

DIGITAL NEWS REPORT CANADA

2023 DATA: AN OVERVIEW



CENTRE D'ÉTUDES SUR LES MÉDIAS



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ABOUT

The [Digital News Report \(DNR\)](#) is an international survey led by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford. Covering 46 international markets in 2023, it focuses on the practices and perceptions of news consumers, especially on issues related to online news. The Centre d'études sur les médias (CEM) is responsible for the Canadian component of the survey.

METHODOLOGY

The DNR is based on an online questionnaire administered by the survey firm YouGov. The Canadian data is calculated from a random sample of 2,150 participants registered with YouGov, including 555 Francophones. An autonomous Francophone sample was subsequently completed to obtain 1,066 participants. The Canadian data was collected from January 11 to February 20, 2023. The results are weighted to represent the country's adult population.

It should be noted that such a survey is likely to under-represent those segments of the Canadian population that do not have access to the Internet: typically, it includes seniors, those with less formal education levels, and people with lower incomes. Up to and including 2020, the questionnaire began with a filter question excluding respondents who had not consumed news in the month preceding the survey. In 2019, new quotas were implemented to mitigate the under-representation of people with a lower level of education. These elements must, therefore, be taken into account when comparing data across multiple years.

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Québec



¹ The template for this document was created by Florence Côté, research assistant at the CEM.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of tables	4
List of figures.....	5
Highlights.....	7
Introduction	8
1. Payment for and interest in news	8
1.1 Payment.....	8
1.2 Payment methods	11
1.3 Why pay for online news content?.....	12
1.4 Interest in news and politics	14
1.5 Avoidance of news.....	16
1.6 Which types of news interest Canadians?.....	19
2. Trust and the online experience	20
2.1 Trust in the news	20
2.2 Fake news online	21
2.3 Selection of news and algorithms	22
2.4 Criticism of the news media.....	28
2.5 Publicly funded news services	30
2.6 Online engagement.....	32
3. Media and devices	33
3.1 News sources	33
3.2 Devices used to obtain online news	34
3.3 Social media	35
3.4 Podcasts.....	39
Appendix – Wordings	40

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Share of Canadian respondents who paid for online news content or accessed a paid-for online news service in the previous year, according to age group, income and education, in 2022 and 2023....	10
Table 2. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who adopted different online news subscription practices in the year preceding the survey	11
Table 3. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who used various ways to pay for online news content in the year preceding the survey in 2022 and in 2023	12
Table 4. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who chose various answers to the question: “You said that you have paid for access to online news in the last year... What are the most important reasons?”	13
Table 5. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who picked various reasons that would encourage them to pay for online news among those who didn’t do so in the last year	14
Table 6. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who adopted various avoidance behaviours among those who actively avoid news.....	17
Table 7. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who avoid various news topics among those who say they avoid specific news topics	18
Table 8. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who are somewhat interested, very interested or extremely interested in various types of news according to age	20
Table 9. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who said they had seen or heard criticism of journalists or news media from various categories of individuals in the previous year among those who saw or heard such criticism	30
Table 10. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents, according to age group, who used various social media to find, read, watch, share or discuss news in the week preceding the survey	39

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who paid for online news content or accessed a paid-for online news service in the previous year, from 2016 to 2023	9
Figure 2. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents interested in news, from 2021 to 2023.....	15
Figure 3. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents interested in politics, in 2021 and 2023.....	15
Figure 4. Breakdown of answers to the question: "Do you find yourself actively trying to avoid news these days?" in 2017, 2019, 2022 and 2023 for Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents	16
Figure 5. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who trust most news most of the time (2016 to 2023) and most of the news they consume (2017 to 2023)	21
Figure 6. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who agree with the statement: "Thinking about online news, I am concerned about what is real and what is fake on the internet" from 2018 to 2023	22
Figure 7. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who agree with various statements concerning the selection of news that reaches them.....	23
Figure 8. Breakdown of the degree to which Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents agree with the statement: "Having stories selected for me by editors and journalists is a good way to get news" in 2016 and 2023.....	24
Figure 9. Breakdown of the degree to which Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents agree with the statement "Having stories automatically selected for me on the basis of what I have consumed in the past is a good way to get news" in 2016 and 2023	25
Figure 10. Breakdown of the degree to which Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents agree with the statement: "Having stories automatically selected for me on the basis of what my friends have consumed is a good way to get news" in 2016 and 2023.....	26
Figure 11. Breakdown of the degree to which Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents agree with the statement: "I worry that more personalized news may mean that I miss out on important information" in 2016 and 2023	27
Figure 12. Breakdown of the degree to which Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents agree with the statement: "I worry that more personalized news may mean that I miss out on challenging viewpoints" in 2016 and 2023	28
Figure 13. Breakdown of the answers by Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents to the question: "How often, if at all, do you see or hear people criticizing journalists or the news media in Canada?"	29

Figure 14. Breakdown of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents according to their answer to the question: “In your opinion, how important, or not, are publicly funded news services to society?” 31

Figure 15. Breakdown of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents according to their answer to the question: “How important, or not, are publicly funded news services to you personally?” 31

Figure 16. Breakdown of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents according to their answer to the question: “How positive or negative is your experience of engagement with news online or on social media (e.g., reading or posting comments, talking to people about news, etc.)?” 32

Figure 17. Breakdown of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents according to their answer to the question: “When talking about politics with people online (e.g. via social networks or messaging groups), how careful do you feel you have to be with what you say?” 33

Figure 18. Breakdown of Canadian respondents as a function of their main source of news in the week preceding the survey, from 2016 to 2023 34

Figure 19. Share of Canadian respondents who used various devices to find, read, watch, share or discuss news in the week preceding the survey, from 2016 to 2023..... 35

Figure 20. Share of Canadian respondents who used various social media to find, read, watch, share or discuss news in the week preceding the survey from 2016 to 2023 36

Figure 21. Share of Anglophone respondents in Canada who used various social media to find, read, watch, share or discuss news in the week preceding the survey, from 2016 to 2023..... 37

Figure 22. Share of Francophone respondents in Canada who used various social media to find, read, watch, share or discuss news in the week preceding the survey, from 2016 to 2023..... 38

Figure 23. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who listened to at least one podcast in the month preceding the survey, from 2018 to 2023 39

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ Payment for online news² is down from the previous year for the first time since Canada began taking part in the Digital News Report survey in 2016. Only 11% of Canadians paid for online news or accessed a paid news service in the year before the survey, a decrease of 4 percentage points (pp) from 2022 and the lowest score since 2019.
- ❑ Fewer and fewer Canadians are interested in news: 80% said they were interested in 2023, down from 86% in 2021. There is a growing lack of interest on the part of both Francophones (84% were interested in 2021, 78% in 2023) and Anglophones (88% in 2021, 81% in 2023).
- ❑ News avoidance has not increased: on the contrary, it is down 8 pp in relation to the 2022 data. In 2023, 63% of Canadians tried to actively avoid the news in the recent past, versus 71% in 2022. The practice is more widespread among Anglophones (65%) than Francophones (58%). People who avoid news tend to avoid “heavy” topics (social justice, national politics and the war in Ukraine) more than “lighter” topics.
- ❑ Positive news stories are of interest to more than 80% of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents with two-thirds of Francophones (67%) saying they are very or extremely interested in such news.
- ❑ English-speaking Canadians’ trust in most news most of the time continues to erode, dragging down the country’s results: 40% of respondents trust the news, down 2 pp from 2022 and the lowest result since Canada began taking part in the survey. As in previous years, trust in news is more widespread among Francophones (49%, an increase of 2 pp) than among Anglophones (37%, a decrease of 2 pp).
- ❑ Respondents are more likely to think that having news selected automatically as a function of previous choices is “a good way to get news” (26%) than they are to think the same of having stories selected by editors and journalists (20%). In relation to 2016, these figures represent decreases of 11 pp in the first case and 9 pp in the second.
- ❑ The share of Canadians who get their news primarily from social media, at 25%, is stable in relation to 2022. But 36% did not view, share or comment on news on social media in the week before the survey, an increase of 10 pp from the previous year. The share of Canadians who interacted with news on Facebook in the week before the survey went from 40% in 2022 to 29% (-11 pp), which is the lowest score since we began collecting such data.
- ❑ Smart TV (26%) has surpassed tablets for the first time (22%) and is the third-most-popular device for viewing or sharing online news in Canada. With a proportion of 52%, the smartphone remains the most popular news medium, ahead of the computer (45%).

² The data include online paid news services accessed through, for example, libraries.

INTRODUCTION

The situation is not rosy for the news media in Canada, at least according to data from the 2023 Digital News Report (DNR) survey. A number of indicators are worrisome: payment for online news has fallen by 4 percentage points (pp) in Canada, the first decline since 2016, when such results began to be recorded in the country. Interest and trust in news are also declining, as is interest in politics.

In relation to 2016, fewer people think that letting journalists determine the news they get is a good idea. As well, selection by algorithms based on previous choices or selection based on friends' preferences also has less support than in the past, and none of these options appeal to the majority.

In addition, Facebook's strategy of de-emphasizing news seems to be reflected in the Canadian results: the use of Facebook to obtain information on current events is declining. As for Twitter, there are no significant changes in the data collected by the 2023 survey, the first one since Elon Musk acquired the platform.

1. PAYMENT FOR AND INTEREST IN NEWS

1.1 Payment

Even though payment for online news in Canada is up from the 2020 survey inclusively,³ it decreased significantly in 2023, with 11% of respondents across the country saying they had paid for or accessed paid news in the year preceding the survey, a decrease of 4 pp in relation to 2022. This result is also the lowest obtained since 2019, when the share was 9%.

³ With data collection taking place in January and February, the 2020 results predate the restrictive measures imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

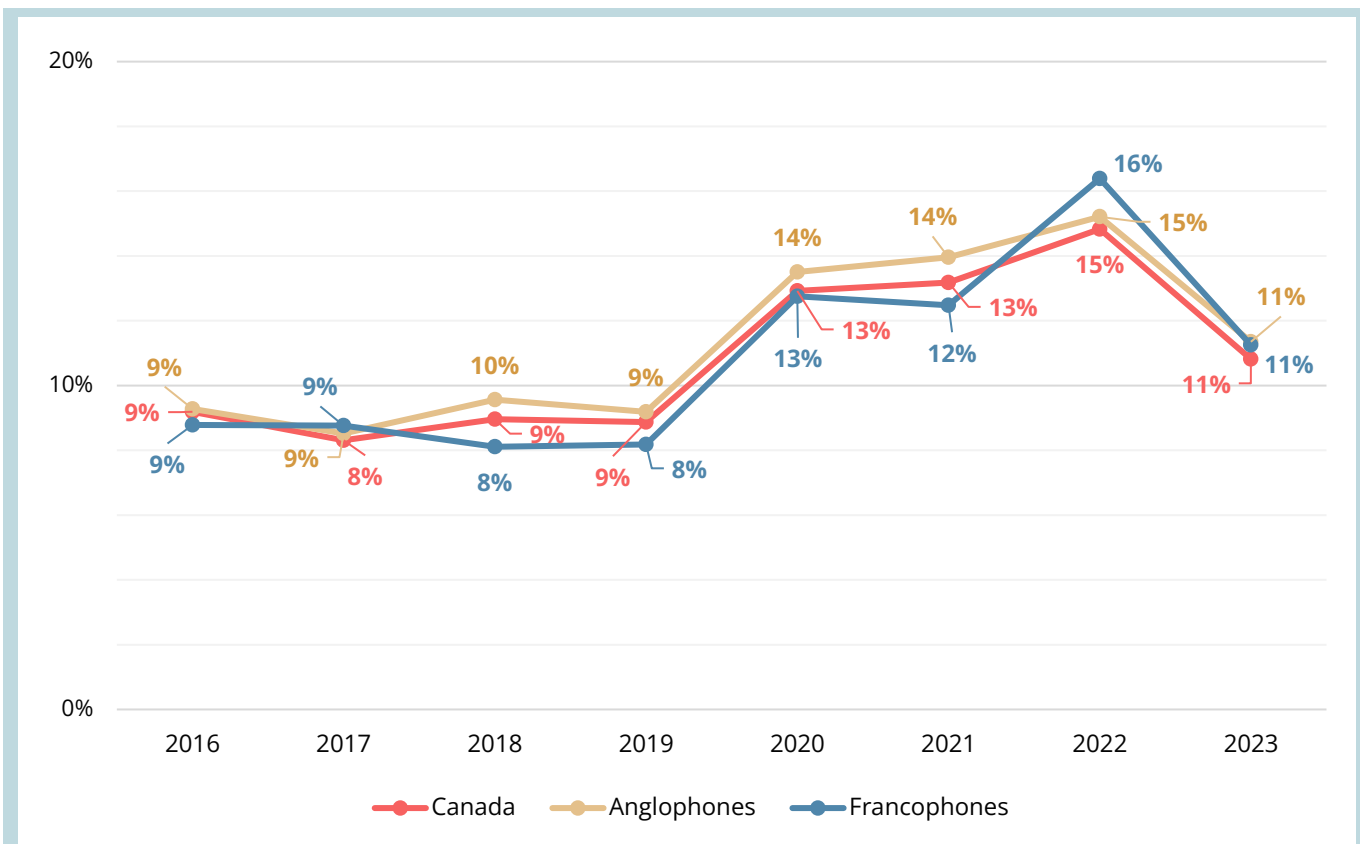


Figure 1. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who paid for online news content or accessed a paid-for online news service in the previous year, from 2016 to 2023. In 2023, Canada: $n=2,150$; Anglophones: $n=1,595$; Francophones: $n=1,066$.

Table 1 shows payment-related changes between 2022 and 2023 by age group, income⁴ and education.⁵ The share of respondents who paid for online news declined across all groups (albeit very little in some cases) and does not exceed 15%. Even so, the general findings remain the same as in the previous year: payment for online news is more common among people 18 to 44 years old than it is among older adults. Moreover, respondents from high-income households (15%) or highly educated households (15%) are more likely to pay for online news.

⁴ For the purposes of this report, high-income households earn \$80,000 or more annually and include 30% of respondents. Low-income households, which represent 27% of respondents, earn less than \$30,000 annually, and the medium-income category, or 43% of respondents, falls between the two.

⁵ The levels of education are defined as follows: a low level of education includes respondents without a high school diploma or the equivalent; a high level corresponds to individuals with one or more university diplomas; and the medium level includes those with a high school diploma, whether or not they have pursued a collegial, technical or occupational education.

Demographic variables	2022	2023	Difference (pp)
Age group			
18-24	20%	13%	-7
25-34	17%	15%	-2
35-44	18%	14%	-4
45-54	16%	9%	-7
55-64	9%	5%	-4
65 and over	12%	9%	-3
Household income			
Low	14%	11%	-3
Medium	14%	9%	-5
High	20%	15%	-5
Level of education			
Low	14%	8%	-6
Medium	10%	9%	-1
High	20%	15%	-5

Table 1. Share of Canadian respondents who paid for online news content or accessed a paid-for online news service in the previous year, according to age group, income and education, in 2022 and 2023. *In 2023, 18-24: n=198, 25-34: n=361, 35-44: n=344, 45-54: n=331, 55-64: n=326, 65+: n=590; low income: n=485, medium: n=792, high: 584; low level of education: n=253, medium: n=1,042, high: n=855.*

Payment for subscriptions to online news services is declining (Table 2). Canadians in both language groups are more likely to have cancelled at least one online subscription (8% for the country and for Anglophones and 7% for Francophones) in the previous year than to have taken out additional subscriptions (1% for all groups). The effect of increases in the cost of living on these decisions is not as clear as one might think; there is little difference between the share of subscription cancellations among those who say they are personally affected by the increase (8%) and those who say they are not affected (9%).⁶ Even when we focus only on those who still subscribe to one or more news services, we find that they are also more likely to have cancelled at least one subscription (28%) than to have taken out additional subscriptions (19%).

⁶ Share of Canadian respondents who say they were or were not affected by changes in the cost of living in the previous year and cancelled one or more news subscriptions (*affected: n=1,696, not affected: n=349*).

Online news subscription practices	Canada	Anglophones	Francophones
I have taken out one or more additional ongoing online news subscriptions	1%	1%	1%
I have managed to get one or more news subscriptions at a cheaper price	1%	1%	1%
I have cancelled one or more news subscriptions	8%	8%	7%
I have kept my ongoing online news subscriptions exactly the same	2%	2%	2%
None of the above	81%	80%	81%
Don't know	8%	7%	8%

Table 2. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who adopted different online news subscription practices in the year preceding the survey. *Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; Francophones: n=1,066.*

1.2 Payment methods

Not surprisingly, none of the methods used to pay for or to access online news increased in popularity between 2022 and 2023: instead, there were slight decreases for ongoing payment as part of a subscription (-1 pp), for a print-digital bundle (-2 pp) and for free digital news access as part of a subscription to something else (-1 pp). Ongoing payment for a subscription to a digital news service remained the most cited method, used in 2023 by 5% of Canadians.

