

Canadian confidence in police, courts sees significant rebound over 2012 sentiment

Criminal justice system in Canada appears to have survived past perceptions of failure

May 6, 2014 – Canadian confidence in this country’s police forces and court systems have rebounded from dismal confidence levels in 2012.

The latest Angus Reid Global (ARG) survey on perceptions of crime, safety and justice in shows Canadians are feeling a little safer than they were two years ago, and significantly safer than they felt two decades ago.

The poll also shows public confidence in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provincial and municipal police forces, and the courts has also increased – in some cases, almost doubled – in the two years since a series of well-chronicled failures in the eyes of Canadians drastically reduced faith in these institutions.

METHODOLOGY:

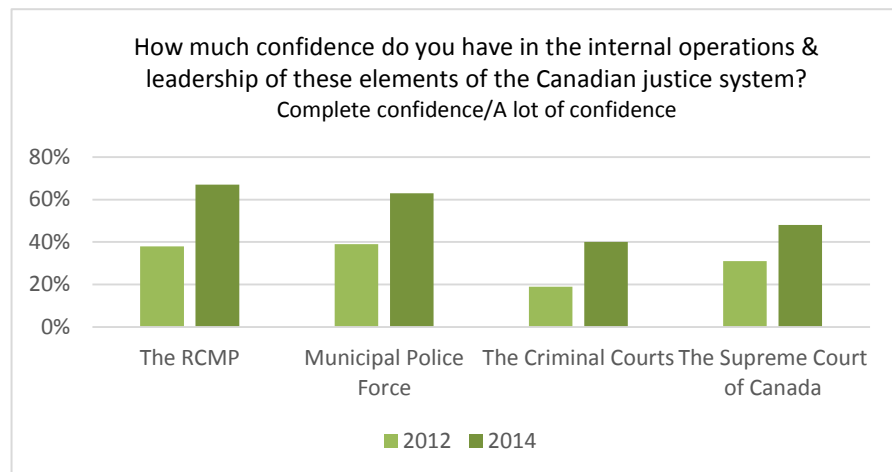
Angus Reid Global (ARG) conducted an online survey among 1013 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists on March 26-27, 2014. A probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

This survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARG.

Detailed charts, tables and regional results are found at the end of this release.

Key Findings:

- Confidence in the RCMP increased from 38 per cent in 2012 to 67 per cent in 2014.
- Municipal forces are also seeing an increase of confidence in the eyes of the public – from 40 per cent two years ago to 63 per cent today.
- A majority still do not have faith in Canada’s criminal courts. Two-in-five (40%) report having a lot of or complete confidence in the criminal courts (up from 19% in 2012). The Supreme Court of Canada fares better, earning the confidence of nearly half (48%) of Canadians.



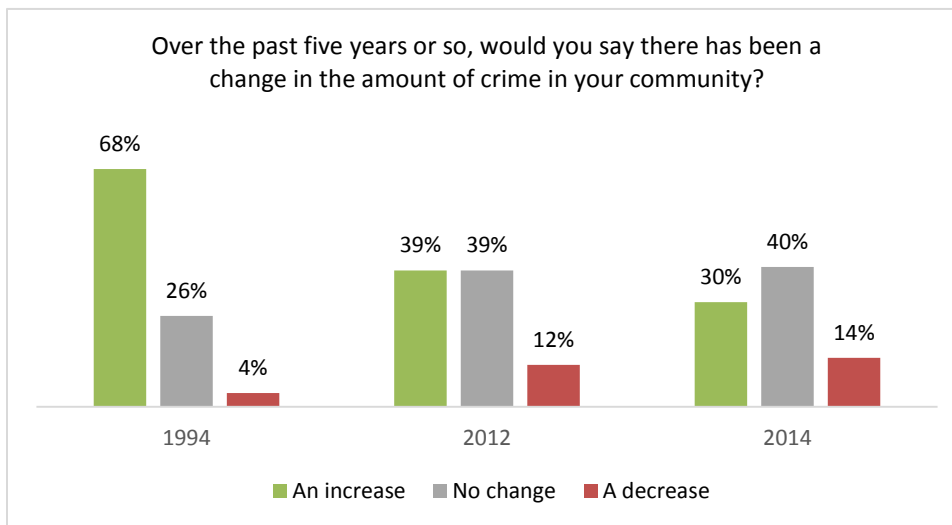
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Perceptions on Crime:

