

# Plastics Ban in Canada

*June 2021*



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# Methodology & Logistics

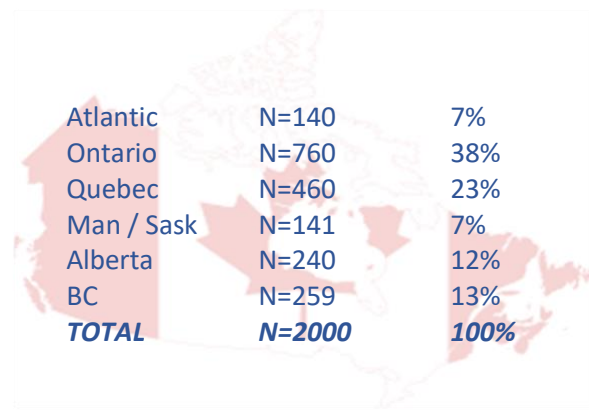
## Overview

The following represents the results of a May / June 2021 national omnibus telephone survey of N=2000 Canadian residents, 18 years of age or older, conducted by Oraclepoll Research Ltd.

The results contained in this report are from the questions subscribed to by *Public Relations Post* on behalf of the *Canada Coalition of Plastic Producers*.

## Study Sample & Error Rates

A total of N=2000 interviews were completed, with residents across Canada. All respondents were screened to ensure that they were residents of Canada, and they were 18 years of age or older. Adjacent is a breakdown of the total sample by area or region. The margin of error for the total N=2000 sample is  $\pm 2.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20.



## Survey Method

All surveys were conducted by telephone using live bi-lingual operators using computer-assisted techniques of telephone interviewing (CATI) and random number selection (RDD). The dual sample frame random database was inclusive of landline and cellular telephone numbers.

All calls were made by Ontario based Oraclepoll research staff that are set up and are working from their residences to ensure safety, adhering to Covid 19 pandemic protocols. Our supervisors and research team members continue to adhere to strict supervisory and monitoring standards including the ability to spot monitor calls and questionnaire completion.

## Logistics

Interviews were completed between the days of May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

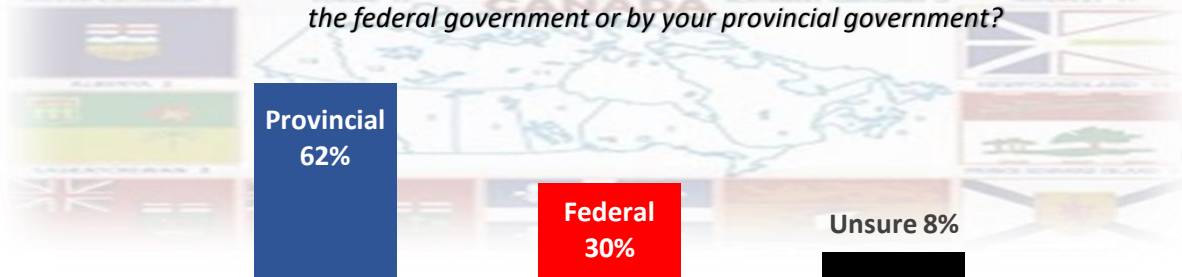
Initial calls were made between the hours of 5 pm and 9 pm within each time zone. Subsequent call backs of no-answers and busy numbers were made on a (staggered) daily rotating basis up to 5 times (from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. within each time zone) until contact was made. In addition, telephone interview appointments were attempted with those respondents unable to complete the survey at the time of contact.

# Decisions – Provincial Economy

All N=2000 respondents were first read the following statement and then asked if they prefer if decisions about their provincial economy and what industries and jobs are allowed to exist should be made by the federal or their provincial government.

*“At the United Nations, Prime Minister Trudeau talked about a re-imagined Canada. He said that “The pandemic has provided an opportunity for a reset” of economic systems and an opportunity “to accelerate our pre-pandemic efforts.” First target for the economic restructuring has been Canada’s plastics sector with the federal government declaring plastic toxic in the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. The toxic designation allows the Federal government to override provincial jurisdiction over their local economy and centralizes decisions regarding job creation in Ottawa, what plastic products can be manufactured locally, what companies can stay in business, and what products are banned. The result will be plant closures, job losses, and a loss of future investment in the provinces due to a loss of local control.”*

**Q1. Based on this information, would you prefer that decisions about your provincial economy and what industries and jobs are allowed to exist be made by the federal government or by your provincial government?**



More than six in ten or 62% said they prefer their provincial government to make decisions about their provincial economy and what industries and jobs are allowed to exist, compared to only three in ten that named the federal government, while 8% were unsure. Quebec, Alberta, and Manitoba / Saskatchewan residents were most likely to state their province, as were males, those over age 40 and those with the highest household incomes of \$100,000 or more.

