

# Montreal Economic Institute

Research Report

September 2006

## The Opinion of Canadians on Access to Health Care

September 2006  
13026-011

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MARKETING

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## Methodology

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Results presented in this report were obtained from two surveys conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews. In the first phase, a pan-Canadian survey was conducted among a representative sample of 1,503 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older. The maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1,503 respondents is  $\pm 2.5\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

In the second phase, a survey was conducted among a representative sample of 1,005 English- or French-speaking Quebecers, 18 years of age or older. The maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1,005 respondents is  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal and Winnipeg call centres September 21 to September 27, 2006. Up to ten call-backs were made in the case of non-response.

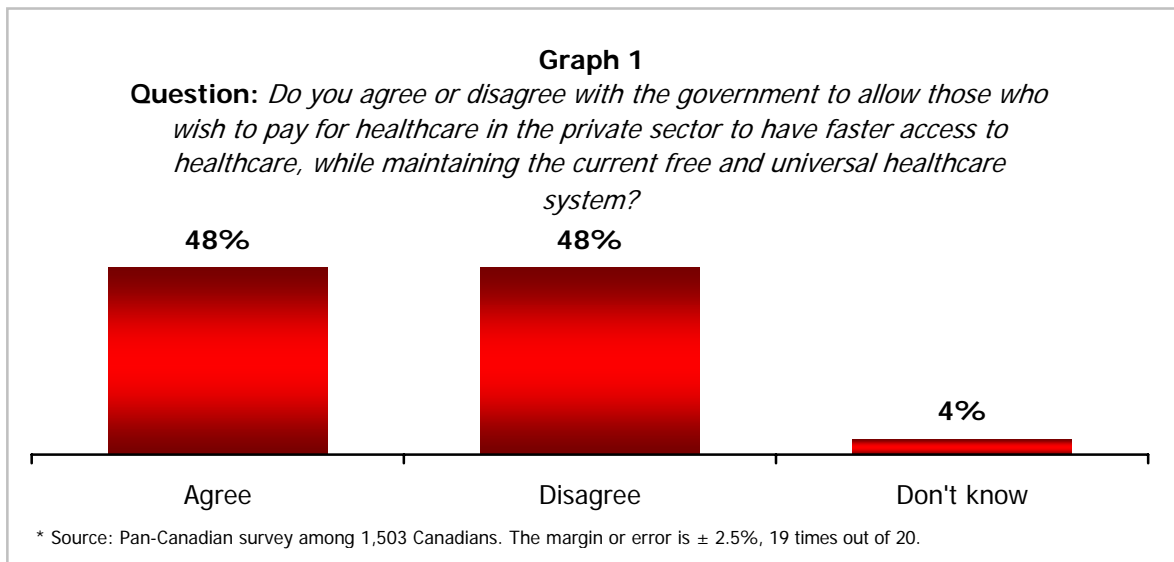
Using the latest data from Statistics Canada, the results of both surveys were weighted according to gender, region, and language spoken at home to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population.

## Survey Results

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## 1. Canadians Divided on Increased Access to Private Healthcare

- Overall, nearly half of Canadians (48%) would agree if the government allowed faster access to healthcare for those who wish to pay for this healthcare in the private sector, while maintaining the current free and universal system. An equal proportion of respondents (48%) disagree with this proposal.



Among respondents who **agree** with the government allowing faster access to healthcare in the private sector for those who wish to pay for it, we observe **higher proportions** among groups with the following profile:

- Men (51%)
- Francophones (63%)
- Residents of the Atlantic region (59%)
- Quebeckers (60%)
- Residents of the Prairies (61%)
- Manual workers (57%)
- University graduates (52%)

There are **significantly more** respondents who **disagree** with the government allowing such access among the following groups:

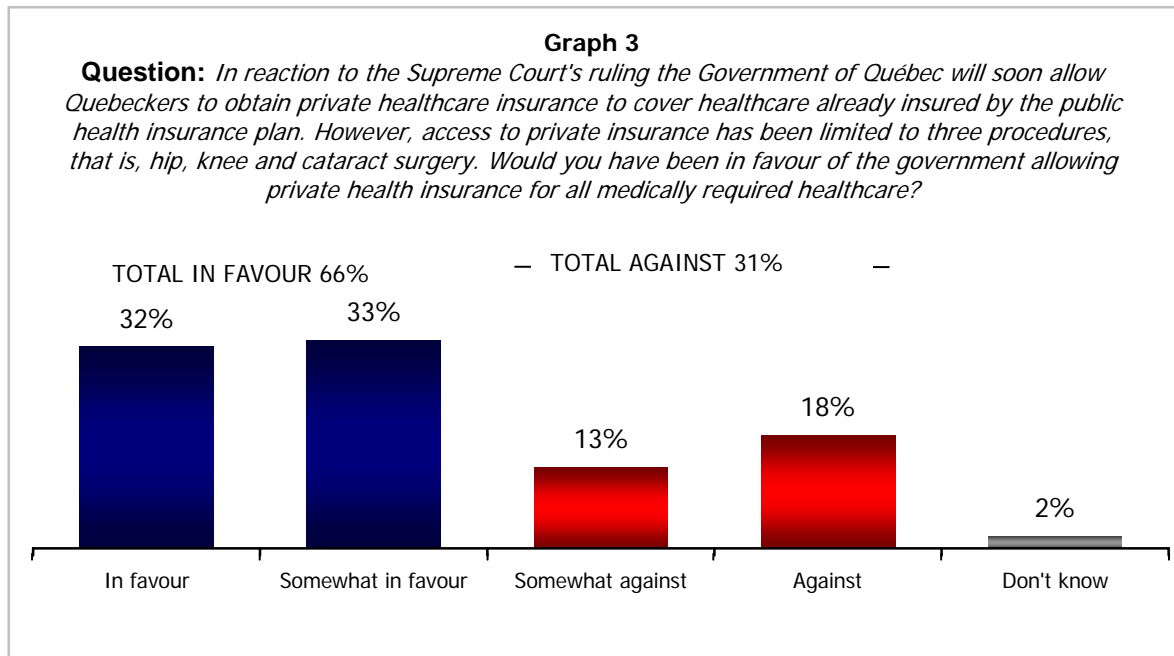
- Women (51%)
- People between 18 and 24 years of age (59%)
- Anglophones (53%)
- Ontarians (59%)
- Students (61%)
- Those with a high school education (52%)

The table below presents the distribution of respondents who agree versus those who disagree with this type of government provision per Canadian region.

| Canadian Region  | Agree      | Disagree   | Don't know / Refusal |
|------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|
| Atlantic region  | <b>59%</b> | 41%        | 1%                   |
| Québec           | <b>60%</b> | 38%        | 1%                   |
| Ontario          | 36%        | <b>59%</b> | 5%                   |
| Prairies         | <b>61%</b> | 37%        | 2%                   |
| Alberta          | 44%        | 49%        | 6%                   |
| British Columbia | 50%        | 44%        | 5%                   |

## 2. Perceptions towards Access to Private Healthcare Insurance for All Medical Care

- Two-thirds of Quebecers (66%) say they are in favour of access to private healthcare insurance for all medically required care. Conversely, nearly one third of them (31%) are against this type of initiative by the government of Québec. Note that 2% of respondents did not answer the question.



Note: Total may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Respondents with the following profile **tend to say** they are **in favour** of the government allowing private healthcare insurance for all medically required care:

- People between 35 and 44 years of age (72%)
- Residents of Centre du Québec (74%)
- Those who have an annual household income between \$40,000 and \$59,999 (73%)
- Manual workers (76%)

Respondents **against** this initiative are proportionately **more likely** among those who have the following profile:

- Residents of Metropolitan Montréal (37%)
- University graduates (38%)