



NATIONAL OPINION POLL 2018

Canadian Views on Asia

WHILE ANTI-TRADE AND ANTI-IMMIGRATION SENTIMENTS ARE ON THE RISE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, this is not necessarily true in Canada where the public is increasingly supportive of international engagement, particularly when it comes to Asia. This outlook is reflected across multiple dimensions of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada's new 2018 National Opinion Poll (NOP 2018) of 3,561 Canadian adults on Canada-Asia relations.

The poll, which includes both legacy and new questions, traces important shifts in attitude over time and shines a spotlight on new developments in the Canada-Asia relationship.



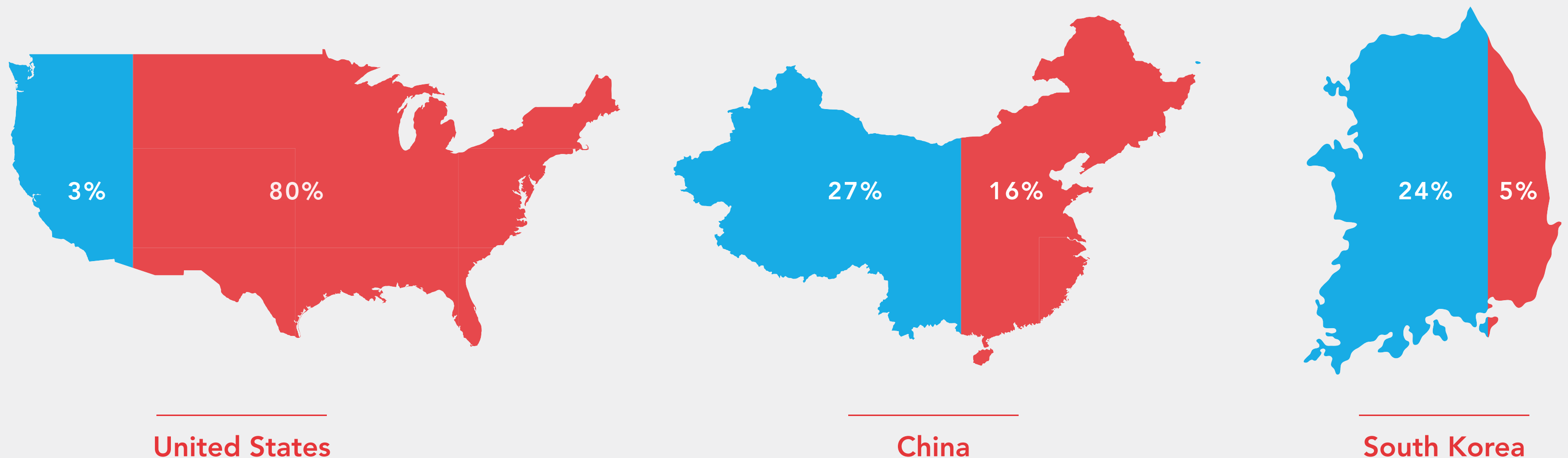
ALL IN the family



CANADIANS INCREASINGLY FEEL THAT THEY BELONG TO THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION. 43% of Canadians consider Canada as part of the Asia Pacific region, up from 34% in 2016 and 18% in 2013.

SWEET AND souring

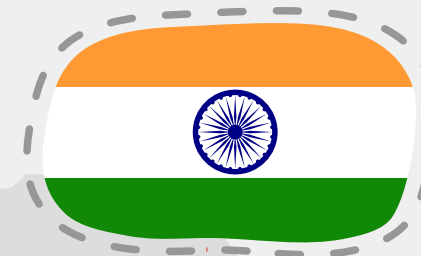
CANADIANS FEEL THAT RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND SOUTH KOREA ARE IMPROVING, IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE PERCEPTION OF A WORSENING CANADA-U.S. RELATIONSHIP. 27% of Canadians say Canada-China relations are improving, up slightly from 2016. 24% perceive better Canada-South Korea relations, up from 16% in 2016. For the U.S., an overwhelming majority of Canadians (80%) feel the relationship is worsening.



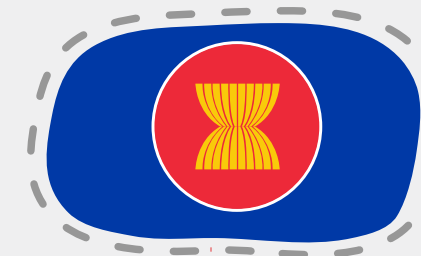
OUR BITTER trade pill

CANADIANS BELIEVE TRADE RELATIONS WITH ASIA ARE CENTRAL TO CANADA'S FUTURE. 59% of Canadians believe trade with Asia will outweigh trade with the U.S. in the future, and 53% are concerned that Canada will fall behind international competitors in gaining access to Asian markets. Support for FTAs with Asia continues to grow. Notably, the Asian countries that Canadians see as being most economically important (i.e. China and India) are the ones they like the least.

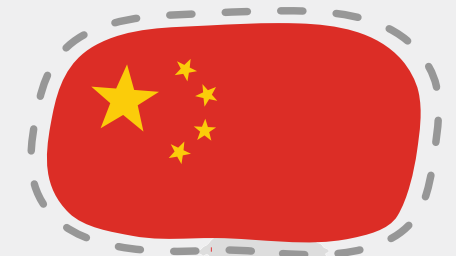
Support for FTAs



66% *India*



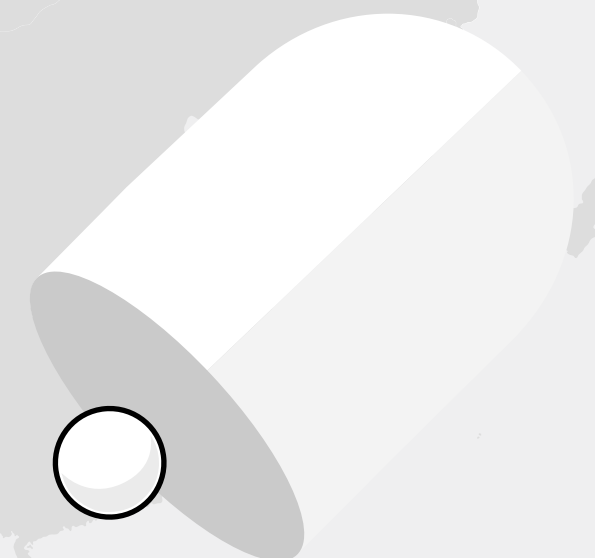
63% *ASEAN*



59% *China*



ENVIRONMENT
RIGHTS
SECURITY
FOREIGN INFLUENCE



ENGAGEMENT
WARMTH
TRADE DEALS
TOURISM



LICENCE to lead



CANADIANS EXPECT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE CANADIAN VALUES IN ASIA THROUGH LEADING ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES. A large share of Canadians expects the government to play a leading role on environmental issues (50% leader) and promoting democracy and human rights (49% leader). More than 40% of Canadians believe that 'progressive' elements should be included in an FTA with Asia Pacific economies.

ASIA COMPETENCY boosters



CANADIANS RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF ASIA COMPETENCY AND WANT TO SEE MORE ASIA IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

CURRICULUM AND MORE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. Support for co-op or exchange programs is widespread for most provinces/regions, with Alberta (68%) and Manitoba (66%) having the lowest support. Policies to promote teaching about Asia in the public education system are less popular yet still high (60% support).