

Montreal Economic Institute

Research report

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Opinion of Quebecers on the Organization and Financing of Public Schools

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Methodology

Results presented in this report are from a Léger Marketing telephone survey with 1 000 Quebecers aged 18 and over, speaking either French or English. The maximum margin or error for 1 000 respondents is $\pm 3,1\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Interviews were done from our Montreal call center between February 15 and 18, 2007. Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to age, gender, region and mother tongue to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population in Québec.

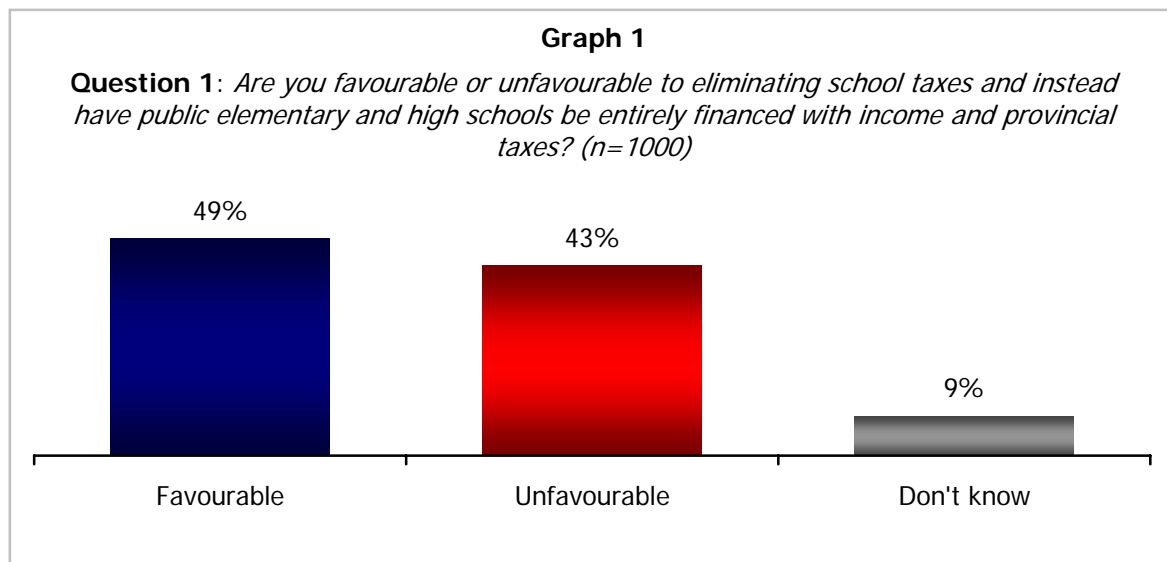
Survey Results

1. Eliminating School Taxes

→ As a whole, nearly half of respondents (49%) are in favour of eliminating school taxes so that elementary and high schools in Quebec be entirely financed with income and province taxes. An almost equal amount of the population (43%) is not favourable to such a proposition.

Preamble: "Public grade schools in Quebec are administered by 72 school boards. These school boards are financed by school taxes and by subsidies from the Ministère de l'Éducation. Private schools, on the other hand, do not belong to the school boards and deal directly with the Ministère de l'Éducation."

We are now going to ask you some questions on the structure and financing of public elementary and high schools in Quebec.



Note : Totals may not equal 100% because of rounding.

Among respondents **who are in favour** of the idea of eliminating the school tax for a financing that stems entirely from income and provincial taxes, we notice a **greater proportion** in groups with the following profile:

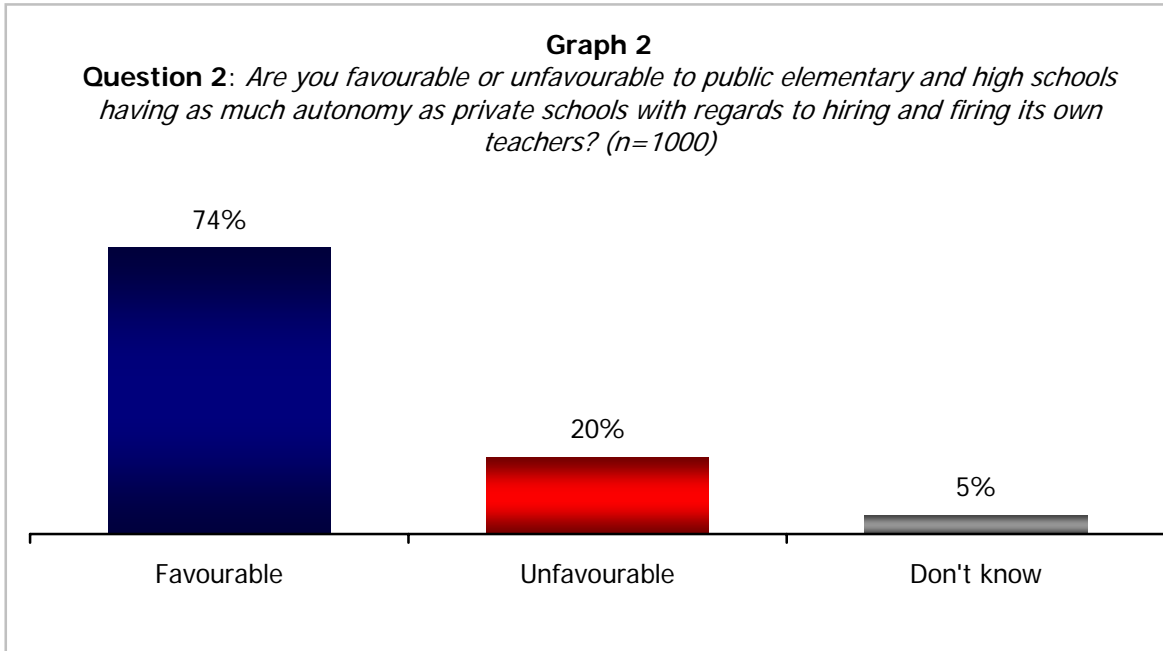
- Men (54%)
- People with a family income between \$60,000 and \$80,000 (60%)

