

## Majority of Parents Concerned Pandemic has Caused Gaps in Vital Social Skills for their Children/Youth Students, Especially Females, as Back to School Looms

**TORONTO, August 23, 2021**—A Maru Public Opinion poll released today on behalf of the Canadian Women’s Foundation finds a majority of parents are concerned about their student children/youth (and especially female) offspring aged 9 to 19 with perceived gaps in vital social and healthy relationship skills caused by a lack of peer interaction during the pandemic.

While the average level of concern on the three elements assessed is equal (66%) for both gender offspring, parents of female children/youth are found to be more concerned on the social and healthy relationship skills gap on two of the three skills (and likewise in the confidence those parents have of their female students to catch up.)

### Detailed Findings

- Seven in ten (69%) parents are concerned that their child/youth has missed out on the opportunities to build their sense of belonging with their peers. This is highest among parents of male children/youth (73%) compared to those with female children/youth (65%). Only four in ten (42%) parents believe their child/youth will have enough opportunities post-pandemic to catch up on building their sense of belonging in their community to become healthy, thriving adults. This is highest among parents of male children/youth (44%) compared to those with female children/youth (39%).
- Two thirds (64%) of parents are concerned that their child/youth has missed out on the opportunities to practice building healthy conflict resolution skills. This is highest among parents of female children/youth (67%) compared to those with male children/youth (67%). Only four in ten (41%) parents believe their child/youth will have enough opportunities post-pandemic to catch up on building healthy conflict resolution skills to become healthy, thriving adults. This is highest among parents of male children/youth (45%) compared to those with female children/youth (38%).
- Two thirds (62%) of parents are concerned that their child/youth has missed out on the opportunities to practice building confidence. This is highest among parents of female children/youth (66%) compared to those with male children/youth (59%). Only four in ten (40%) parents believe their child/youth will have enough opportunities post-pandemic to catch up on building their confidence to become healthy, thriving adults. This is highest among parents of female children/youth (43%) compared to those with male children/youth (37%).

## Methodology

These are some of the findings released by Maru Public Opinion from a survey directed by Maru/Matchbox and undertaken between July 23-25, 2021, by the sample and data management experts at Maru/Blue of 209 randomly selected Canadian adults (18+) who have children/youth aged 9-19 and are Maru Voice Canada online panelists. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size has an estimated margin of error (which measures sampling variability) of +/- 6.9%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been weighted by education, age, gender, and region (and in Quebec by language) to match the population according to census data which ensures the sample is representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals when compared to the data tables are due to rounding.

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