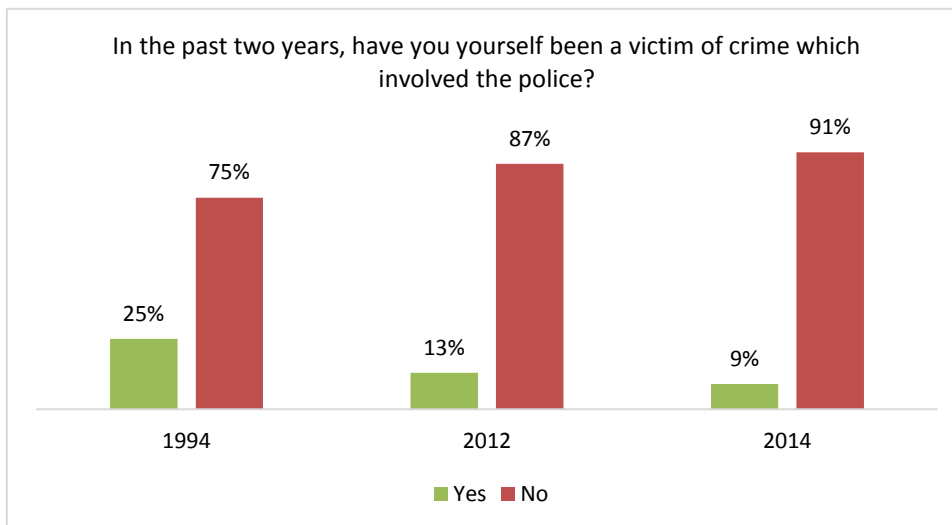
Canadians surveyed also report perceptions of less crime in their communities, while fewer say they have been a victim of a crime in the last two years that required police intervention.

In 2012, the same number of Canadians (39%) each said there had either been an increase or no change in the amount of crime in their own communities over the last five years, while 12 per cent said there had been a decrease.



Today, 30 per cent of Canadians say crime in their communities has increased in the last five years, while 40 per cent report no change, and 14 per cent report a decrease.