Payment methods	2022	2023		
	Canada	Canada	Anglophones	Francophones
I made an ongoing payment (subscription or membership) for a digital news service	6%	5%	5%	5%
I get free digital news access as part of a subscription to something else	4%	3%	3%	3%
I made a single one-off payment to access a single article or edition	2%	2%	2%	2%
I pay for digital news access as part of a print-digital bundle, or I get it for free as part of a print subscription	4%	2%	3%	2%
Someone else paid for me to subscribe or access a digital news service	2%	2%	2%	2%
I have made a donation to support a digital news service	2%	2%	2%	1%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%
I have not paid for online news content in the past year	85%	89%	89%	89%

Table 3. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who used various ways to pay for online news content in the year preceding the survey in 2022 and in 2023. *In 2023, Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; Francophones: n=1,066.*

1.3 Why pay for online news content?

When Canadians who have paid for online news are asked why they do so,⁷ 37% cite the better quality of paid news sources. Other widely cited reasons are the desire to fund good journalism (32%), a good deal or a trial (31%) and easy-to-use websites or apps (29%).

Even so, important distinctions remain between English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians: 42% of Anglophones cite the better quality of paid sources as one of the main reasons for payment, whereas only 13% of Francophones who pay for online news cite the quality argument.⁸ The reasons most often cited by Francophones are instead the desire to help fund good journalism (27%), easy-to-use digital applications and websites (25%), support for journalists they like (24%) (a difference of 8 pp, with Anglophones at 16%), exclusive or distinctive content (20%) and identification with a news brand (20%).

⁷ The same person may have cited several reasons.

⁸ A large proportion of the country's major French-language news media are freely accessible online or allow access to a certain amount of free content each month, which is less the case in English Canada.

Reasons to pay for news	Canada	Anglophones	Francophones
Better quality than I can get from free sources	37%	42%	13%
I want to help fund good journalism	32%	32%	27%
I was offered a good deal/trial	31%	33%	19%
Easy to use website/app	29%	30%	25%
Exclusive or distinctive content I can't get anywhere else	26%	28%	20%
I identify with the news brand and what it stands for	20%	19%	20%
Particular journalists that I like	18%	16%	24%
Being connected to a community of readers and journalists	16%	15%	16%
Games and puzzles	11%	9%	10%
Non-news features (cooking, culture, etc.)	10%	10%	16%
Other	9%	10%	4%
Don't know	4%	2%	9%

Table 4. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who chose various answers to the question: "You said that you have paid for access to online news in the last year... What are the most important reasons?" *Base: Those who paid for online news or accessed paid online news in the previous year. Canada: n=151; Anglophones: n=128; Francophones: n=61.*

As for Canadians who do not subscribe or donate to news media, a majority (61%) do not know what would encourage them to pay for news content or reject the options suggested in the questionnaire (13% and 48%, respectively), which is observed among both Anglophones (61%) and Francophones (54%). Lower costs were the most frequently cited payment incentive, by 17% of Canadians and Anglophones and 21% of Francophones.

Not surprisingly, respondents who said none of the proposed options would persuade them to pay for online news⁹ are less likely to be interested in news (73%) than are Canadians as a whole (80%).

⁹ n=853.

Reasons that would encourage people to pay for news	Canada	Anglophones	Francophones
If it was cheaper	17%	17%	21%
If I could pay one price to access multiple news websites	13%	14%	13%
If there were no (or fewer) advertisements	11%	11%	13%
If the content was more interesting or relevant to me	13%	15%	12%
If there was more exclusive content I can't get via free sources	9%	9%	12%
If there was a friends or family option that allowed me to share the cost	7%	7%	7%
If the website/app was easier to use	4%	4%	4%
None of these	48%	48%	42%
Don't know	13%	13%	12%

Table 5. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who picked various reasons that would encourage them to pay for online news among those who didn't do so in the last year. *Base: Those who don't currently subscribe or donate to an online newspaper or other news service.. Canada: n=1,768; Anglophones: n=1,300; Francophones: n=878.*

1.4 Interest in news and politics

The decline in payment for online news content is occurring in a context of a growing lack of interest in news. Since 2021, the interest of Canadian respondents has been falling: that year, 86% of Canadians were interested in news versus 80% in 2023. From one year to the next, Francophones (78% in 2023) remain slightly less systematically interested in news than Anglophones (81%). That being said, the difference between the two groups narrowed slightly, from 5 pp in 2022 to 3 pp.

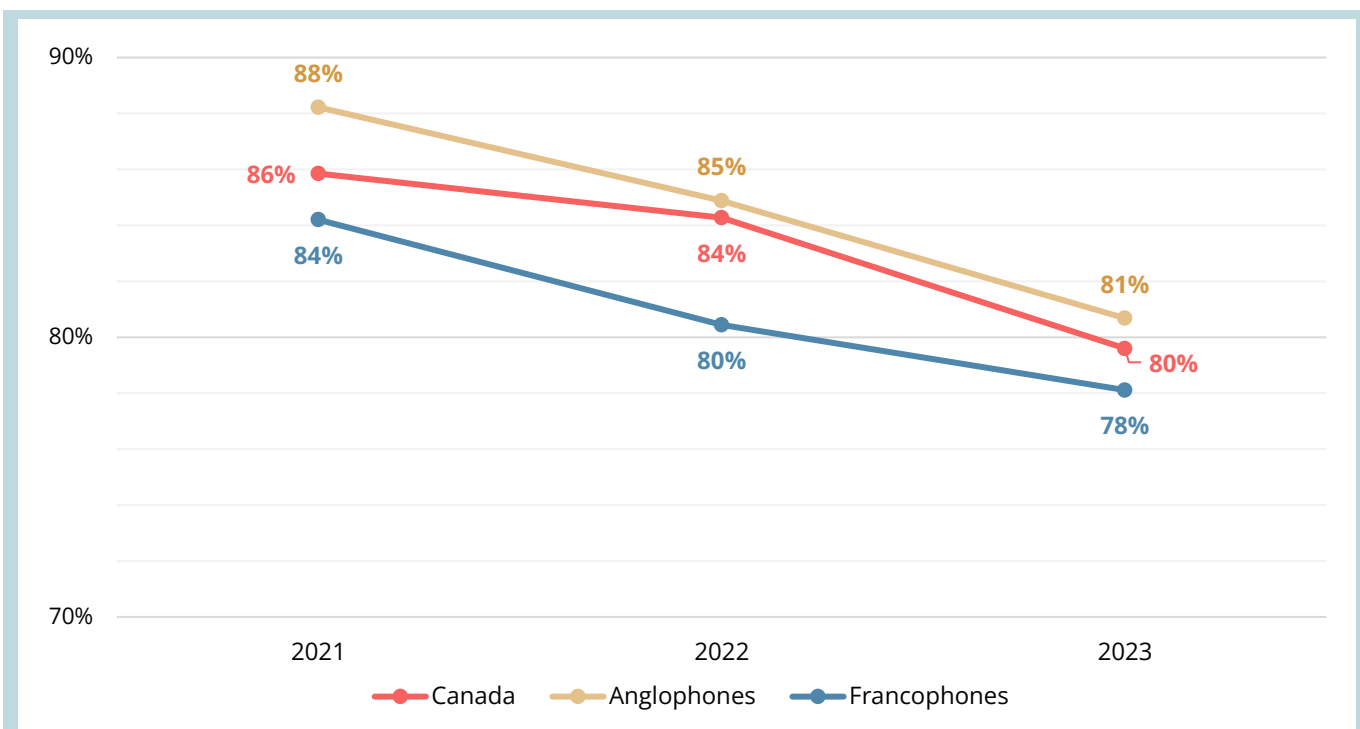


Figure 2. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents interested in news, from 2021 to 2023. *In 2023, Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; Francophones: n=1,066. Interested=somewhat, very, extremely*

The Digital News Report data also show a greater lack of interest in politics among respondents. In 2023, 60% of Canadians said they were interested, down from 68% in 2021.¹⁰ The population's detachment from politics is more obvious among Francophones, with 52% saying they are interested, versus 63% in 2023.

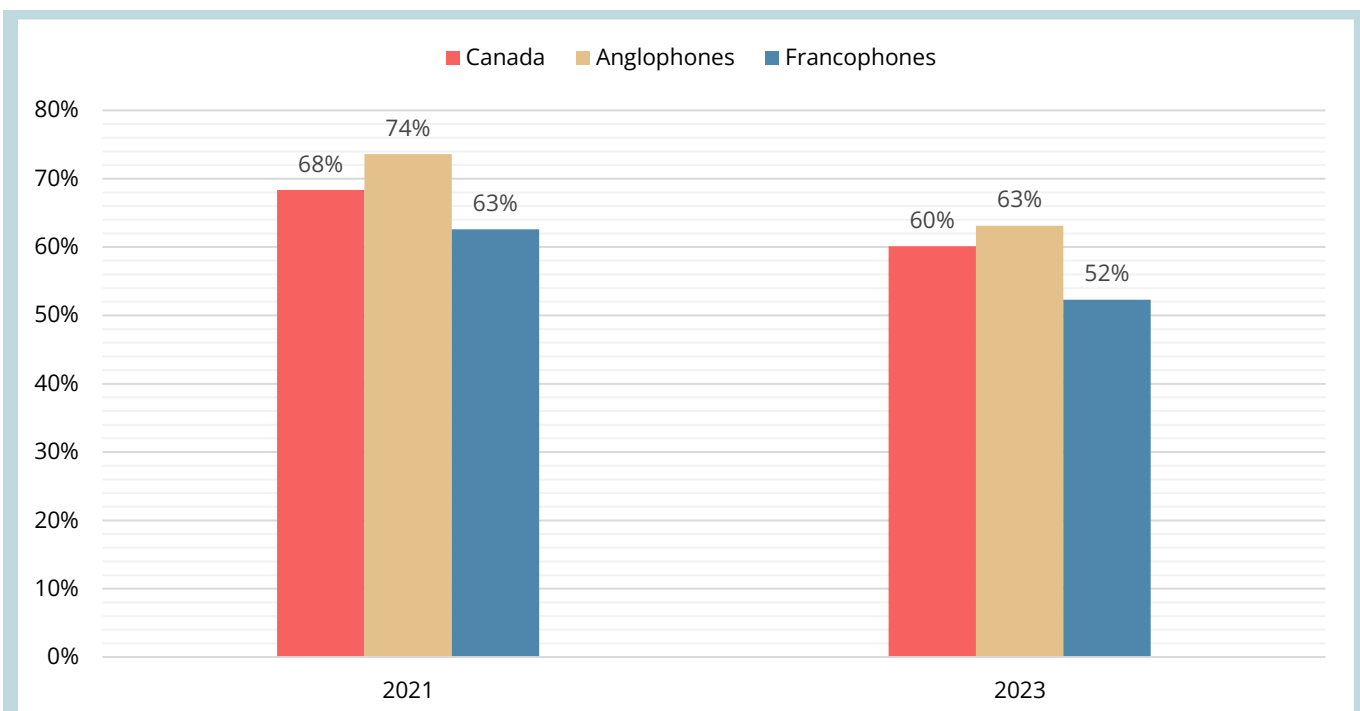
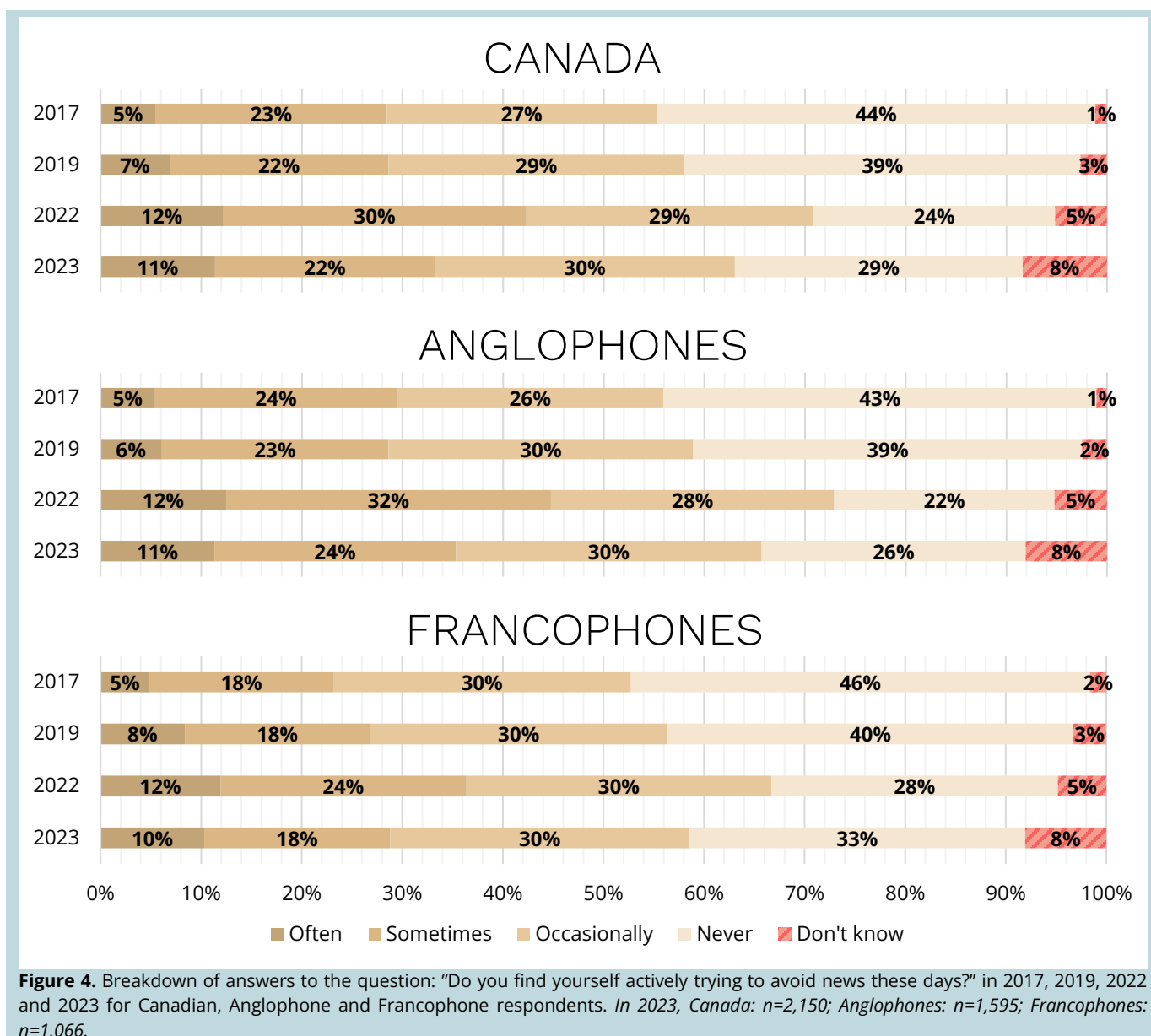


Figure 3. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents interested in politics, in 2021 and 2023. *In 2023, Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; Francophones: n=1,066. Interested= somewhat, very, extremely.*

¹⁰ The question was not asked in 2022.

1.5 Avoidance of news

The lack of interest in news does not seem to translate into increased news avoidance, however. On the contrary, in relation to the 2022 data,¹¹ this behaviour seems to be decreasing. In 2023, 63% of Canadians said they actively avoided news at least occasionally, down 8 pp from the previous year (71%). Avoidance of news by Anglophones declined from 73% in 2022 to 66% in 2023 and by Francophones from 67% in 2022 to 59% in 2023.¹² From one year to the next, Francophones are less likely to voluntarily restrict their access to news.



¹¹ The question was asked in 2017, 2019, 2022 and 2023.

¹² The 2022 Canadian data were collected when reported cases of COVID-19 were rising sharply and a series of demonstrations in opposition to health measures was taking place. News related to health and COVID-19 is still, in 2023, among the subjects often cited by those who avoid certain news topics (Table 7); thus, it is possible that this context contributed to the observed increase in the phenomenon in the previous year.

Those who avoid the news use a variety of strategies to do so. Four of the behaviours suggested in the survey are adopted by more than a quarter of Canadians and Anglophones who actively avoid news:¹³ checking news sources less often (31% and 33%, respectively), avoiding specific news topics (29% for both groups), avoiding certain sources of news (27% for Canada and 29% for English speakers) or simply ignoring news or changing channels when it appears (26% for Canada and 28% for Anglophones). Francophones who dodge the news tend to avoid specific news topics (28%) and to check news sources less often (24%).

