



Indigenous Perspectives on Canada's Foreign Policy

Governance: Indigenous Perspectives

Jean Francois Savard, École nationale d'administration publique
Mathieu Landriault, University of Ottawa

Indigenous issues have been front and centre on the international agenda of the Trudeau government, mobilizing a sizeable portion of the Prime Minister's latest speech to the United Nations General Assembly. The commitment of the Liberal government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has also been significant. If we add to this the activism of indigenous people's organizations on the international scene, it is safe to maintain that Aboriginal people have become important international players internationally. However, we know very little about opinions on Canada's foreign policy shared by Indigenous individuals. This lack of attention is partly due to their limited demographic weight, making most polling firms ignoring them when it comes time to report findings.

Our objective is to remedy this shortcoming. Using individual-level data from seven polls conducted by the Angus Reid Institute from 2014 to 2017, we will seek to determine if Aboriginal individuals hold significantly different attitudes in regard to foreign policy than other Canadians. This analysis will also help us understand if organizations representing Indigenous people are in line with the preferences held by their members.

Then, we will assess to what extent Indigenous people hold significantly different views than other Canadians on issues that are close to their community. Two polls conducted by Ekos in 2010 and 2015, on Arctic sovereignty and security issues will be analyzed to contrast Inuit respondents' attitudes to other Northerners and Canadians living in the southern part of the country.