RELEASED APRIL 2026

Police Association of Ontario

Omnibus Survey

Thinking forward.

How familiar are you with the bail system in [PROVINCE]?

Column %	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	ATL	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC +Terr
Very familiar - I know a lot about it, could explain how it works to someone else	8%	12%	3%	12%	9%	4%	7%	8%	9%	6%	6%	5%	8%
Somewhat familiar - I have some knowledge but not enough to explain it to someone else	23%	26%	19%	29%	22%	19%	19%	17%	27%	30%	21%	21%	21%
Not very familiar - I know a little bit about it	32%	32%	33%	27%	31%	37%	25%	38%	31%	31%	30%	32%	32%
Not at all familiar - I don't know anything about it	37%	29%	44%	31%	38%	40%	49%	37%	32%	33%	43%	42%	39%
Prefer not to say	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Unweighted n	2023	959	1064	546	694	783	116	383	637	201	202	217	267
Weighted n	2023	1007	1016	598	646	778	133	443	796	71	59	232	289

Base: Total sample (n=2,023)

When it comes to deciding whether someone charged with a violent and repeat offence should be released on bail while they wait for their trial, would you say the system is too strict, not strict enough, or about right?

Column %	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	ATL	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC +Terr
Too strict	2%	3%	1%	5%	1%	0%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%
About right	16%	18%	14%	27%	16%	8%	10%	16%	17%	11%	17%	16%	18%
Not strict enough	65%	65%	66%	47%	65%	79%	69%	66%	65%	72%	63%	61%	65%
Don't know	16%	14%	19%	21%	17%	12%	19%	15%	15%	14%	18%	22%	15%
Unweighted n	2023	959	1064	546	694	783	116	383	637	201	202	217	267
Weighted n	2023	1007	1016	598	646	778	133	443	796	71	59	232	289

Base: Total sample (n=2,023)

As far as you know, which of the following most accurately describes the way the bail system works in your province? [ROTATE]

Column %	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	ATL	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC +Terr
People who are granted bail must pay a cash security deposit upfront to be released.	38%	37%	39%	36%	38%	40%	38%	46%	37%	33%	42%	34%	36%
People who are granted bail are released with a promise to pay a predetermined amount of money if they break their release conditions.	27%	28%	25%	27%	28%	26%	20%	23%	31%	22%	18%	26%	27%
People who are granted bail do not have to pay or promise to pay anything to be released.	8%	10%	6%	12%	6%	6%	10%	7%	8%	11%	5%	7%	11%
Don't know	27%	25%	29%	25%	28%	28%	31%	25%	25%	34%	35%	32%	27%
Unweighted n	2023	959	1064	546	694	783	116	383	637	201	202	217	267
Weighted n	2023	1007	1016	598	646	778	133	443	796	71	59	232	289

Base: Total sample (n=2,023)

Currently, people can be released on bail with a promise to pay. No cash deposit is required, and they only have to pay if they break their release conditions. People may be released on bail under the supervision of a surety, a person who agrees to act as the accused's supervisor. The surety may also be responsible for paying the accused's bail payment if they break their release conditions.

Knowing this information, to what extent do you support or oppose the following changes to the bail system? Please use a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means strongly oppose and 7 means strongly support. [RANDOMIZE]

Requiring violent and repeat offenders accused of a criminal offence and/or their surety to pay an upfront cash deposit to be released on bail, to be returned once their case is over.

Column %	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	ATL	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC +Terr
Strongly oppose (1)	8%	8%	9%	7%	9%	8%	9%	9%	9%	7%	5%	7%	7%
Somewhat oppose (2-3)	5%	6%	4%	7%	5%	3%	4%	7%	4%	4%	6%	4%	8%
Neutral (4)	7%	8%	6%	13%	6%	4%	7%	7%	8%	7%	6%	6%	7%
Somewhat support (5-6)	24%	25%	23%	31%	24%	18%	20%	25%	24%	17%	21%	28%	22%
Strongly support (7)	47%	47%	47%	29%	47%	62%	50%	42%	48%	57%	53%	46%	49%
Don't know	9%	7%	10%	13%	9%	5%	10%	11%	8%	7%	8%	9%	8%
Unweighted n	2023	959	1064	546	694	783	116	383	637	201	202	217	267
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Base: Total sample (n=2,023)

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Knowing this information, to what extent do you support or oppose the following changes to the bail system? Please use a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means strongly oppose and 7 means strongly support. [RANDOMIZE]

Requiring violent and repeat offenders accused of a criminal offence and/or their surety to pay an upfront cash deposit to be released on bail, to be returned once their case is over.

