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# Study on the Perceptions of Union Certification Methods and Strike Decrees

Survey Report  
Project 13026-017  
August 20, 2009

## Methodology

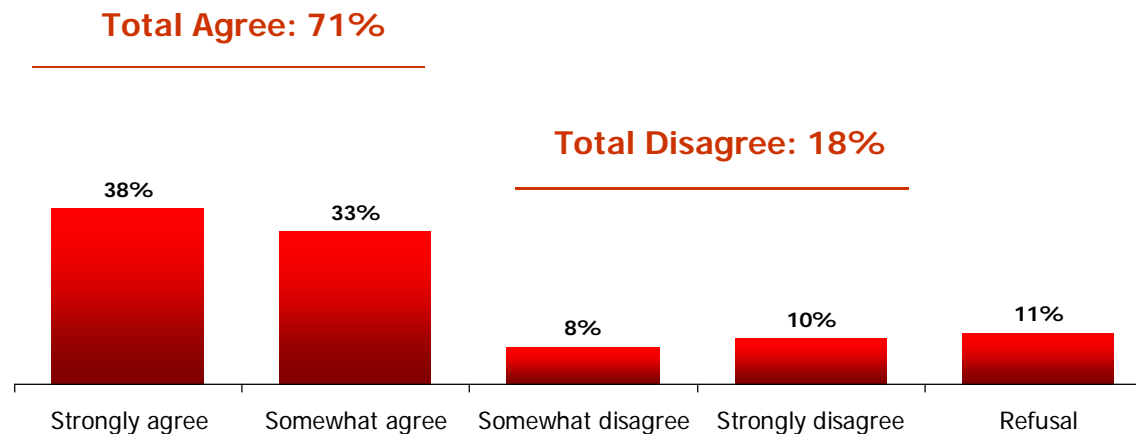
- Léger Marketing was commissioned by the Montreal Economic Institute to conduct a survey among the Quebec population in order to analyze perceptions regarding:
  - The provincial government amending the current law to make it mandatory to hold a secret ballot vote among employees affected by union certification.
  - Amend the current law to make it illegal to strike if the strike has not been the object of a secret ballot vote.
- Through an online questionnaire, this study was conducted between August 11 and August 14, 2009, among a representative sample of 1,000 Quebecers, 18 years of age or older.
- Using data from the census of the Institut de la statistique du Québec, results were weighted according to gender, age, region, mother tongue, level of education, and the presence of minor children in the household to ensure a sample representative of the adult population of the city of Montreal as a whole.
- When pertinent, survey data were compared to those obtained during a survey conducted from September 20 to September 24 for the Conseil du patronat du Québec.

# The majority of Quebeckers are of the opinion that the government should make it mandatory to hold a secret ballot vote with employees affected by union certification.

- Seven people out of ten (71%) agree with the statement to the effect that the provincial government should amend the current law to make it mandatory to hold a secret ballot vote with employees affected by union certification, while 18% disagree with this statement and 11% did not provide an opinion. In comparison with the study of 2006, the proportion of respondents in agreement with this statement has dropped from 79% to 71%.
- Unionized workers are proportionately significantly more likely (80%) to agree with amending the current law to make a secret ballot vote mandatory.
- Inversely, among non-unionized workers, there is a strong proportion of people - 23% - who disagree with this statement.

Q2. What is your level of agreement with the following statement: The provincial government should amend the current law to make it mandatory to hold a secret ballot vote with employees affected by union certification. Do you STRONGLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE or STRONGLY DISAGREE with this statement?

Base n= 1,000

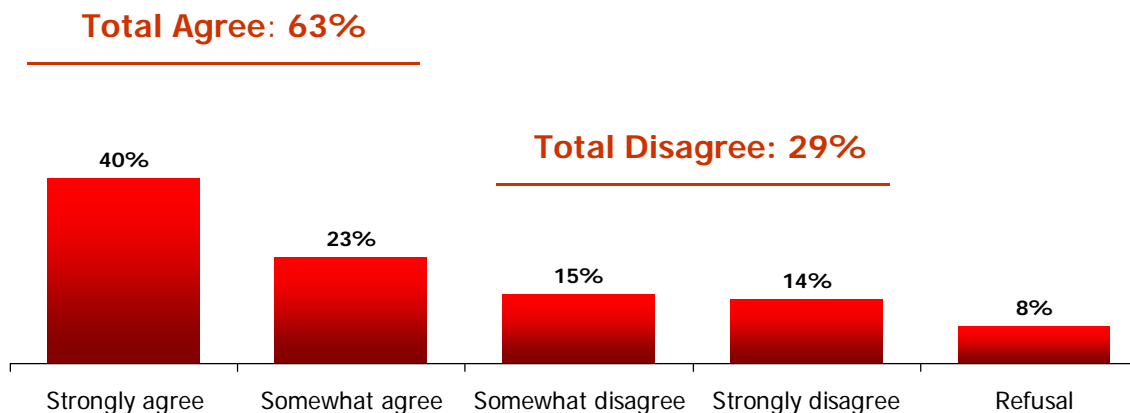


## Nearly two-thirds of Quebecers agree with making any strike illegal if it has not been the object of a secret ballot vote.

