

The Governance Monitor

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

The Governance Monitor measures the social media engagement (activity) and sentiment (negative/positive) across an ideological spectrum of the Canadian population – the far left (5%), left (30%), centre (30%), right (30%) and far right (5%) against the OECD's strong predictors of public trust.

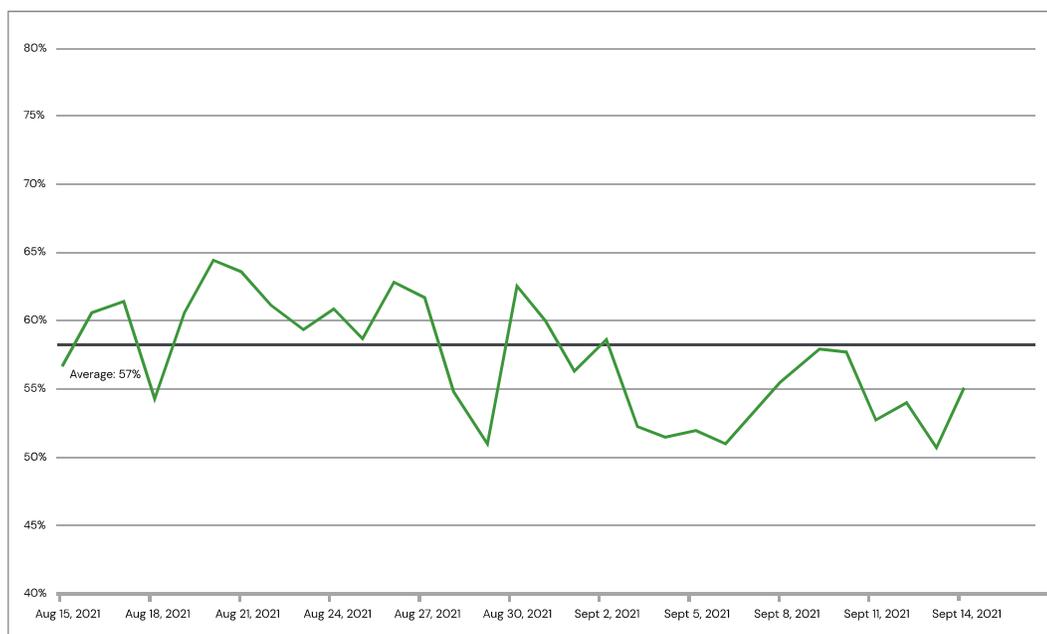
DATA TRENDS

- After a steady decline in trust in government since last weekend, the Daily Trust Tracker saw a positive rebound of 3 points to 55 per cent on September 14.
- Along the ideological spectrum, there are high levels of engagement by the far left and left regarding trust in government in British Columbia, the Atlantic region, and Ontario. The right is more present in the Prairie provinces, Ontario, and Quebec.

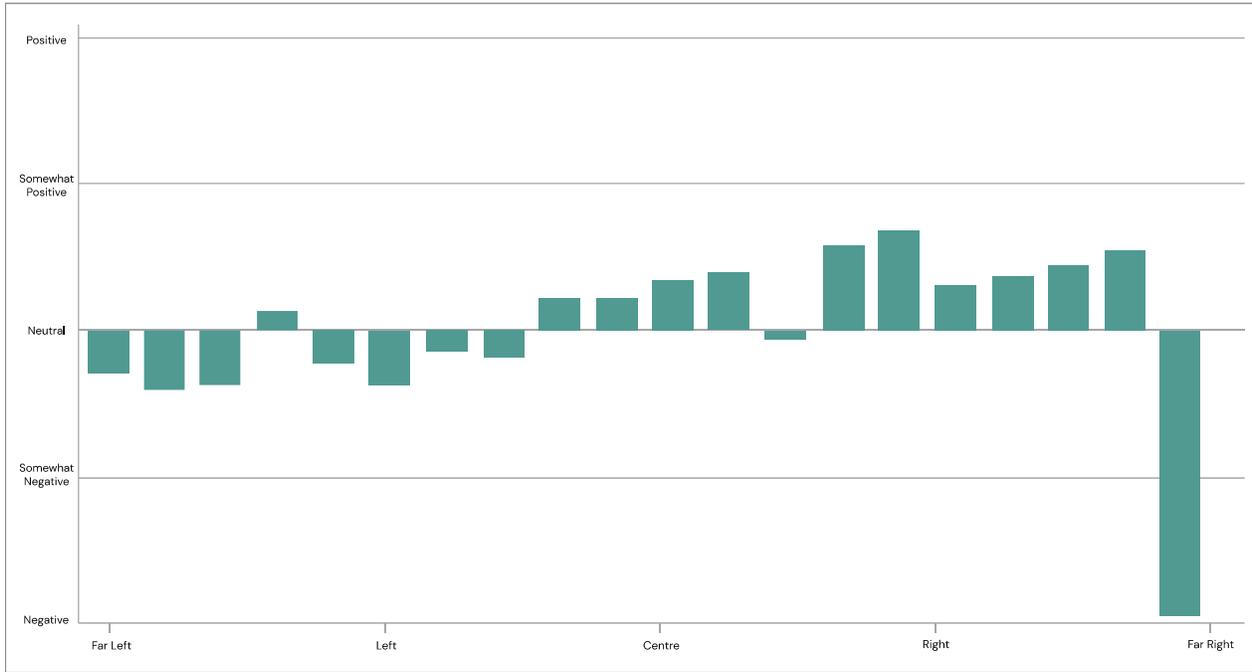
The far right is most prominent in the Prairie provinces, with the highest concentration in Alberta.

