

Unvaccinated health surcharge

TORONTO, January 12, 2022—The results of a national survey released today by Maru Public Opinion finds that a majority (60%) of Canadians support some type of fine that could amount to a healthcare surcharge for those who choose to remain unvaccinated. The release of the results arrive as Quebec Premier François Legault announced that the province would be imposing a health tax on Quebecers who refuse to get their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in the coming weeks.

Open discussion about making vaccinations mandatory for those who choose to remain unvaccinated have recently surfaced not only in Canada but in other countries. In Europe, for example, at least one country is examining the application of a fine to be levelled on unvaccinated citizens of \$144.00 per month while another is looking at a similar type of penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per quarter.

As a test of the concept, it would appear that a majority (60%) of Canadians would support an initiative where those who choose to remain unvaccinated would be dealt a fine that would be administered as a surcharge on their taxes with the money used to financially support the healthcare system and its hospitals and their intensive care units (ICU's). No specific financial amount was used to sound out Canadians—just the concept.

The findings demonstrate a majority of support for what would amount to a provincial healthcare surcharge can be found in each province or region, and across all demographic and socioeconomic standings. Those most likely to agree with the proposition are from both British Columbia (64%) and Québec (63%), followed by those living in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (61%), Ontario (58%), Atlantic Canada (57%), and Alberta (54%).

With respect to demographics and socioeconomic standing, a majority of both men (59%) and women (60%) are aligned with this view, along with older Canadians (55+ 69%), those who are middle-aged (age 35-54 56%), and those who are the youngest (aged 18-34 52%). Further, a majority of those in each level of income (\$100,000 + 64%/ \$50,000-\$99,000 60%/ less than \$50,000 56%) and education (University + 64%/ college 58%/ high school or less 58%) support such an initiative.

The minority (40%) who disagree with such a measure are most likely to be found in Alberta (46%), followed by those living in Atlantic Canada (43%), Ontario (42%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (39%), Québec (37%), and British Columbia (36%).

Those who are least supportive of the imposition of some form of fine are the youngest Canadians (aged 18 – 34, 48%), those with the lowest level of income (less than \$50,000 per annum, 44%), and those with post-secondary college education or less (42%).

Methodology

These are some of the findings released by [Maru Public Opinion](#) from a survey undertaken January 10, 2022, by Maru/Blue of 1510 randomly selected Canadian adults who 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 +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been weighted by education, age, gender, and region (and in Quebec, 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.

Panel and data services provider [Maru Blue](#) is deeply rooted in the Maru/HUB technology platform and offers on-demand, high quality, highly scalable online community samples of deeply engaged, known respondents. Respondents could respond in either English or French.

Excerpts from this release of findings should be properly attributed, with interpretation subject to clarification or correction. Maru Public Opinion does not do any work for any political party. Maru Public Opinion polls with supporting detailed tables are found here: [Maru Public Opinion Canada](#). Corporate information can be found here: [Maru Group](#)

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