		Fed Vote								ON Vote					
Column %	**Total**	CPC	LPC	NDP	Green	BQ	PPC	Other	Don't know	PCPO	OLP	ONDP	Green	Other	Don't know
Strongly oppose (1)	8%	10%	7%	8%	13%	5%	12%	0%	8%	8%	8%	7%	16%	0%	11%
Somewhat oppose (2-3)	5%	5%	4%	7%	9%	4%	0%	20%	5%	4%	2%	8%	3%	0%	3%
Neutral (4)	7%	7%	7%	8%	15%	3%	7%	22%	7%	8%	15%	2%	4%	11%	4%
Somewhat support (5-6)	24%	20%	27%	27%	28%	25%	32%	17%	19%	20%	25%	34%	37%	10%	21%
Strongly support (7)	47%	53%	50%	40%	32%	52%	37%	41%	40%	56%	46%	42%	40%	69%	43%
Don't know	9%	5%	5%	9%	4%	11%	13%	0%	21%	4%	4%	7%	0%	10%	18%
Unweighted n	2023	538	703	200	66	102	34	15	365	201	160	87	30	20	139
Weighted n	2023	506	733	188	67	118	35	17	358	250	202	109	37	26	171

Base: Total sample (n=2,023)

Currently, people can be released on bail with a promise to pay. No cash deposit is required, and they only have to pay if they break their release conditions. People may be released on bail under the supervision of a surety, a person who agrees to act as the accused's supervisor. The surety may also be responsible for paying the accused's bail payment if they break their release conditions.

Knowing this information, to what extent do you support or oppose the following changes to the bail system? Please use a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means strongly oppose and 7 means strongly support. [RANDOMIZE]

Requiring everyone accused of a criminal offence and/or their surety to pay an upfront cash deposit to be released on bail, to be returned once their case is over.

Column %	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	ATL	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC +Terr
Strongly oppose (1)	5%	5%	5%	5%	7%	4%	7%	5%	5%	7%	7%	4%	5%
Somewhat oppose (2-3)	10%	10%	9%	14%	7%	8%	10%	11%	8%	6%	10%	8%	13%
Neutral (4)	13%	14%	12%	19%	13%	9%	14%	12%	13%	16%	12%	16%	11%
Somewhat support (5-6)	28%	28%	29%	31%	29%	26%	30%	30%	28%	22%	28%	28%	26%
Strongly support (7)	35%	35%	34%	19%	34%	48%	28%	32%	37%	38%	34%	37%	34%
Don't know	9%	8%	10%	12%	10%	6%	11%	11%	8%	10%	9%	8%	10%
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Knowing this information, to what extent do you support or oppose the following changes to the bail system? Please use a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means strongly oppose and 7 means strongly support. [RANDOMIZE]

Prohibiting people with a criminal record from being a surety.

Column %	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	ATL	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC +Terr
Strongly oppose (1)	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Somewhat oppose (2-3)	5%	6%	5%	8%	4%	4%	4%	8%	5%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Neutral (4)	9%	10%	8%	15%	8%	5%	10%	8%	8%	9%	9%	11%	11%
Somewhat support (5-6)	25%	26%	24%	31%	27%	19%	28%	27%	24%	19%	30%	23%	28%
Strongly support (7)	47%	45%	49%	27%	49%	61%	44%	42%	51%	53%	44%	50%	44%
Don't know	10%	9%	12%	15%	10%	8%	11%	12%	9%	12%	11%	10%	11%
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Knowing this information, to what extent do you support or oppose the following changes to the bail system? Please use a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means strongly oppose and 7 means strongly support. [RANDOMIZE]

Limiting the number of people one person can act as a surety for.

Column %	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	ATL	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC +Terr
Strongly oppose (1)	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	4%	1%
Somewhat oppose (2-3)	5%	6%	4%	7%	4%	5%	8%	6%	5%	3%	6%	5%	6%
Neutral (4)	11%	12%	10%	16%	11%	7%	11%	11%	11%	11%	8%	10%	12%
Somewhat support (5-6)	28%	28%	27%	35%	27%	23%	24%	29%	26%	26%	27%	28%	31%
Strongly support (7)	42%	41%	43%	26%	45%	51%	41%	39%	44%	47%	44%	42%	40%
Don't know	12%	10%	14%	13%	11%	11%	14%	14%	11%	11%	12%	12%	11%
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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Upfront cash bail for violent and repeat offenders will make communities safer.

