

HOW QUEBEC POLITICIANS RATE



RENÉ LÉVESQUE

Lévesque founded the Parti Québécois in 1968 after resigning from Jean Lesage's Liberal government. The PQ became the official opposition in 1973 and in 1976 won the election on a promise to hold a referendum on sovereignty-association. Lévesque was devastated by the outcome of the 1980 referendum, but led the PQ to a second election victory in 1981. In 1984, crisis gripped the government when Lévesque announced the party would not fight the next election on independence. Several ministers resigned but Lévesque's leadership was reaffirmed at a leadership convention the next year. He resigned from politics in 1985, and died in 1987.



ROBERT BOURASSA

At age 37, Bourassa succeeded Jean Lesage as leader of the Quebec Liberals in 1970 and led the party to victory in that year's election. Immediately afterward, the province was shaken by the October Crisis. His government was defeated after two terms in office in the 1976 election. Bourassa returned to the Liberal leadership in 1983. The next election saw the Liberals defeat the PQ. In his third term as premier, he helped negotiate the Meech Lake Accord and, eventually, the Charlottetown Accord. Bourassa resigned in 1994 and died in Montreal in 1996.



JACQUES PARIZEAU

An economist by profession, Parizeau was a driving force in the Quiet Revolution. He joined the Parti Québécois in 1968 and served as finance minister from 1976 to 1984, when he resigned over René Lévesque's shelving of the PQ's commitment to separatism. Parizeau returned to lead the party in 1987 and led the PQ to victory in the 1994 provincial election. The newly minted premier swiftly set a date for the 1995 referendum on sovereignty. Parizeau resigned as premier and leader of the party the day after the Yes side went down to defeat.

'People see Trudeau as the most uncompromising federalist'

CANADIAN REGIONAL RESULTS

	CAN.	ATL. PROV.	QC.	ONT.	PRAIRIES	B.C.
TRUDEAU	57	80	19	71	56	73
LÉVESQUE	16	5	48	7	7	4
BOURASSA	7	3	11	6	6	4
BOUCHARD	6	4	10	4	6	7
DUPLESSIS	2	-	2	1	1	2
PARIZEAU	1	-	3	1	1	-
NONE OF THE ABOVE	6	5	4	5	15	5
OTHER	1	-	1	-	1	-
DK/NA*	4	2	2	4	7	5

Poll | Lévesque has pull

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The association's members include professors, researchers and students.

Overall in Canada, Trudeau got top billing from 57 per cent of respondents. Lévesque came in second at 16 per cent.

"People see (Trudeau) as the most uncompromising federalist with the sort of strongest vision of Canada," Jedwab said yesterday.

"If you look in the rest of the country where there is fairly strong attachment to Canada, he best reflects that out of Quebec."

Jedwab was struck by the impressive 66-per-cent support Lévesque drew among Quebec baby boomers between 45 and 59 years of age.

Jedwab noted how Parti Québécois leadership hopeful Louis Bernard has invoked Lévesque's name during his campaign.

"This poll suggests that is not a bad approach because there is obviously a lot of nostalgia about Mr. Lévesque, judging from this poll," Jedwab said.

Among respondents in Quebec and in Canada overall, Bourassa finished a distant third, narrowly edging out Bouchard.

Bourassa was chosen as the most respected by 11 per cent of Quebec respondents, compared with 10 per cent for Bouchard.

Parizeau got the nod from only three per cent of respondents in Quebec, followed by Duplessis with two per cent.

Bouchard enjoyed high personal popularity as premier and was credited with reviving the sovereignists' referendum campaign in 1995 and nearly leading them to victory.

"There was the whole aura about Mr. Bouchard," Jedwab said. "He was the messiah at one point."

Jedwab was slightly surprised by Bouchard's low finish in the poll and that there was such a gap between him and Lévesque.

"I was surprised because of this whole idea that Mr. Bouchard ... sort of was the new Lévesque, in some ways, for a lot of Quebecers at that time.

"What this suggests is the 'Bouchard

effect' is not as strong as analysts may have considered it," he said.

Political scientist Christian Dufour of the École nationale d'administration publique de Québec suggested Bouchard lost some of his sheen by leaving "the ship" when he quit politics in 2001 during the PQ mandate.

"That aspect has played a role regarding Bouchard - he's someone who left in the middle of the battle," Dufour said.

