

PROJECT TEEN CANADA

SOME NOTES ABOUT PROJECT TEEN CANADA

- ★ This survey is the third in a series of national, bilingual research projects examining the values, attitudes, beliefs, behaviour, and expectations of Canadian teenagers.
- ★ The first survey was carried out in 1984, and resulted in pioneering information on young people, published in the bestselling book, *The Emerging Generation: An Inside Look At Canada's Teenagers* (Toronto: Irwin, 1985). The book was also published in French as *La Nouvelle Generation* (Montreal: Fides, 1986). Close to 25,000 copies are being read by Canadians with an interest in young people.
- ★ The second survey was completed in 1988 for the federal Ministry of Youth, with the results published in the bilingual monograph, *Canada's Youth: Ready for Today*. Some 55,000 copies of the report were distributed to schools, agencies, and departments across Canada.
- ★ This survey, being completed in early 1992, will provide the country with unprecedented trend information concerning changes and continuities characterizing Canada's youth through the 80s and 90s.
- ★ A major new book presenting and interpreting the findings of the surveys will be published in July of 1992 by Stoddart Publishing Company (Toronto).
 - ★ Copies of the book will be given to the libraries of all participating schools.
 - ★ Canada's youth will have a voice in the national unity debate, as well as input into other concerns, such as the environment. Findings will be made available to television and radio networks, leading newspapers and magazines, and a wide range of government departments, groups, and individuals.
 - ★ PROJECT TEEN CANADA personnel will continue to present the project's findings and implications to educators, youth workers, organizations, parents, and teenagers across the country.
- ★ Total confidentiality is guaranteed: the names of teenage participants are unknown - questionnaires are *not* to be signed. Further, the names of participating schools will not be disclosed.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please CIRCLE the number which applies to your answer. There are no right or wrong answers; rather, we want your views. Be honest. Remember, YOU are the only one who will know you filled out this form. DON'T SIGN YOUR NAME.

Please try to answer all the questions. However, if you do not understand a question, simply move on, rather than trying to give an answer. Feel free to make comments in the margins. You should be finished in about 30-35 minutes.

WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY ASKING ABOUT THE THINGS YOU ENJOY.

1. How much ENJOYMENT do you receive from the following:

	A Great Deal	Quite A Bit	Some	Little or None	Doesn't Apply	
Music	1	2	3	4	5	[10]
Television	1	2	3	4	5	
Reading	1	2	3	4	5	
Friendships	1	2	3	4	5	
Dating	1	2	3	4	5	
Being by yourself	1	2	3	4	5	
Your boyfriend or girlfriend ..	1	2	3	4	5	
Brother(s) or sister(s)	1	2	3	4	5	
Your mother	1	2	3	4	5	
Your father	1	2	3	4	5	
Your grandparent(s)	1	2	3	4	5	
School	1	2	3	4	5	
Sports	1	2	3	4	5	
Your job	1	2	3	4	5	
Youth groups	1	2	3	4	5	
Your religious group	1	2	3	4	5	
Your car	1	2	3	4	5	
Your pet(s)	1	2	3	4	5	
Your stereo	1	2	3	4	5	
Your VCR	1	2	3	4	5	
Your own room	1	2	3	4	5	
The city or town you live in ..	1	2	3	4	5	

2. Are you a member of any of the following groups? [CIRCLE IF YOU ARE]

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 school club | 1 hobby-related group |
| 1 youth group | 1 cultural/ethnic organization |
| 1 sports team/club | 1 any other? |
| 1 religious organization | _____ |

3. How often do you travel: Monthly Several Yearly Never
 or More Times or Less Have
 A Year

To other Canadian provinces	1	2	3	4
To the United States	1	2	3	4
Outside of North America	1	2	3	4

4. How closely do you follow: Very Fairly Not Very Not Closely
 Closely Closely Closely At All

The National Hockey League	1	2	3	4
The Canadian Football League	1	2	3	4
Major League Baseball	1	2	3	4
The National Football League	1	2	3	4
The National Basketball Association ..	1	2	3	4

5. About how many HOURS A DAY do you watch television? _____ Hours

[47]

6. We would like to ask you about a number of your "favourites."
 In some cases, you may not have any—just skip them and move on.
 [Please list ONLY ONE.]

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE...