Column %	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+	ATL	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC +Terr
Strongly agree	32%	33%	30%	20%	30%	41%	39%	25%	34%	34%	32%	31%	31%
Somewhat agree	28%	27%	30%	28%	31%	26%	26%	30%	28%	25%	34%	31%	25%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%	17%	15%	24%	14%	12%	14%	17%	16%	19%	10%	15%	18%
Somewhat disagree	8%	7%	9%	9%	8%	7%	4%	9%	7%	8%	6%	9%	8%
Strongly disagree	9%	9%	10%	8%	10%	10%	7%	10%	9%	7%	8%	10%	8%
Don't know	7%	8%	7%	11%	7%	5%	10%	10%	6%	7%	9%	4%	9%
Unweighted n	2023	959	1064	546	694	783	116	383	637	201	202	217	267
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About the study

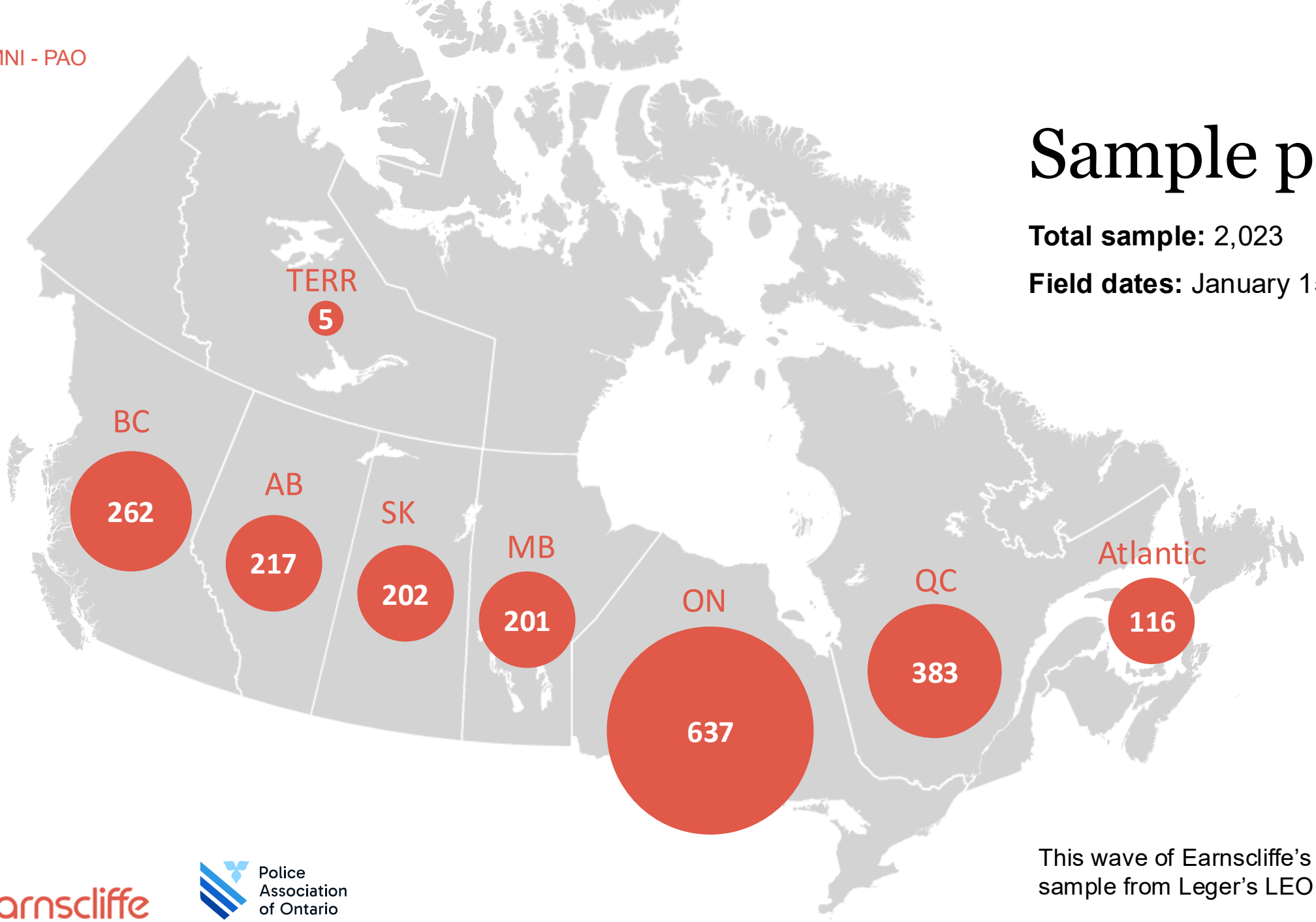
The survey, conducted by Earnscliffe Strategies and paid for by the Police Association of Ontario, was in field from **January 15th-19th, 2026**, and engaged a representative stratified sample of **2,023** respondents living in Canada (with an effective national sample size of 1,792) 18 years or older who are members of Leger's LEO panel. Respondents had the option of completing the survey in French or English. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would have a margin of error of +/- **2.18** at a confidence level of 95%.

Results were weighted according to age, gender and region to ensure a representative sample of the Canadian population.

Sample profile

Total sample: 2,023

Field dates: January 15 - 19, 2026



This wave of Earnscliffe's survey drew its sample from Leger's LEO panel.

For further information about this research, please contact

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Earnscliffe is a member of CRIC and abides by the ESOMAR code of Market, Opinion, and Social Research and Data Analytics and CRIC standards, including the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.