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Canadian LabourWatch Association  
2008 Labour Day Poll

## **ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE**

***What Canada's "Labourers" Are Really Thinking  
This Labour Day***

**Exclusive to National Post and Le Journal de Montréal**



A NATIONAL POST / LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL LABOUR DAY POLL

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Good (afternoon, evening), my name is [insert first name]. I am calling from NANOS RESEARCH. We are currently conducting a study about working in Canada and would appreciate your participation. This is not a sales call. All views you share are confidential and our survey will take about X minutes of your time. First of all, can you please tell me if you are at least 18 years old?

1. Which of the following best describes your personal work situation? [READ]

READ \* ACCEPT ONE ANSWER \*

I work full-time .....	1
I work part-time....that is less than 30 hours a week .....	2
I am retired .....	3 Not eligible
I am at home .....	4 Not eligible
I am a student.....	5 Not eligible
I am unemployed.....	6 Not eligible
[DO NOT PROMPT]	
Don't know.....	8 Not eligible
Refusal.....	9 Not eligible

**NOTE: If not employed ask to speak to someone over 18 who is employed in the household?**

2. In your current job, are you.....

READ \* ACCEPT ONE ANSWER \* ANSWERS IN ROTATION Rotation => 2

...unionized .....	1 => SKIP TO Q4
...not unionized.....	2 => GO TO Q3
[DO NOT PROMPT]	
Don't know.....	8 => TERMINATE
Refusal.....	9 => TERMINATE

3. If you are not unionized now, would you be very interested, somewhat interested, somewhat not interested or not at all interested in being unionized in your current job?

Very interested .....	1
Somewhat interested .....	2
Somewhat not interested .....	3
Not at all interested .....	4
[DO NOT PROMPT]	
Don't know.....	8
Refusal.....	9

4. For what percentage of your working life have you been unionized?

RECORD PERCENTAGE \_\_\_\_ %

INTERVIEWER NOTE: NEVER BEEN UNIONIZED RESPONDENTS [Q4=0%] – SKIP TO Q12 – UNIONIZED/FORMERLY UNIONIZED RESPONDENTS CONTINUE to Q5 – CURRENTLY UNIONIZED – PRESENT TENSE – FORMERLY UNIONIZED PAST TENSE

5. You said you are/WERE unionized. An actual Member of a union can be elected to represent fellow workers and is also subject to union discipline. Someone covered under a collective agreement who pays dues but cannot be elected or be subject to union discipline is unionized but not an actual union Member. Based on what I have just explained are/WERE you an actual Member of a union or not a Member?

READ \* ACCEPT ONE ANSWER \* ANSWERS IN ROTATION Rotation => 2

Yes (am/WAS an actual union Member) .....	1
No (am/WAS not an actual union Member) .....	2
[DO NOT PROMPT]	
Don't know .....	8
Refusal .....	9 2