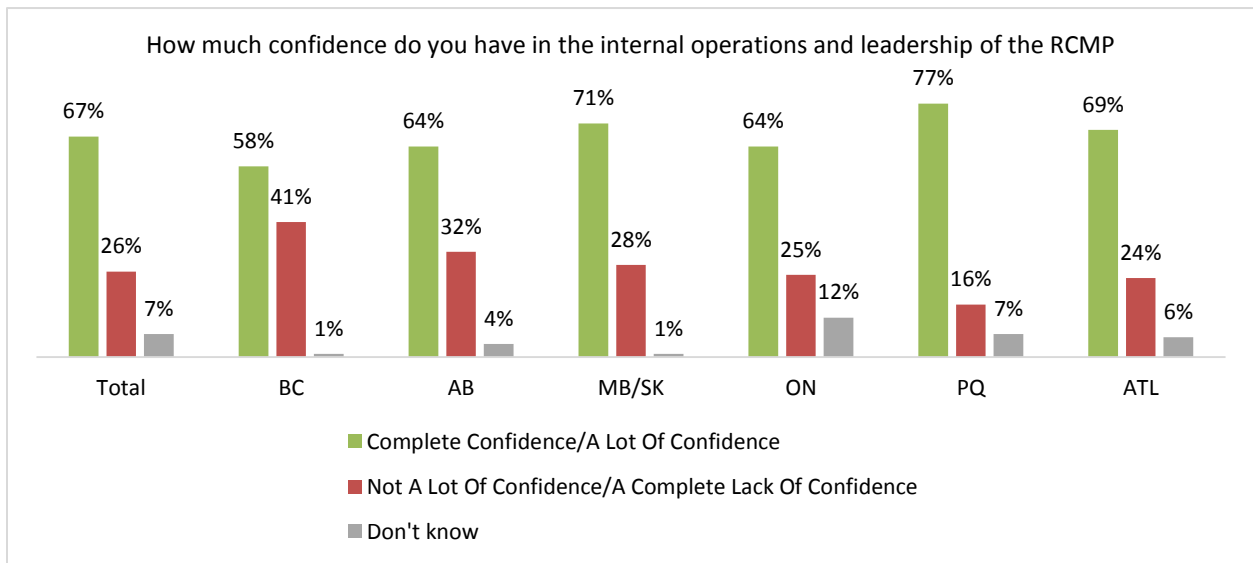
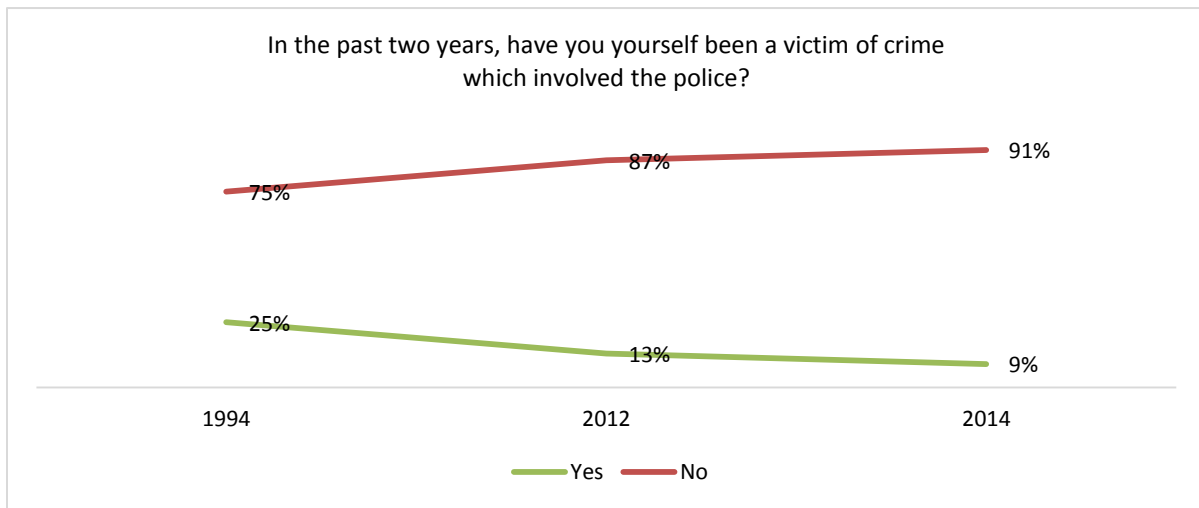
Both the 2012 and 2014 data also show a significant decrease in perceptions increases in crime in individual communities over 1994, when ARG also studied this issue.