Avoidance behaviours	Canada	Anglophones	Francophones
I check news sources less often	31%	33%	24%
I avoid specific news topics	29%	29%	28%
I avoid certain sources of news	27%	29%	22%
I ignore, scroll past, or change channels when I see news	26%	28%	20%
I prioritise activities that don't involve news	21%	22%	17%
I cut out news at particular times of day	17%	15%	23%
I have turned off or reduced news notifications	16%	17%	11%
I avoid places or situations where I know news might appear	9%	10%	9%
Other	2%	2%	2%
None of these	9%	8%	10%
Don't know	6%	6%	5%

Table 6. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who adopted various avoidance behaviours among those who actively avoid news. *Base: Those who say they actively avoid news at least occasionally. Canada: n=1,339; Anglophones: n=1,038; Francophones: n=618.*

When those who avoid specific topics are asked which ones, the findings are similar for all Canadians and for Anglophones. More than a third of respondents try to avoid social justice topics (36% for Canada and 37% for Anglophones), national politics (35% and 36%, respectively) or the war in Ukraine (34% for both groups), while about a third of respondents name sports news (31% for Canada and 32% for Anglophones). For their part, Francophones who voluntarily avoid specific topics target in a greater proportion news about the war in Ukraine (39%), health and COVID-19 (33%), sports (29%) and social justice topics (29%).

¹³ The same person may adopt several of the behaviours listed.

People aged 45 and over who avoid specific news topics are much more likely to avoid news about social justice (44%) than those aged 18-44 (27%): the opposite is true when it comes to news about politics in the country (41% for 18-44 year olds and 29% for those aged 45 and over).¹⁴

Avoided news topics	Canada	Anglophones	Francophones
Social justice	36%	37%	29%
National politics	35%	36%	27%
War in Ukraine	34%	34%	39%
Sports news	31%	32%	29%
Entertainment and celebrity news	29%	30%	20%
Health (COVID-19)	27%	25%	33%
Climate change and the environment	26%	27%	15%
Business, finance and economy	25%	26%	19%
Crime and personal security	25%	25%	27%
Lifestyle	21%	23%	13%
International news	20%	20%	17%
Culture news	16%	17%	10%
Education	12%	12%	10%
Science and technology	11%	11%	11%
Local news	10%	10%	13%
Fun news	9%	10%	7%
Other	4%	4%	4%
I try to avoid all news topics	5%	4%	5%
Don't know	2%	2%	4%

Table 7. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who avoid various news topics among those who say they avoid specific news topics. *Base: Those who say they avoid specific news topics at least occasionally. Canada: n=382; Anglophones: n=302; Francophones: n=175.*

¹⁴ Share of Canadian respondents who avoid specific news topics at least occasionally by age group (18-44: n=183; 45+: n=199).

1.6 Which types of news interest Canadians?

Even though Canadians are less inclined to pay for online news and their interest in it is declining, they expressed some interest in the six types of news content that we proposed to them:

- ❑ Positive news stories;
- ❑ News that suggests solutions;
- ❑ News that investigates wrongdoing or abuse of power;
- ❑ The latest developments on the big stories of the day;
- ❑ News that helps me understand complex stories;
- ❑ News that is about people like me.

In all cases, among both Anglophones and Francophones, 70% or more of respondents say they are interested. Even so, one category stands out: positive news stories are of interest to more than 80% of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents. Moreover, two-thirds (67%) of Francophones even say they are very or extremely interested, a result far superior to those of other types of news suggested. Conversely, news about people we identify with seems to be a little less appealing but still interests 73% of all Canadians, 74% of Anglophones and 70% of Francophones, with about a third of respondents in each group saying they are very or extremely interested.

All these types of content are proportionately more relevant to those aged 35 and over than to younger adults. For five of the six types of news, the shares of people interested are 7 to 11 pp higher among the oldest than they are among 18-34 year olds. But interest in the latest developments on the big stories of the day is significantly higher among older adults (83%) than it is among younger adults (66%, or a difference of 17 pp).

Types of news	Interested (<i>extremely/very</i>)				
	Canada	Anglophones	Francophones	18-34	35 +
Positive news stories	85% (54%)	84% (50%)	88% (67%)	77% (46%)	88% (57%)
News that suggests solutions, rather than just pointing out problems	79% (45%)	78% (43%)	82% (53%)	74% (39%)	81% (47%)
News that investigates wrongdoing or abuse of power	78% (46%)	79% (47%)	75% (42%)	71% (37%)	81% (49%)
The latest developments on the big stories of the day	78% (44%)	78% (42%)	81% (51%)	66% (30%)	83% (49%)
News that helps me understand complex stories	77% (42%)	77% (42%)	79% (46%)	71% (37%)	79% (44%)
News that is about people like me	73% (33%)	74% (32%)	70% (34%)	67% (28%)	76% (34%)

Table 8. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who are somewhat interested, very interested or extremely interested in various types of news according to age. *Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; Francophones: n=1,066.*

2. TRUST AND THE ONLINE EXPERIENCE

2.1 Trust in the news

Even though trust is up slightly among Francophones in 2023 in relation to 2022, trust in news continues to erode in Canada. In 2023, 40% of Canadian respondents trust most news most of the time, down 15 pp from 2016, the year Canada first took part in the DNR survey. Slightly more than a third of English speakers (37%) say they generally trust news, down 18 pp from 2016 and 2 pp from 2022. The proportion of Francophones who still trust news is higher, at 49%, and this share has even increased by 2 pp since 2022 (47%). Even so, this figure is a decline of 15 pp from the peak reached in 2018 (64%).

From one year to another, respondents' trust in "most news they consume" tends to be slightly higher than trust in "most news" with 2023 being no exception. At 46% in Canada and 45% among Anglophones, those are the lowest scores since we began collecting such data. For Francophones, the results have not changed from 2022 to 2023, and a majority (55%) say they still trust the news they consume.

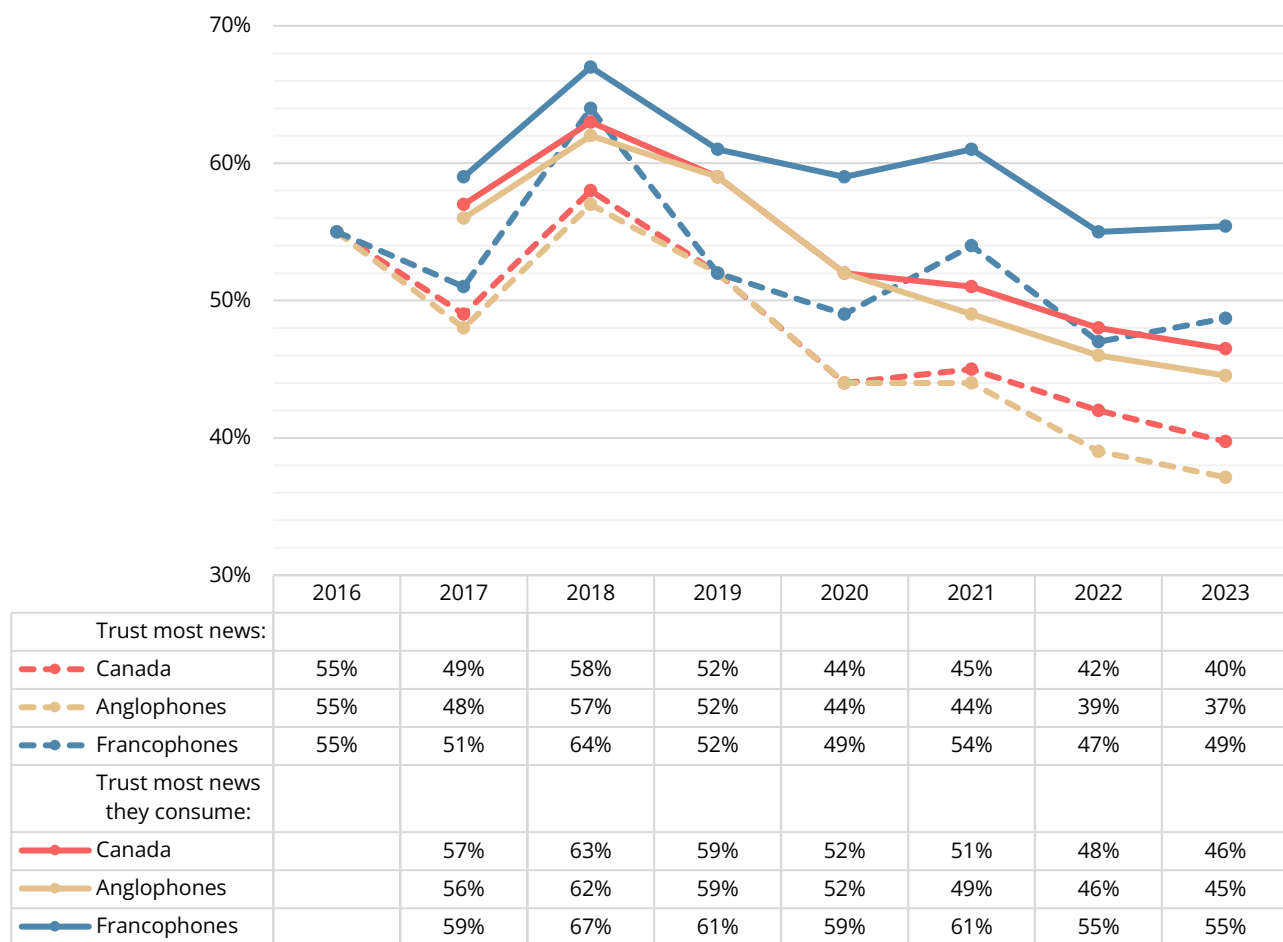


Figure 5. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who trust most news most of the time (2016 to 2023) and most of the news they consume (2017 to 2023). For both questions, in 2023, Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; francophones: n=1,066.

2.2 Fake news online

The share of Canadians concerned about being able to distinguish what is real from what is fake on the internet remains stable in relation to 2022, at 60%. This concern remains much more prevalent among Anglophones (65%, up 2 pp from 2022) than among Francophones (47%, down 1 pp). Moreover, Francophones are less likely to worry about this matter than in the recent past; since 2020 the figures have changed little for Anglophones, but they have decreased by 13 pp for Francophones.

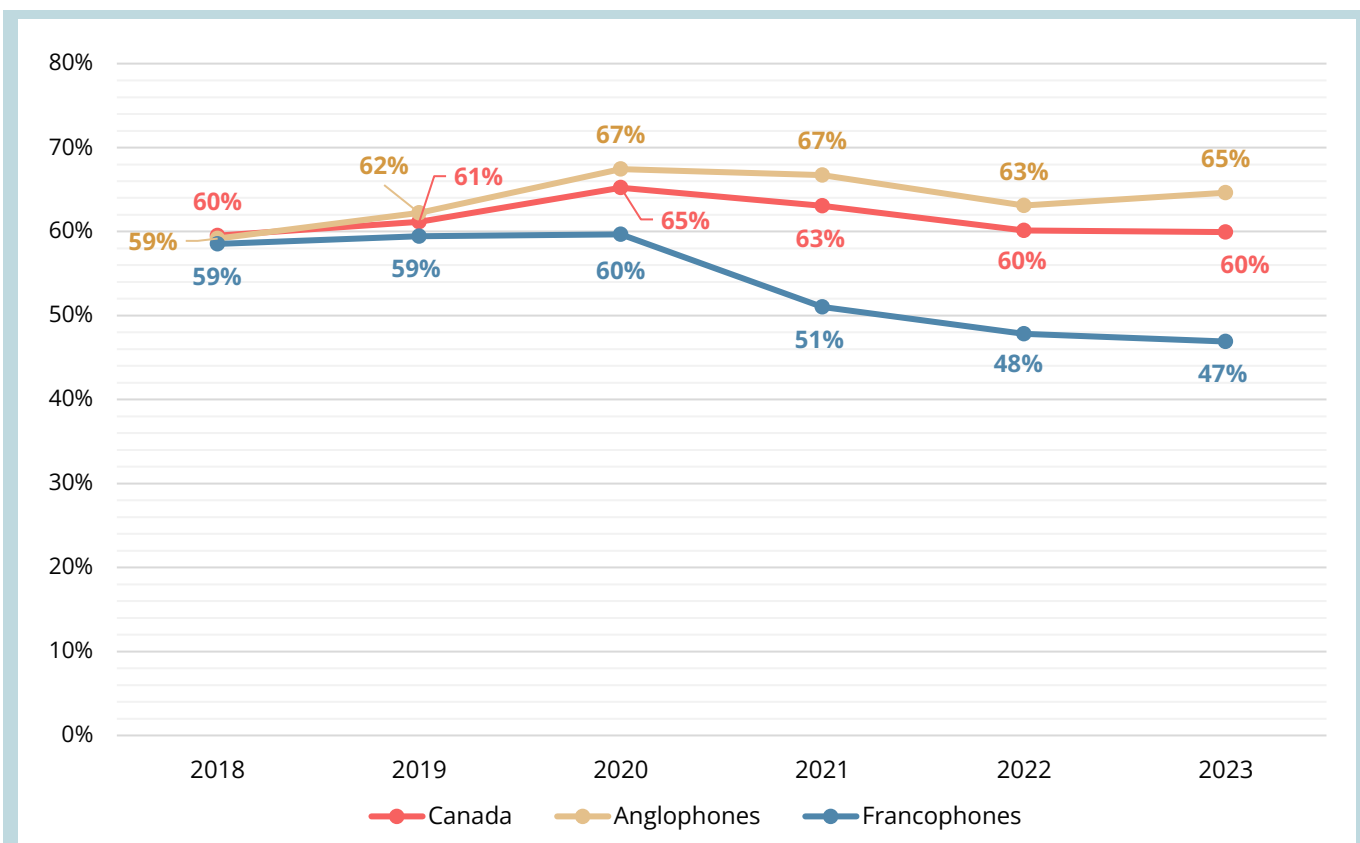


Figure 6. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who agree with the statement: “Thinking about online news, I am concerned about what is real and what is fake on the internet” from 2018 to 2023. In 2023, Canada: $n=2,150$; Anglophones: $n=1,595$; Francophones: $n=1,066$.

2.3 Selection of news and algorithms

In 2016, the Digital News Report checked Canadians’ various ways of selecting the news they receive. There was higher agreement with algorithm choices based on past consumption than with selection by news professionals or by algorithms based on friends’ choices. The exercise was resumed in 2023, and once again algorithms based on past consumption prevailed over selection by journalists (Figure 7). But the most recent results also indicate greater reluctance concerning all three types of intermediaries.

