

The Governance Monitor

The Governance Monitor tracks the impact of the election campaign on Canadians' trust in government.

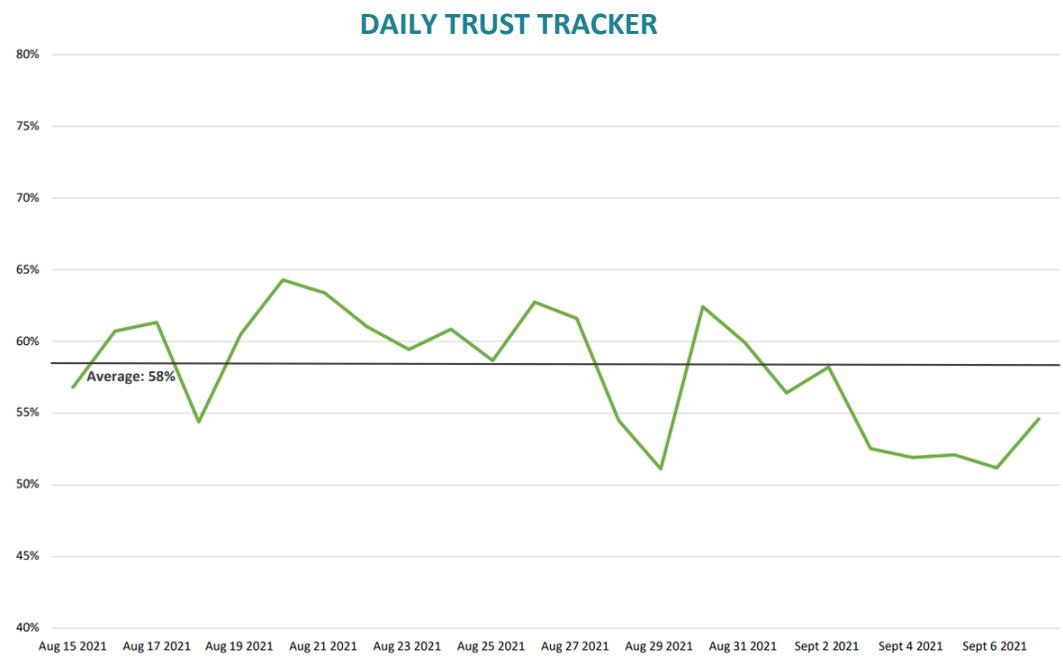
The Governance Monitor is based upon the OECD trust components of responsiveness, reliability, integrity, openness and fairness.

DATA TRENDS

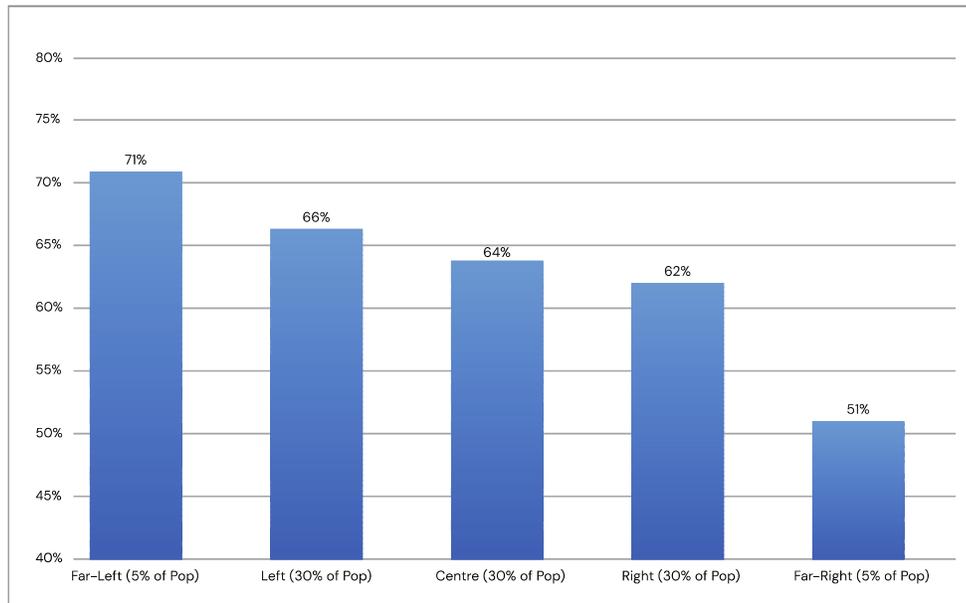
- When the election was called on August 15th Canadians' trust in government stood at 57 per cent.
- Trust generally remained above average in August but fell to a low of 51 per cent on August 29th.
- Trust remained below average in September and was 55 per cent on September 7th.

- Trust in public institutions is lowest in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Quebec and is highest in British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario.

- Of the IOG/ASI ideological cohorts (far left, left, centre, right, far right), the 5 per cent of Canadians' on the far right report the lowest level of trust in government at only 51 per cent. This compares to 64 per cent of Canadians in the centre of the spectrum.



