

June 2018

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

Child Labour Survey



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➤ Foreword

Introduction

- At the request of First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, a province-wide opinion poll was conducted amongst 500 BC adults aged 18 years of age or older.
- The initial objective of the survey was to gauge the level of awareness amongst BC residents of the current age at which a child can begin formal employment without the need for the employer to obtain a government permit.
- Respondents were further asked their opinion as to the appropriate age a child should be to enter formal employment without the need for a permit being obtained by the employer. In addition, respondents were asked their level of support for introducing legislation to increase the protection of children aged 12 to 14 years that enter employment.

Methodology

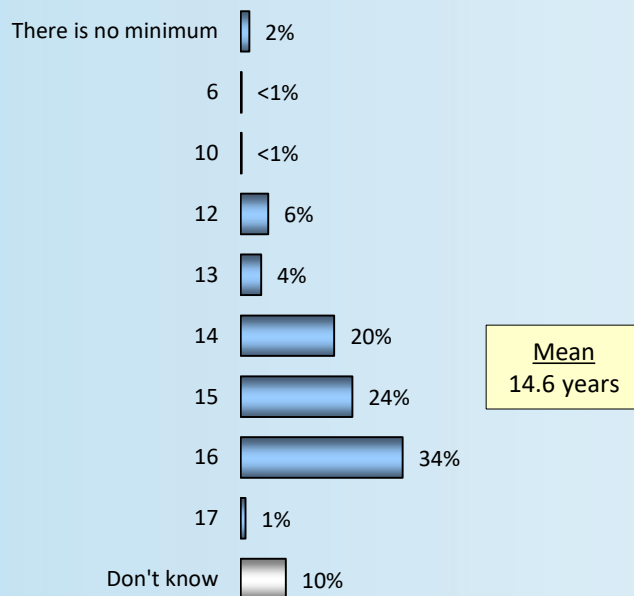
- In order to achieve the stated objectives an online panel survey was completed among 500 residents aged 18 years of age or older from across British Columbia using Mustel Group's own randomly recruited *Giving Opinions* online panel.
- Once finalized, the survey questionnaire was programmed and hosted by Mustel Group, with data collection taking place between June 8 and 11, 2018.
- At the data processing stage minor weighting factors were applied to ensure the sample's final distribution of BC residents reflects that of Statistics Canada census data according to age, gender and region.
- As a guide, the margin of error on a random sample of 500 completed interviews would be: $\pm 4.4\%$ at 95% confidence level in the most conservative case.



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Detailed Findings

➤ Awareness of Minimum Age to Work Without Permit



Base: Total (n=500)

In Canada, each province sets their own minimum age a person can enter formal employment. In British Columbia there is a minimum age at which a child can begin working in almost any type of occupation without the employer being required to have a special permit.

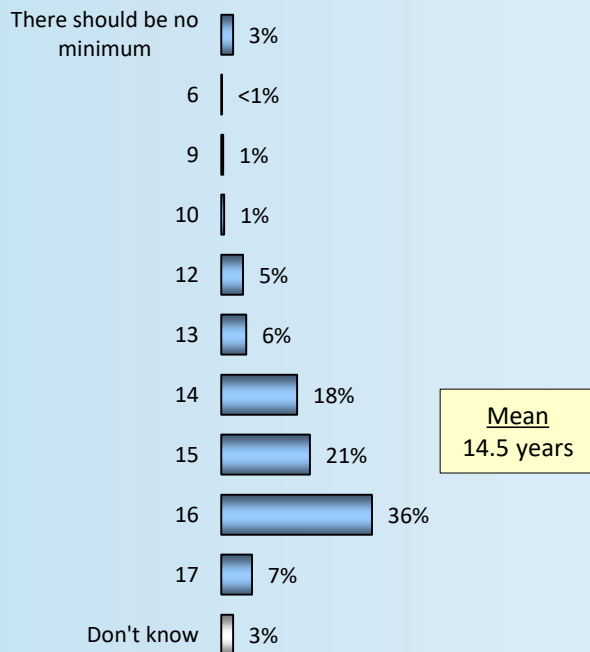
Under that age, the employer must obtain a permit which regulates the hours, tasks and conditions under which the child is employed, ensuring the workplace is suitable for the employment of a child.

Q1.) As far as you are aware, what is the minimum age in BC where a child can be employed without the need for such a permit?

- In all, just 6% of British Columbians correctly identified the minimum age in BC where a child can be formally employed without the need for their employer to obtain a special permit as 12 years.
- On average, residents had assumed the minimum age for a child to begin work without a permit was between 14 and 15 years old (mean 14.6 years, median 15 years).
- The large majority of residents had assumed the minimum age for a child to begin work without a permit would be 14 (20%), 15 (24%) or 16 years old (34%).
- These estimations are generally consistent amongst most demographic segments, though those living in other parts of BC are somewhat more likely to have correctly answered “12 years old” than those living in Metro Vancouver (9% versus 3% respectively).