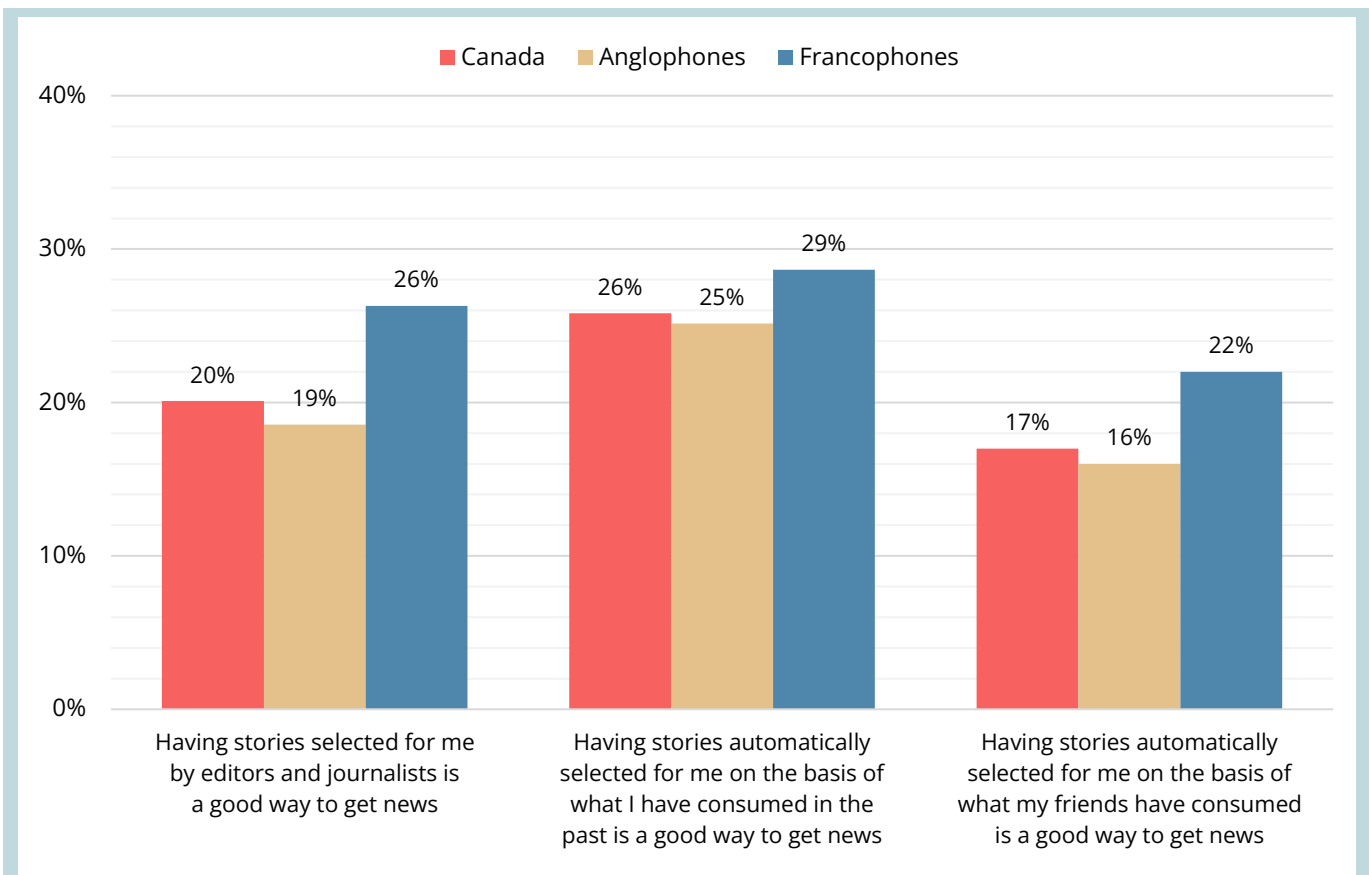
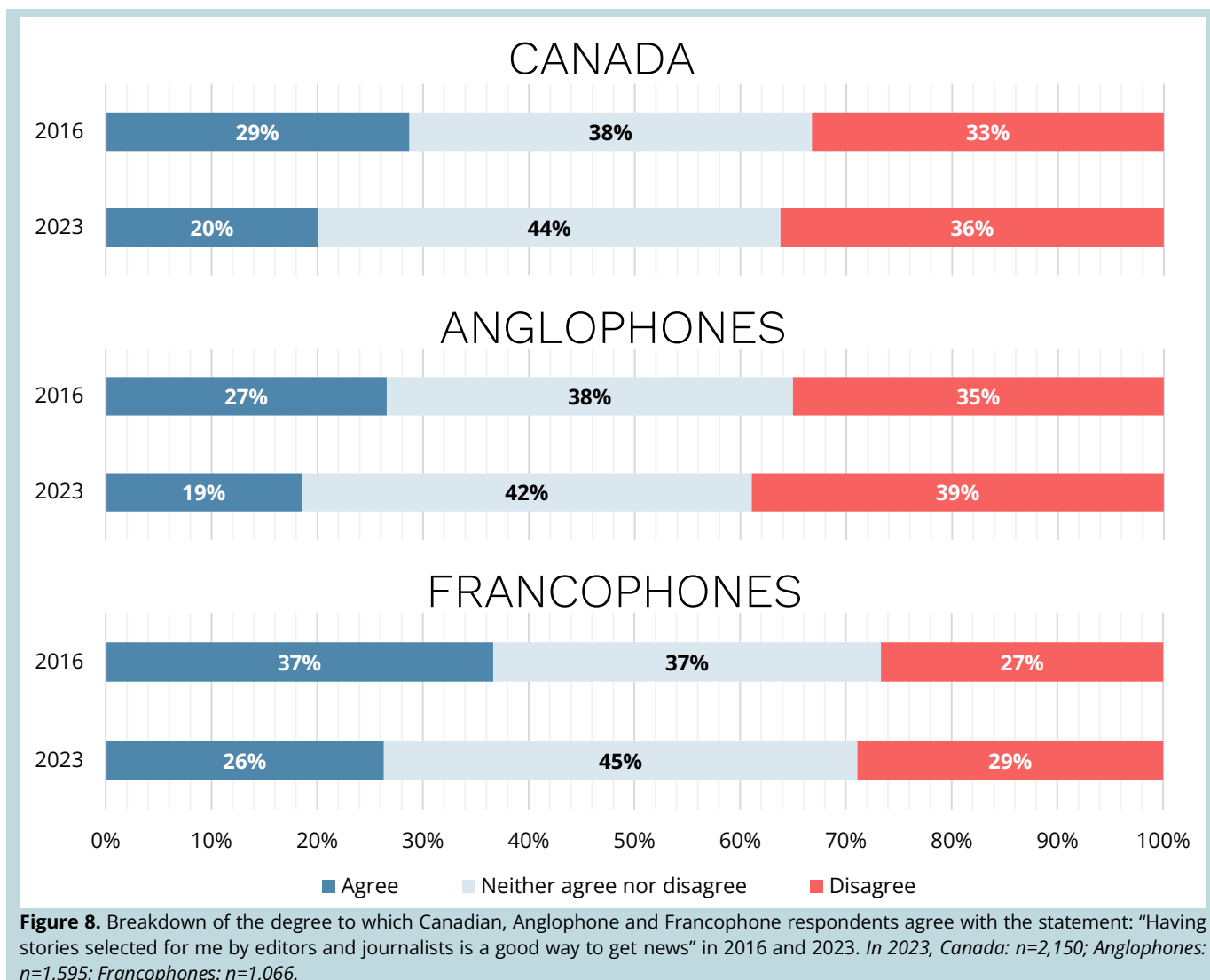


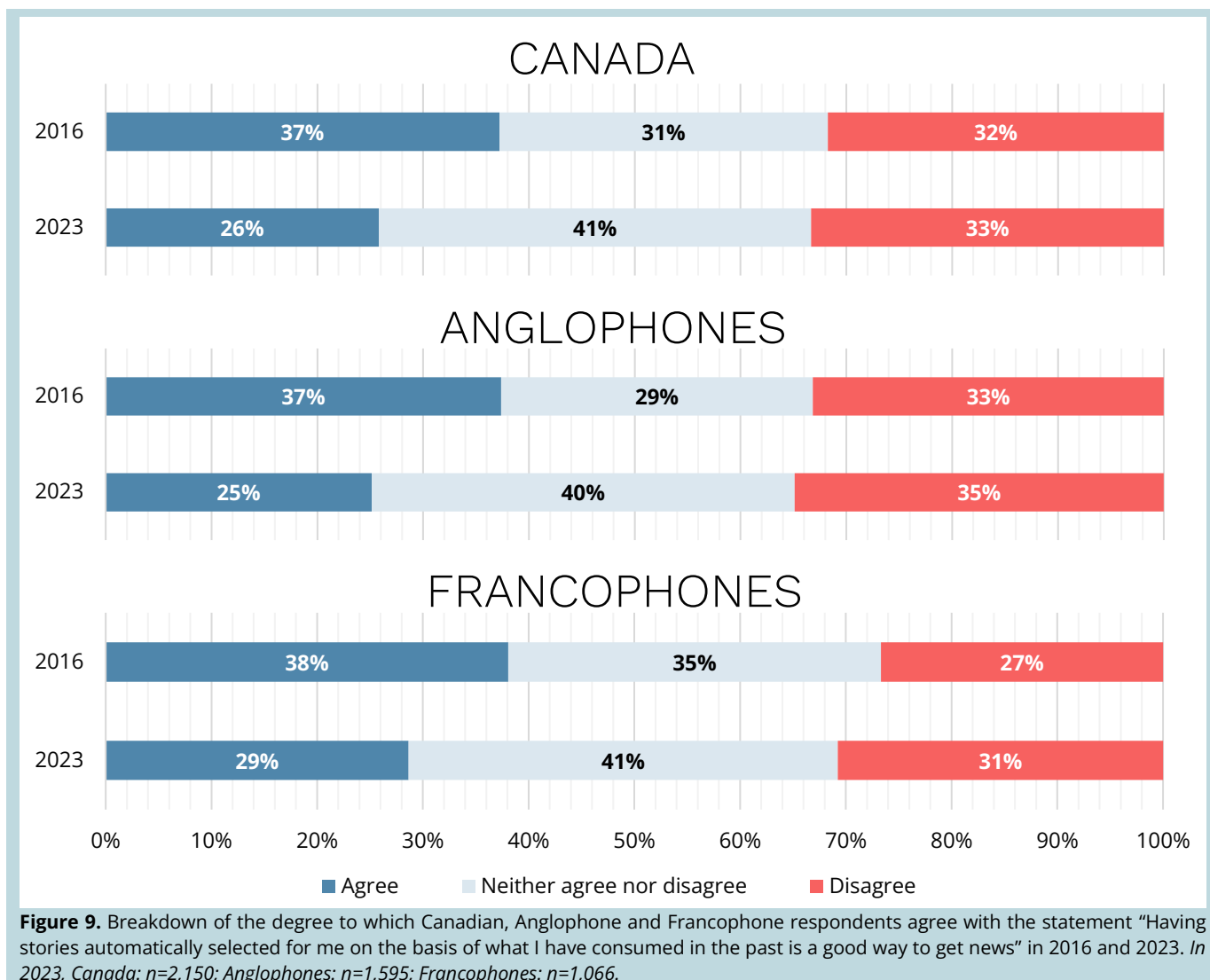
Figure 7. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who agree with various statements concerning the selection of news that reaches them. *Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; francophones: n=1,066.*

Even though a higher proportion of the population feels somewhat neutral about selection of news content by editors and journalists, the decrease in the share of respondents who approve of this method is notable (Figure 8). When Canadians are asked whether they agree with the statement “Having stories selected for me by editors and journalists is a good way to get news,” 20% agree, or 9 pp less than in 2016 (29%), while 36% disagree, for an increase of 3 pp.

Anglophones are more likely than Francophones (39% and 29%, respectively) to express their disagreement with this approach, which was already the case in 2016. But, if Francophones were more likely to think that selection by news professionals was a good idea in 2016 (37%) than they were to oppose it (27%), this is no longer the case: 26% support selection of news by journalists (-11 pp) versus 29% (+2 pp) who don't think it's a good idea.

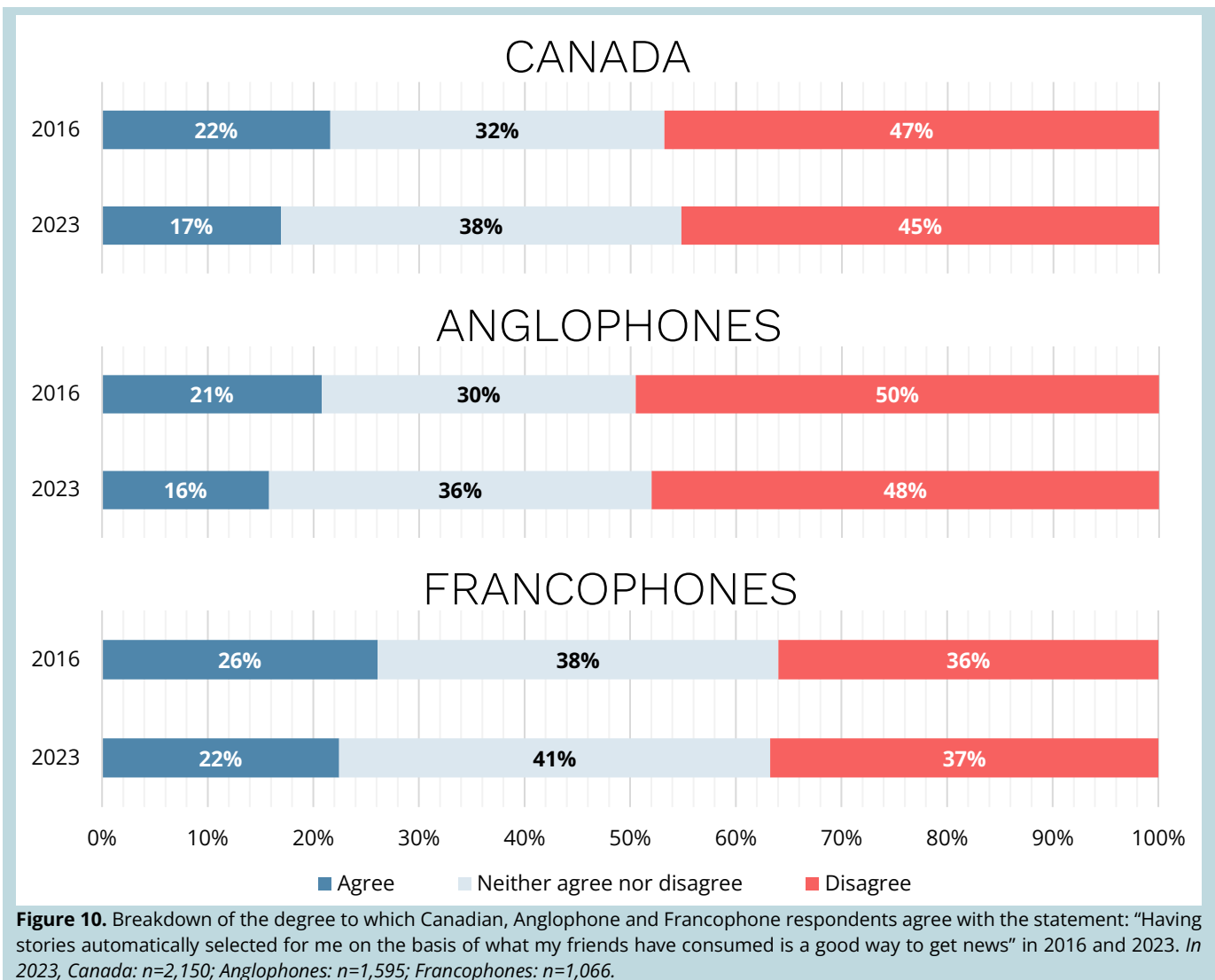


Agreement with access to news content on the basis of what was consumed in the past has also seen a significant drop. In 2016, 37% of Canadians thought it was a good way to get news while only 26% (-11 pp) thought so in 2023. This score dropped by 12 pp for Anglophones and 9 pp for Francophones. Canadian respondents (26% agree and 33% disagree) and Anglophone respondents (25% agree and 33% disagree) are now more inclined to disapprove of than to approve of this approach, while Francophones are more divided on the matter (29% agree and 31% disagree). It should be noted that “neither agree nor disagree” is still the most common option for both language groups (about 40%). In 2016, agreement with selection based on past consumption predominated.



In both 2016 and 2023, more than 40% of Canadians (47% in 2016 and 45% in 2023) and Anglophones (50% in 2016 and 48% in 2023) disagreed with the statement that automatic selection of news on the basis of what friends have consumed is a good way to get news. This makes it the most common opinion among these respondents. Francophones are even more divided, with the “disagree” option being chosen by slightly more than a third of respondents (36% in 2016 and 37% in 2023), while 41% say they “neither agree nor disagree.”

As for those who think selection of news on the basis of what friends have consumed is a good idea, they are slightly more numerous among Francophones (22%) than among Anglophones (16%) or the country as a whole (17%). All three cases involve decreases of about 5 pp in relation to 2016.



The above results show that Canadians have more ambivalent feelings about the use of algorithms for news selection than in 2016. Even so, they are less likely to be concerned about some of the potential consequences of algorithms on the content they receive.

For example, half of Canadians (49%) and Anglophones (52%) are worried about missing out on important news content because of algorithms. In 2016, 60% and 63%, respectively, expressed this sentiment, for a decrease of 11 pp in 2023. The majority of Francophone respondents (53%) said they were worried in 2016, which is no longer the case in 2023 (42%, also a decrease of 11 pp).