- In total, 63% of respondents agree with the statement that the provincial government should modify the current law to make any strike illegal if it has not been the object of a secret ballot vote, while 29% disagree with this statement and 8% refused to provide their opinion on the topic.
- Among unionized workers, the proportion of respondents who agree with this statement is significantly lower: 54% of unionized workers agree with amending the law to make any strike illegal if it has not been the object of a secret ballot vote, while 39% disagree.
- Moreover, the proportion of respondents who disagree with this statement is significantly higher among manual workers (49%), and respondents who have a primary or high school education (34%).

Q3. What is your level of agreement with the following statement: The provincial government should amend the current law to make any strike illegal if it has not been the object of a secret ballot vote. Do you **STRONGLY AGREE**, **SOMEWHAT AGREE**, **SOMEWHAT DISAGREE** or **STRONGLY DISAGREE** with this statement?

Base: n= 1,000

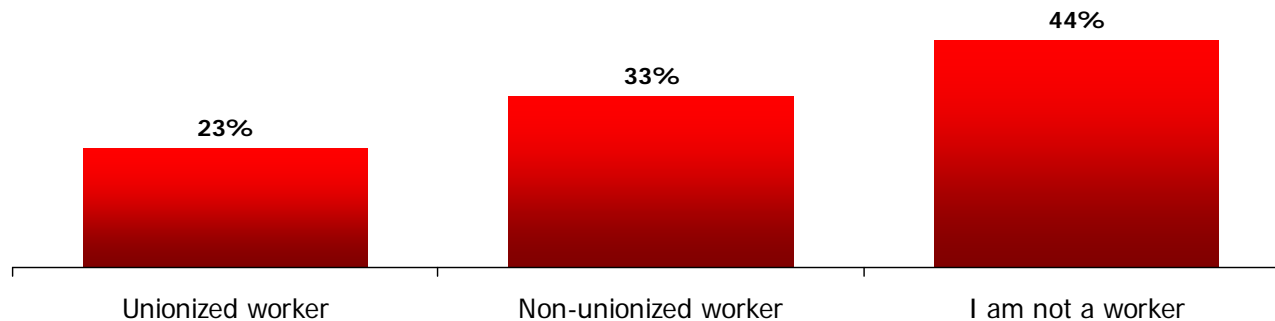


# Slightly more than a third of Quebec workers are unionized

- In total, 44% of respondents are not workers, while 33% are non-unionized workers and 23% are unionized workers.

Q1. Are you a unionized worker, a non-unionized worker, or you are not a worker?

Base: n= 1,000



### Characteristics of unionized workers (23%):

- Men (27%)
- 25 to 34 years of age (36%)
- 35 to 44 years of age (31%)
- Gross personal annual income of \$80K or more (32%)
- Salaried workers in sales/service/office (45%)
- Manual workers (57%)

### Characteristics of non-unionized workers (33%):

- 35 to 44 years of age (50%)
- 45 to 54 years of age (47%)
- Have children (46%)
- Gross personal annual income of \$80K or more (44%)
- Salaried workers in sales/service/office (51%)
- Professionals (65%)
- University graduates (42%)

# Profile of Respondents

n=1,000

	Total (n= 1,000)
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	48%
Female	52%
<b>Age</b>	
18-24	11%
25-34	16%
35-44	19%
45-54	21%
55-64	16%
65 years old or older	18%
<b>Language</b>	
French	79%
English and other	21%
<b>Regions</b>	
Montreal CMA	47%
Quebec City CMA	9%
Eastern Quebec	9%
Central Quebec	16%
Western Quebec	18%
<b>Employment Situation</b>	
Worker	51%
Non-worker	47%

	Total (n= 1,000)
<b>Children at home</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	34%
No	66%
<b>Family Income</b>	
Less than \$20,000	12%
Between \$20,000 and \$39,999	21%
Between \$40,000 and \$59,999	16%
Between \$60,000 and \$79,999	12%
\$80,000 or more	22%
<b>Education</b>	
Primary	38%
College	31%
University	30%
<b>Occupation</b>	
Service/Sales/Office	18%
Manual worker	12%
Professional	21%
Homemaker	7%
Student	10%
Retired	25%
Unemployed	5%