➤ Recommended Minimum Age to Work Without Permit

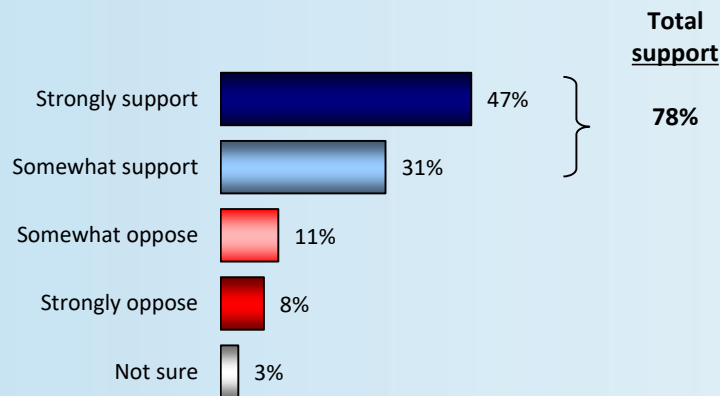


- Asked at what age they thought a child *should* be allowed to work without their employer being required to obtain a special permit, residents on average thought this age should be between 14 and 15 years old (mean 14.5 years, median 15 years).
- About one-in-five residents thought the age a child should be allowed to work without a permit should be 14 (18%), with a similar proportion saying fifteen (21%), and more than one-third of residents who thought it should be 16 years old (36%).
- Opinion is once again largely consistent amongst most demographic segments, though those living in other parts of BC are somewhat more likely to suggest the age could be as young as 14 compared with those living in Metro Vancouver (23% versus 13% respectively).

Base: Total (n=500)

Q2.) Excluding jobs such as babysitting, camp counselors or paper routes, in your opinion, what is the minimum age a child should be allowed to work without the need for specific government regulation of the hours, tasks and conditions under which the child is employed?

Level of Support for Legislation Regulating Employment of Children aged 12 to 14 Years



Base: Total (n=500)

Currently in BC, a child can begin working at the age of 12 in almost any occupation including areas such as food service, accommodation or even construction, without the need for a government permit. An employer only needs to gain permission from a parent.

Following are the existing conditions for employing children aged 12 to 14:

- The child must not work at the same time they are scheduled to attend school.
- The child must be supervised by a person 19 or older at all times while working.
- The child must not be required to work more than:
 - o 4 hours on a school day;
 - o 7 hours on a non-school day, unless the director has provided written approval;
 - o 20 hours in a week that has five school days; and
 - o 35 hours in any other week.

However, there is no permitting process to oversee or enforce these conditions. In addition, there are no restrictions on the time of day a 12 – 14 year old child can be at work (for example a night shift) or restrictions on the types of tasks that can be undertaken by a child (such as operating certain types of machinery etc.).

Q3.) Again, excluding jobs such as babysitting, camp counselors or paper routes, would you support or oppose the introduction of legislation to provide greater regulation for the employment of children aged 12 – 14 years?

- The large majority of BC residents would support the introduction of legislation to provide greater regulation of the employment of children aged 12 to 14 years (78%), including almost half who would strongly support it (47%).
- This level of support is consistent amongst all demographic segments, though somewhat stronger amongst females (85% support legislation compared with 71% of males, with opposition coming from 27% of males versus 11% of females).

➤ Reason for Opposing the Introduction of Legislation

Base: total oppose the introduction of legislation to provide greater regulation for the employment of children aged 12-14 years	Total (83) %
The government should not be involved/ already too many laws/ regulations	31
Parents/ family should decide if child should work	22
Not needed/ current system is acceptable	20
Working children are providing financial assistance to their families	16
Children (12 to 14) are too young to work/ too many responsibilities	15
Some businesses require flexible staff (i.e. farms, restaurants, TV/Film industry, convenience stores, etc.)	14
Children need to learn to be responsible/ prepare for adulthood	11
Concerned that children could be exploited	8
Depends on the child	4
Q.4) Why is that?	

- Those who oppose legislation to regulate the employment of 12 to 14 year olds generally feel the government should not be involved, that decisions should be left to the parents, or that the current system is good enough.
- Some respondents highlight the need that some families have for the financial assistance a working child brings, or the need some businesses have for the casual or temporary labour that children can provide.
- Of note, 15% of those opposing the legislation did so because they feel children of this age should not be working at all, rather than be allowed to work without conditions.



