

---

# COV-IDEOLOGY: THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN IDEOLOGICAL PREFERENCE AND VIEWS ON THE CONTAGION

JACK JEDWAB,

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

DECEMBER 15 2020

# INTRODUCTION TO COV-IDEOLOGY

From the outset of the COVID-19 crisis analysts have focused on age, gender and region as the biggest predictors of attitudes and behaviors in the differential response to the contagion. But one of the key predictors in this regard are ideological preferences which get considerably less attention even though much of the debate around policy and practice in Canada and elsewhere is shaped by such considerations.

To further examine this issue, we asked Canadians to situate themselves across the ideological spectrum. The results provide interesting insights not only into COVID-19 attitudes and behaviors but also as to where federal political parties, may seek to maximize their support when an election takes place. We call the intersection between ideological preference and attitude and behaviors on the contagion :“Cov-ideology”. The degree of polarization around various contagion related social issues that are often more divisive in the United States can be partly explained by Cov-ideology.

The survey results were conducted via web panel with 1566 Canadians between November 27 and 29 by Leger Marketing in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies. While no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1522 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.5\%$  19 times out of 20

# TRUMP SUPPORTERS BY FAR LEAST LIKELY TO TAKE APPROVED VACCINE WHILE CANADIANS ON THE RIGHT MUCH LESS LIKELY THAN USA DEMOCRATS/BIDEN SUPPORTERS TO TAKE AN APPROVED VACCINE

When a vaccine for COVID-19 that had been approved by The FDA becomes available to the population and it is free, do you intend to get vaccinated?

	United States			Canada					
	USA Total	Trump Supporters	Biden supporters	Canada Total	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing
Yes	46%	40%	62%	65%	57%	69%	58%	77%	82%
No	32%	39%	17%	17%	35.0%	17%	19%	10%	8%
I don't know	22%	21%	21%	18%	8%	14%	23%	13%	10%

# WHEN ASKED ABOUT THEIR IDEOLOGY, MOST CANADIANS SITUATE THEMSELVES IN THE CENTRE

If you had to situate yourself on the following scale would you say that you are:	November 2020
Right	7%
Center-right	15%
Center	53%
Center-left	18%
Left	7%

**MEN MORE TO THE RIGHT THAN WOMEN; ALBERTANS MORE TO THE RIGHT THAN OTHER CANADIANS WHILE BRITISH COLUMBIANS ARE MORE TO THE LEFT THAN OTHER CANADIANS; 18-35 MORE TO THE LEFT THAN 35 AND OVER**

If you had to situate yourself on the following scale would you say that you are:												
	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL RIGHT</b>	22%	<b>28%</b>	<b>17%</b>	20%	22%	24%	17%	20%	20%	26%	<b>31%</b>	26%
Right wing	7%	7%	6%	7%	6%	7%	7%	5%	7%	10%	10%	5%
Right of centre	15%	<b>20%</b>	<b>11%</b>	13%	15%	17%	10%	15%	<b>13%</b>	16%	21%	<b>21%</b>
Centre	53%	<b>47%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>57%</b>	55%	<b>62%</b>	56%	54%	47%	51%	<b>43%</b>
<b>TOTAL LEFT</b>	25%	25%	25%	<b>35%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>22%</b>	21%	24%	26%	27%	<b>18%</b>	31%
Left of centre	18%	19%	17%	19%	16%	19%	12%	18%	19%	17%	12%	<b>24%</b>
Left wing	7%	7%	8%	<b>16%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	9%	6%	8%	10%	6%	7%