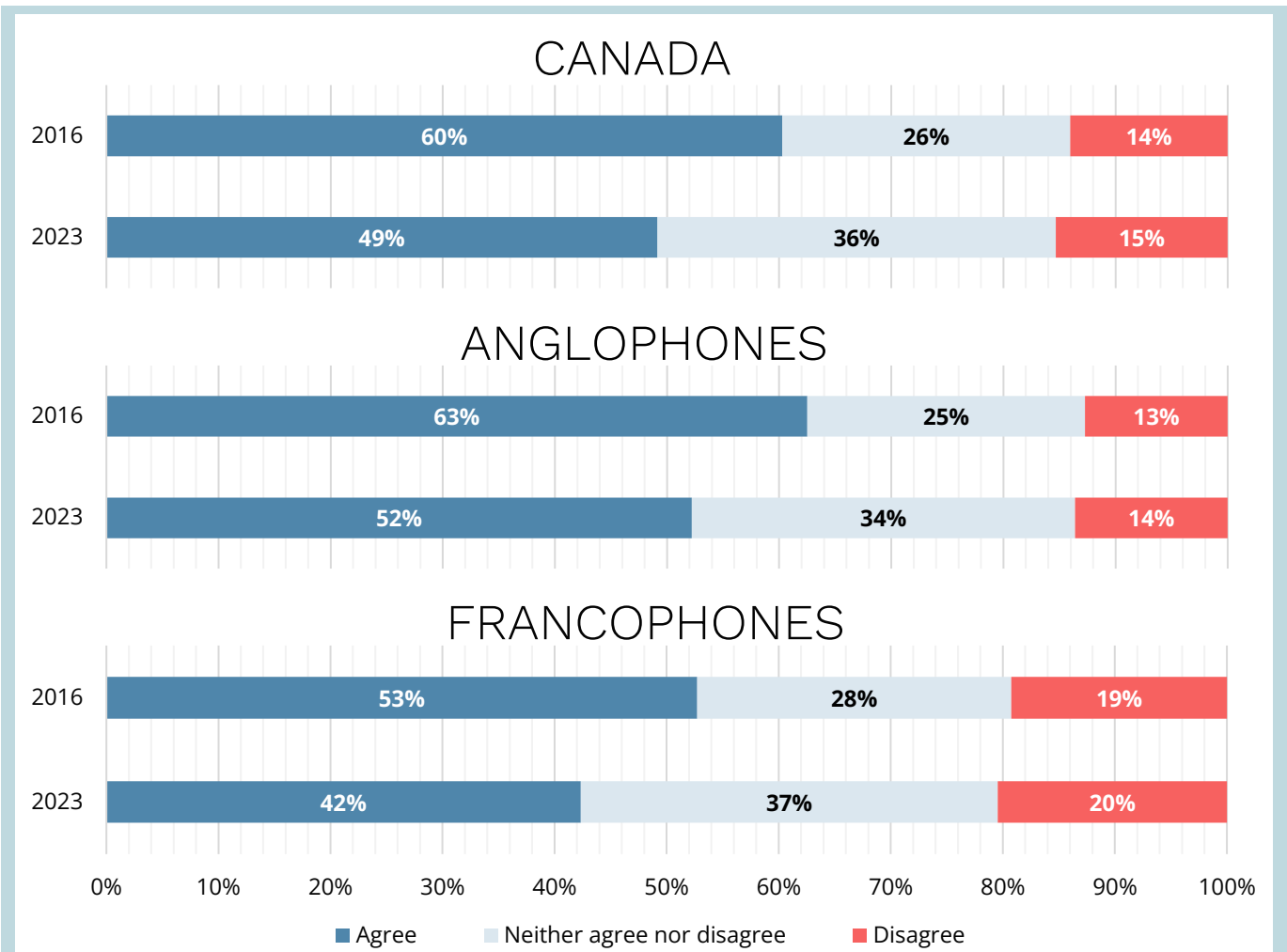
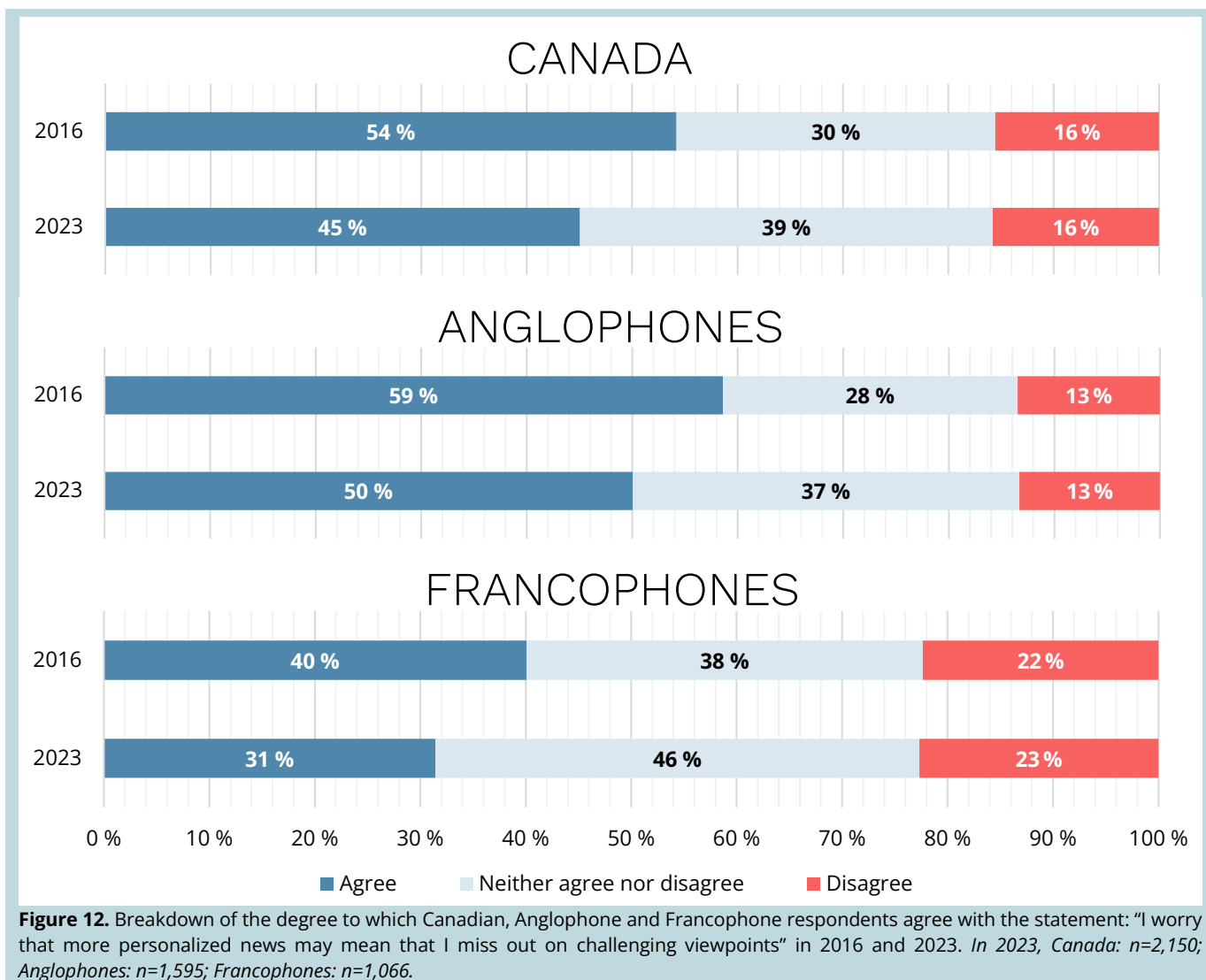


Figure 11. Breakdown of the degree to which Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents agree with the statement: “I worry that more personalized news may mean that I miss out on important information” in 2016 and 2023. *In 2023, Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; Francophones: n=1,066.*

Similarly, 45% of Canadians, half of Anglophones (50%) and about a third of Francophones (31%) are worried that algorithms will cause them to miss “challenging” viewpoints. In all cases, these are decreases of 9 pp in relation to 2016.



2.4 Criticism of the news media

The news media come in for considerable criticism, whether justified or not, with 42% of respondents across the country and the same proportion of Anglophones saying they see or hear criticism of journalists and the news media quite often or very often. At 45%, Francophones are slightly more likely to encounter such criticism quite often or very often. But, for all the groups, equal shares of participants say they encounter such criticism not very often or almost never.

The Canadian results are similar to those for Finland and Sweden, where 41% and 43% of respondents, respectively, regularly encounter criticism of journalists and the news media, but these levels are well below those of the United States (58%), France (55%) and the United Kingdom (53%). In contrast, smaller shares of respondents from Switzerland (34%), Germany (34%), Denmark (33%) and Japan (22%) frequently come across such criticism.

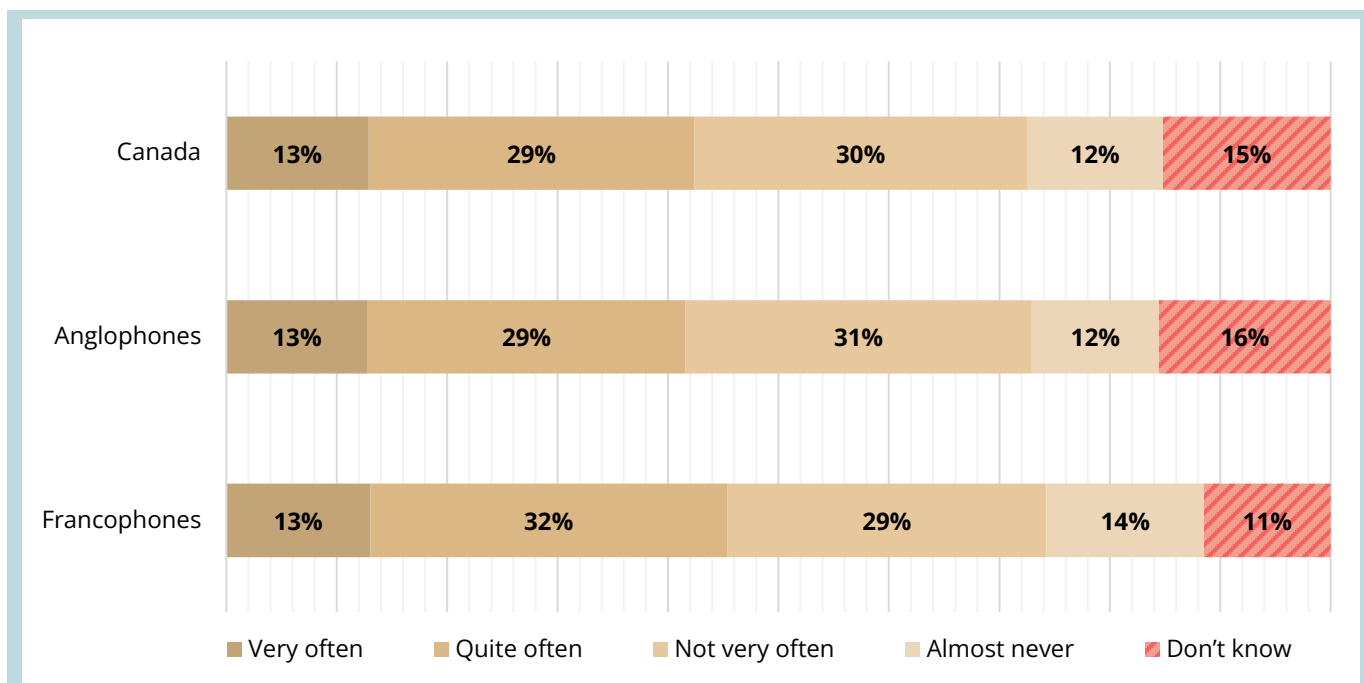


Figure 13. Breakdown of the answers by Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents to the question: “How often, if at all, do you see or hear people criticizing journalists or the news media in Canada?” *Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; Francophones: n=1,066.*

When those who had encountered criticism of the media¹⁵ in the previous year were asked where the criticism had come from, 40% of respondents said it came from people they don't know and almost the same share (39%) said politicians or political activists. Criticism from relatives and colleagues comes third (36%). Finally, about a quarter of those concerned reported criticism of the news media by celebrities, comedians and social media personalities (27%) or other journalists and news media (24%).

The results differ somewhat from one language group to another. In the previous year, Anglophones were slightly more likely to have seen or heard criticism from political figures (41%) than from ordinary people (39%). In contrast, Francophones were more likely to have heard or seen criticism of journalists and the media from people they don't know (43%), followed by criticism from colleagues and relatives (38%), criticism from celebrities (33%) and criticism from politicians or political activists (32%). Finally, Anglophones reported criticism by other journalists or news media organizations more than Francophones (26% versus 19%).

¹⁵ This group excludes those who answered “Almost never” or “Don't know” to the previous question.

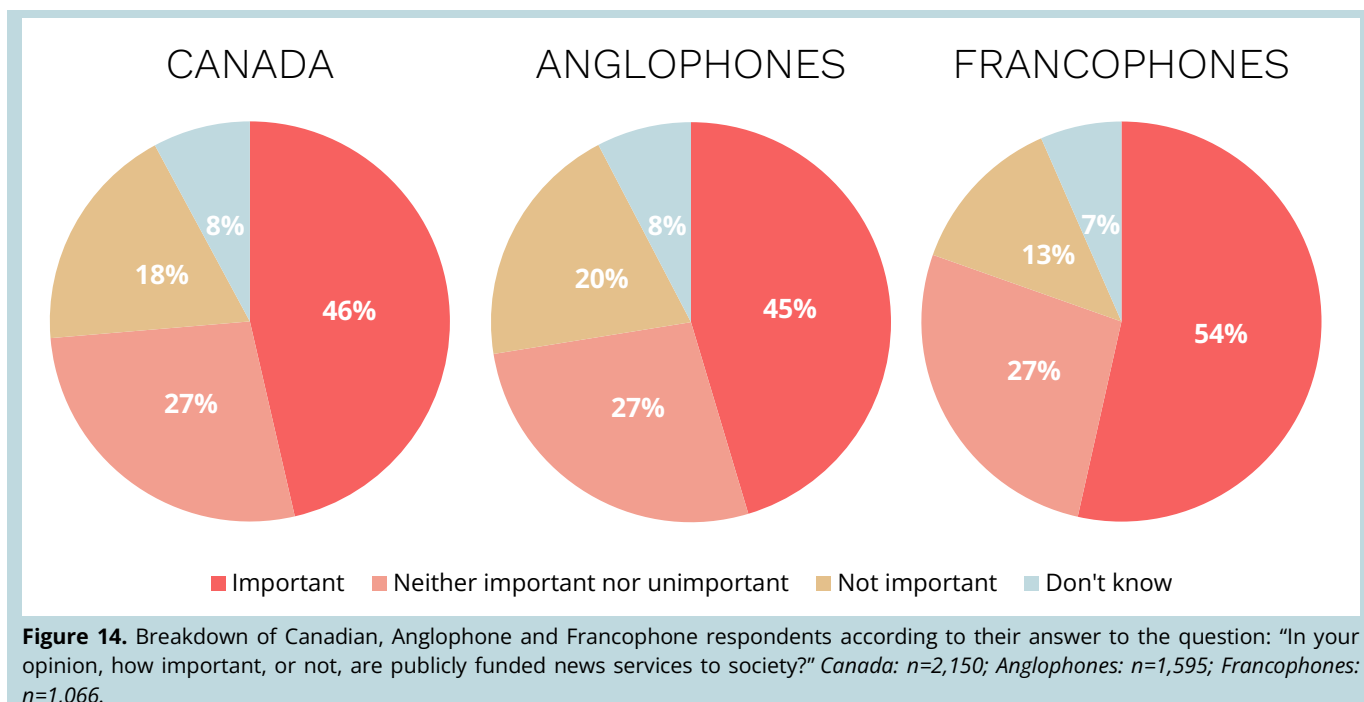
Sources of criticism seen or heard in the previous year	Canada	Anglophones	Francophones
Ordinary people who you don't know	40%	39%	43%
Politicians or political activists	39%	41%	32%
Colleagues, friends or family members	36%	36%	38%
Celebrities, comedians or social media personalities	27%	26%	33%
Other journalists or news media organizations	24%	26%	19%
None of these	12%	12%	10%
Don't know	13%	14%	9%

Table 9. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who said they had seen or heard criticism of journalists or news media from various categories of individuals in the previous year among those who saw or heard such criticism. *Base: Those who saw or heard criticism of journalists or news media. Canada: n=1,569; Anglophones: n=1,172; Francophones: n=791.*