Bourassa fared better than Jedwab generally expected. First elected in the 1970s, Bourassa "managed to restore his reputation to a significant degree" in the 1990s, Jedwab said.

People still remember the tail end of his career, particularly in the 30- to 44-year-age range, Jedwab said.

Among that age group, 14 per cent of Quebec respondents picked Bourassa as the leader they most respected.

Absent from the list of leaders from Quebec is former prime minister Brian Mulroney. Jedwab said he wanted to keep the list to a handful of names. In preparing the poll, he consulted 25 to 30 people, including historians and political scientists, and "his name didn't come up," Jedwab said.

The poll was conducted between June 20 and July 11 among 2,022 respondents, including 501 in Quebec. The margin of error is 3.5 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

Trudeau received the most support in the Atlantic provinces, where 80 per cent chose him as the leader from Quebec for whom they have the most esteem.

In Alberta, Jedwab suggested some of the results partly reflect frustration with Trudeau and the controversial National Energy Program introduced in 1980.

While respondents in Alberta gave Trudeau top ranking, many took a dim view of all six leaders from Quebec. When asked to choose the one they most respected, nearly 20 per cent opted for "none of the above."

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CANADIANS BY PARTY AFFILIATION

	LIB.	CON.	NDP	BLOC	UNDECIDED
TRUDEAU	79	50	68	4	47
LÉVESQUE	6	11	17	68	13
BOURASSA	5	10	5	5	9
BOUCHARD	5	8	2	11	8
DUPLESSIS	1	2	1	4	2
PARIZEAU	1	1	1	4	-
NONE OF THE ABOVE	1	13	3	3	12
OTHER	-	1	-	1	1
DK/NA*	2	4	2	-	8

QUEBECERS BY PARTY AFFILIATION

	LIB.	CON.	NDP	BLOC	UNDECIDED
LÉVESQUE	21	43	52	68	31
TRUDEAU	46	15	26	4	21
BOURASSA	20	18	15	5	14
BOUCHARD	7	16	2	11	15
PARIZEAU	2	-	5	4	-
DUPLESSIS	1	3	-	4	4
NONE OF THE ABOVE	1	2	-	3	9
OTHER	2	3	-	1	-
DK/NA*	-	-	-	-	5

QUEBECERS BY AGE GROUP

	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
LÉVESQUE	43	46	36	38
TRUDEAU	17	16	13	31
BOURASSA	11	14	8	12
BOUCHARD	12	12	7	7
PARIZEAU	5	2	2	3
DUPLESSIS	3	2	1	3
NONE OF THE ABOVE	7	2	3	3
OTHER	1	2	1	2
DK/NA*	2	1	3	1

* DK/NA refers to DON'T KNOW and NO ANSWER. Percentages do not add up to 100 because of rounding.



PIERRE TRUDEAU

The son of a wealthy family, Trudeau emerged from Quebec on to the federal political scene in 1965, when he was elected to Parliament. He rode a wave of Trudeau-mania to the Liberal leadership in 1968. Trudeau served as prime minister from 1968-79 and from 1980 to 1984. He famously invoked the War Measures Act in response to the October Crisis, and saw to the legislation of the Official Languages Act during his first term. During his last term, he patriated the British North America Act in 1982 to provide Canada with a constitution and a charter of rights and freedoms. He succumbed to cancer in 2000.



MAURICE DUPLESSIS

Duplessis was known as "le chef" during his lengthy and controversial leadership of the province. Confirmed as leader of the Quebec Conservative Party in 1933, he quickly merged the party with the Action Libérale Nationale to create the Union Nationale, and won a landslide victory in 1936, ousting the ruling Liberals. His party was defeated in the next election, which he called over the issue of participation in the war effort. He was re-elected in 1944 at the helm of the Union Nationale, beginning what would become Duplessis's 15-year run as premier of Quebec.



LUCIEN BOUCHARD

Once a close associate of former prime minister Brian Mulroney, Bouchard abruptly resigned from Mulroney's cabinet and from the Conservative Party in May 1990 in anger over resistance to the Meech Lake Accord. Within weeks, Bouchard went on to found the Bloc Québécois. After taking the reins from Parizeau to campaign for the Yes side in the 1995 referendum, he succeeded Parizeau and served as premier of Quebec and head of the PQ government from 1996 to 2001, when he resigned from politics.