TV program _____

Kind of music _____

Singer or group _____

Movie star _____

Athlete _____

Pro sports team _____

TV news person _____

[75]

Politician _____

[2.1]

Author _____

World leader _____

7. How important are the following to YOU? [Skip any that are unclear]

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not Important At All	
A comfortable life	1	2	3	4	[13]
Friendship	1	2	3	4	
Freedom	1	2	3	4	
Harmony with nature	1	2	3	4	
Recognition	1	2	3	4	
Family life	1	2	3	4	
Spirituality	1	2	3	4	
Being Loved	1	2	3	4	
The quest for truth	1	2	3	4	
Honesty	1	2	3	4	
Forgiveness	1	2	3	4	
Global awareness	1	2	3	4	
Intelligence	1	2	3	4	
Humour	1	2	3	4	
Concern for others	1	2	3	4	
Cleanliness	1	2	3	4	
Your looks	1	2	3	4	
Being popular	1	2	3	4	
Working hard	1	2	3	4	
Trustworthy leaders	1	2	3	4	
Having choices	1	2	3	4	
Politeness	1	2	3	4	
Religious group involvement ...	1	2	3	4	
Generosity	1	2	3	4	
Being respected	1	2	3	4	
Your cultural group heritage ..	1	2	3	4	
Personal fulfillment	1	2	3	4	
Creativity	1	2	3	4	
Success in what you do	1	2	3	4	
Being a Canadian	1	2	3	4	

8. How many CLOSE friends would you say you have?

0 1 2 3 4 or more

9. Please focus for a few moments on YOUR TWO CLOSEST FRIENDS.

To help you, please write down their first name initials: #A ____ #B ____.

Are they:	Friend #A	Friend #B
Male	1	2
Female	1	2
A family member	1	1
Not a family member ...	2	2
White	1	1
Non-White	2	2

WE'D LIKE TO TURN NOW TO SOME OF YOUR VIEWS OF CANADA AND CANADIANS.
 Again, remember that this is not a test—we want your personal opinions.

10. How serious do YOU think the following problems are in Canada today?

	Very Serious	Fairly Serious	Not Very Serious	Not Serious At All
The Economy	1	2	3	4
Lack of Canadian Unity	1	2	3	4
Child Abuse	1	2	3	4
The Environment	1	2	3	4
Unequal Treatment of Women	1	2	3	4
Violence in schools	1	2	3	4
French-English Relations	1	2	3	4
Racial Discrimination	1	2	3	4
Drugs	1	2	3	4
Government Incompetence	1	2	3	4
Native-White Relations	1	2	3	4
Violence against women	1	2	3	4
Youth gangs	1	2	3	4
AIDS	1	2	3	4
Teenage suicide	1	2	3	4

I think the country's
 most serious problem is _____

11. How much CONFIDENCE do you have in the people in charge of:

	A Great Deal	Quite A Bit	Some	Little or None	
Television	1	2	3	4	
Radio	1	2	3	4	
The Movie Industry	1	2	3	4	
The Schools	1	2	3	4	
The Music Industry	1	2	3	4	[77]
The Police	1	2	3	4	[3.1]
The Court System	1	2	3	4	
Religious Organizations	1	2	3	4	
The Federal Government	1	2	3	4	
Your Provincial Government	1	2	3	4	

12. In general, how well would YOU say the following describe CANADIAN ADULTS?

	Very Well	Fairly Well	Not Very Well	Not Well At All
Risk-takers	1	2	3	4
Globally-minded	1	2	3	4
Confident	1	2	3	4
World's best at what they do ...	1	2	3	4
Patriotic	1	2	3	4

13. How interested did you find that you were in:

	Very Interested	Fairly Interested	Not Very Interested	Never Heard of It	
The War in the Gulf	1	2	3	4	[11]
The mass slayings in Milwaukee..	1	2	3	4	
The Oka crisis	1	2	3	4	
The GST debate	1	2	3	4	
The Spicer Commission	1	2	3	4	
The Communist Bloc breakdown ...	1	2	3	4	

14. A major national issue, of course, has been Quebec's relationship to the rest of Canada. Would YOU like to see Quebec:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1 Stay in Canada | 4 Other _____ |
| 2 Separate from Canada | |
| 3 Have a sovereignty association with Canada | _____ |

15. How IMPORTANT do you think these characteristics are to MOST CANADIANS?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not Important
Honesty	1	2	3	4
Generosity	1	2	3	4
Cultural group background	1	2	3	4
Success	1	2	3	4
Family life	1	2	3	4
Being a Canadian	1	2	3	4

16. Do you think that the following groups have TOO MUCH POWER, TOO LITTLE POWER, or ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF POWER in our nation's affairs?

