

The Personal Security Index, 2003

by the Canadian Council on Social Development

Regional Highlights

British Columbians had the highest fears of job loss and lowest confidence in finding another job – but they were also the most likely to say that they could always balance their work and family lives. There was an East-West divide in perceptions of access to health care, with the Atlantic provinces being most satisfied with access and British Columbians least satisfied. Confidence in the ability of any level of government to improve the health care system was also lowest in the Western provinces.

- The fear of job loss was lowest in Quebec (16%) and highest in BC (28%). BC also had the lowest proportion of workers (50%) who expressed confidence in their ability to find another job, while Alberta had the highest proportion (69%).
- Albertans were most likely (54%) to consider their incomes very adequate to meet their basic needs, while British Columbians were most likely consider their income inadequate (21%).
- But perceptions of stress followed different patterns. Although Canadians as a whole reported themselves to be slightly less stressed over the five-year period from 1998 to 2002, Albertans reported an increase in extreme stress.
- Alberta was also among the provinces with the highest proportion (10.5%) of residents reporting that they rarely or never could balance their work and family commitments – they followed Quebec and Ontario (both at 11%) in this regard.
- BC residents, on the other hand, were the most likely (27%) to state that they could always balance their personal, family, and work commitments.
- More than 50% of residents of the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and Ontario were confident that they would be able to access health care in times of need, while less than 50% of residents of the Prairies, Alberta and BC shared that confidence.
- The highest rate of confidence in access to the health system was found in the Atlantic provinces (61%) while the lowest rate was found in British Columbia (43%).
- Likewise, the residents of British Columbia were the most likely (62%) to express a lack of confidence in their provincial government's ability to improve the health care system in the next two years, followed by the Prairies (44%) and Alberta (43%).
- Residents of Alberta (53%), British Columbia (49%) and the Prairies (43%) were most likely to express a lack of confidence in the federal government's ability to improve the health care system in the next two years.