# FEDERAL LIBERALS HOLD CENTRE AND LEFT OF CENTRE WHILE CONSERVATIVES HAVE CLEAR MAJORITY OF RIGHT AND RIGHT OF CENTRE

Federal voting intentions among decided	If you had to situate yourself on the following scale would you say that you are:					Total
	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing	
LPC	16.9%	22.2%	38.5%	46.5%	18.0%	34.3%
NDP	10.1%	5.1%	17.1%	29.6%	59.0%	20.4%
BQ	3.4%	5.6%	7.5%	7.3%	7.0%	6.8%
CPC	60.7%	63.0%	26.9%	8.8%	3.0%	29.8%
GPC	1.1%	1.9%	8.5%	6.9%	13.0%	6.9%
Another	7.9%	2.3%	1.5%	0.8%		1.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# HALF OF CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT SITUATES US ON THE RIGHT; MAJORITY OF LIBERAL AND BLOC SUPPORT SEES ITSELF IN THE CENTRE OF THE SPECTRUM

If you had to situate yourself on the following scale would you say that you are:

	Total	LPC	NDP	BQ	CPC	GPC
<b>TOTAL RIGHT</b>	22%	15%	8%	17%	50%	6%
Right wing	7%	4%	4%	4%	14%	1%
Right of centre	15%	11%	4%	13%	36%	5%
Centre	53%	53%	40%	52%	43%	59%
<b>TOTAL LEFT</b>	25%	32%	52%	31%	7%	35%
Left of centre	18%	28%	30%	22%	6%	20%
Left wing	7%	4%	23%	8%	1%	15%

# THOSE IDENTIFYING WITH THE RIGHT ARE THE LEAST LIKELY TO FEAR GETTING COVID-19

Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?	If you had to situate yourself on the following scale would you say that you are:					Total
	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing	
<b>Total Afraid</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	<b>61.8%</b>	<b>63.1%</b>	<b>61.5%</b>	<b>60.2%</b>
Very afraid	20.6%	12.0%	21.8%	15.1%	20.2%	18.9%
Somewhat afraid	26.5%	44.6%	40.0%	48.0%	41.3%	41.3%
Not very afraid	22.5%	30.5%	24.1%	28.0%	25.7%	25.8%
Not afraid at all	26.5%	12.4%	11.4%	8.5%	5.5%	11.6%
I already have or have been exposed to the virus	2.0%	0.4%	0.8%	0.4%	6.4%	1.1%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	2.0%		2.0%		0.9%	1.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



# THOSE IDENTIFYING WITH THE RIGHT ARE MOST LIKELY TO THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS WITHHOLDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Do you think that the federal government is withholding information about the vaccine from Canadians?	If you had to situate yourself on the following scale would you say that you are:					Total
	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing	
Yes	57.8%	39.7%	32.3%	15.2%	13.8%	30.8%
No	20.6%	41.9%	36.3%	64.4%	67.9%	43.4%
I don't know	21.6%	18.4%	31.3%	20.4%	18.3%	25.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# THOSE IDENTIFYING WITH THE RIGHT ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT VACCINES ARE DANGEROUS

Do you personally believe vaccines are dangerous and should not be taken or given?	If you had to situate yourself on the following scale would you say that you are:				
	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing
Yes	24.3%	8.6%	9.1%	5.5%	3.6%
No	58.3%	79.0%	71.3%	87.5%	88.2%
I don't know	17.5%	12.4%	19.6%	7.0%	8.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# A MAJORITY OF THOSE IDENTIFYING WITH THE RIGHT DO NOT FEEL THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER A COVID-19 VACCINE SHOULD BE MANDATORY