- **Immigration and trust in government:** the centre and right cohorts have positive sentiment on government's ability to deal with issues surrounding immigration. The left has negative trust sentiment and the far right has extreme negative sentiment on the issue.
- **Systemic racism and trust in government:** all ideological cohorts have a negative trust sentiment regarding the ability of public institutions to improve systemic racism, with stronger negative sentiment at both ends of the spectrum.

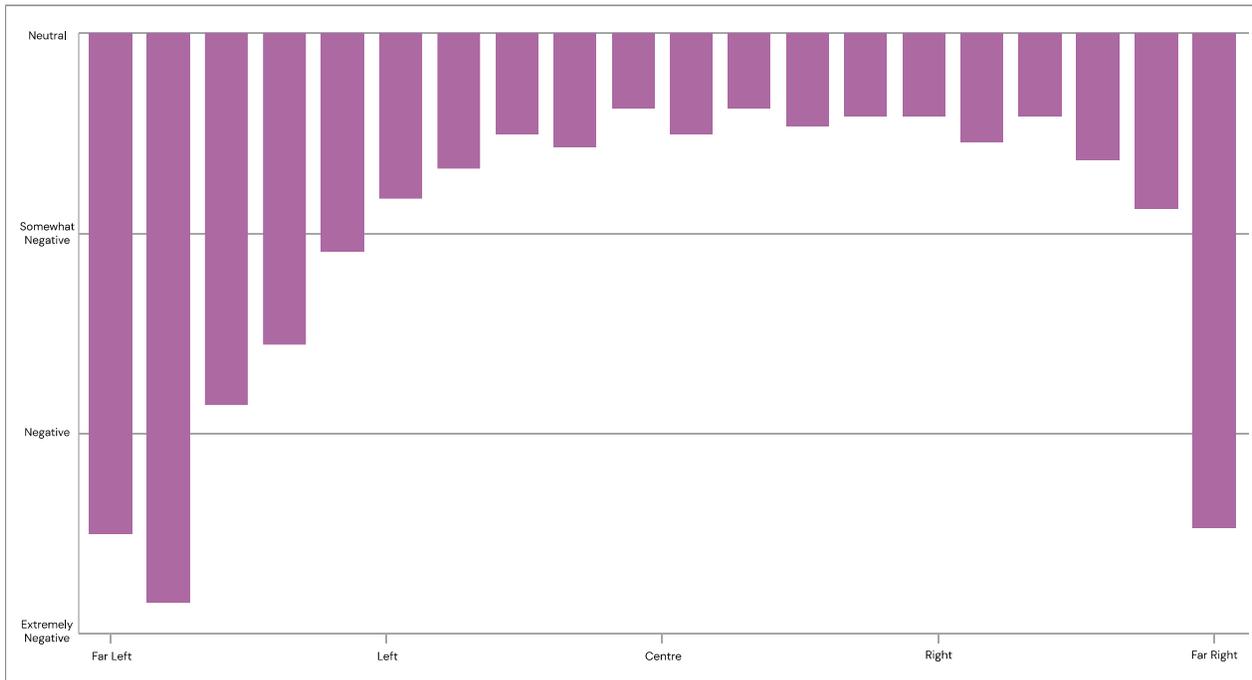
DAILY TRACKER



TRUST SENTIMENT BY IDEOLOGICAL COHORT – IMMIGRATION



TRUST SENTIMENT BY IDEOLOGICAL COHORT – SYSTEMIC RACISM



WHAT IT MEANS

There are significant differences as to why ideological cohorts trust – or do not trust – government when it comes to important issues surrounding immigration and systemic racism.

For issues related to immigration, the negative sentiment from the left and far left is based on a belief that government does not do enough to support new Canadians. The far right, on the other hand, is negative on immigration and government because it believes that new Canadians get preferential treatment.

On the issue of systemic racism, while there is negative sentiment across the ideological spectrum, it is for different reasons. The centre, left, and the far left feel the government is not doing enough to combat systemic racism. The right tends to be defensive of Canadian institutions such as the RCMP. The far right views government help for marginalized Canadians as racist in itself.

Broadly speaking, the engagement and sentiments of all ideological cohorts reflect differing views of the role governments should play on the issues of fairness and equity in Canadian society, a topic that was raised in the English-speaking leaders' debate.

WHY IT MATTERS

In a world that is becoming increasingly polarized, there is temptation for governments to develop 'wedge solutions' that play to the sentiments of one ideological cohort while ignoring those of another. This strategy may work in the short term - by mobilizing a particular ideological cohort or a specific region of the country, for example – but in the long term it will undermine trust in public institutions and democracy itself.

To work toward consensus on the issues of immigration and systemic racism, and to build trust in government, a new government will need to address not only the different views of ideological cohorts on the ability of governments to deal with them but also the specific reasons for their points of view.

For the issue of immigration, in response to the contrasting sentiments regarding trust, the government could lead a national discussion on the importance of immigration to the future of Canada and the inclusion of new Canadians into society. Trust will increase on the left if the government is seen to be helping new Canadians adapt and become part of their new country, and on the right if new Canadians are seen as getting equal treatment.

The strongly polarized views regarding government's ability to deal with systemic racism also pose a challenge for a new government. Again, a national dialogue to build increased understanding of the impact of systemic racism on the effectiveness of our public institutions, such as the RCMP, could be used to develop a shared strategy for moving forward.

It is worth noting that such actions on both these issues would demonstrate that the new government is both open and responsive – two of the key OECD components of trust in government.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Governance Monitor looks beyond the electoral horse race to produce informed insights and expert analysis on how #Elxn44 is affecting Canadians' faith and trust in our government and its institutions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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