6. Which of the following is true for you? [READ]  
 READ \* ACCEPT ONE ANSWER \* ANSWERS IN ROTATION Rotation => 2
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| I cannot / could not resign my union Membership while keeping my unionized job.....   | 1 |
| I can / could resign my union Membership while keeping my unionized job.....  | 2 |
| [DO NOT PROMPT]   |   |
| I do not know whether or not the collective agreement at my unionized job allows / allowed me to resign from the union but keep my job..... | 8 |
7. Which of the following best describes how you became a union Member is it because.....  
 READ \* ACCEPT ONE ANSWER \* ANSWERS IN ROTATION Rotation => 2
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ...it was required and came with the job.....         | 1 |
| ...you voluntarily became a Member of the union ..... | 2 |
| [DO NOT PROMPT]                                       |   |
| Don't know .....                                      | 8 |
| Refusal.....  | 9 |
8. Is/was the presence of a union in your work place, very important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or very unimportant for you to receive fair treatment from your employer?  
 Very important.....1  
 Somewhat important.....2  
 Somewhat unimportant .....
 3 |
- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Very unimportant.....                | 4 |
| [DO NOT PROMPT]                      |   |
| Not applicable / Doesn't apply ..... | 7 |
| Don't know .....                     | 8 |
| Refusal.....                         | 9 |
9. From what you know / knew of your union's activities, do / did you feel that your contributions (in the form of dues) are / were.....  
 READ \* ACCEPT ONE ANSWER \* ANSWERS IN ROTATION Rotation => 2
- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| ...well spent.....      | 1 |
| ...not well spent ..... | 2 |
| [DO NOT PROMPT]         |   |
| Don't know .....        | 8 |
| Refusal.....            | 9 |
10. If you were given the choice in your current job / FORMERLY UNIONIZED JOB would you choose / HAVE WANTED to be.....  
 READ \* ACCEPT ONE ANSWER \* ANSWERS IN ROTATION Rotation => 2
- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| ...unionized.....      | 1 |
| ...not unionized ..... | 2 |
| [DO NOT PROMPT]        |   |
| Don't know .....       | 8 |
| Refusal.....           | 9 |

#### **Job satisfaction**

For each of the following aspects of your current job and workplace are you VERY SATISFIED, SOMEWHAT SATISFIED, SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED or VERY DISSATISFIED? (Also record Not applicable [7],don't know [8] or Refusal [9])

[ROTATE Q11 to Q13 in grid below]

11. ...your job in general
  12. ...your relationship with management at work
  13. ...your job security
- [IF NEVER UNIONIZED SKIP TO Q16]

[ROTATE 14 to 15 in grid below]

FOR UNIONIZED OR FORMERLY UNIONIZED [Q4 GREATER THAN 0%] RESPONDENTS ONLY

14. ...your relationship with the union at work
15. ...how the union represents / REPRESENTED your interests

I will now read you a list of groups, and for each one, please tell me if it brings a VERY POSITIVE, SOMEWHAT POSITIVE, SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE or VERY NEGATIVE contribution to Canada's prosperity or economic wellbeing? [Also record Not applicable (7),don't know (8) or Refusal (9)]

[ROTATE Q16-Q19]

16. ...governments
17. ...unions
18. ...large businesses
19. ...small businesses

20. Which statement best represents your personal opinion ...

\*\*READ\*\* \*\*ACCEPT ONE ANSWER\*\*ANSWERS IN ROTATION \*\* Rotation => 2

- ... unions were needed and relevant at one time, but  
today they are no longer necessary .....1  
... unions are still as relevant today as they have ever been ..2

[DO NOT PROMPT]

- Don't know .....8 => SKIP TO Q22  
Refusal.....9 => SKIP TO Q22

21. Why do you have that opinion? [OPEN-ENDED]

\*\*RECORD ALL ALL ANSWERS\*\*

- Note answer: .....96  
Don't know.....98  
Refusal.....99

Do you think that the presence of a union in a workplace has a VERY POSITIVE, SOMEWHAT POSITIVE, SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE OR VERY NEGATIVE effect on the following....

[Also record Not applicable (7),don't know (8) or Refusal (9)]

[ROTATE Q22-Q24]:

22. ...the ability of a business to compete
23. ...job security for employees
24. ...the promotion of an innovative working atmosphere

25. As you may know, there have been recent announcements of lay-offs in the automobile sector. What do you think was the main cause of the layoffs? Was it....

