Social Security: North of the Border

Canadians See Their System of Social Services the Hallmark of Their Culture

**Question:** When you think about "Canadian Culture" and how we are different from other people in other countries, how important are the following to you personally in your definition of Canadian culture or what it means to be Canadian?

- 94% Our social services such as medicare
- 59% Our system of government
- 56% The multicultural make-up of Canada
- 56% Our literature and cultural areas...
- 55% Our national sporting events such as Hockey...
- 49% Our day to day lives... the routine things...
- 47% Our climate
- 47% The fact that Canada is... bilingual...
- 44% The type of English/French that we speak...
- 39% Our history as a British colony and our membership in the Commonwealth

**Source:** Survey by Angus Reid Group, March 20-30, 1989.

But Dissatisfaction Over the Level of Taxes (to Pay for This System) is Very High

**Question:** Do you think that taxes are too high or about right?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Too High</th>
<th>About Right</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Surveys by Gallup Canada, latest that of April 15-19, 1993.

As A Result, Widespread Expectations That Social Services, Including Old-Age Pensions, Will Be Cut

**Question:** Let's think for a moment about...[the Canadian Old Age... The Canada Pension Plan... Medicare]
Looking ahead to when you yourself are elderly, what do you think... will be like by that time?

**Old Age Pension**
- (A) The Canadian Old Age Pension will continue to offer the same benefits that senior citizens get today.
- (B) The Old Age Pension will continue to provide some benefits but a good deal less than elderly people receive today.
- (C) Canada's Old Age Pension will no longer exist by the time you're elderly.

**Canada Pension Plan**
- (A) The Canada Pension Plan will continue to provide you with the same benefits that CPP recipients get today.
- (B) CPP will continue to provide benefits but a good deal less than recipients get today.
- (C) The Canada Pension Plan will no longer exist by the time you're retired.

**Medicare**
- (A) Medicare will be essentially the same as it is today and provide you with access to the same quality of medical services...
- (B) The Medicare program will still be in place but it will provide much more limited coverage than it does today.
- (C) Medicare as we know it will no longer exist by the time you are elderly.

**Source:** Survey by Angus Reid Group, July 28-August 5, 1993.