



## The truckers and a democracy threatened

**TORONTO, February 12, 2022**—The results of a national survey released today by Maru Public Opinion finds two-thirds (64%) of Canadians believe Canada’s democracy is being threatened by a group of protesters and they must be stopped immediately—and only one-in-five (20%) fully support the truckers—both what they are protesting about and how they are going about it.

Politically, only one-in-six (17%) Canadians think the Prime Minister has looked strong in acting to stop the protests, an equal number think the Prime Minister has used every opportunity to calm things down and find a solution (17%), and just three-in-ten (29%) think the Prime Minister has acted like a prime minister should in the face of the protest.

As for potential consequences to the intransigent protesters, two of the many measures tested find six-in-ten (58%) would have drivers face fines and potential jail terms of up to two years and even more (66%) would have those aiding and abetting drivers in their protests charged with fines and potential jail terms.

### The key findings

#### Only one-in-five (20%) Canadians fully support the truckers

**Only one-in-five (20%) Canadians fully support the truckers—both what they are protesting about and how they are going about it.** This view is most held by those living in Alberta (29%), followed by those living in Ontario (22%), Atlantic Canada (21%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (21%), and British Columbia (14%).

**One-quarter (24%) of Canadians support the truckers with what they are protesting about but not the way they are going about it.** This view is strongest held in the province of Québec (28%) and in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (27%), followed by those living in Ontario (23%), British Columbia (22%), Atlantic Canada (21%), and Alberta (19%).

**A majority (56%) of Canadians do not support the truckers who are protesting in any way, shape, or form and believe that we need to do everything we can to put an end to their activities.** This is a majority view held in every province/region across the country but is embraced the most in British Columbia (64%), followed by those living both in Atlantic Canada (58%) and Québec (58%), Ontario (55%) Manitoba/Saskatchewan (52%) and Alberta (52%).

#### Canadians blame truckers and the Prime Minister most for incitement, escalation of protests

Asked to choose among four options as to who Canadians blame the most for the incitement and escalation of the protests over the past two weeks:

- **A plurality (46%) of Canadians blames the truckers** themselves the most for the incitement and escalation of the protests over the past two weeks. This view is highest held in Québec (51%), followed by those living in British Columbia (49%), Atlantic Canada (46%) and Ontario (46%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (44%), and Alberta (32%).

- **Almost one-third (31%) blame Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** the most for the incitement and escalation of the protests over the past two weeks. This sentiment is held the highest in Alberta (44%), followed by those living in Ontario (35%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan 31%), British Columbia (26%), and both in Québec (25%) and Atlantic Canada (25%).
- **A fraction (7%) of the Canadian public blames the leadership of the federal Conservative Party** the most for the incitement and escalation of the protests over the past two weeks. This view is highest held in Atlantic Canada (12%), followed by those living in Québec (7%), along with those equally living in British Columbia (6%), Alberta (6%), and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (6%), and Ontario (5%).
- **One-in-six (16%) blame “others”** the most for the incitement and escalation of the protests over the past two weeks. This view is most likely to be found in British Columbia (19%), followed by those living in both Alberta (18%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (18%), then both in Québec (17%) and Atlantic Canada (17%), and lastly in Ontario (14%).

## Judging Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

In the context of the protests by the truckers over the past two weeks, Canadians hold the following views about Prime Minister Justin Trudeau:

**A majority (53%) of Canadians think the Prime Minister *has looked weak in the face of threats to the country*.** This is compared with just three-in-ten (31%) who don't believe that he's looked weak and one-in-six (16%) who are not sure.

**A plurality (44%) of Canadians think the Prime Minister *has inflamed the situation*,** compared to those who don't believe he has done so (38%) and those who are not sure (18%).

**Only-one-in six (17%) Canadians think the Prime Minister *has used every opportunity to calm things down and find a solution to the trucker's protest*,** compared to two thirds (64%) who say he has not done so, and with one-in-five (19%) who are not sure.

**Just three-in-ten (29%) Canadians think the Prime Minister *has acted like a prime minister should in the face of the protest*,** compared to a majority (53%) who do not believe he is acted in such a way, and one-in-six (17%) who were not sure.