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Demographics



Demographic Profile

	Total (500) %
Gender	
Male	49
Female	51
Age	
18 to 34	27
35 to 44	15
45 to 54	18
55 to 64	18
65 years and over	22
Area	
Greater Victoria	9
Other Vancouver Island/ South Coast	9
Northern BC (north of Kamloops)	7
Southern Interior (Kamloops and South Incl. Fraser Valley)	22
City of Vancouver	15
Other Metro Vancouver	39
Age of Children in Household	
Any children in household	65
0 – 11 years	20
12 – 14 years	8
15 – 17 years	10
18+ years	38
No, do not have any children	35
Household Composition	
Single with no children at home	27
A couple with no children at home	36
A family with children at home (including single parents)	37

	Total (500) %
Household Income	
Less than \$15,000	2
\$15,000 to under \$25,000	3
\$25,000 to under \$35,000	5
\$35,000 to under \$45,000	5
\$45,000 to under \$55,000	8
\$55,000 to under \$65,000	4
\$65,000 to under \$75,000	6
\$75,000 to under \$85,000	8
\$85,000 to under \$95,000	9
\$95,000 or over	38
Refused	14
Education	
Some high school or less	1
Graduated high school	10
Vocational/ college/ technical	30
Some university	12
Graduated university	45
Don't know/ refused	2
Employment	
Employed/ self-employed	64
Full-time (30 hours or more per week)	48
Part-time (less than 30 hours per week)	17
Not employed	33
A student	2
A homemaker	3
Retired	26
Unemployed	2
Refused	3



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Questionnaire

First Call Province-wide Questionnaire June 2018 – FINAL

Welcome to today's survey regarding an issue of importance to your community. The survey should take approximately 5 minutes to complete depending on your responses. Note that all your responses will be anonymous and confidential. Thank you for taking the time to provide your opinions!

PREAMBLE:

In Canada, each province sets their own minimum age a person can enter formal employment.

In British Columbia there is a minimum age at which a child can begin working in almost any type of occupation without the employer being required to have a special permit.

Under that age, the employer must obtain a permit which regulates the hours, tasks and conditions under which the child is employed, ensuring the workplace is suitable for the employment of a child.

Q1. As far as you are aware, what is the minimum age in BC where a child can be employed without the need for such a permit?

Type in an age in the box below.

- 1-17
- There is no minimum
- Not sure

Q2. Excluding jobs such as babysitting, camp counselors or paper routes, in your opinion, what is the minimum age a child should be allowed to work without the need for specific government regulation of the hours, tasks and conditions under which the child is employed?

Type in an age in the box below.

- 1-17
- There should be no need for permit
- Not sure

PREAMBLE:

Currently in BC, a child can begin working at the age of 12 in almost any occupation including areas such as food service, accommodation or even construction, without the need for a government permit. An employer only needs to gain permission from a parent.

Following are the existing conditions for employing children aged 12 to 14:

- The child must not work at the same time they are scheduled to attend school.
- The child must be supervised by a person 19 or older at all times while working.
- The child must not be required to work more than:
 - 4 hours on a school day;
 - 7 hours on a non-school day;
 - 20 hours in a week that has five school days; and
 - 35 hours in any other week.

However, there is no permitting process to oversee or enforce these conditions. In addition, there are no restrictions on the time of day a 12 – 14 year old child can be at work (for example a night shift) or restrictions on the types of tasks that can be undertaken by a child (such as operating certain types of machinery etc.).

Q3. Again, excluding jobs such as babysitting, camp counselors or paper routes, would you support or oppose the introduction of legislation to provide greater regulation for the employment of children aged 12 – 14 years?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Not sure

IF OPPOSE ASK:

Q4. Why is that?

Demographics

Are you:

1. Male
2. Female

Into which of the following age categories do you belong?

1. 18-24
2. 25-34
3. 35-44
4. 45-54
5. 55-64
6. 65+

Do you have children in any of the following ages groups (inside or outside your home)?

1. 0-11
2. 12-14
3. 15-17
4. 18+
5. DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN

Which of the following best describes your current household?

1. Single with no children at home
2. A couple with no children at home
3. A family with children at home (including single parent households)
4. Other specify: _____

Which of the following broad groupings best describes your total household income per year before taxes?

1. Less than \$15,000
 2. \$15,000 to under \$25,000
 3. \$25,000 to under \$35,000
 4. \$35,000 to under \$45,000
 5. \$45,000 to under \$55,000
 6. \$55,000 to under \$65,000
 7. \$65,000 to under \$75,000
 8. \$75,000 to under \$85,000
 9. \$85,000 to under \$95,000
 10. \$95,000 or over
- DON'T KNOW
REFUSE

What is the highest level of school/education that you have completed?

1. Some high school or less
 2. Graduated high school
 3. Vocational/College/Technical
 4. Some university
 5. Graduated university
- Don't Know/Refused

Are you currently:

1. Employed/self-employed full-time (30 hours or more per week), or
 2. Employed/self-employed part-time (less than 30 hours per week)
 3. A student
 4. A homemaker
 5. Retired or
 6. Unemployed
- REFUSED