	Right Amount	Too Much	Too Little	Have No Idea
Men	1	2	3	4
Women	1	2	3	4
Young People	1	2	3	4
Blacks	1	2	3	4
Natives	1	2	3	4
Oriental	1	2	3	4
Jews	1	2	3	4
East Indians or Pakistanis	1	2	3	4
French-speaking Canadians	1	2	3	4
English-speaking Canadians	1	2	3	4
Americans	1	2	3	4

17. How high a PRIORITY do you think that the government should give to the following?

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Don't Know Enough to Say
Bilingualism	1	2	3	4
Eliminating racism	1	2	3	4
Constitutional matters	1	2	3	4
Health care	1	2	3	4
Recycling	1	2	3	4
International matters	1	2	3	4
Multiculturalism	1	2	3	4
Consulting with Canadians	1	2	3	4
Education	1	2	3	4
Resolving Native land claims..	1	2	3	4
Unifying Canada	1	2	3	4

18. To what extent do you think that CANADA should be involved in finding solutions to the following WORLD PROBLEMS?

	Highly Involved	Somewhat Involved	Not Very Involved	Don't Know Enough to Say
Overpopulation	1	2	3	4
Arms control	1	2	3	4
Disaster relief	1	2	3	4
Conflict between countries ...	1	2	3	4
Conflict within countries	1	2	3	4
Human rights legislation	1	2	3	4
Environmental issues	1	2	3	4
Settlement of refugees	1	2	3	4
Illiteracy	1	2	3	4
Third World development	1	2	3	4
Troubled national economies (e.g. Soviet Union)	1	2	3	4

19. How well would YOU say that the following tend to describe AMERICANS?

	Very Well	Fairly Well	Not Very Well	Not Well At All
Patriotic	1	2	3	4
Confident	1	2	3	4
Globally-minded	1	2	3	4
Risk-takers	1	2	3	4
World's best at what they do..	1	2	3	4

20. NEXT, WE WOULD LIKE TO TURN TO SOME OF YOUR VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF SOCIAL AND PERSONAL ISSUES.

Please indicate whether you AGREE or DISAGREE with these statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Canada should have TWO official languages—English and French	1	2	3	4
Women in this country now encounter very little discrimination	1	2	3	4
What is right or wrong is a matter of personal opinion	1	2	3	4
Bush is doing a pretty good job as U.S. President	1	2	3	4
Watching violent TV shows tends to make people more aggressive	1	2	3	4
A stranger who shows a person attention is probably up to something	1	2	3	4
The use of marijuana should be legalized ..	1	2	3	4
The average Canadian does not have any influence on what the government does	1	2	3	4
In general, values in Canada have been changing for the worse	1	2	3	4
The CBC is important to Canada	1	2	3	4
Participating in aggressive sports is a good way for people to get rid of their aggressive urges	1	2	3	4
Anyone who works hard will rise to the top	1	2	3	4
War is justified when other ways of settling international disputes fail	1	2	3	4
Canada should be a "melting pot" where people coming here from other countries give up their cultural differences and become Canadians	1	2	3	4
All in all, my teachers are genuinely interested in me	1	2	3	4
Mulroney is doing a pretty good job as Prime Minister	1	2	3	4
Canada's uncertain future makes it hard to plan for the future	1	2	3	4

21. THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF TALK ABOUT HOW MORALS ARE CHANGING IN CANADA.
 To what extent do you AGREE or DISAGREE with these statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
Sex before marriage is alright when people LIKE each other	1	2	3	4	[4.1]
It should be possible to obtain a legal abortion when a female has been raped	1	2	3	4	
It is alright for a couple who are not married to live together	1	2	3	4	
Sexual relations between two people of the same sex is sometimes alright	1	2	3	4	
It is sometimes alright for a married person to have sex with someone other than their marriage partner	1	2	3	4	
Sex before marriage is alright when people LOVE each other	1	2	3	4	
It should be possible for a woman to obtain a legal abortion for any reason ...	1	2	3	4	
Homosexuals are entitled to the same rights as other Canadians	1	2	3	4	
It is alright to have children without being married	1	2	3	4	

22. If two people on a date LIKE EACH OTHER, do you think it is okay for them to:

	Yes, On First Date	Yes, After A Few Dates	No
Kiss	1	2	3
Neck	1	2	3
Pet	1	2	3
Have sexual relations	1	2	3

23. As a result of concern about AIDS,
 are PEOPLE WHO YOU KNOW:

	Defin- itely	Some- what	Not Much	Not At All
Less likely to engage in sex	1	2	3	4
Likely to have fewer sexual partners	1	2	3	4
More likely to use condoms	1	2	3	4

24. Has the existence of AIDS influenced your own personal sexual habits?

1 Yes 2 No 3 No-I'm not sexually involved

NEXT, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT SOME OF YOUR PERSONAL CONCERNS.