# Awareness – Range of Ban

A description of the range of plastics to be banned was read, after which all respondents were asked if they were aware of this federal government plan.

*“The federal government has declared all plastic manufactured products toxic, listing them in the Canadian Environmental Protection Act along with dangerous materials like lead and asbestos. This gives the federal government the legal authority to ban any plastic product. While the government claims they are only banning 6 single-use plastic items including plastic grocery bags, straws, stir sticks, plastic cutlery, six-pack rings and black food containers. They are in fact targeting a wide range of popular plastic items including personal care products, beverage bottles, and medical applications like pandemic protective equipment including masks, gowns, and plastic gloves.”*

**Q2. Were you aware that the federal government plans to ban a wide range of daily use plastic items including products used to protect people during the pandemic?**



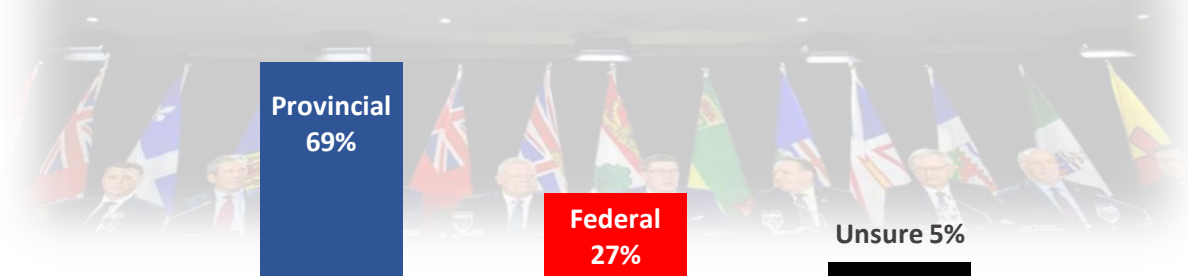
Canadians surveyed were roughly split on their awareness of federal plans, with 55% claiming to be aware and 45% unaware. Awareness was highest among younger respondents (18-29 & 30-39), females, higher earners and those living in Alberta, Manitoba/Saskatchewan, and Quebec, followed by BC, Ontario, and Atlantic Canada.

# Provincial Control

After the next preamble about the “Zero Plastic Waste Strategy” was delivered, respondents were asked if their province or the federal government should control waste management systems.

*“The federal government is using Canadians’ concern about plastic pollution to ban plastics, but their own research studies show that less than 1% of all plastic is littered in Canada. To address the problem, the provinces have been improving their waste management systems using an already-agreed joint federal–provincial ‘Zero Plastic Waste Strategy’. The solutions are tailored to address local needs. The provinces are adopting new recycling and sorting technologies, implementing Producer Pay and Producer Responsibility Plans and introducing anti littering public education.”*

*Q3. Knowing that less than 1% of all plastic is littered in Canada and that the provinces are already implementing a Zero-Plastic Waste strategy already agreed with the federal government, do you think that the province should continue to control their own waste management systems or give up control to the federal government and one-size-fits-all-solutions?*



Almost seven in ten or 69% feel the provinces should control their own waste management systems, compared to 27% that named the federal government, with 5% being unsure or undecided. While majorities from all areas and demographic groups named the provinces, results were strongest in Quebec, Alberta, and Manitoba / Saskatchewan, among males, the highest earners and those in middle and older age cohorts.

# Results by Question

**Q1. Based on this information, would you prefer those decisions about your provincial economy and what industries and jobs are allowed to exist be made by the federal government or by your provincial government?**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Provincial	1237	61.9
	Federal	609	30.5
	Unsure	154	7.7
	Total	2000	100.0

**Q2. Were you aware that the federal government plans to ban a wide range of daily use plastic items including products used to protect people during the pandemic?**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	1104	55.2
	No	896	44.8
	Total	2000	100.0

**Q3. Knowing that less than 1% of all plastic is littered in Canada and that the provinces are already implementing a Zero-Plastic Waste strategy already agreed with the federal government, do you think that the province should continue to control their own waste management systems or give up control to the federal government and one-size-fits-all-solutions?**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Provincial	1372	68.6
	Federal	533	26.7
	Unsure	95	4.8
	Total	2000	100.0

**D1. Age**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	18-29	365	18.3
	30-39	334	16.7
	40-49	360	18.0
	50-59	367	18.4
	60-69	324	16.2
	70+	250	12.5
	Total	2000	100.0

**D2. Household Income**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Under \$50,000	391	19.6
	\$50,000-\$74,999	343	17.2
	\$75,000-\$99,999	407	20.3
	\$100,000 & over	224	11.2
	Don't know / refused	635	31.8
	Total	2000	100.0

**D3. Gender**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Male	955	47.8
	Female	1045	52.3
	Total	2000	100.0