptable that the government allow speedier access to health care in the private sector.



Among the respondents who would find it **acceptable** that the government allow speedier access to health care in the private sector for those who wish to pay, **proportions are stronger** among the following profiles:

- Francophones (71%)
- Quebecers (72%) and British- Columbians (68%)
- People with an elementary (77%) or high school (62%) education
- People who intend to vote for the Conservative Party (65%) and those who intend to vote for the Bloc québécois (72%)

There are significantly **more** respondents who would not find it **acceptable** that the government allow such access among the following groups:

- Allophones (45%)
- Ontarians (45%)
- People with a university education (40%)
- People who intend to vote for the New Democratic Party (52%)

¹ This same question was asked in an Omnican survey conducted May 28 to May 30, 2004 among 2,092 Canadians and also from April 5 to April 10, 2005 among 1,504 Canadians. The margin of error for 2,092 respondents was $\pm 2.14\%$ and $\pm 2.5\%$ for 1,504 respondents, 19 times out of 20.

The following tables show result distribution according to voting intentions and Canadian regions.

Distribution according to voting intentions

	Entire population (n=1,500)				
Yes	58%	57%	65% [↑]	43% [↓]	72% [↑]
No	37%	39%	31% [↓]	52% [↑]	26% [↓]
DNK / Refusal	5%	4%	4%	5%	2%

Note 1: Significant statistical differences are indicated using the symbol [↑] if they are higher and [↓] if they are lower.

Note 2: Vertical reading

Distribution according to Canadian regions

N=1,500	Yes	No	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	52%	40%	9%
Québec ²	72% [↑]	25% [↓]	3% [↓]
Ontario	49% [↓]	45% [↑]	5%
Prairies	51%	40%	9% [↑]
Alberta	59%	37%	4%
British Columbia	68% [↑]	29% [↓]	4%
Canada	58%	37%	5%

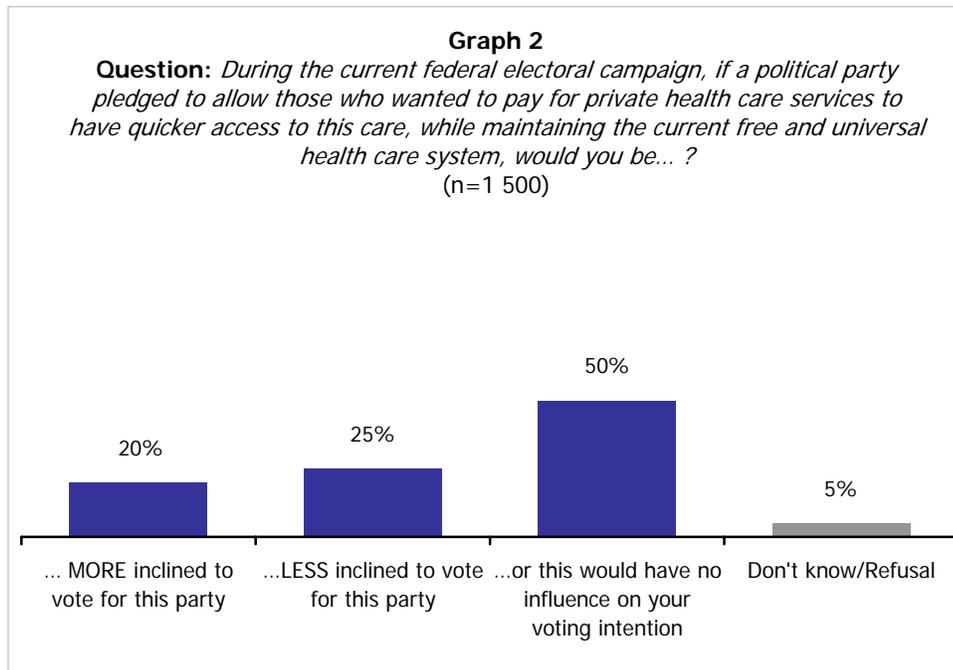
Note 1: Since results were rounded out, the total can vary $\pm 1\%$ from 100%.

Note 2: Horizontal reading

² In January 2004, the same question was asked among 2,001 Quebecers and 71.7% had answered “yes,” compared to 24.1% who answered “no”.

2. Impact on Voting Intentions

- If during the current electoral campaign a political party promised to give citizens the option of paying for health care in the private sector, this promise would have no impact on half of the population (50%). However, a quarter of voters (25%) say they would be less inclined to vote for a party who would make such a commitment, while 20% would be more inclined to vote for this party.



Respondents with the following profiles would be **more inclined** to vote for a party pledging to allow speedier access to health care in the private sector:

- Men (23%)
- People who intend to vote for the Conservative Party (26%)
- People who would find it acceptable that the government allow those who wish to pay for health care to obtain speedier access in the private sector (31%)

And respondents who would be **less inclined** to vote for a party making such a promise are proportionately more likely to be found among people with the following profile:

- People between 55 and 64 years of age (32%)
- Anglophones (28%)
- Ontarians (33%)
- People with an annual household income above \$80,000 (30%)
- Professionals (31%)
- People who are employed (28%)
- People who have a university education (30%)
- People who intend to vote for the New Democratic Party (39%)
- People who would not find it acceptable that the government allow speedier access to health care to those who wish to pay for this type of care in the private sector (57%)

The following tables show result distribution according to voting intentions and Canadian regions

Distribution according to voting intentions

	Entire population (n=1,500)				
MORE inclined to vote for this party	20%	20%	26%↑	13%↓	18%
LESS inclined to vote for this party	25%	27%	18%↓	39%↑	22%
No influence on your voting intention	50%	50%	51%	46%	58%↑
Don't know/Refusal	5%	3%↓	5%	2%	2%↓

Note 1: Significant statistical differences are indicated using the symbol ↑ if they are higher and ↓ if they are lower.

Note 2: Vertical reading

Distribution according to Canadian regions

N=1 500	MORE inclined to vote for this party	LESS inclined to vote for this party	No influence on your voting intention	Don't know/Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	17%	29%	49%	5%
Québec	20%	17%↓	58%↑	4%
Ontario	19%	33%↑	44%↓	5%
Prairies	18%	23%	48%	11%↑
Alberta	21%	23%	51%	5%
British Columbia	26%	19%	51%	4%
Canada	20%	25%	50%	5%

Note 1: Significant statistical differences are indicated using the symbol ↑ if they are higher and ↓ if they are lower.

Note 2: Since results were rounded out, the total can vary ± 1% from 100%.