

SUBJECT: **Public views on Canadians serving in Foreign Militaries**

DATE: **April 10, 2026**

METHODOLOGY

The following memorandum provides an overview of key findings from an online survey conducted by Pollara Strategic Insights amongst a randomly selected, representative sample of **N=1,538 adult Canadians**. The survey was in field from **April 8 to April 10, 2026** amongst members of the Sago online research panel. The dataset was statistically weighted according to most current Census statistics for the following demographic characteristics of the Canadian population: gender identity, age, and regional distribution. A probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of **±2.5%**, 19 times out of 20. Sub-segments of the total sample carry higher margins of error.

KEY FINDINGS

- **On a top-of-mind basis, a plurality (40%) of Canadians feel that it should be illegal for Canadian citizens to serve in foreign militaries**, but an equally sizeable proportion (39%) are uncertain of their opinion on this matter – suggesting that it is an issue with low salience and weakly-held views, overall.
 - When considering specific foreign militaries, slim majorities feel service in the Israeli (56%) and US (52%) militaries should be illegal, whereas a plurality (45%) feels the same about Canadians serving in the Ukrainian military.
- **Once Canadians are exposed to the dual citizenship and legal context related to this issue, public opinion notably shifts – with a plurality (40%; +19) of the public feeling that foreign military service should be legal**, whereas a third (32%; -8) feel it should be illegal. More than a quarter remain unsure of their stance.
 - When considering specific foreign militaries after exposure to this information, preferences for illegality decline and the public emerges divided over Canadians serving in the US and Ukrainian militaries. The proportion who feel that service in the Israeli military should be illegal is reduced from a majority to a plurality.
- **When specifically considering dual citizens, just over half (51%) of the public feels that it should be legal for Canadian citizens who hold citizenship in another country to serve in that other country's military** – about half that proportion (23%) feel it should be illegal. Just over a quarter remain unsure.
 - When considering specific foreign militaries, a slim majority (52%) feel it should be legal for Canadian citizens who are also citizens of Ukraine to serve in the Ukrainian military. A 49% plurality feel it should be legal for Canadian citizens who are also US citizens to serve in the US military, and a moderately smaller plurality (45%) feel the same about Canadian-Israeli dual citizens serving in the Israeli military.
- While there are some directional differences by gender and age — with men and younger Canadians somewhat more open to legality — these differences are

generally modest and often fall within margins of error. Regional variation is limited, with no evidence of a pronounced provincial or regional divide. Across all demographic groups, opinions move in the same direction once the dual citizenship and legal context is provided, suggesting that attitudes on this particular issue are shaped more by information than by fixed demographic or geographic cleavages.

TOP-OF-MIND VIEWS

- **When asked on a top-of-mind basis - without any information provided** – whether it should be legal or illegal for Canadian citizens to serve in the militaries of foreign governments, **a plurality (40%) of Canadians feel it should be illegal**, compared to about half this proportion (21%) who feel it should be legal.
 - Notably, 39% are unsure of their opinion on this matter. When we examine only those who hold an opinion (by re-calculating the results to exclude those saying they are unsure), the proportion who feel foreign military service should be illegal is 66%.

TOP-OF-MIND VIEWS ON CANADIANS IN FOREIGN MILITARIES: BEFORE INFORMATION					
Scenario	Legal	Illegal	Don't Know	Legal (amongst those with opinion)	Illegal (amongst those with opinion)
Generally	21%	40%	39%	34%	66%
United States	18%	52%	29%	26%	74%
Ukrainian	21%	45%	34%	32%	68%
Israeli	15%	56%	30%	21%	79%

- Views vary to a moderate degree when the public is asked about Canadians serving in specific foreign militaries, with slim majorities feeling it should be illegal for Canadian citizens to serve in the US (52%) and Israeli (56%) militaries and just under half (45%) feeling the same when it comes to the Ukrainian military.
 - Between three-in-ten and a third of Canadians are unsure of their opinion when asked about these specific militaries who are currently in combat. When we examine only those who hold an opinion, two-thirds to eight-in-ten feel service in these foreign militaries should be illegal.

INFORMED VIEWS

As you may know, Canadian citizens are legally allowed to hold citizenship in more than one country. This is sometimes called “dual citizenship”, but there is no limit under Canadian law to the number of countries.

Dual citizens may want to serve in the militaries of the other countries of which they are citizens, or – in some cases – may be required by these countries to do so, in order to maintain that citizenship.

And, Canadian citizens are legally allowed to serve in official, foreign government militaries as long as those countries are not at war with a “friendly” state (to Canada).

- **Following our top-of-mind question, Pollara provided the above related information about dual citizens and re-asked the legality question** to determine if this dimension of the debate influenced public opinion. **After exposure to this information, the plurality switches: a plurality (40%; +19) of the public now feels that foreign military service should be legal**, whereas a third (32%; -8) feel it should be illegal.
 - Almost three-in-ten (28%; -11) remain unsure of their opinion. When we examine only those who hold an opinion, the proportion who feel foreign military service should be legal is 56%.

VIEWS ON CANADIANS IN FOREIGN MILITARIES: AFTER INFORMATION					
Scenario	Legal	Illegal	Don't Know	Legal (amongst those with opinion)	Illegal (amongst those with opinion)
Generally	40%	32%	28%	56%	44%
United States	35%	39%	26%	47%	53%
Ukrainian	38%	35%	27%	52%	48%
Israeli	29%	43%	28%	40%	60%

- When asked about specific foreign militaries after exposure to the above information, preferences for illegality decline and the public emerges divided over Canadians serving in the US (39% illegal vs. 35% legal) and Ukrainian (38% legal vs. 35% illegal) militaries. The proportion who feel that service in the Israeli military should be illegal is reduced from a majority to a plurality (43%; -13).
 - Just over a quarter are unsure of their opinion when asked about these specific militaries. When we examine only those who hold an opinion, a slim majority (53%) feel service in the US military should be illegal and six-in-ten (60%) feel the same about service in the Israeli military. A slim majority (52%) of those with an opinion feel service in the Ukrainian military should be legal.

INFORMED VIEWS: DUAL CITIZENS

- **Finally, after exposure to the information, we also re-asked the legality question specifically about Canadian citizens who are also citizens of other countries** – rather than all Canadian citizens. Generally speaking, **just over half (51%) of the public feels that it should be legal for Canadian citizens who hold citizenship in another country to serve in that other country’s military** – about half that proportion (23%) feel it should be illegal.
- Just over a quarter (27%) are unsure of their opinion. When we examine only those who hold an opinion, the proportion who feel foreign military service for dual citizens should be legal is 69%.

VIEWS ON DUAL-CITIZEN CANADIANS IN FOREIGN MILITARIES: AFTER INFORMATION					
Scenario	Legal	Illegal	Don't Know	Legal (amongst those with opinion)	Illegal (amongst those with opinion)
Generally	51%	23%	27%	69%	31%
United States	49%	26%	25%	65%	35%
Ukrainian	52%	23%	26%	69%	31%
Israeli	45%	30%	25%	60%	40%

- When asked about specific foreign militaries, a slim majority (52%) feel it should be legal for Canadian citizens who are also citizens of Ukraine to serve in the Ukrainian military. A 49% plurality feel it should be legal for Canadian citizens who are also US citizens to serve in the US military, and a moderately smaller plurality (45%) feel the same about Canadian-Israeli dual citizens serving in the Israeli military.
- About a quarter are unsure of their opinions on these matters. When we examine only those who hold an opinion, the proportion who feel service in specific foreign militaries should be legal ranges from 60% to 69%.