



September 10, 2018 | Client: Vancouver Foundation

**Factum:**

Metro Vancouver Study

**Research:**

Based on an online study conducted from September 4 to September 7, 2018, among 829 adults in Metro Vancouver.

**Methodology:**

The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region in Metro Vancouver. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is +/- 3.5 percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.

**QUESTIONS**

*Over the course of the past five years, have you done any of the following?*

- More than a third of Metro Vancouverites (36%) have taken to social media to protest or support a cause, while 31% have donated money to an organization that supports or opposes an issue.
- At least one-in-five Metro Vancouverites have attended a public consultation meeting or process (24%), volunteered at a school (21%) or wrote a letter to an elected politician (20%).

*How closely do you follow news and information related to each of the following levels of government?*

- Metro Vancouverites are more likely to say they follow information related to the federal government (77%) “very closely” or “moderately closely.”
- The ranking is lower for municipal governments (71%), the provincial government (69%) and the local school board (30%).

*To Citizens – How often do you vote in each of the following elections?*

- Canadian citizens are more likely to say they always vote in federal elections (79%) than in provincial elections (76%) or municipal elections (64%).

*Where do you get your news and information related to municipal issues?*

- Most Metro Vancouverites get their news and information related to municipal issues from the internet and digital media (84%), television (69%), newspapers (67%) and radio (56%).
- Fewer than half are relying on friends (49%) and family (36%).

*A Permanent Resident is someone who has been given permanent resident status by immigrating to Canada as a skilled worker, refugee, caregiver, sponsored family member, but is not a Canadian citizen. Every five years, Permanent Residents need to renew their status and are required to live in Canada a minimum of two years within each five-year period.*

*In Canada, Permanent Residents are eligible for most social benefits that Canadian citizens receive (including health care coverage), can live, work or study anywhere in Canada, and are protected under Canadian law and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.*

*Permanent Residents must pay taxes and respect all Canadian laws at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. Permanent Residents cannot currently vote or run for political office in Canada, but are eligible to do so once they apply—and are granted—status as Canadian citizens.*

*Thinking about this, do you support or oppose allowing Permanent Residents of your municipality in Metro Vancouver to vote in these elections?*

- Majorities of Metro Vancouverites support allowing Permanent Residents to vote in municipal (61%), provincial (57%) and federal (54%) elections.

*If Permanent Residents were allowed to vote in municipal elections, do you agree or disagree with setting these guidelines?*

- Majorities of Metro Vancouverites agree with allowing Permanent Residents to vote for School Board (67%), Mayor (66%) and Council (65%).

*If Permanent Residents were allowed to vote in municipal elections, do you think there should be a minimum residency requirement?*

- Two-in-five Metro Vancouverites (43%) are in favour of Permanent Residents being in Canada for at least five years before voting, while one third (32%) would make it a 10-year threshold.
- Only 5% are in favour of allowing Permanent Residents who have been in Canada for six months to cast ballots.

*All things considered, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?*

- A sizeable proportion of Metro Vancouverites (84% describe Permanent Residents as “valuable, contributing members to society” in their municipality.
- At least seven-in-ten Metro Vancouverites believe it makes sense to allow Permanent Residents, who contribute to society by working, living and paying taxes here, to vote in municipal elections (73%), believe it makes sense to allow



Permanent Residents to vote, in order to support them to be active citizens when they are granted status as Canadian citizens (73%), and say it is important to them that any given members of the community, including Permanent Residents, have a democratic right to participate (70%).

*Do you think allowing Permanent Residents to vote will strengthen or weaken democracy at the municipal level?*

- Three-in-five Metro Vancouverites (60%) think allowing Permanent Residents to vote will strengthen democracy at the municipal level.

*Do any of the following make you more likely, just as likely or less likely to support allowing Permanent Residents of your municipality in Metro Vancouver to vote in local elections?*

- Three-in-ten Metro Vancouverites (30%) say they are more likely to support allowing Permanent Residents to vote after learning that, in Australia, non-citizens can vote in local government elections if they meet a residency requirement.
- Only 14% of Metro Vancouverites say they are more likely to support allowing Permanent Residents to vote after learning that, in Colombia, non-citizens can vote for mayor and city council.

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