\*\*READ\*\* \*\*ACCEPT ONE ANSWER\*\*ANSWERS IN ROTATION \*\* Rotation => 3

- ...the cars produced were not in demand .....1  
....labour costs were too high .....2  
...poor management decisions .....3  
...the high price of oil.....4

[DO NOT PROMPT]

- Don't know .....8  
Refusal .....9

I am going to read you a list of statements about workplace and unions. For each statement, please tell me if you COMPLETELY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE OR COMPLETELY DISAGREE with the statement. [Also record Not applicable (7), don't know (8) or Refusal (9)]

[ROTATE Q26-Q31]

26. A secret ballot vote should be required when forming or removing a union from a workplace
27. during a union organizing drive, employees should be entitled to obtain information from both the union and the employer on the impact of workplace unionization
28. if someone works at or is hired into a workplace that becomes or is unionized it should be a condition of employment that they must also become a full Member of the union.
29. employees should have a choice as to which union represents them or not
30. governments should be allowed to restrict bidding on public contracts solely to unionized companies/employees while preventing non-union companies/employees from bidding
31. unions should not be required to publicly disclose how they spend the union dues they collect from unionized workers.

Our next few questions have to do with working in a unionized workplace.

32. Do you think if you were employed at a unionized workplace.....

\*\*READ\*\* \*\*ACCEPT ONE ANSWER\*\*ANSWERS IN ROTATION \*\* Rotation => 2  
... you would have a choice about becoming

a union Member .....1

OR

.... do you think it would be mandatory for you to  
become a union Member .....2

[DO NOT PROMPT]

Don't know .....8

Refusal .....9

Is it VERY IMPORTANT, SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT, SOMEWHAT UNIMPORTANT, OR VERY UNIMPORTANT that Canada have similar rules related to unions than the following countries or groups of countries. [Also record Not applicable (7), don't know (8) or Refusal (9)]

[ROTATE Q33-Q36]

33. The European Union
34. The United States
35. Australia and New Zealand
36. Member countries of the United Nations

As you may know, in the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand mandatory union Membership in a union is no longer allowed. An individual who is hired in a workplace with a union, will be covered by the collective agreement in their workplace but can refuse to be a Member of the union.

37. Do you have a VERY POSITIVE, SOMEWHAT POSITIVE, SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE OR VERY NEGATIVE perception of this approach?

Very positive .....1  
Somewhat positive .....2  
Somewhat negative .....3  
Very negative .....4  
Not applicable / Doesn't apply .....7  
Don't know .....8  
Refusal .....9

In some cases, the person who declines Membership pays lower dues to cover the costs for collective bargaining but may not be forced to pay the additional dues that a Member pays that may be used for non-bargaining purposes such as support for certain political parties or social causes. In other cases, non-Members pay no dues at all.

38. Do you have a VERY POSITIVE, SOMEWHAT POSITIVE, SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE OR VERY NEGATIVE impression of this approach?

Very positive .....	1
Somewhat positive .....	2
Somewhat negative .....	3
Very negative .....	4
Not applicable / Doesn't apply .....	7
Don't know .....	8
Refusal .....	9

39. As you may know even though a Government of Canada workplace is unionized, employees must pay dues but can decline being a member of the government union. The Federal Civil Service Labour Code, which covers employees of the Government of Canada does not allow forced union Membership as a condition of employment. Are you aware or unaware of this?

Aware .....	1
Unaware .....	2
Don't know .....	8
Refusal .....	9

40. Do you have a VERY POSITIVE, SOMEWHAT POSITIVE, SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE OR VERY NEGATIVE impression of this approach?

Very positive .....	1
Somewhat positive .....	2
Somewhat negative .....	3
Very negative .....	4
Not applicable / Doesn't apply .....	7
Don't know .....	8
Refusal .....	9

Do you COMPLETELY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE OR COMPLETELY DISAGREE with the following uses of union dues? [Also record Not applicable (7), don't know (8) or Refusal (9)]

[ROTATE Q40-Q42]

41. making contributions to political parties
42. making contributions to advocacy groups unrelated to your workplace's needs
43. making contributions to advertising campaigns that oppose a specific political party.
  
44. In your opinion, what percentage of union dues should go towards providing information resources and legal support to form or preserve a union?

**PERCENTAGE \_\_\_\_%**

We're almost done. Our last few questions will help us group opinions.

