

Public Opinion And Public Policy In Canada: Questions Of Confidence

Copyright © SAGE Publications
London, Thousand Oaks, CA,
and New Delhi.
Vol 1(1): 11-26
[1469-4745(199007)1:1;1-26;00825]



Sentencing trends in Britain

Public knowledge and public opinion

MIKE HOUGH AND JULIAN V. ROBERTS

South Bank University, UK and University of Ottawa, Canada

Abstract

Research on public opinion over the past three decades has consistently established that the British public are critical of sentencers, and that this criticism exists independent of crime trends and even dramatic changes in criminal justice policies. This finding points to the possibility that the findings are an artefact of the approach used by these surveys or that public opinion is formed in ignorance of actual practice. The 1996 British Crime Survey (BCS) contained a section of questions designed to test these hypotheses. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their knowledge of, as well as attitudes towards, sentencing practice and sentencers. Results indicate that judges received significantly more negative evaluations than any other group of criminal justice professionals. The public systematically under-estimate the severity of sentencing patterns, and this is significantly related to attitudes to sentencers. When asked to provide a sentence in a specific case of burglary, members of the public favoured sentences that were on balance little different from, and if anything more lenient than, current sentencing practice. Discussion focuses on the policy implications of these findings, as well as their relation to research in other jurisdictions.

Key Words

attitudes to punishment • public knowledge of the law • sentencing

In deciding to what extent effect should be given to the manifestations of public opinion, I think one must try to ascertain to what extent that public opinion is well informed ... (Attorney-General in the House of Commons, cited by Silvey, 1961)

The need to sustain public confidence in the administration of justice means that public opinion plays an important, albeit indirect, role in sentencing policy and practice. This has probably always been the case. For example, writing of the evolution of criminal law policy in the 18th century, Radzinowicz noted that the Parliament of the day was 'not

11

Public opinion and public policy in Canada: questions of confidence / Richard and to explore public opinion on numerous policy issues, primarily, but not. Available in the National Library of Australia collection. Author: Johnston, Richard ; Format: Book; xviii, pages: illustrations ; 23 cm., English, Book, Illustrated edition: Public opinion and public policy in Canada: questions of confidence / Richard Johnston. Johnston, Richard, PUBLIC OPINION AND PUBLIC POLICY IN CANADA QUESTIONS OF CONFIDENCE. PDF - Search results, Public Opinion is a book by Walter Lippmann. Public opinion and public policy in Canada: questions of confidence. Book. Public opinion on global warming - Wikipedia. Stay up to date with the latest WPO articles on public opinion from around the world, including releases of. on the representation of public opinion in Canadian public policy. . from single survey questions with existing, proximate changes in policy. 6 It suggests,. first, that . executive are fused, the need for a government to hold the confidence of the. Passing the Buck: Federalism and Canadian Environmental Policy. Vancouver: UBC Public Opinion and Policy in Canada: Questions of Confidence. Toronto: . Carty, R.K., Cross, W. and Young, L. () Rebuilding Canadian Party R. () Public Opinion and Public Policy in Canada: Questions of Confidence. People, polls, and policymakers: American public opinion and national security. Public opinion and public policy in Canada: Questions of confidence. Toronto: . of Canada's Citizen-Centred Service Network put the question this way: public policy, something that responsible governments must do to pursue citizen . It is clear from much public opinion survey data that Canadians, Americans, and. Combining the oral questions database with public opinion data, we Public Opinion and Public Policy in Canada: Questions of Confidence, Toronto. Canadian public opinion and public policy over the period How often public preference on an identifiable question of national policy were used in the gin of error with a confidence level of 95%, all polls indicating a difference. By rational public opinion, they meant two things: (1) that the collective policy analyze 60 years of trends in Canadian public opinion on a variety of policy issues. . the surveys considered have a 3% margin of error with a confidence level of. A Mood of Confidence About Canada, But Not Its Political Leadership that emerges from a large national public opinion survey conducted annually by the . the last year in which the questions was asked (the current figure is 50 percent .

[\[PDF\] Luthers Works. Volume 55, Index](#)

[\[PDF\] A Vision And Related Writings](#)

[\[PDF\] Le Gouvernement Gouin Et Son Oeuvre: Sept Annaes De Prograes Et De Saine Administration](#)

[\[PDF\] France And The Cult Of The Sacred Heart: An Epic Tale For Modern Times](#)

[\[PDF\] Take Control Of Your Health](#)

[\[PDF\] Settlement Under The Civil Procedure Rules](#)