25. How often do these common problems bother you?

	A Great Deal	Quite A Bit	Some	Little or None
Lack of money	1	2	3	4
Pressure to do well at school	1	2	3	4
Never seem to have enough time	1	2	3	4
Sex	1	2	3	4
Your height	1	2	3	4
Losing friends	1	2	3	4
Your weight	1	2	3	4
Not having a girlfriend/boyfriend	1	2	3	4
Not being understood by your parents ...	1	2	3	4
What you are going to do when you finish school	1	2	3	4

26. How accurately would you say the following statements describe you?

	Very Well	Fairly Well	Not Very Well	Not Well At All
I am well-liked	1	2	3	4
I am good-looking	1	2	3	4
I can do most things very well	1	2	3	4
I have lots of confidence	1	2	3	4

27. Please complete the following statements with the words that first come to mind. (Skip those that don't apply.)

- What I enjoy the most is _____ .
- What I find I worry about the most is _____ .
- When I am around my friends, I feel _____ .
- When I am around my teachers, I feel _____ .
- When I am around my mother, I feel _____ .
- When I am around my father, I feel _____ .
- What I like most about school is _____ .
- What I like least about school is _____ .
- When something big goes wrong I want to talk to _____ .
- When something great happens I want to tell _____ .

28. On a very personal note, much publicity has been given to a number of serious problems affecting teens.

APART FROM what you read about in the papers and see on TV, do you yourself know anyone who:

	Yes	No
Has been physically attacked at school	1	2
Has been a victim of gang violence	1	2
Has been physically abused at home	1	2
Has a severe alcohol or drug problem	1	2
Has been sexually abused	1	2
Has attempted suicide	1	2

29. There has been some talk about young people having an interest in Satanism and witchcraft. Among teens you know, how common is:

	Fairly Common	Fairly Uncommon	Is Nonexistent
Involvement in Satanic groups or practices	1	2	3
Involvement in witchcraft groups or practices	1	2	3

30. How often do you yourself:

	Weekly or More	Once or Twice A Month	Less Than Once A Month	Never
Smoke cigarettes	1	2	3	4
Drink beer, wine or other alcohol	1	2	3	4
Smoke marijuana or hashish	1	2	3	4
Use other illegal drugs	1	2	3	4

31. If you wanted to use drugs, how difficult would you say it would be for you to obtain them?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Extremely difficult | 3 Not very difficult | 5 Don't know |
| 2 Fairly difficult | 4 Not difficult at all | |

32. Compared to when you were younger—to about the time you started school, would you say that life for you NOW is:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 More enjoyable | 2 Less enjoyable | 3 About the same |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|

33. All in all, would you say that you are:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Very happy | 3 Not too happy |
| 2 Pretty happy | 4 Not happy at all |

VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT BELIEFS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOUNGER CANADIANS.

34. Do you believe that:

	Yes, I Definitely Do	Yes, I Think So	No, I Don't Think So	No, I Definitely Do Not
God exists	1	2	3	4
Supernatural forces exist	1	2	3	4
You have spiritual needs	1	2	3	4
Some things are right and other things are wrong	1	2	3	4
How we live will influence what happens to us after we die	1	2	3	4
Evil forces exist	1	2	3	4
All world religions are equally valid ..	1	2	3	4

35. How often do you attend religious services?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Weekly or more | 4 Several times a year |
| 2 2-3 times a month | 5 About once a year or less |
| 3 About once a month | 6 Never |

36. Which of the following comes closest to describing the nature of YOUR religion?

- 1 I am not a religious person
 - 2 I regard myself as a committed Christian
 - 3 I am committed to a religion other than Christianity
 - 4 I have some interest in religion, but I do not see myself as very religious
 - 5 Other (please specify) _____
-

37. All of us find ourselves having to make decisions. Who do you find yourself MOST LIKELY TO TURN TO when you are making decisions in the following areas? [Please choose only one.]

	Parents	Friends	School Counsellors	Ministers/ Priests	No One	Other
Spending money ..	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Relationships ...	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Sex	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Having fun	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Right and wrong..	1	2	3	4	5	_____
School	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Career	1	2	3	4	5	_____
A major problem..	1	2	3	4	5	_____

FINALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND.