TRUST BY IDEOLOGICAL COHORT



WHAT IT MEANS

While trust in government institutions was consistent heading into the first several days of the election, the expected election trust bump was short-lived. Canadians were questioning the responsiveness of governments, one of the leading components of trust, as they grappled with the fourth COVID wave and wildfires continued to burn in the west.

The day after the election call, the government in Afghanistan collapsed and Canadians witnessed a chaotic exit led by Western governments during the unfolding humanitarian crisis. Trust drops from August 26th, the day of the last Canadian exit flight, to a low of 51 per cent on August 29th.

Politicians lead governments. The sharp and negative turn that trust in government took in September occurred as leaders' election rhetoric sharpened around issues that included the role of the private sector in health care, women's access to abortion services, gun control, and the need to increase vaccination rates in Canada.

We are also seeing a very "un-Canadian" rise in political protest aggression and vitriol by "anti-vaxxers". They are reportedly led by members of the far right. We know that the 5 per cent on the far right are extremely engaged on social media and have by far the lowest level of trust in government.

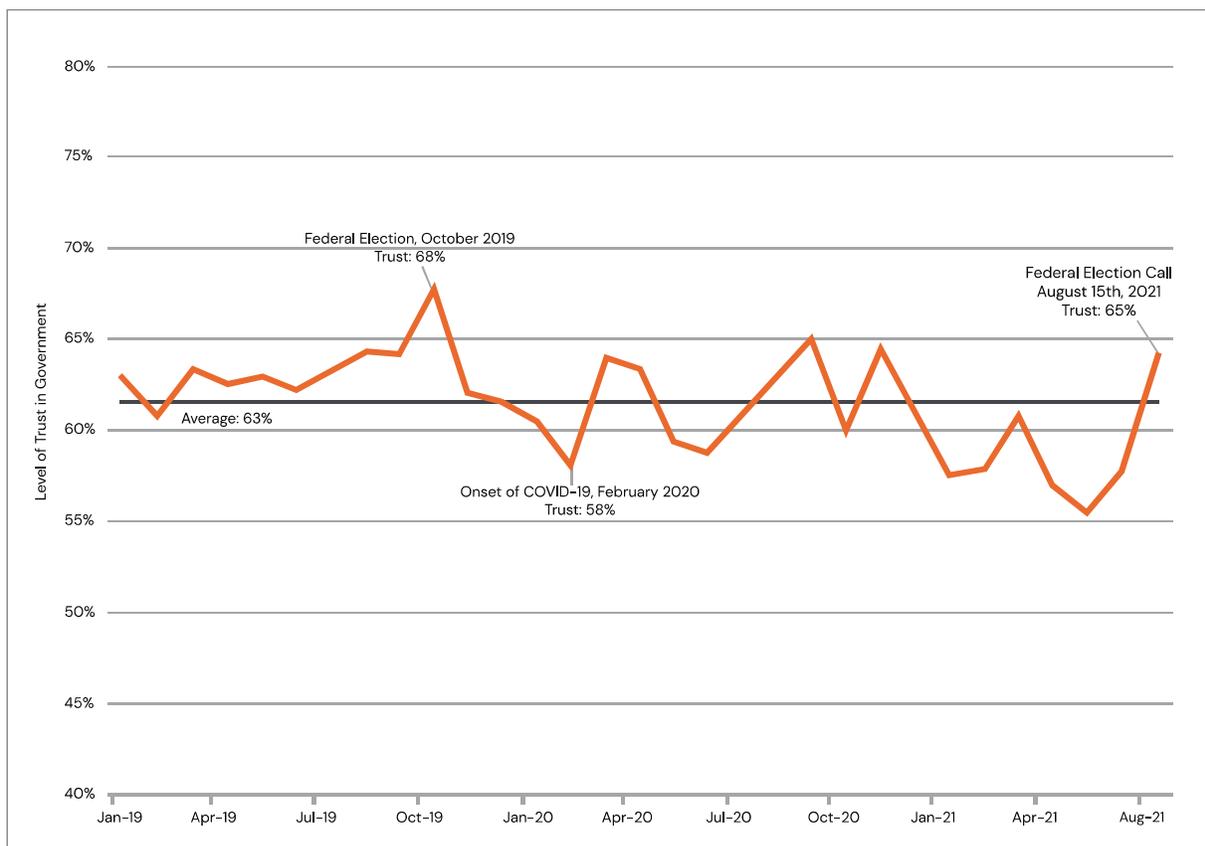
Overall, the fourth wave of COVID is not having a significant impact on Canadians' trust in government as it is being seen as the "Pandemic of the Un-Vaccinated".

WHY IT MATTERS

A new government will need the trust of Canadians if it is to effectively implement a new mandate. If trust continues to decline across all five of the IOG/ASI ideological cohorts, it will be increasingly difficult for a new government to achieve consensus when addressing key files like climate change and systemic racism.

We can expect more engagement and interest by Canadians in the campaign as the televised debates are broadcast. It will be interesting to see if this also impacts Canadians' longer-term views on the ability of government and its institutions to address key commitments made by the leaders.

CANADIANS' TRUST IN GOVERNMENT (2019-2021)



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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