45. Can you tell me in which age group you are, is it between...

READ

...18-24 years of age.....	1
...25-34 .....	2
...35-44 .....	3
...45-54 .....	4
...55-64 .....	5
...65-74 .....	6
or over 75 .....	7
[DO NOT PROMPT]	
Refusal.....	9

46. What is your current main occupation? [DO NOT READ LIST]

[NOTE TO INTERVIEWERS: WE ARE TALKING ABOUT PAYING JOBS ONLY!!! Even if the respondent is on a sabbatical, maternity, illness or work-related accident leave, ask him/her for his/her OCCUPATION. Self-employed, freelance, ask for the type of work or to help you, ask the type of company where he/she works.]

\*\*\*PROMPT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO KNOW THEIR LINE OF WORK..\*\*\*

OFFICE WORKER (Cashier, office clerk, accounting clerk,  
secretary, etc.) .....01

PERSONNEL SPECIALIZED IN SALES (Insurance agent, sales person, sales clerk, real estate  
agent, real estate broker, sales rep.....02

PERSONNEL SPECIALIZED IN SERVICES (Security agent,taxi driver, hairdresser, cook, clergy  
member, in the military, police officer, firefighter, etc .....03

MANUAL WORKERS (Farmer, packer, unskilled worker, miner,  
fisherman, forest worker, etc.).....04

SKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS (Bricklayer, truck driver, electrician, machine operator,  
mechanic, painter, plumber, etc.....05

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGIES WORKERS (computer operator, programmer-  
analyst,technician,audio-technician, lab technician, etc.) .....06

PROFESSIONALS (Archeologist, architect, artist, lawyer,banker, biologist, chemist, accountant,  
consultant, foreman, dentist, designer, economist .....07

MANAGERS/ADMINISTRATORS/OWNERS (Director, editor, entrepreneur, executive, manager,  
business person, politician, president .....08

Write down if uncertain .....13

Refusal.....99

47. Do you work in government administration, a public sector enterprise or a private sector company?

Government administration .....	1
Public sector enterprise .....	2
Private sector company .....	3
Don't know.....	8
Refusal.....	9

48. Including yourself, how many people does your company currently employ (including full-time and part-time employees)? Is it ...?

\*\* READ \*\* ANSWER EVEN IF APPROXIMATE NUMBER

...1-4.....	1
...5-9.....	2
...10-49.....	3
...50-99.....	4
...100-249.....	5
...250-499 .....	6
...or more than 500.....	7
[DO NOT PROMPT]	
Don't know.....	8
Refusal.....	9

49. What is the highest level of schooling that you have completed? Is it....

\*\* READ LIST \*\* RECORD HIGHEST LEVEL ONLY

... Elementary (7 years or less) .....	1
... High School, general or professional (8 to 12 years) .....	2
... College pre-university, technical training, certificate (CEP), accreditation (ASP) or proficiency diploma (DEP)(13-15 years) .....	3
... University certificates and diplomas .....	4
... University Bachelor (including classical studies) .....	5
... University Masters .....	6
... University Doctorate (Phd) .....	7
[DO NOT PROMPT]	
Refusal.....	9

50. What languages, other than French or English, are spoken in your household?

Record language: \_\_\_\_\_

51. Were you born in Canada or outside of Canada?

Born in Canada.....	1
Born outside of Canada.....	2
Refusal .....	9

52. In what category is the TOTAL INCOME, in 2007, before income tax, of all the members of your household, is it...?

READ

...less than \$20,000 .....	1
...between \$20 000 and less than \$40,000 .....	2
...between \$40 000 and less than \$60,000 .....	3
...between \$60 000 and less than \$80,000 .....	4
...between \$80 000 and less than \$100,000 .....	5
or \$100 000 or more .....	6
[DO NOT PROMPT]	
Refusal.....	9

We're done. Thank you very much for your time.

53. Enter respondent's gender [DO NOT ASK]

Male .....	1
Female.....	2