

High-Speed Rail in Canada: Broad Support, Limited Electoral Impact, and a Critical Funding Lens

OMNI REPORT

March 2026



Methodology

The survey was conducted with 1,515 Canadians from March 19 to 24, 2026. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels based on the PureSpectrum platform. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source.

The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/- 2.51%, 19 times out of 20.

The data were weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Canada's population according to age, gender, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Key Insights



KEY INSIGHTS

Strong national support, with a clear generational divide: High-speed rail is broadly popular (62%), with especially strong support in Ontario and Quebec and among younger Canadians (73% of 18–29 vs. 55% of 60+), pointing to long-term political upside but weaker enthusiasm among older voters.

A popular idea but a divided electoral impact: A popular idea but a divided electoral impact: While support is high, Canadians are split on whether it would influence their vote (40% yes, 46% no), indicating that high-speed rail resonates conceptually but lacks consistent salience as a vote-driving issue.

Unusually cross-partisan consensus on vote impact: Unlike support levels, which vary by party, the likelihood of being influenced is nearly identical across political groups, suggesting the issue cuts across partisan lines but does not mobilize any one base more than another.

How it's funded matters more than whether it's built: A much larger share (68% provincial and federal) say government use of grants or loans to large corporations would influence their vote, highlighting that the political risk and opportunity lies more in the financing narrative than in the project itself.

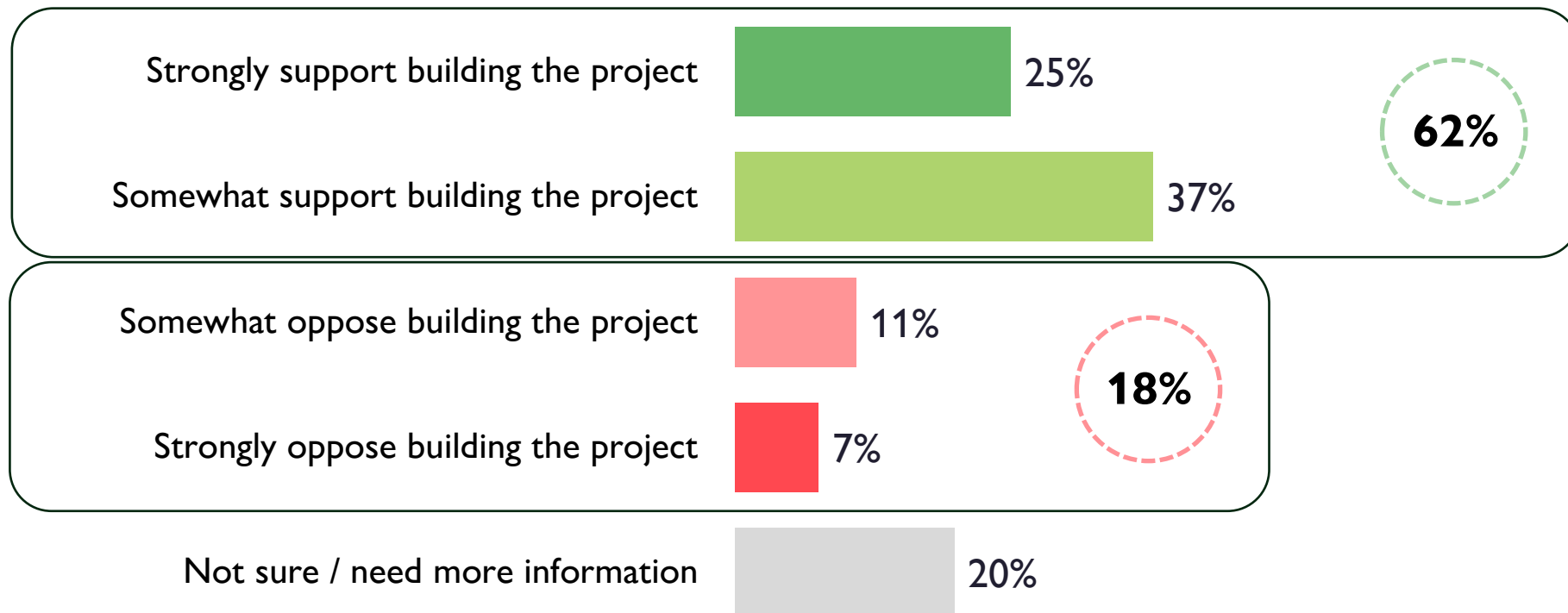
Detailed Results





The Government of Canada is considering a proposal to build a high-speed rail system connecting several cities in Ontario and Quebec, including Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City, Laval, and Peterborough. The project is estimated to cost about \$80 billion to build. Some economic analyses estimate the total economic benefits of the project could be up to about \$27 billion, with most of the economic activity occurring in Ontario and Quebec, where the train would operate. Overall, what is your opinion about building this high-speed rail system?