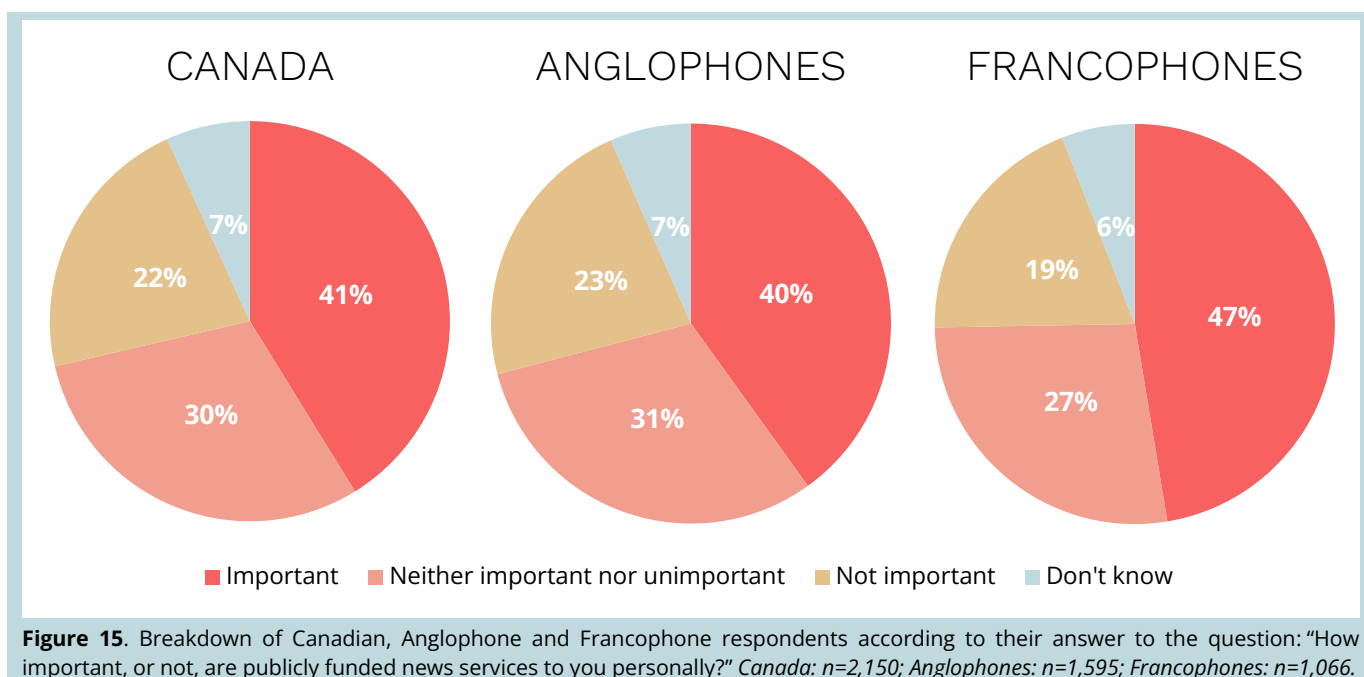
2.5 Publicly funded news services¹⁶

At a time when criticism is being levelled at the news media in Canada, the country has a national public broadcaster (CBC/Radio-Canada) that employs a large number of journalists, with most of its funding coming from parliamentary appropriations. It turns out that, for almost half (46%) of Canadians and a majority (54%) of Francophones, publicly funded news services are important to society. Although Anglophones (45%) are less likely than Francophones to think so, only 20% think such services are not important to society. For Canada as a whole and for Francophones in particular, this share is lower, at 18% and 13%, respectively. In all cases, 27% of respondents consider such services "neither important nor unimportant" to society, and about 8% (7% among Francophones) have no opinion on this issue.

¹⁶ A document on this subject is being prepared and will be published in the months to come.



Canadians are slightly more likely to think publicly funded newsrooms are important to society (46%) than they are to find them important to themselves (41%). Again, Francophones are more likely to find them important (47%) than Anglophones (40%). In contrast, 22% of Canadians, 23% of Anglophones and 19% of Francophones do not find these news services important to themselves personally, shares that are lower than for the in-between answer ("neither important nor unimportant"), chosen by 30% of Canadians, 31% of Anglophones and 27% of Francophones.



2.6 Online engagement

Even though misbehaviour on social media (insults, threats and bullying) or in news commentary sections often make headlines, for 41% of Canadians, reading news, posting comments on news or discussing news online is neither a positive nor a negative experience. In fact, respondents are more likely to find it a positive experience than they are to consider it a negative experience (25% versus 14%). This is true for both Anglophones and Francophones. Even so, Francophones are slightly more likely than Anglophones to consider the experience positive (28% versus 25%) or neither positive nor negative (45% versus 39%) and, therefore, are less likely to consider it negative (11% versus 15%).

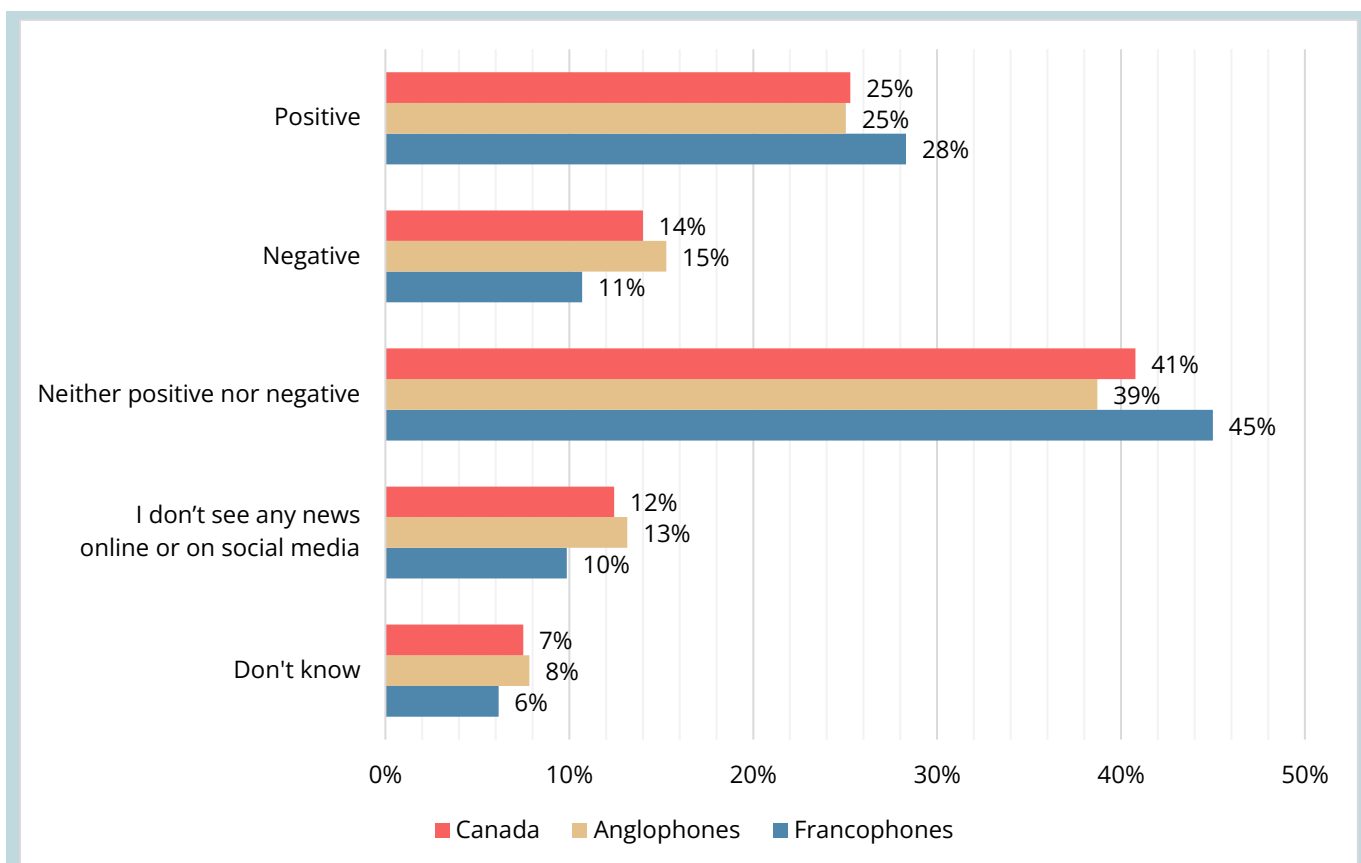
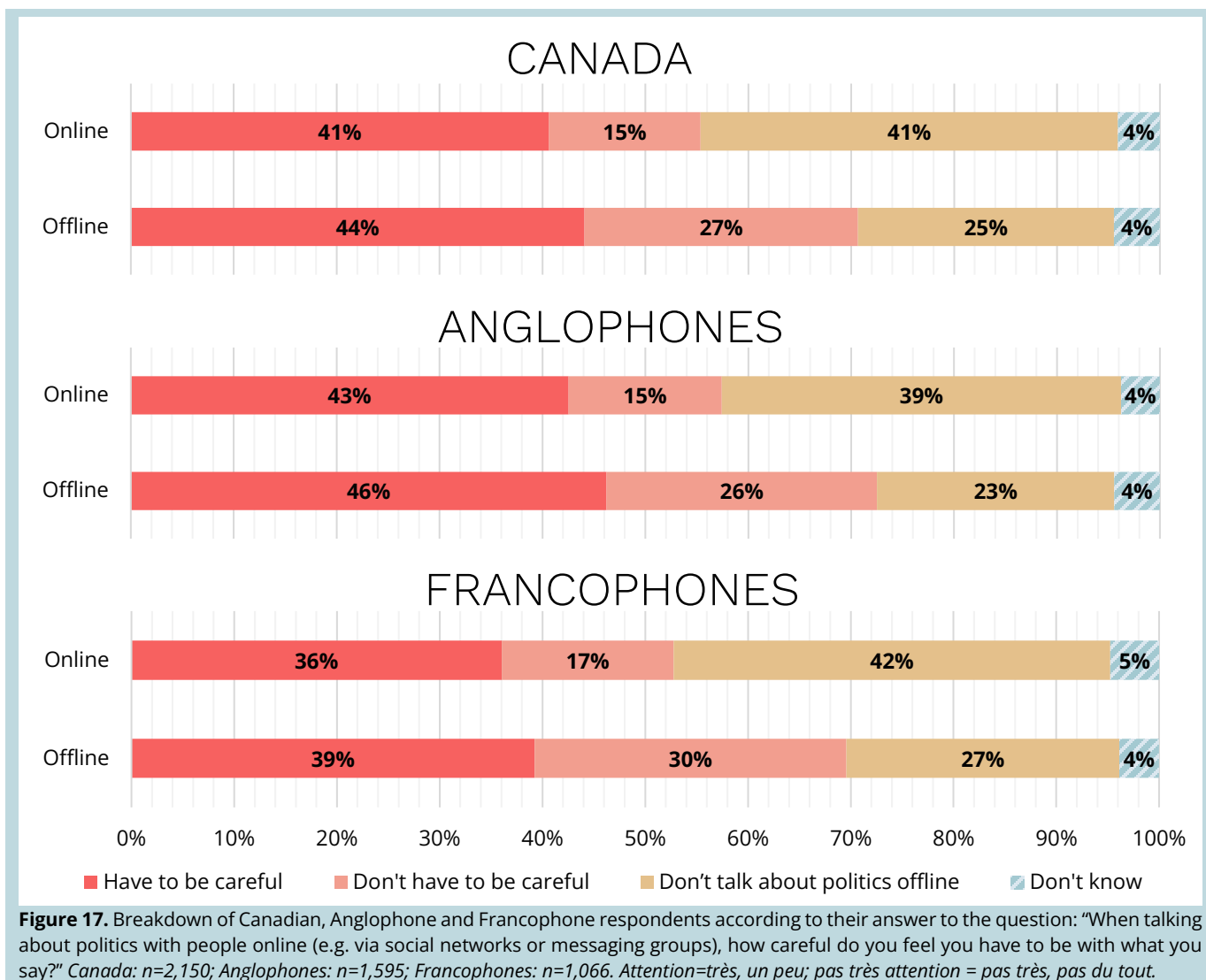


Figure 16. Breakdown of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents according to their answer to the question: “How positive or negative is your experience of engagement with news online or on social media (e.g., reading or posting comments, talking to people about news, etc.)?” Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; Francophones: n=1,066.

Talking about politics online seems to call for some caution, however. For instance, 41% of Canadians think they need to be careful (somewhat or very) about what they say when discussing politics online, and the same proportion simply don't talk about politics (Figure 17). Comparatively, Canadians are somewhat more likely to be careful when discussing politics offline (44%, or a difference of 3 pp), but also much less likely not to talk about politics at all (25%, or a difference of -16 pp). As a result, 27% of Canadians don't have to be careful when talking about politics offline, whereas, online, this is the case for only 15% of them, a difference of 12 pp.

Francophones are less likely to be careful when discussing politics online (36%) and offline (39%) than Anglophones (43% and 46%, respectively). In both cases, Francophones are also a little more likely not to have to be careful or not to talk about politics.



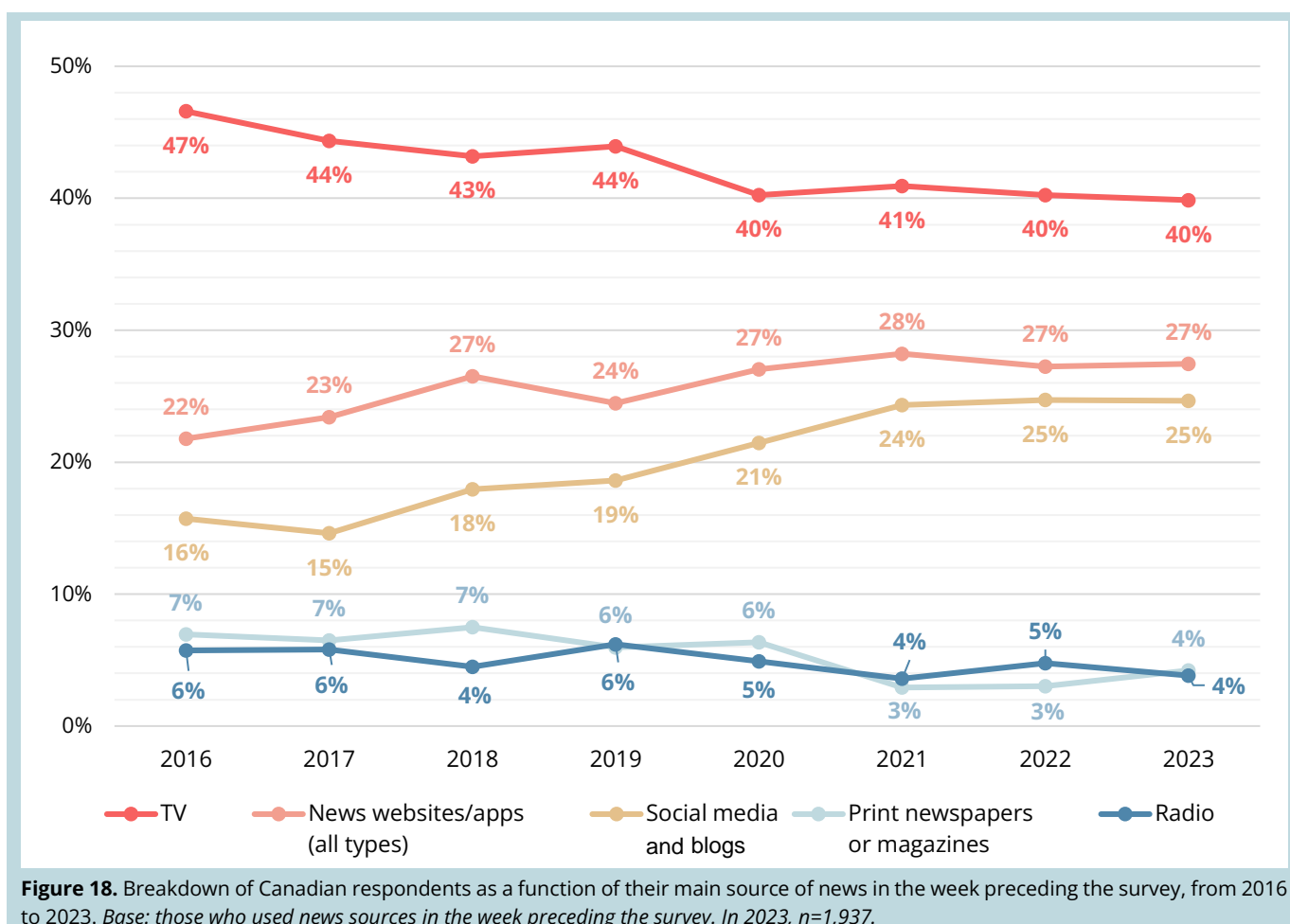
3. MEDIA AND DEVICES

3.1 News sources

The main news sources used by Canadians remained the same as in 2022. Television newscasts and news programs are still the main source of news for Canadians (40% of respondents). News websites and apps remain the second source in the country (27%), followed closely by social media (25%). The combination of the second and third sources (52%) shows that these sites and apps are cited more than traditional media (48%) as the main source of news.

