

CANADA 1988 Election Study

Methodology:

The study included three waves: a campaign period survey with a representative sample of 3,609 Canadians; a post election survey with 2,922 of the campaign period survey respondents; and a mail-back survey with 2,115 of the post election survey respondents.

		First wave	Second wave	Third wave
		Campaign Period	Post Election	Post Election
		Telephone Questionnaire	Telephone Questionnaire	Mail Survey
Total Completed	Sample	3609	2922	2115
Refusals		2418	688	520
Effective Response	Percentage	76.8%	62.2%	80%

Table 1. Survey Descriptive Data.

Variables:

Variable Name:	Question:	Coded As:
Party	Which party do you think you will vote for?	Recoded such that: 1 Liberal 2 Conservative 3 NDP The “don’t know”, “other” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing.
Retnat	How do you think the general economic situation has changed over the past 12 months?	This variable is recoded so that there are three dummy variables representing: _Iretnat_1 – Got better _Iretnat_2 – Stayed the same _Iretnat_3 – Got worse
Age	In what year were you born?	Recoded such that: The <i>age</i> variable is constructed as: 2000-(response to year of birth). This computes the age for the respondent for the year the survey is taken. If the age was smaller than zero, then it was recoded as missing.
Male	Sex of respondent:	Recoded such that: 0 Female 1 Male
Religfrq	How often do you attend your place of worship?	Recoded such that: 0 never 1 less than once a year 2 once or twice a year 3 several times a year 4 once a month 5 couple of times a month 6 nearly every week 7 every week 8 more than once a week

	8 more than once a week 9 Don't Know, No Answer	The "don't know" category is recoded as missing. Recoded such that: 0 No 1 Yes
Union	Do you or anyone in your household belong to a union? 1 Yes 5 No 8 Don't Know 9 Refused	The "don't know" and "refused" categories are recoded as missing. Recoded such that:
Atlantic BC Ontario QueEng QueFra	Province of interview: 10 Newfoundland and Labrador 11 Prince Edward Island 12 Nova Scotia 13 New Brunswick 24 Quebec 35 Ontario 46 Manitoba 47 Saskatchewan 48 Alberta 59 British Columbia 60 Yukon 61 North Western Territories	Atlantic: 0 Other Provinces 1 Atlantic Provinces BC: 0 Other Provinces 1 British Columbia Ontario: 0 Other Provinces 1 Ontario QueEng 0 Other Provinces 1 Quebec and Speak English QueFra 0 Other Provinces 1 Quebec and Speak French
French	What language do you usually speak at home? 1 French 3 English 5 Other 8 Don't Know 9 Refused	Recoded such that: 0 All other languages 1 French
Educate	What is the highest level of education that you have completed? 1 No Schooling	Recoded such that: 1 No Schooling 2 Some Elementary School 3 Completed Elementary School

	<p>2 Some Elementary School</p> <p>3 Completed Elementary School</p> <p>4 Some Secondary / High School</p> <p>5 Completed Secondary / High School</p> <p>6 Some Technical, Community College, CEGEP, College Classique</p> <p>7 Completed Technical, Community College, CEGEP, College Classique</p> <p>8 Some University</p> <p>9 Bachelor's Degree</p> <p>10 Master's Degree</p> <p>11 Professional Degree or Doctorate</p> <p>98 Don't Know</p> <p>99 Refused</p>	<p>4 Some Secondary / High School</p> <p>5 Completed Secondary / High School</p> <p>6 Some Technical, Community College, CEGEP, College Classique</p> <p>7 Completed Technical, Community College, CEGEP, College Classique</p> <p>8 Some University</p> <p>9 Bachelor's Degree</p> <p>10 Master's Degree</p> <p>11 Professional Degree or Doctorate</p>
NAFTA	<p>In 1988 Canada signed a Free Trade Agreement with the United States. All things considered, do you support the agreement or do you oppose it?</p> <p>1 support</p> <p>3 oppose</p> <p>5 neither support or oppose</p> <p>8 don't know</p> <p>9 refused</p> <p>0 unaware of agreement</p>	<p>The "don't know" and "refused" categories are recoded as missing.</p> <p>Recoded such that:</p> <p>1 support</p> <p>3 oppose</p> <p>5 neither support or oppose</p>
Occupc1	<p>We'd like to know if you are now working for pay, or are you unemployed, retired, a student, a homemaker, or something else?</p> <p>1 working now (incl. on strike and any form of leave)</p> <p>2 laid off</p> <p>3 unemployed</p> <p>4 disabled</p> <p>5 retired</p> <p>6 student</p> <p>7 homemaker</p> <p>8 Don't Know</p> <p>9 Refused</p>	<p>Recoded using the pinpor81 and n5 variables. The resulting categories are:</p> <p>1 higher non-manual - service class</p> <p>2 non-manual class</p> <p>4 farmers</p> <p>5 skilled workers</p> <p>6 unskilled & semiskilled, nonagricultural</p> <p>7 supervisors</p> <p>8 combines apprentice, student, not working (e.g. retired), married, and unoccupied.</p>

The “don’t know” responses are
recoded as missing.

Then recoded such that:

1 Non-Manual (categories 1-4
from above)

2 Manual (categories 5-7 from
above)

Rest coded as missing

Data Acknowledgements:

1988 Canadian National Election Study collects data on the voting behavior and political attitudes of the Canadian people. The study is conducted by Richard Johnston, et al. The design of the election studies before 1988 were determined by technology, geography, and Westminster parliamentarism: earlier groups were rightly reluctant to abandon the inhome design; Canada's sparse population and vast landscape conspired to stretch fieldwork out; and parliamentary practice makes it hard to anticipate the date of dissolution. All this dictated that Canadian studies would be only post-election and that fieldwork would last weeks, even months. Telephone surveys, during the mid-1980s, gained respectability, and it was more or less accepted that campaigns were starting to matter.