62% of Canadians support building a high-speed rail system connecting cities in Ontario and Quebec, while only 18% stand in opposition.



Base: n=1,515



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SUPPORT FOR BUILDING A HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYSTEM CONNECTING CITIES IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

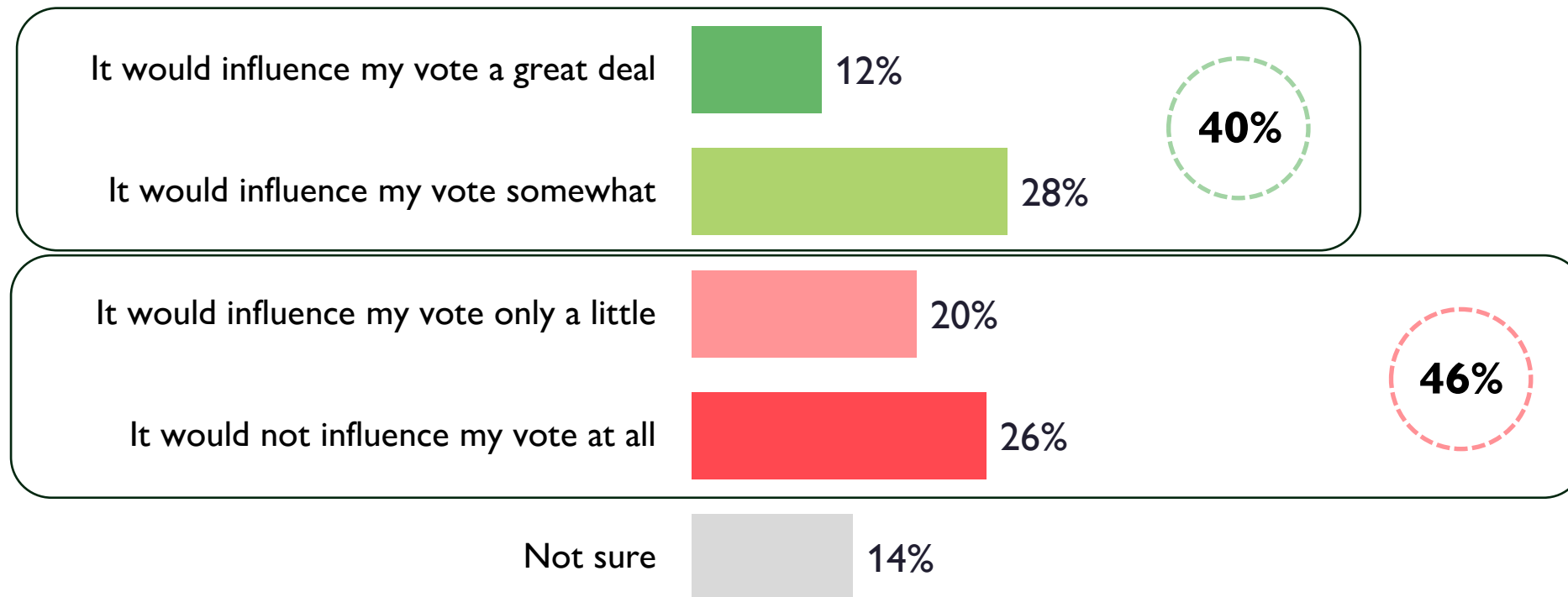
	TOTAL	REGION						AGE				GENDER		INCOME				VOTE				
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	18 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 59	60 +	Male	Female	<\$35K	\$35K - \$50K	\$50K - \$100K	>\$100K	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	BQ
NET: Support	62%	60%	62%	45%	67%	65%	47%	73%	63%	61%	55%	66%	58%	52%	62%	64%	68%	72%	58%	65%	58%	68%
Strongly support building the project	25%	17%	31%	21%	27%	24%	24%	32%	28%	22%	19%	28%	22%	21%	25%	22%	31%	33%	19%	26%	24%	23%
Somewhat support building the project	37%	43%	32%	24%	40%	41%	23%	41%	35%	38%	36%	38%	37%	31%	37%	42%	38%	39%	39%	38%	33%	45%
NET: Oppose	18%	21%	18%	32%	16%	17%	20%	15%	19%	19%	19%	19%	18%	20%	17%	20%	17%	13%	25%	13%	26%	12%
Somewhat oppose building the project	11%	13%	9%	18%	8%	11%	17%	12%	12%	10%	10%	11%	11%	9%	10%	13%	11%	9%	12%	8%	22%	9%
Strongly oppose building the project	7%	8%	9%	14%	8%	6%	3%	3%	7%	9%	9%	8%	7%	11%	8%	7%	6%	4%	13%	5%	4%	3%
Not sure / need more information	20%	19%	20%	23%	18%	18%	33%	11%	18%	21%	25%	15%	24%	28%	20%	16%	15%	15%	17%	22%	17%	20%

