

Montreal Economic Institute

Omnibus Survey Report

June 2005

**Quebeckers' Opinion
on the Supreme Court Ruling Regarding
Prohibiting Citizens from Paying for Healthcare
Covered by the Government**

22 June 2005
13026-006



Methodological Reminder

This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1,000 English- or French-speaking Quebecers, 18 years of age or older.

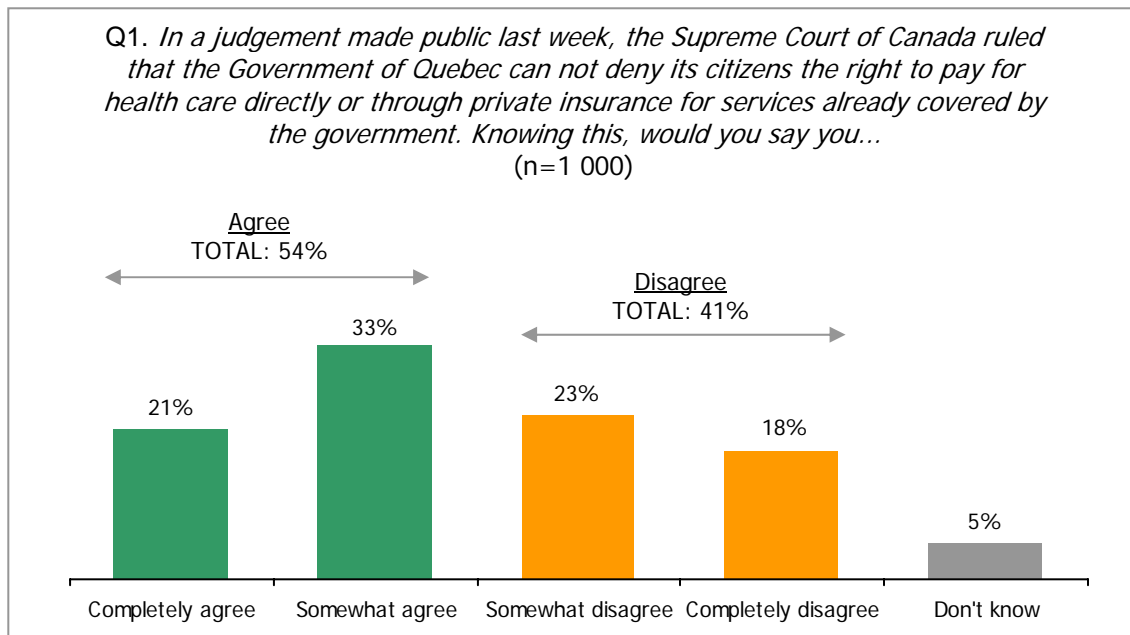
The interviews were conducted from our Montreal call centre from June 15 to June 19, 2005. Up to ten call-backs were made in the case of non-response.

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 Québec adult population. In the end, the maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1,000 respondents is $\pm 3.1\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Survey Results

1. Opinion of Quebecers on the Supreme Court Ruling

- In total, 54% of Quebecers surveyed approve of the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling whereby the Government of Quebec can no longer prohibit citizens from paying - either directly or through private insurance - for healthcare services already covered by the government. On the other hand, 41% disagree with this ruling.






Among respondents who **agree with the Supreme Court's ruling**, there are **stronger proportions** among groups with the following profile:

- People between 25 and 34 years of age (61%) and between 35 and 44 years of age (62%)
- Those with children under the age of 18 in the household (62%)
- Those who have a gross household income of \$80 000 or above (65%)
- Professionals (64%)
- Those with employment (58%)
- Those with a university level education (62%)
- Those who intend to vote for the Liberal Party (62%) and who intend to vote for the Action Démocratique du Québec (65%)

And there are **significantly more respondents who do not agree with this ruling** among the following people:

- Residents of Eastern Québec (53%)
- Those who do not have children under the age of 18 in the household (45%)
- Those with a gross household income below \$20,000 (56%)
- Students (55%)
- Those without employment (46%)
- Those with an elementary school education (57%)
- Those who intend to vote for the Parti Québécois (47%)

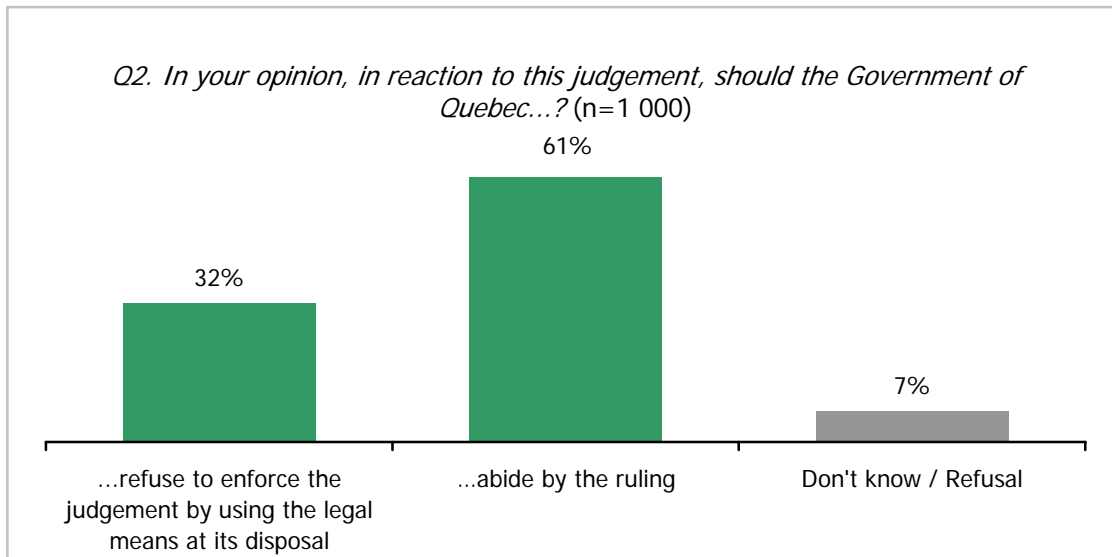
Distribution according to voting intentions

	Total Population (n=1,000)			
Agree	54%	62% [↑]	49% [↓]	65% [↑]
Disagree	41%	33% [↓]	47% [↑]	32% [↓]
Don't know/Refusal	5%	5%	4%	3%

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

2. Opinion on Government Reaction

- According to 61% of the people surveyed, the Government of Quebec should abide by the Supreme Court's ruling. However, 32% feel that the government should refuse to enforce the judgement by using all the legal means at its disposal. A percentage of 7% of respondents did not give their opinion on this question.






Among respondents who **want the government to refuse to enforce the judgement by using the legal means at its disposal**, there are **stronger proportions** among groups with the following profile:

- People between 55 and 64 years of age (39%)
- Francophones (35%)
- Those who do not have children under the age of 18 in the household (35%)
- Manual workers (41%)
- Those who intend to vote for the Parti Québécois (40%)

And there are **significantly more respondents** who **want the government to abide by the ruling** among the following people:

- People between 35 and 44 years of age (71%)
- Non-francophones (71%)
- Those who have children under the age of 18 in the household (70%)
- Professionals (68%)
- Those with a university level education (68%)
- Those who intend to vote for the Liberal Party (72%) and those who intend to vote for the Action Démocratique du Québec (70%)

Distribution according to voting intentions

	Total Population (n=1,000)	 Parti Libéral Québec	 Parti Québécois	 ADQ
...refuse	32%	19%↓	40%↑	25%
...abide by ruling	61%	72%↑	56%↓	70%↑
Don't know/Refusal	7%	9%	4%↓	5%

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