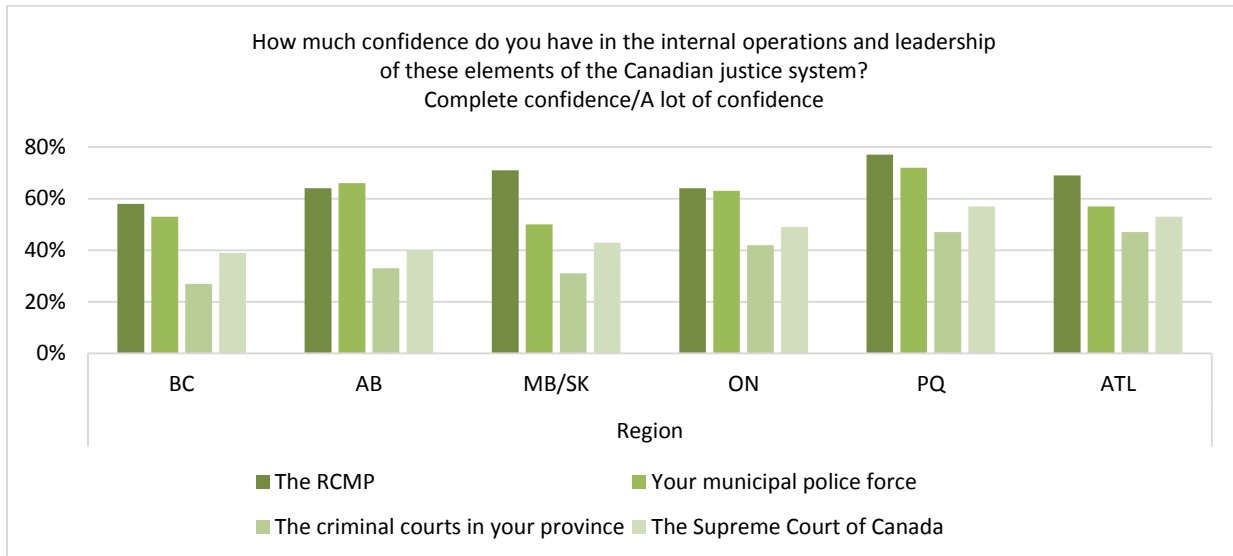


Similarly, both the two-year and the twenty-year trend line show declining numbers of Canadians surveyed say they have been recent victims of crime that involved police response, from 25 per cent in 1994, to half that (13%) in 2012, and less than ten per cent in 2014.

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Detailed tables are on the following pages.

Over the past five years or so, would you say there has been an increase, a decrease or no change in the amount of crime in your community?

	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
An increase	30%	36%	37%	31%	28%	22%	51%
No change	40%	34%	32%	39%	40%	49%	39%
A decrease	14%	16%	13%	17%	14%	15%	6%
Not sure	15%	15%	18%	13%	18%	15%	4%

Over the past five years or so, would you say there has been an increase, a decrease or no change in the amount of crime in your community?

	Canada		
	1994	2012	2014
An increase	68%	39%	30%
No change	26%	39%	40%
A decrease	4%	12%	14%
Not sure	1%	11%	15%

To what extent do you fear being a victim of crime in your community?

	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
To a great extent	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%	2%	6%
Only a fair amount	17%	24%	22%	20%	16%	9%	25%
Not too much	54%	55%	46%	51%	53%	60%	47%
Not at all	23%	17%	27%	22%	25%	23%	17%

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To what extent do you fear being a victim of crime in your community?		
	Canada	
	2012	2014
To a great extent	6%	3%
Only a fair amount	21%	17%
Not too much	52%	54%
Not at all	19%	23%

In the past two years, have you yourself been a victim of crime which involved the police, such as an assault, a break-in or some other type of crime?							
	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Yes	9%	13%	12%	13%	7%	8%	4%
No	91%	87%	88%	87%	93%	92%	96%

In the past two years, have you yourself been a victim of crime which involved the police, such as an assault, a break-in or some other type of crime?			
	Canada		
	1994	2012	2014
Yes	25%	13%	9%
No	75%	87%	91%

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How much confidence do you have in the internal operations and leadership of these elements of the Canadian justice system? – Complete confidence/A lot of confidence

	Canada - 2014	
	2012	2014
The RCMP	38%	67%
Your municipal police force	39%	63%
The criminal courts in your province	19%	40%
The Supreme Court of Canada	31%	48%

How much confidence do you have in the internal operations and leadership of these elements of the Canadian justice system? – Complete confidence/A lot of confidence

	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
The RCMP	67%	58%	64%	71%	64%	77%	69%
Your provincial police force	-	-	-	-	69%	80%	-
Your municipal police force	63%	53%	66%	50%	63%	72%	57%
The criminal courts in your province	40%	27%	33%	31%	42%	47%	47%
The Supreme Court of Canada	48%	39%	40%	43%	49%	57%	53%

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How much confidence do you have in the internal operations and leadership of these elements of the Canadian justice system? – Complete confidence/A lot of confidence												
	BC		AB		MB/SK		ON		PQ		ATL	
	2012	2014	2012	2014	2012	2014	2012	2014	2012	2014	2012	2014
The RCMP	27%	58%	42%	64%	38%	71%	40%	64%	40%	77%	38%	69%
Your provincial police force	-	-	-	-	-	-	44%	69%	40%	80%	-	-
Your municipal police force	28%	53%	47%	66%	37%	50%	41%	63%	40%	72%	30%	57%
The criminal courts in your province	10%	27%	12%	33%	27%	31%	20%	42%	23%	47%	18%	47%
The Supreme Court of Canada	24%	39%	16%	40%	29%	43%	30%	49%	42%	57%	28%	53%

Angus Reid Global is a public affairs practice of Vision Critical, headed by Dr. Angus Reid, Canada's best known and longest practicing pollster. He's spent more than four decades asking questions about what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. He is supported by a team of practitioners conducting high quality research for corporations, governments and non-profit organizations.

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