Base: n=1,515



The proposed high-speed rail project may become an issue discussed during the next federal election. How much, if at all, would this issue influence how you vote in a federal election?

40% say the proposed high-speed rail project would influence their vote in a federal election, while 46% say it would not.



Base: n=1,515



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IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT ON VOTE INTENTION IN A FEDERAL ELECTION

	TOTAL	REGION						AGE				GENDER		INCOME				VOTE				
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	18 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 59	60 +	Male	Female	<\$35K	\$35K - \$50K	\$50K - \$100K	>\$100K	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	BQ
NET: Influence	40%	42%	42%	40%	41%	35%	38%	57%	48%	37%	24%	43%	36%	33%	38%	41%	47%	42%	42%	45%	45%	35%
It would influence my vote a great deal	12%	10%	19%	16%	11%	7%	15%	17%	14%	12%	6%	14%	9%	9%	13%	11%	15%	12%	11%	15%	13%	16%
It would influence my vote somewhat	28%	32%	23%	25%	30%	28%	23%	40%	34%	25%	18%	30%	27%	24%	25%	30%	32%	30%	31%	29%	32%	19%
NET: No influence	46%	47%	46%	46%	43%	53%	40%	31%	35%	49%	62%	47%	45%	51%	45%	46%	42%	45%	49%	42%	44%	48%
It would influence my vote only a little	20%	18%	17%	18%	19%	28%	14%	21%	18%	17%	24%	20%	20%	20%	18%	21%	19%	19%	20%	18%	29%	24%
It would not influence my vote at all	26%	29%	30%	28%	24%	25%	25%	11%	17%	32%	38%	27%	25%	30%	28%	25%	23%	25%	29%	24%	15%	24%
Not sure	14%	11%	12%	13%	16%	12%	22%	12%	17%	14%	14%	10%	19%	16%	17%	13%	11%	13%	10%	14%	12%	17%

Base: n=1,515



Governments sometimes provide grants, loans, or other financial support to large corporations in order to encourage investment, job creation, or economic development. Others argue that public funds should instead be directed toward areas such as health care, social programs, or other public priorities.

When considering upcoming elections, 68% say how governments use grants or loans to large corporations is important to their vote at both the provincial and federal level.



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IMPORTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S USE OF GRANTS OR LOANS TO LARGE CORPORATIONS IN INFLUENCING VOTES DURING...

% Important	TOTAL	REGION						AGE				GENDER		INCOME				VOTE				
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	18 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 59	60 +	Male	Female	<\$35K	\$35K - \$50K	\$50K - \$100K	>\$100K	LPC	CPC	NDP	GP	BQ
Your next provincial election	68%	75%	76%	68%	69%	59%	66%	74%	69%	70%	63%	71%	66%	61%	67%	71%	73%	74%	73%	78%	58%	58%
The next federal election	68%	75%	71%	70%	70%	58%	67%	79%	66%	69%	62%	71%	65%	62%	67%	71%	71%	71%	71%	81%	78%	58%

Base: n=1,515

Thank You

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