Which level of government should determine whether the COVID-19 vaccine is mandatory?	If you had to situate yourself on the following scale would you say that you are:					Total
	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing	
The Federal Government	44.7%	60.1%	51.6%	67.2%	70.0%	56.5%
The Provincial Governments	16.5%	11.2%	10.9%	8.5%	9.1%	10.7%
Neither	34.0%	23.2%	22.6%	18.5%	10.9%	21.9%
I don't know	4.9%	5.6%	15.0%	5.9%	10.0%	10.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# THOSE IDENTIFYING WITH THE RIGHT ARE MOST LIKELY TO WANT TO EASE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Governments across Canada have recently put in place tougher restrictions to deal with the second wave of COVID-19. Some argue we should ease restrictions as soon as hospitals are no longer in danger of being overwhelmed. Others argue we should	If you had to situate yourself on the following scale would you say that you are:				
	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing
Ease restrictions as soon as possible, even if there is a possibility of another wave in early 2021	39.8%	24.9%	17.4%	13.3%	5.5%
Maintain the current restrictions until the number of cases are closer to zero	31.1%	56.2%	52.7%	55.0%	47.7%
Further tighten/reinforce restrictions to drive the number of cases closer to zero	29.1%	18.9%	30.0%	31.7%	46.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# CANADIANS IDENTIFYING WITH THE RIGHT ARE THE LEAST TRUSTING OF PRESIDENT ELECT JOE BIDEN

Joe Biden - To what extent do you trust each of the following?	If you had to situate yourself on the following scale would you say that you are:				
	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing
Trust a lot	9.8%	10.3%	11.6%	21.0%	14.7%
Somewhat trust	37.3%	48.3%	54.6%	63.1%	53.2%
Don't trust a lot	15.7%	23.9%	22.9%	12.2%	25.7%
Don't trust at all	37.3%	17.5%	10.9%	3.7%	6.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# TRUMP VOTERS AND CANADIANS ON THE RIGHT ARE LEAST AFRAID OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 AT HOLIDAY GATHERINGS

Are you afraid of being exposed to COVID-19 at holiday gatherings with family and friends?									
	United States	Voted for Trump	Voted for Biden	Canada Total	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing
Yes, I am afraid of being exposed	42%	35%	54%	45%	31%	45%	48%	44%	42%
No, I'm not afraid of being exposed even if I participate in holiday festivities	36%	52%	19%	29%	46%	35%	29%	25%	15%
I decided not to participate in holiday festivities	22%	13%	27%	26%	23%	20%	23%	31%	43%

# TRUMP VOTERS AND CANADIANS ON THE RIGHT WERE LEAST LIKELY TO CHANGE THEIR HOLIDAY PLANS

Have you changed your plans for the holiday season due to the COVID-19 situation?									
	United States	Voted for Trump	Voted for Biden	Canada Total	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing
Yes, I have changed my plans for the holiday season	51%	42%	67%	70%	57%	73%	69%	78%	70%
No, I haven't changed my plans for the holiday season	49%	58%	33%	30%	43%	27%	31%	22%	30%

# TRUMP VOTERS AND CANADIANS ON THE RIGHT WERE MOST LIKELY TO OPPOSE BANS ON HOLIDAY GATHERINGS

Based on the COVID-19 situation currently in your state, would you support or oppose a total ban on all holiday gatherings except those with people in your immediate household?

	United States	Voted for Trump	Voted for Biden	Canada Total	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing
Support a total ban on holiday gatherings	42%	27%	59%	60%	43%	58%	58%	67%	72%
Oppose a total ban on holiday gatherings	41%	61%	24%	28%	42%	35%	28%	23%	14%
I don't know	17%	12%	17%	12%	15%	7%	14%	10%	14%



# IDEOLOGY HAS LITTLE IMPACT ON HOLIDAY MOOD

As a result of the pandemic, are you getting into the holiday spirit early by adding lights and decorations outside your home or putting your Christmas tree up earlier than usual?

	Total	Trump	Biden	Canada Total	Right wing	Right of centre	Centre	Left of centre	Left wing
Yes, getting into the spirit earlier than usual	33%	35%	37%	40%	44%	43%	37%	41%	44%
No, nothing different	67%	65%	63%	60%	56%	57%	63%	59%	56%

© 2020 Association for Canadian Studies  
All rights reserved.

**Author : Jack Jedwab**

Created on December 15, 2020



[www.acs-aec.ca](http://www.acs-aec.ca)