Francophones continue to prefer televised news contents (48%) and, more generally, traditional media (56%). Conversely, while television programs and newscasts are also the main sources of news for

Anglophones (36%), the majority of Anglophones prefer news websites and apps and social media (29% and 27%, respectively, for a combined total of 56%).¹⁷

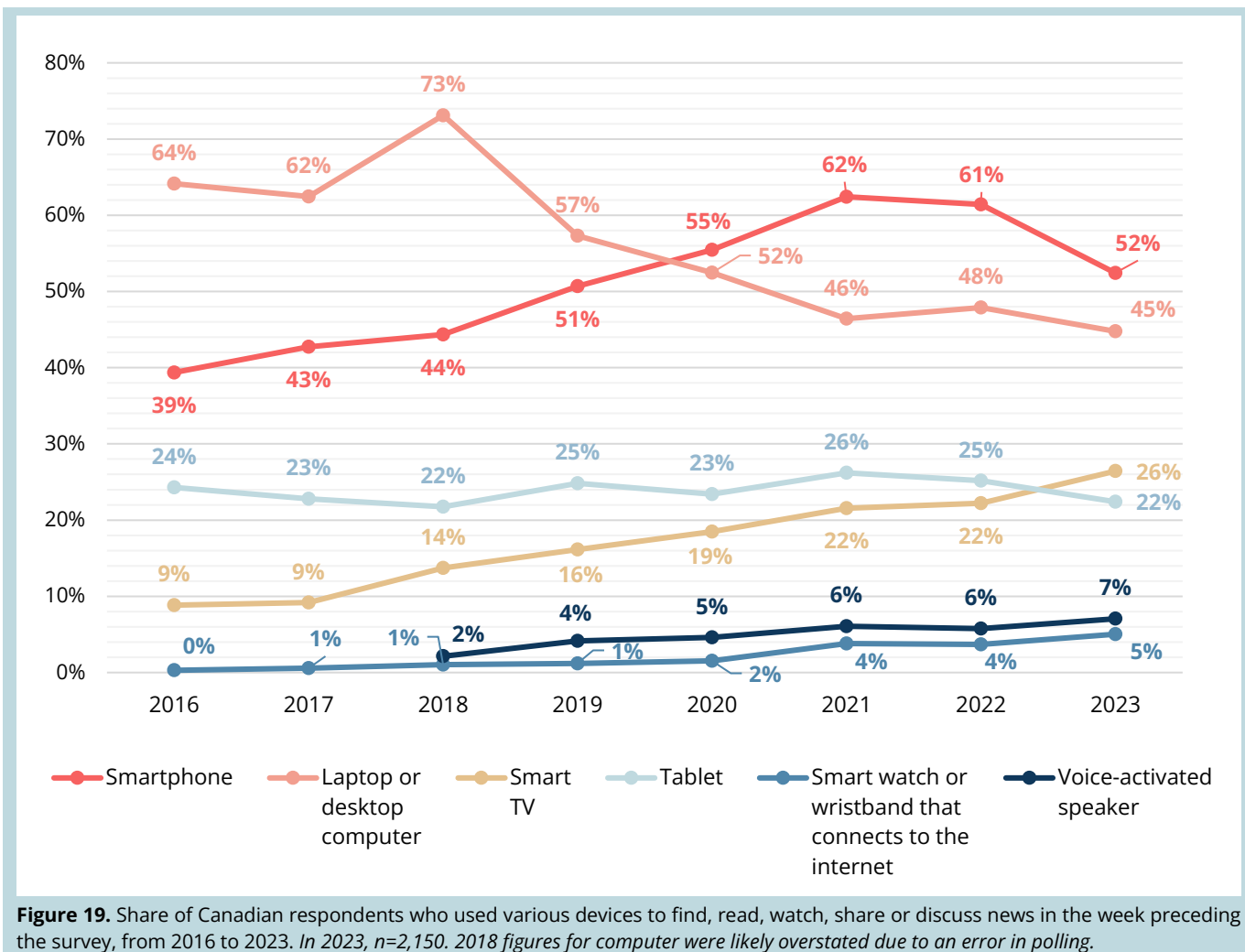


3.2 Devices used to obtain online news

Despite a 9 pp drop in 2023,¹⁸ smartphones are still the most popular device used by Canadians to access online news: 52% of respondents said they viewed news content on a smartphone in the week preceding the survey. The computer continues to decline in usage practices: with a share of 45%, it recorded its lowest result since data were first collected in Canada in 2016. This is a decrease of 3 pp in relation to 2022. For the first time, smart TV has replaced the tablet as the third-most-used device for viewing online news. It was used by 26% of respondents, an increase of 4 pp from 2022 and 17 pp since 2016. With a 22% share, the tablet is down 3 pp. Finally, although used by relatively few respondents, voice-activated speakers (7%) and smart watches and wristbands (5%) continue to grow slowly as news sources.

¹⁷ Breakdown of Anglophone and Francophone respondents by their main news source in the week preceding the 2023 survey. Base: those who consulted news in the week preceding the survey. Anglophones: n=1,421; Francophones: n=995.

¹⁸ Without providing a specific explanation for the decrease, we note that it appears consistent with the declining interest in news (section 1.4) and less interaction with news on social media (section 3.3).



3.3 Social media

The use of social media for news purposes declined sharply from 2022 to 2023, returning to 2019 levels. The main social media are on the decline, with the exception of Twitter, whose share is stagnant (11%) (Figure 20). In fact, 36% of respondents did not get news through social media in the week before the survey, up from a quarter (26%) of Canadians in 2022. Facebook remains the most-used social medium for this purpose despite a drop of 11 pp in 2023 in relation to 2022 (respectively 29% and 40%). It is followed by YouTube (25%, down 7 pp) as well as Twitter (11%) and Facebook Messenger (11%, down 7 pp). It should be noted that these declines do not always coincide with a lack of user interest in the various platforms: for example, Meta, Facebook's parent company, has openly stated its strategic interest in reducing its news content.

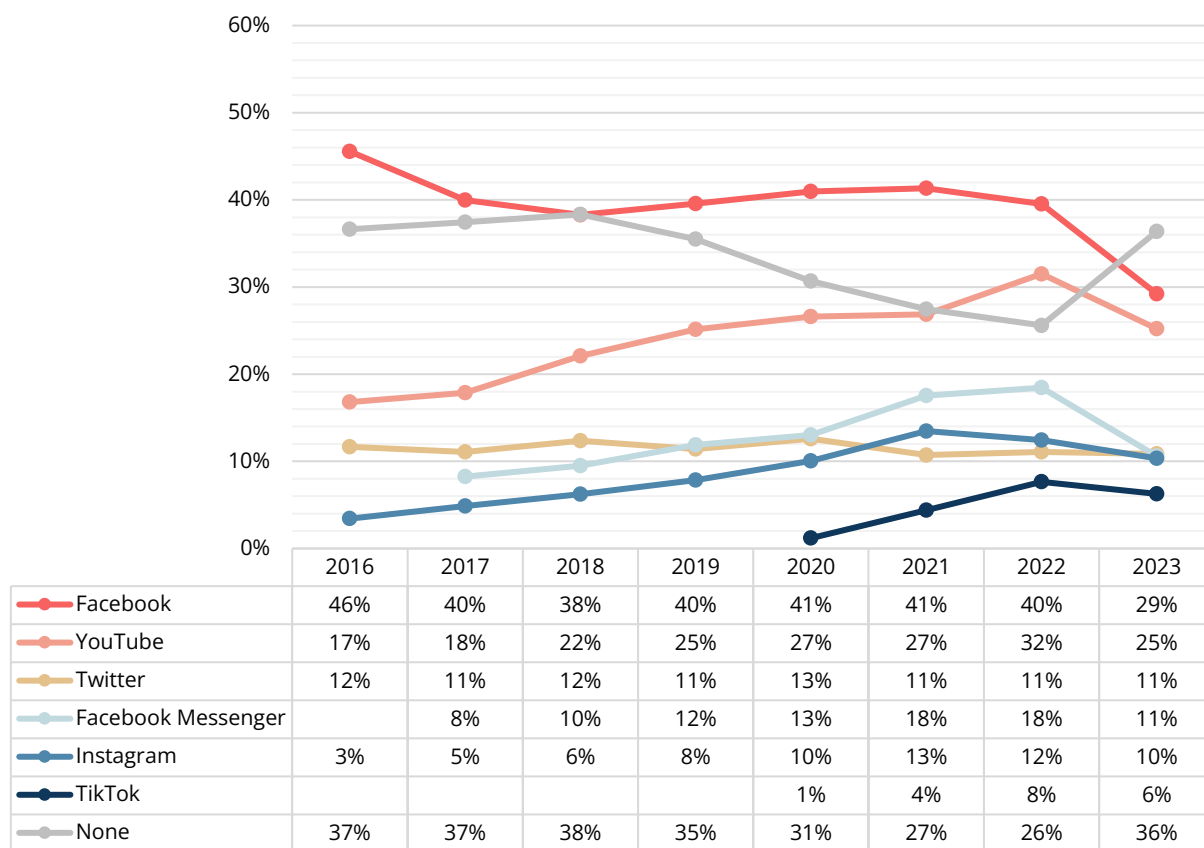


Figure 20. Share of Canadian respondents who used various social media to find, read, watch, share or discuss news in the week preceding the survey from 2016 to 2023. *In 2023, n=2,150.*

The decline in the use of social media to access news is more pronounced among Anglophones: 39% of them did not view or share news on social media in the week preceding the 2023 survey, an increase of 11 pp in relation to 2022 (Figure 21). Facebook use (24%) fell 10 pp and, for the first time in the Canadian survey, slipped into second place among the media used most often to interact with news, just behind YouTube (25%, down 5 pp from 2022). Facebook Messenger suffered a similar fate, falling 7 pp in 2023 in relation to 2022 (7% versus 14%). It has been overtaken by Twitter (12%) and Instagram (11%).

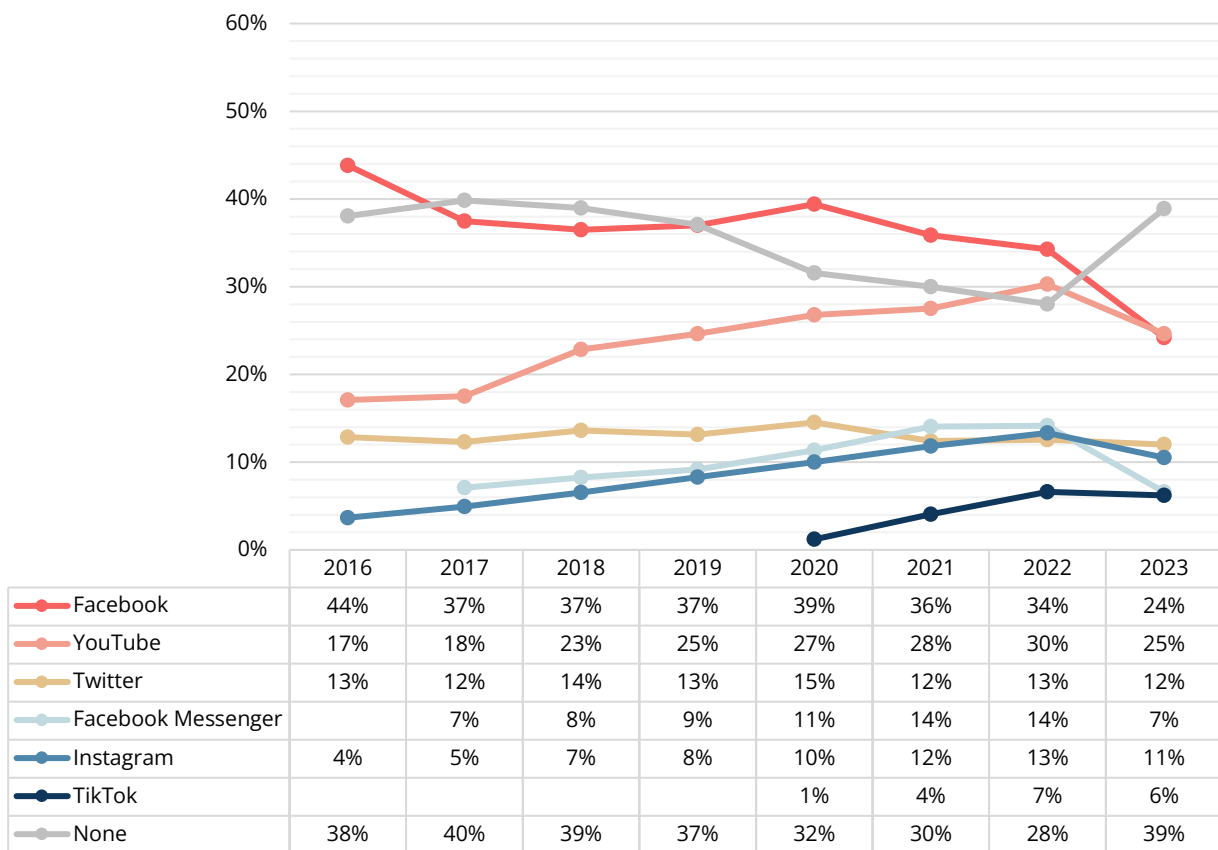


Figure 21. Share of Anglophone respondents in Canada who used various social media to find, read, watch, share or discuss news in the week preceding the survey, from 2016 to 2023. *In 2023, n=1,595.*

The decrease in the use of social media for news purposes is also noticeable among Francophones, but to a lesser extent. A quarter (25%) of them said they had not used social media for news in the week preceding the survey, an increase of 3 pp in relation to 2022 (22%) and a result similar to 2021 (Figure 22). Facebook is used for these purposes by 46% of Francophones, far ahead of the other social media: YouTube, in second place, is used by 29% of Francophones. Facebook Messenger is also used more for news by Francophones (22%) than by Anglophones (7%), as are, to a lesser degree, Instagram (13% and 11%, respectively) and TikTok (8% and 6%, respectively). On the contrary, Anglophones are twice as likely to get news via Twitter as are Francophones (12% versus 6%).

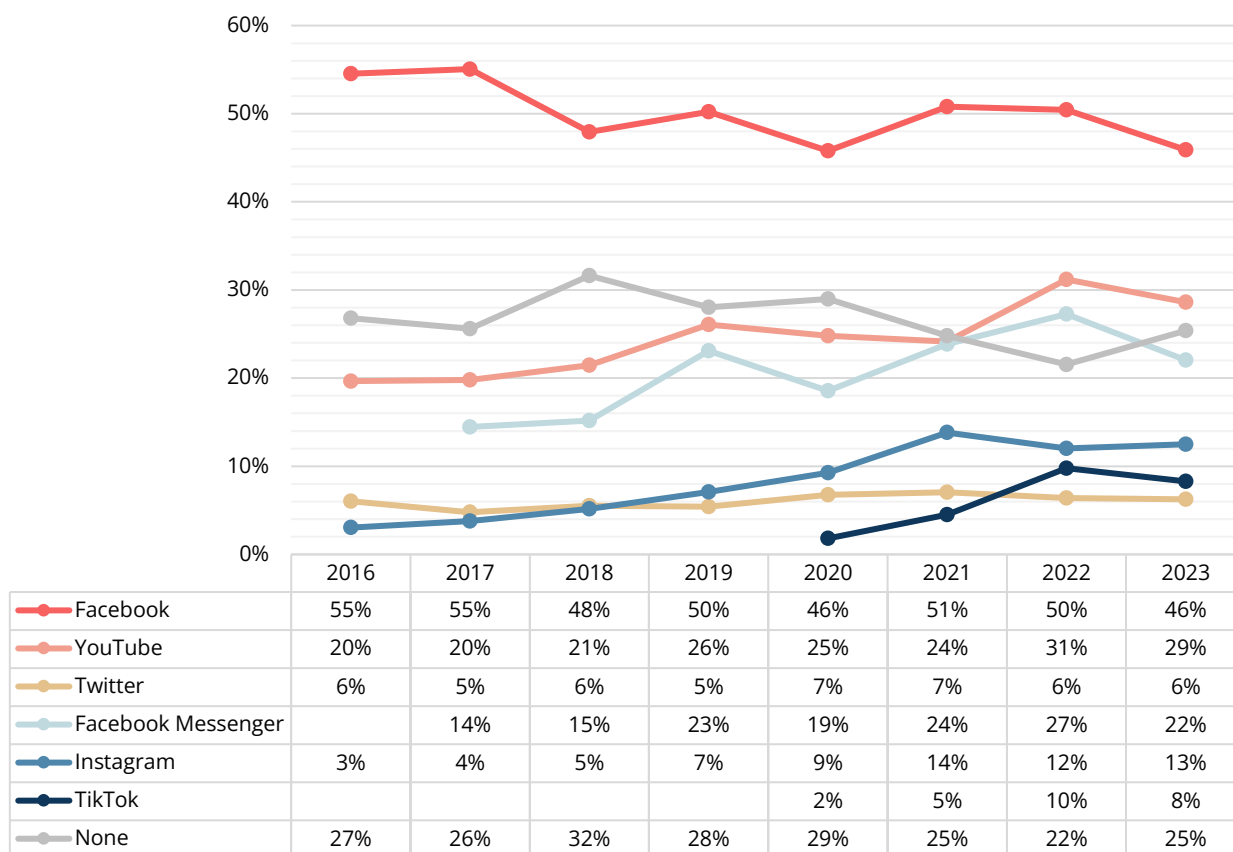


Figure 22. Share of Francophone respondents in Canada who used various social media to find, read, watch, share or discuss news in the week preceding the survey, from 2016 to 2023. *In 2023, n=1,066.*

The social media Canadians use for news differ by age group.¹⁹ Among those 18 to 34 years old, the use of Instagram (20% of Anglophones and 27% of Francophones) or TikTok (11% of Anglophones and 15% of Francophones) is significantly more popular than among older respondents (Table 10). That being said, Facebook is still the social media channel used most for news by Francophones, whether the youngest (39%) or the oldest (48%). Among Anglophones aged 18 to 34, Facebook (17%) ranks behind YouTube and Instagram (25% and 20%, respectively). Those 35 and older are still more likely not to have interacted with news on social media in the week preceding the survey. This is the case for 41% of Anglophones and 27% of Francophones, differences of 9 pp (32%) and 6 pp (21%), respectively, in relation to those aged 18 to 34.

