

Canadian Policy Agendas Data: Most Important Problem

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This pdf file accompanies the following dataset:

Soroka, Stuart N. 2005. *Most Important Problem Dataset, 1987-1999*.

The data includes aggregate figures for the 'Most Important Problem' question, asked in the Environics Focus Canada quarterly omnibus surveys. The data are categorized using the Policy Agendas major topics coding scheme, which follows.

Aggregate data are presenting first for all respondents (variables labelled "MIP-total"), and then by partisanship, based on vote intentions.

These data were used in the following paper:

Stuart Soroka, Erin Penner and Kelly Blidook. 2006. "Legislative Priorities and Public Opinion: The Representation of Partisan Agendas in the Canadian House of Commons," *Journal of European Public Policy*.

Any questions about these data can be sent to Stuart Soroka at McGill University.

Canadian Policy Agendas Major Topic Codes

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These codes are based on coding schemes developed by Frank Baumgartner (Penn State) and Bryan Jones (Washington), and available through the Policy Agendas Project at the University of Texas, Austin. Examples of topics have been changed to reflect the Canadian context, and entirely new codes have been denoted with asterisks.

For a complete description of the Canadian Policy Agendas codes, see the codebook for the Oral Questions dataset.

Major Topic Codes

1. Macroeconomics
2. Civil Rights, Minority Issues, and Multiculturalism*
3. Health
4. Agriculture & Forestry*
5. Labour, Employment, and Immigration
6. Education
7. Environment
8. Energy
- 9*. Fisheries
10. Transportation
12. Law, Crime, and Family Issues
13. Social Welfare
14. Community Development and Housing Issues
15. Banking, Finance, and Domestic Commerce
16. Defence
17. Space, Science, Technology and Communications
18. Foreign Trade
19. International Affairs and Foreign Aid
20. Government Operations
21. Public Lands and Water Management
23. Culture and Entertainment
24. Provincial and Local Govt Administration
- 25*. Intergovernmental Relations & Trade
- 26*. Constitutional and National Unity Issues
- 27*. Native Affairs