

Montreal Economic Institute

Research Report

October 2007

Opinion of Quebecers on the Autonomy of School Principals

October 2007
13026-016



507 Place d'Armes, suite 700,
Montréal, Québec H2Y 2W8
Telephone: 514-982-2464
Fax: 514-987-1960
E-mail: www.legermarketing.com



Table of Contents

Methodology.....	3
Survey Results	4
1. Seven Quebecers out of ten day "Yes" to greater autonomy for school principals	5
2. Seven Quebecers out of ten say "Yes" to interviews between school principals and media representatives	6
Questionnaire	7

Methodology

Results presented in this report stem from a study conducted by Leger Marketing a sample of 1,000 English- or French-speaking Quebecers, 18 years of age or older. The maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1,000 respondents is $\pm 3.1\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The interviews were conducted from October 10 to October 14, 2007. Using the most recent data from Statistics Canada, results were weighted according to age, gender, region, and mother tongue to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population in Québec.

Results presented in bold are significantly higher in comparison with their complement.

Survey Results

1. Seven Quebecers out of ten say "Yes" to greater autonomy for school principals

- ➔ Overall, seven Quebecers out of ten (69%) believe that we should give school principals more autonomy for them to try new approaches at a local level to improve the quality of education in public schools.
- ➔ It should be noted that residents of the Capitale-Nationale (74%) and in the eastern part of the province (81%) are statistically and proportionately more likely to say that we should give school principals more autonomy. This opinion is also shared by a higher proportion of respondents with an elementary or high school education (76%).

Q1. To improve the quality of education in public schools, do you believe that we should give the principals of these schools more autonomy to try new approaches at the local level, even if they might make mistakes?

	Total (n=1000)	Montreal CMA (n=400)	Quebec City CMA (n=300)	East (n=78)	Centre (n=98)	West (n=124)
Yes	69%	64%	74%	81%	77%	65%
No	27%	31%	22%	18%	21%	28%
Don't know / Refusal	5%	6%	4%	1%	3%	7%

2. Seven Quebecers out of ten say "Yes" to interviews between school principals and media representatives

- A proportion of seven Quebecers out of ten (68%) are favourable to the idea of school principals making the decision themselves to speak with media representatives within the scope of an exercise that ranks schools according to their results, such as the ranking published in the magazine *L'actualité*.
- Residents of the Capitale-Nationale answered this question more favourably (75%).

Q2. Do you think that the principals of public schools should decide themselves to speak to media representatives in order to communicate their approaches or their innovations, if they consider them good for their students, within the scope of an exercise that ranks schools according to their results, such as the ranking published in the magazine *L'actualité*?

	Total (n=1000)	Montreal CMA (n=400)	Quebec City CMA (n=300)	East (n=78)	Centre (n=98)	West (n=124)
Yes	68%	65%	75%	59%	74%	72%
No	27%	30%	22%	32%	21%	24%
Don't know / Refusal	5%	4%	3%	9%	4%	5%

Questionnaire

Q11.

To improve the quality of education in public schools, do you believe that we should give the principals of these schools more autonomy to try new approaches at the local level, even if they might make mistakes?

Yes	1
No	2
DNK/Refusal	9

Q12.

Do you think that the principals of public schools should decide themselves to speak to media representatives in order to communicate their approaches or their innovations, if they consider them good for their students, within the scope of an exercise that ranks schools according to their results, such as the ranking published in the magazine *L'actualité*?

Yes	1
No	2
DNK/Refusal	9
