



## Canada

### Progress Map Canada

Improvement in the area of gender equality is a leading progress issue in most of the 16 countries surveyed in this year's Progress Barometer, and Canada is no exception. Arguably one of the most important factors in facilitating equality between women and men is the better compatibility of work and family life. The Canadian population clearly wants to see things moving faster when it comes to expanding public childcare. At the same time, they are happy with the status quo when it comes to the professionalization of work that was largely voluntary work before (e.g. childcare or care for the elderly). Canadians also welcome the transition of a working environment away from the idea that a job primarily guarantees economic survival towards one that gives life meaning and purpose.

In Canada, gay couples are able to marry and adopt children. The country is altogether very progressive when it comes to same-sex rights<sup>1</sup> and the acceptance of homosexuals in society. According to the Canadian population, however, the wheels of progress should turn even faster here in the future.

The legalization of marijuana has been an important political issue for Canada in recent years. While a majority support the legalization that was enacted in 2018, some caution remains.<sup>2</sup> The Progress Barometer therefore also identifies the issue as one where no further progress is desired, but the status quo should be upheld.



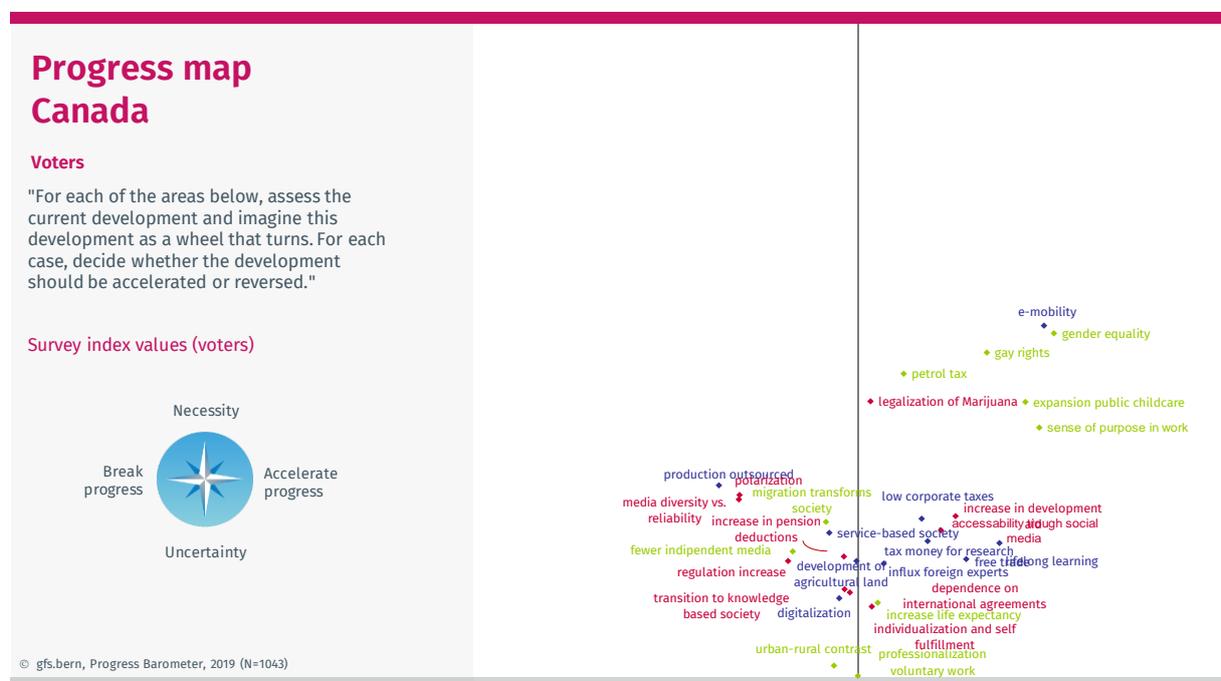
Innovation, promotion and dissemination of e-mobility are among the most important progress issues in Canada as well as on globally. Conversely, the desire to see faster progress on the introduction of a fuel tax is considerably lower. While both issues address the challenge of climate change, e-mobility carries the implicit message that it makes the status quo more sustainable, while the fuel tax would come at the price of certain constraints in current living conditions.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/timeline-same-sex-rights-in-canada-1.1147516>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/17/world/canada/marijuana-pot-cannabis-legalization.html>

The issue where Canadians most desire a reversal of current developments is in the relocation of aspects of production abroad. In Canada, 1.6% of the economy is based on the agricultural sector, 28.2% on the industrial sector and 70.2% on the services sector.<sup>3</sup> While Canadians are not opposed to this, they also are not keen on seeing things moving any faster in terms of the (further) transition away from manufacturing towards an even more services-based society. Canadians also want less regulation and continued progress on free trade, but at the same time would not like to increase their dependence on international agreements.

The volume of information available has exploded with the advancement of the internet, digitalization and the spread of social media. This increase in news sources comes at the price of an increased vulnerability to fake news at the same time. As in many other countries, people in Canada too are critical when it comes to this trade-off and would rather see a reversal of this development. The same holds true for the decreasing number of independent media. Associated with this debate is the polarization of the nation's political culture, which is something that is also viewed as an issue where people would like to see a reversal of developments.



## Desire for Progress in Canada

Canada shows the greatest willingness for progress in the area of society, has a slight desire to see things move faster when it comes to economic issues while looking to preserve the status quo in the political arena. Overall this results in a slight desire for progress with respect to all areas surveyed.

The desire to see things progressing faster is most decisive when it comes to issues concerning (a more liberal) society and also the economy. In terms of developments in the political arena, Canada wants to preserve the status quo.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ca.html>

## Canada's self- assessment of progress

When asked how Canadians themselves would rate progress in their country, 63% feel their country is very progressive or somewhat progressive when it comes to matters of society, 54% are of the opinion that Canada is progressive in economic matters, whereas only 43% rate Canada progressive in terms of the current development of its politics.

### Further information



**Future prospects:** Canadians are optimistic or at least partly optimistic about their own future (81%). When it comes to the future of society, they are more sceptical, but not pessimistic: 77.5% look to the future with mixed feelings or some optimism. Only 19% see the future as quite bleak.



**Assessment of past 10 years:** A majority (51%) of Canadians feel that the situation regarding sustainable technologies has improved over the last 10 years, whereas the protection of privacy has deteriorated (55%). A deterioration is also perceived in terms of national unity (44%), the people's influence on decision making (39%), social security (45%) and the stability of economic relations (41%).



**Social cohesion:** A majority of of Canadians (67%) consider themselves part of the country's middle class, but feel an ever-increasing pressure about their own status. While 84% are fully or quite satisfied with their life at present, they worry about the situation their children will find themselves in (66%). Finally, 69% of Canadian voters feel that only a small minority is getting richer, while no one else is benefiting from developments. Meanwhile, 59% agree with the statement that government should do more to mitigate this situation.



**Battle against climate change:** 73% of the Canadian population wants more government intervention to prevent companies from polluting the environment, 70% want people to return to living in greater harmony with nature and 72% think the economy has been too one-sided in focusing on growth and should now focus more on sustainability.