Trucks and consequences

TORONTO, February 12, 2022—As police move forward at the Ambassador Bridge and attempt to dislodge intransigent protesters, a national survey released today by Maru Public Opinion indicates that only one-in-five (20%) Canadians fully support the truckers—both *what* they are protesting about and *how* they are going about it.

As for potential consequences that could be meted out, the survey finds that in just two of the many measured, six-in-ten (58%) Canadians 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.

Key Findings

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 Colombia (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 provinces of Québec (28%) and 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%).

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%).

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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

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.

Just one-third (33%) of Canadians say the truckers should be left alone – that it is their right to protest as they are doing so.

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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 1523 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.

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2

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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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