CANADIAN OPINION ON THE CORONAVIRUS – N° 28: BORDERS IN CANADA AND THE USA: TO OPEN OR NOT TO OPEN THAT IS THE QUESTION

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INTRODUCTION

- The Canada-U.S. border is set to reopen on June 21. But this past week's Leger-ACS survey suggests the majority of Canadians are highly reticent to reopen. And while more Americans would be open to doing so by the end of July, opening the border in 10 days does not appear to secure sufficient support from our neighbors to the South.

- Both countries reached an agreement in March to temporarily close the border to non-essential travel — meaning no recreational visits — while keeping it open to commercial traffic and essential workers who cross the border for work.

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CANADIANS FAR MORE RETICENT TO OPEN BORDERS THAN ARE AMERICANS

"At what time do you think we should reopen borders with…"		
	Americans "…with Canada"	Canadians "…with United States"
Now	25%	6%
At the end of July	23%	14%
In September	21%	28%
Not before the end of the year	31%	51%

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FEAR OF GETTING COVID-19 IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES IS A KEY DRIVER IN SUPPORT OF LACK THEREOF FOR BORDER REOPENING: AMONGST THOSE AFRAID IN CANADA, MAJORITY DO NOT FAVOR REOPENING BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR

Canada				
At what time do you think we should reopen borders with the United States?	Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?			
	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
Now	1.3%	3.9%	5.2%	17.2%
At the end of July	12.6%	11.4%	16.3%	18.6%
In September	20.3%	27.0%	31.5%	33.5%
Not before the end of the year	65.8%	57.7%	47.0%	30.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

United States				
At what time do you think we should reopen borders with Canada?	Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?			
	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
Now	17.3%	13.4%	29.8%	52.0%
At the end of July	17.3%	29.0%	24.8%	18.6%
In September	21.2%	26.5%	24.3%	10.7%
Not before the end of the year	44.2%	31.1%	21.1%	18.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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QUEBEC AND ALBERTANS SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY TO FAVOR BORDER REOPENING

Canada	At what time do you think we should reopen borders with the United States?				
	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Now	7%	6%	9%	7%	4%
At the end of July	17%	13%	16%	19%	15%
In September	33%	30%	25%	32%	22%
Not before the end of the year	43%	52%	51%	41%	59%

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AMERICANS IN THE NORTHEAST AND WEST MORE LIKELY TO FAVOR REOPENING

USA	At what time do you think we should reopen borders with Canada?				
	Total	NE	MW	South	West
Now	25%	26%	26%	23%	26%
At the end of July	23%	26%	19%	23%	25%
In September	21%	20%	29%	19%	19%
Not before the end of the year	31%	28%	26%	35%	30%

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IN CANADA, RURAL AREAS MOST RETICENT TO OPEN THE BORDERS, WHILE IN THE USA, RURAL AREAS ARE THE LEAST RETICENT TO DO SO

USA	At what time do you think we should reopen borders with Canada?		
	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Now	18%	26%	32%
At the end of July	25%	23%	20%
In September	25%	21%	16%
Not before the end of the year	31%	29%	32%

Canada	At what time do you think we should reopen borders with the United States?		
	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Now	6%	6%	7%
At the end of July	17%	12%	13%
In September	28%	32%	22%
Not before the end of the year	49%	50%	58%

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METHODOLOGY

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Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From June 5th to June 7th, 2020

1,523 Canadians and 1,001 Americans, 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1,523 respondents would have a margin of error of ±2.51%, 19 times out of 20, while a probability sample of 1,001 would have a margin of error of ±3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

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ABOUT THE COVID-19 SOCIAL IMPACTS NETWORK

- The COVID-19 Social Impacts Network is a multidisciplinary group of some of the country's leading experts to help identify key issues, indicators and socio-demographics to generate evidence-based responses that address the social and economic dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis in Canada.

- Visit https://acs-aec.ca/en/covid-19-social-impacts-network/

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