The amount of respondents **who are not in favour** with this proposition is **significantly greater** among the following groups:

- Women (47%)
- People between the ages of 18 and 24 (57%)
- Students (57%)

2. Autonomy of Public Elementary and High Schools with regards to Hiring and Firing its own Teachers

- In total, three quarters of respondents (74%) are in favour of granting more autonomy to public elementary and high schools with regards to hiring and firing their own teachers. One respondent out of five (20%) answered not being in favour of this idea.



Note : Totals may not equal 100% because of rounding.

Respondents with the following profile are **greater in number** to say that they are **in favour** of a greater autonomy of public elementary and high schools when it comes to the hiring and firing of teachers:

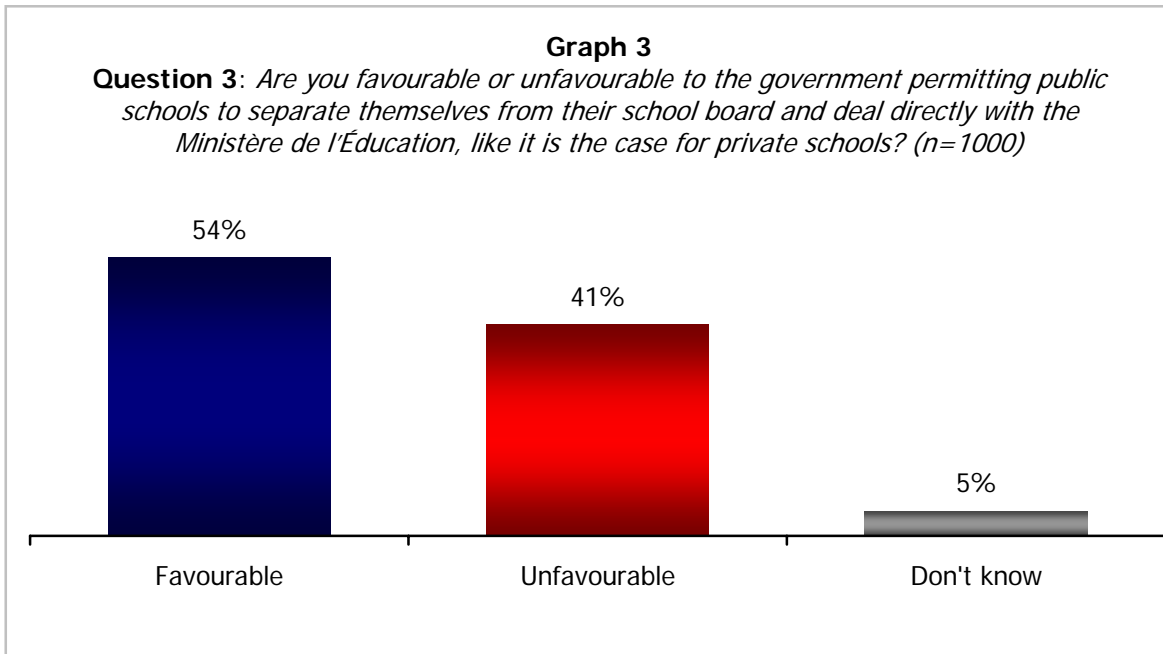
- French speaking respondents (77%)
- People with an annual family income between \$20,000 and \$40,000 (81%)
- People having completed high school (80%) or college (81%)

Respondents who are **unfavourable** are proportionately **greater in number** among those with the following profile:

- Non-French speaking respondents (31%)
- Professionals (26%)
- People with a university degree (31%)

3. Permitting Public Elementary and High Schools to Separate from their School Board

→ In general a little more than half of respondents (54%) say they are in favour of letting the government permit certain public schools to separate themselves from their school board in order to be more autonomous. The proportion of respondents unfavourable to this idea is 41%.



Note : Totals may not equal 100% because of rounding.

Respondents with the following profile are **greater in number** to say that they are **favourable** to permitting certain public schools to separate themselves from their school boards:

- People between the ages of 18 and 24 (67%)
- People with children (60%)
- Manual labourers (64%)
- Students (70%)
- People with a high school education (58%)

Respondents who are **unfavourable** are proportionately **greater in number** among those with the following profile:

- People without children (44%)
- Retirees (48%)
- People with a university education (48%)