¹⁹ For this summary, we selected only the nine social media channels most used in the country as sources of news.

Social media	Canada	Anglophones		Francophones	
	Total	18-34	35+	18-34	35+
Facebook	29%	17%	27%	39%	48%
YouTube	25%	25%	25%	28%	29%
Twitter	11%	15%	11%	8%	6%
Facebook Messenger	11%	5%	7%	16%	24%
Instagram	10%	20%	7%	27%	7%
TikTok	6%	11%	4%	15%	6%
WhatsApp	6%	8%	6%	5%	4%
Reddit	5%	10%	4%	4%	1%
LinkedIn	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%
None	36%	32%	41%	21%	27%

Table 10. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents, according to age group, who used various social media to find, read, watch, share or discuss news in the week preceding the survey. *Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=448 (18-34), n=1,147 (35+); Francophones: n=246 (18-34), n=820 (35+).*

3.4 Podcasts

The use of podcasts is also down, falling back to the 2020 and 2021 levels after seeing a significant increase in 2022. A third (33%) of Canadian respondents said they had listened to at least one podcast in the month before the 2023 survey. The decline is somewhat more pronounced for Anglophones, with a decrease of 5 pp in relation to 3 pp for Francophones, although Anglophones are still more likely than Francophones to listen to such content (36% and 26%, respectively).

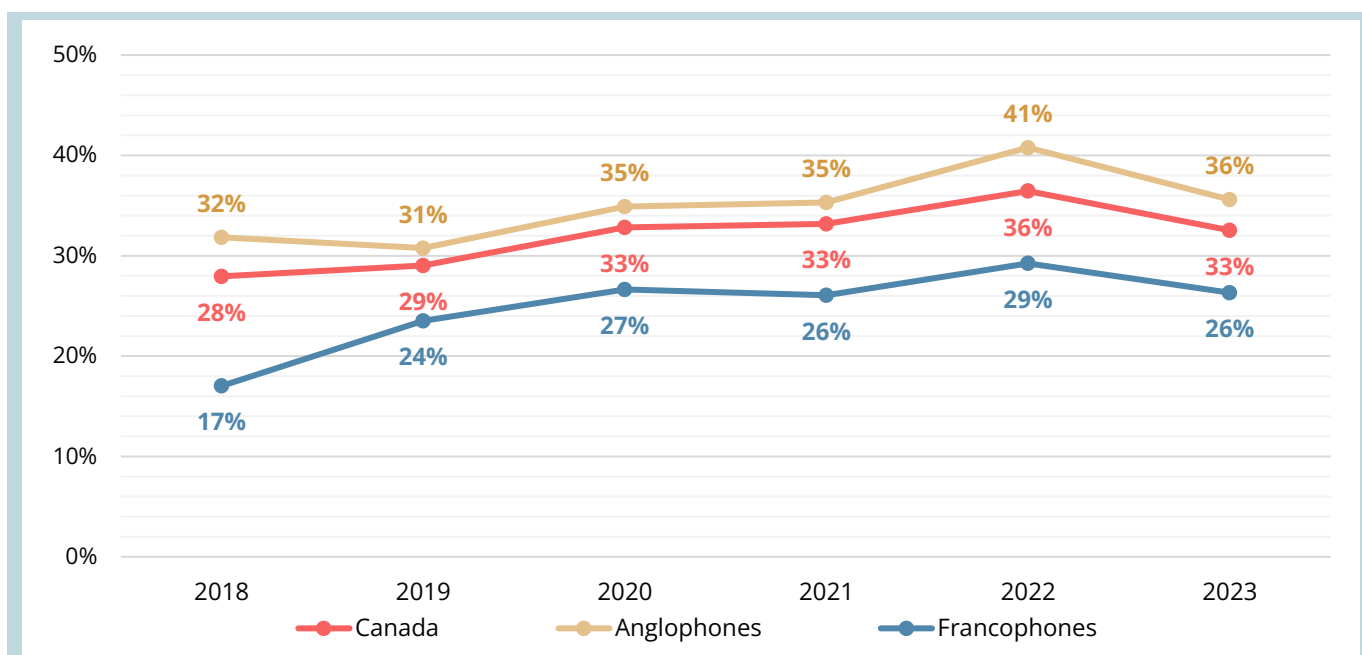


Figure 23. Shares of Canadian, Anglophone and Francophone respondents who listened to at least one podcast in the month preceding the survey, from 2018 to 2023. *Canada: n=2,150; Anglophones: n=1,595; Francophones: n=1,066.*

APPENDIX – WORDINGS

1. PAYMENT FOR AND INTEREST IN NEWS

Q7a

- Avez-vous payé pour accéder à un contenu de nouvelles EN LIGNE ou avez-vous accédé à un service payant de nouvelles EN LIGNE au cours de la dernière année? (Il peut s'agir d'un abonnement numérique, d'un abonnement pour une combinaison de format numérique et imprimé ou d'un paiement unique pour un article, un don, une application ou une édition en ligne).
- *Have you paid for ONLINE news content, or accessed a paid for ONLINE news service in the last year? (This could be a digital subscription, combined digital/print subscription, a donation, or one off payment for an article or app or e-edition).*

Q2_Pay_2023

- Toujours en ce qui concerne le fait de payer pour des nouvelles en ligne et plus précisément vos **abonnements** en cours **à des nouvelles en ligne**... Qu'avez-vous fait **l'an dernier**? Veuillez sélectionner toutes les propositions qui s'appliquent.
- *Still thinking about paying for online news... and thinking specifically about ongoing online news subscriptions... which, if any, of the following have you done in the last year?*

Q1_Finance_2023

- Dans quelle mesure avez-vous été touché(e) par les changements au coût de la vie (coût de l'énergie, du carburant, de l'alimentaire) l'an dernier ?
- *How much, if at all, have you been affected by changes to the cost of living (e.g., cost of energy, fuel, food) in the last year?*

Q2_Pay_2023_sub

- Toujours en ce qui concerne le fait de payer pour des nouvelles en ligne et plus précisément vos **abonnements** en cours **à des nouvelles en ligne**... Qu'avez-vous fait **l'an dernier**? Veuillez sélectionner toutes les propositions qui s'appliquent.
- *Still thinking about paying for online news... and thinking specifically about ongoing online news subscriptions... which, if any, of the following have you done in the last year?*

Q7ai_rb

- Vous avez indiqué avoir accédé à un contenu de nouvelles payant EN LIGNE au cours de la dernière année... Parmi les types de paiements suivants, quels sont ceux, le cas échéant, que vous avez effectués au cours de la dernière année pour accéder à des nouvelles EN LIGNE ?
- *You said you have accessed paid for ONLINE news content in the last year... Which, if any, of the following ways have you used to pay for ONLINE news content in the last year?*

Q1_Pay_2023

- Vous avez indiqué que vous avez payé pour accéder à des nouvelles en ligne l'an passé... Pour quelles raisons principales ? Veuillez sélectionner toutes les propositions qui s'appliquent.
- *You said that you have paid for access to online news in the last year... What are the most important reasons for this? Please select all that apply.*

Q4_Pay_2023

- Vous avez indiqué qu'actuellement, vous n'êtes pas abonné(e) et ne faites pas de don à un journal ou un autre service de nouvelles en ligne. Parmi les raisons suivantes, lesquelles vous inciteraient le plus à payer ? Veuillez sélectionner toutes les propositions qui s'appliquent.
- *You say you don't currently subscribe or donate to an online newspaper or other news service. Which of the following, if any, would most encourage you to pay?*

Q1c

- Dans quelle mesure, le cas échéant, êtes-vous intéressé(e) par les nouvelles ?
- *How interested, if at all, would you say you are in news?*

Q2_new2018

- Dans quelle mesure, le cas échéant, vous intéressez-vous à la politique ?
- *How interested, if at all, would you say you are in politics?*

Q1di_2017

- Vous est-il arrivé ces derniers temps d'essayer activement d'éviter les nouvelles ?
- *Do you find yourself actively trying to avoid news these days?*

Avoidance_behaviours_2023

- Vous avez indiqué que vous essayez d'éviter les nouvelles. Parmi les mesures suivantes, lesquelles prenez-vous ? Veuillez sélectionner toutes les propositions qui s'appliquent.
- *You said that you try to actively avoid news. Which of the following, if any, do you do? Please select all that apply.*

Avoidance_topics_2023

- Vous avez indiqué que vous essayez d'éviter certains sujets d'actualité précis. Parmi les sujets suivants, lesquels essayez-vous d'éviter ? Veuillez sélectionner toutes les propositions qui s'appliquent.
- *You said that you try to actively avoid specific news topics. Which of the following news topics are you trying to avoid? Please select all that apply.*

News_Interest_2023

- Dans quelle mesure les types d'actualité suivants vous intéressent-ils ?
- *How interested are you, if at all, in the following types of news?*

2. TRUST AND THE ONLINE EXPERIENCE

Q6_2016_1

- Je pense qu'on peut faire confiance à la plupart des informations la plupart du temps
- *I think you can trust most news most of the time*

Q6_2016_2

- Je pense pouvoir faire confiance à la plupart des informations que je consulte la plupart du temps
- *I think I can trust most of the news I consume most of the time*

Q_Fake_News_1

- Veuillez indiquer votre degré d'accord avec la déclaration suivante. « En ce qui concerne les nouvelles en ligne, je suis préoccupé(e) par la possibilité de démêler le vrai du faux sur Internet. »
- *Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement. "Thinking about online news, I am concerned about what is real and what is fake on the internet."*

Q10D_2016a_1

- Sachant cela, veuillez indiquer dans quelle mesure vous êtes d'accord avec les affirmations suivantes: Le fait que les sujets soient sélectionnés pour moi par des éditeurs et des journalistes est une bonne façon d'accéder aux nouvelles.
- *With this in mind, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: Having _stories selected for me by editors and journalists_ is a good way to get news.*

Q10D_2016a_2

- Sachant cela, veuillez indiquer dans quelle mesure vous êtes d'accord avec les affirmations suivantes: Le fait que les sujets soient automatiquement sélectionnés pour moi sur la base de ce que j'ai consommé par le passé est une bonne façon d'accéder aux nouvelles.
- *Having stories _automatically selected for me on the basis of what I have consumed in the past_ is a good way to get news.*

Q10D_2016a_3

- Sachant cela, veuillez indiquer dans quelle mesure vous êtes d'accord avec les affirmations suivantes: Le fait que les sujets soient automatiquement sélectionnés pour moi sur la base de ce que mes amis ont consommé est une bonne façon d'accéder aux nouvelles.
- *Having stories _automatically selected for me on the basis of what my friends have consumed_ is a good way to get news.*

Q10D_2016b_1

- En pensant à présent aux nouvelles plus personnalisées, veuillez indiquer dans quelle mesure vous êtes d'accord avec les affirmations suivantes: J'ai peur que le fait d'avoir des nouvelles plus personnalisées me fasse rater une information importante.
- *Now when thinking about more personalised news, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: I worry that more personalised news may mean that I miss out on important information.*

Q10D_2016b_2

- En pensant à présent aux nouvelles plus personnalisées, veuillez indiquer dans quelle mesure vous êtes d'accord avec les affirmations suivantes: J'ai peur que le fait d'avoir des nouvelles plus personnalisées me fasse rater des points de vue provocateurs.
- *Now when thinking about more personalised news, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: I worry that more personalised news may mean that I miss out on challenging viewpoints.*

Q1_Criticism_2023

- À quelle fréquence voyez-vous ou entendez-vous des gens critiquer les journalistes ou les médias d'actualité ?
→ *How often, if at all, do you see or hear people criticising journalists or the news media?*

Q2_Criticism_2023

- Parmi les groupes de personnes suivants, lesquels avez-vous vus ou entendu critiquer des journalistes ou des médias d'actualité l'an dernier ? Veuillez sélectionner toutes les propositions qui s'appliquent.
→ *Which of the following, if any, have you seen or heard criticising journalists or the news media in the last year? Please select all that apply.*

Q1_PSM_2023g_1

- Dans quelle mesure les services de nouvelles financés par l'État tels que CBC News/Radio-Canada sont-ils importants pour vous personnellement ?
→ *How important, or not, are publicly funded news services such as [...] to you personally ?*

Q2_PSM_2023g_2

- Selon vous, dans quelle mesure les services de nouvelles financés par l'État tels que CBC News/Radio-Canada sont-ils importants pour la société ?
→ *In your opinion, how important, or not, are publicly funded news services such as [...] to society ?*

Q1_Participation_2023

- Dans quelle mesure votre expérience d'engagement avec les nouvelles en ligne ou sur les réseaux sociaux (p. ex., lire ou publier des commentaires, parler des nouvelles avec d'autres personnes, etc.) est-elle positive ou négative ?
→ *How positive or negative is your experience of engagement with news online or on social media (e.g., reading or posting comments, talking to people about news, etc.)?*

Q2_Participation_2023

- Lorsque vous discutez de politique en ligne (p. ex., sur des réseaux sociaux ou des groupes de messagerie), jusqu'à quel point pensez-vous devoir faire attention à ce que vous dites ?
→ *When talking about politics with people online (e.g., via social networks or messaging groups), how careful do you feel you have to be with what you say?*

Q3_Participation_2023

- Lorsque vous discutez de politique hors ligne (p. ex., en personne, au téléphone), jusqu'à quel point pensez-vous devoir faire attention à ce que vous dites ?
→ *When talking about politics with people offline (e.g., face to face, on the phone), how careful do you feel you have to be with what you say?*

3. MEDIA AND DEVICES

Q4

- Vous avez indiqué avoir utilisé ces sources d'information au cours de la semaine passée, mais quelle est pour vous la source PRINCIPALE pour les nouvelles ?
→ *You say you've used these sources of news in the last week, which would you say is your MAIN source of news?*

Q8B_2023

- Parmi les appareils suivants, quels sont ceux, le cas échéant, que vous avez utilisés au cours de la semaine passée pour consulter les nouvelles ? Veuillez sélectionner toutes les réponses qui s'appliquent.
→ *Which, if any, of the following devices have you used to access news in the last week ? Please select all that apply.*

Q12B

- Parmi les sites (ou applications) suivants, quels sont ceux, le cas échéant, que vous avez utilisés au cours de la semaine passée pour trouver, lire, regarder, partager des nouvelles ou en discuter ? Veuillez sélectionner toutes les réponses qui s'appliquent.
→ *Which, if any, of the following have you used for finding, reading, watching, sharing or discussing news in the last week ? Please select all that apply.*

Q11F_2018

- Un balado est une série épisodique de fichiers audio numériques que vous pouvez télécharger, auquel vous pouvez vous abonner, ou que vous pouvez écouter. Quels types de balados parmi la liste suivante avez-vous écoutés au cours du mois dernier ? Veuillez choisir toutes les réponses qui s'appliquent.
→ *A podcast is an episodic series of digital audio files, which you can download, subscribe or listen to. Which of the following types of podcast have you listened to in the last month? Please select all that apply.*