**Only one-in-six (17%) Canadians think the Prime Minister *has looked strong in acting to stop the protests*.** This compares with two thirds (65%) who disagree with that perspective, and the rest (17%) who are not sure.



**Half (48%) of Canadians think the Prime Minister *has demonstrated that he is not up to the job of being prime minister*.** This compares to one-third (35%) disagree with that perspective followed by the remainder (18%) who were not sure.

**Only one-in-six Canadians (16%) think the Prime Minister *has made them want to vote for him because of how he has dealt with the situation*.** This compares with two thirds (63%) who disagree and another one-in-five (21%) who are not sure.

**A plurality (45%) of Canadians think the Prime Minister *has demonstrated that someone else should lead the Liberal Party of Canada*.** This compares to one third (35%) that disagree with that view and the rest (18%) who are not sure.

### **As to the protest itself:**

**A majority (67%) of Canadians believe these truckers are being heavily funded and supported by foreign interests.** This view is held the most in Atlantic Canada (76%), followed by those living in British Columbia (70%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (69%), Ontario (65%), and Alberta (63%).

**Two-thirds (64%) of Canadians believe Canada's democracy is being threatened by a group of protesters and they must be stopped immediately.** This view has the highest resonance in Atlantic Canada (68%), Québec (68%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (68%), and British Columbia (67%), followed by those living in Ontario (62%), and Alberta (57%).

**Two thirds (64%) of Canadians support using the Canadian Armed Forces in a support role to clear out trucks with heavy tow vehicles.** This initiative is supported the most in British Columbia (69%), followed by those living in Québec (66%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (64%), Atlantic Canada (62%) and Ontario (62%), and Alberta (61%).

**Two-thirds (64%) of Canadians believe that the way these truckers are protesting right now is just like the mob that took part in the protest in Washington on January 6, 2021.** This view is held the highest by those residing in Québec (72%), followed by those living in British Columbia (60%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (63%), Atlantic Canada (62%), Alberta (61%), and Ontario (59%).

**Two-thirds (62%) of Canadians believe Canada should work with American military and law enforcement to remove border blockades.** This perspective is most likely to be endorsed by those living in Québec (72%), followed by those residing in British Columbia (68%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (63%), Atlantic Canada (62%), Alberta (61%), and Ontario (59%).

**A majority (53%) of Canadians give Ottawa police permission to forcefully remove any truckers, their families, and others who refuse to leave the city after 24 hours' notice—with tear gas and other methods (even if it may cause injury or worse.)** This type of action is most supported by those living in the province of Québec (59%), followed by those living in British Columbia (57%), Atlantic Canada (56%), Ontario (52%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan (52%), and Alberta (42%).

## **Consequences for those who continue to protest**

**Just one-third (33%) say the drivers should be left alone – that it is their right to protest as they are.**

Overall, Canadians believe the following consequences should be meted out for those drivers who continue to protest and not move their vehicle within a city/place/or border-crossing after being told to do so by law enforcement officials:

- Two-thirds (66%) would have those aiding and abetting drivers in their protests charged with fines and potential jail terms.
- Six-in-ten (58%) would have drivers face fines and potential jail terms of up to two years.
- A majority (54%) would immediately cause the forfeiture of their vehicle so that it may be impounded and sold if they are convicted of an offence.
- A majority (52%) would immediately suspend their commercial license to drive any vehicle for a living for two years.
- Half (48%) would immediately suspend their personal license to drive a personal vehicle for two years.

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## **Methodology**

These are some of the findings from a study released by [Maru Public Opinion](#) undertaken by its sample and data collection experts at [Maru/Blue](#) February 9-10, 2022, among a random selection of 1506 Canadian adults who are Maru Voice Canada panelists. The results were weighted by education, age, gender, and region (and in Quebec, language) to match the population, according to Census data. 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. Further details may be found at [Canadian Public Opinion Polls | Maru Group](#)

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 is a professional services firm dedicated to improving its clients' business outcomes. It delivers its services through teams of sector-specific research consultants specializing in the use of Insight Community and Voice of Market technology.

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