

Survey Sponsor:
BC Federation of Labour.

Organization that Conducted the Survey:
Research Co.

Dates:
August 18 to August 21, 2021.

Population:
British Columbia.

Number of People Contacted:
800 adult residents.

Sampling Method:
Online panel.

Weighting:
Canadian census targets for age, gender and region within British Columbia.

Margin of Error:
+/- 3.5%, 19 times out of 20.

Internet Address:
<https://bcfed.ca>

BC Federation of Labour

We would like to ask you some questions about paid sick leave, or paid time off work that workers can rely on to stay at home and address their health needs. Over the course of your life, have you ever worked in a position that offered paid sick leave?

- Only 29% of British Columbians have never had paid sick leave in any job.
- More than a third of British Columbians (35%) have paid sick leave in their current position
- Almost half (45%) have had paid sick leave in a previous position.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? – *Businesses have a responsibility to provide paid sick days to their employees to ensure workers are not faced with the choice of working while sick or losing pay.*

- Practically nine-in-ten British Columbians (89%) agree with the statement, including 58% who “strongly agree” with it.

Many jurisdictions around the world require employers to cover paid sick leave. New Zealand, for example, offers 10 paid sick days, Germany six weeks, while Washington State offers 6.5 days and Quebec offers 2 days.

The BC Federation of Labour and public health advocates are calling for up to 10 days of sick leave paid for by employers in British Columbia, where workers start off with three days each year and then gain up to seven additional days depending on how much they work through the year.

All things considered, do you support or oppose this proposal?

- More than four-in-five British Columbia (86%) support the proposal for 10 paid sick days, while 8% are opposed and 5% are undecided.

All things considered, do you think the proposal to offer 10 days of sick leave paid for by employers in British Columbia has too few days, is about right, or has too many days?

- Just over three-in-five British Columbians (62%) consider 10 days to be about right when it comes to sick paid leave.
- Similar proportions of British Columbians believe 10 days are too many (15%) or too few (18%).

Low wage workers, many of them in part-time, precarious work, have the least access to paid sick leave. Some businesses argue they can't pay sick leave for workers who aren't full-time as this adds too much to their costs.

Thinking about this, which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?

- Three-in-four British Columbians (76%) think BC's sick leave program should cover part-time and casual workers, including 44% who say it should "definitely" consider this option.
- Only 17% of British Columbians think BC's sick leave program should not cover part-time and casual workers, and only cover full-time workers.

==30==