38. In what country were you born? _____

IF OUTSIDE CANADA:

In what year did you come to Canada? _____

[77]

39. Where are you presently living?

[5.1]

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 on a farm | 4 in a city of 30,000-100,000 |
| 2 rural non-farm area | 5 in a city of 100,000-400,000 |
| 3 in a town or city of
under 30,000 people | 6 in a city of over 400,000 |

40. Do you fluently speak:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 English and French | 4 Neither English
nor French |
| 2 English only | |
| 3 French only | |

41. Do you speak any other languages fluently? 1 No 2 Yes _____

42. How old were you on your last birthday? _____

43. What grade are you in? _____

44. How many brothers and sisters do you have? _____

IF ONE OR MORE:

How many are YOUNGER than you? _____

45. Are you: 1 Male 2 Female

[10]

46. What race are you?

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 White | 3 Canadian Indian | 5 East Indian or Pakistani |
| 2 Black | 4 Oriental | 6 Other _____ |

47. To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did you or your ancestors belong before they came to Canada?

48. Do you have a job during the school year? 1 Yes 2 No

[16]

IF YES:

Approximately how many HOURS A WEEK do you work?			
1 Less than 5	3 11-15	5 19-30	7 over 40
2 5-10	4 16-18	6 31-40	
Approximately what is your HOURLY WAGE (or equivalent)?			
1 \$4 or less	3 \$7-8	5 \$11-15	7 over \$20
2 \$5-6	4 \$9-10	6 \$16-20	

49. Do you receive an ALLOWANCE? 1 Yes 2 No

IF YES:

Approximately how much A WEEK?			
1 \$5 or less	2 \$6-\$10	3 \$11-\$25	4 over \$25

50. Are your natural father and mother currently:

- 1 Married to each other
 - 2 No longer married to each other (divorced or separated)
 - 3 Other
- _____

51. Who are you presently living with?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Mother and father | 6 Mother only |
| 2 Mother and stepfather | 7 Father only |
| 3 Father and stepmother | 8 Other (please specify) |
| 4 Mother and her male partner | |
| 5 Father and his female partner | _____ |

[22]

52. What type of work does your father (or male guardian) normally do?

53. Is your mother (or female guardian) currently employed full-time outside the home?

1 Yes 2 No

IF YES:

<p>What type of work does she normally do?</p> <p>_____</p>

[31]

54. What is the highest level of education that your PARENTS (or guardians) have COMPLETED?

	Your Mother	Your Father
Less than high school	1	1
High school	2	2
Trade school or business school	3	3
A university degree	4	4
A graduate university degree	5	5
(such as a master's degree or doctorate)		

55. What is YOUR general religious preference, along with that of your PARENTS (or guardians)?

	You	Your Mother	Your Father
Protestant	1	1	1
Roman Catholic	2	2	2
Jew	3	3	3
Buddhist	4	4	4
Hindu	5	5	5
Muslim	6	6	6
Sikh	7	7	7
Native Religion	8	8	8
None	9	9	9
OTHER	0	0	0
(please specify)			

IF YOUR PREFERENCE IS PROTESTANT:

<p>What specific DENOMINATION? _____</p>
--

[38]

AS YOU LOOK TO THE FUTURE...

56. How much education, in total, do you expect you will eventually get?

- 1 High school
- 2 Some vocational/commercial college/CEGEP (Quebec)
- 3 Complete vocational/commercial college/CEGEP
- 4 Some university
- 5 Graduate from university
- 6 I don't expect to finish high school

57. Do you expect to:

	Yes	No
Get the job you want when you graduate	1	2
Pursue a career	1	2
Get married	1	2
Have children.....	1	2
Eventually stay home and raise your children	1	2
Own your own home	1	2
Have to work overtime in order to get ahead	1	2
Be more financially comfortable than your parents ...	1	2
Stay with the same partner for life	1	2
Travel extensively outside of Canada	1	2
See the national debt paid off in your lifetime	1	2

58. Do you think that by the end of this century, the following will GAIN more influence, LOSE some influence, or remain about the SAME?

	Gain	Lose	Same
The traditional family	1	2	3
Science	1	2	3
China	1	2	3
Women	1	2	3
Russia	1	2	3
Religion	1	2	3
The United States.....	1	2	3
Men	1	2	3
Traditional morality	1	2	3
Canada	1	2	3

59. Please complete the following:

"If I could live in any COUNTRY, I would live in _____."

"If I could live in any PROVINCE, I would live in _____."

60. What ONE WORD would you use to describe your feelings about the future?

PROJECT TEEN CANADA

*4,000 scientifically-selected teenagers
from British Columbia to Newfoundland
speaking out on behalf of Canadian young people.*

The
University of
Lethbridge



Project Directors
REGINALD W. BIBBY, Ph.D.
Professor and Author
Department of Sociology

DONALD C. POSTERSKI, M.A.
Youth Consultant
and Social Analyst