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**KEY EDUCATION ISSUES – NATIONAL SURVEY (Teacher Version)**  
**May 2005**

Introduction:

Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ with Inshtrix Research. We are working with researchers from the University of British Columbia, and four other Canadian Universities. Our national study asks parents and teachers about education issues, in particular key issues that influence teaching and learning in schools. In our knowledge-based society, schooling is becoming more and more important. Any information you provide will be kept confidential and you have the right to refuse to answer any question. The interview will take about 20 minutes. Do you have any questions before I begin?

- IA/ Are you currently a teacher in the K-12 system?
- Yes [*proceed to GA*]
  - No - Have you taught K-12 at all in the past 12 months?  
     If yes – [*proceed to GA*]  
     If no – [*terminate*]

- IB/ “Are you a Principal or Vice-Principal in the K-12 system?”
- Yes - [*terminate*]
  - No - [*proceed to GA*]

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General Information:

GA/ To begin, students in schools are often given grades: A, B, C, D, or Fail to indicate the quality of their work. If the public schools in your community were graded the same way, what grade would you give them – A, B, C, D, or Fail.

- A
- B
- C
- D
- F
- Don't Know/Refused

GB/ Thinking about elementary and secondary education in your province, what would you say are the two most important issues or problems facing education?

First Response: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Response: \_\_\_\_\_

GC/ Using a 4 point scale, where "1" is STRONGLY DISAGREE and "4" is STRONGLY AGREE, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

*[Rotate and Record Order]*

All schools should be pretty much the same to ensure that all students receive an equal education.	1	2	3	4	D/K
There should be an annual report card for schools just as for students.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Parents should be able to send their children to another school if they are dissatisfied with their current school.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Standardized tests should be used to assess changes over time in a school's performance.	1	2	3	4	D/K

School Choice:

CA/ Among the public schools in your area, do all schools offer the standard, regular curriculum or are there some schools which offer only specialized curricula (For example: language immersion schools, gifted or enriched schools)?

- All regular schools
- Some Specialized Schools
- Don't Know/Refused

CB/ What type (or types) of school do you teach at, a public school or an independent or private school? [*If more than one type, ask: Which type of school do you teach at most often?*]

- Public school
- Independent/private

[*If Public*]

Is this a denominational or religious school?

- Yes [*Go to CD*]
- No [*Go to CD*]

[*If Independent/private*]

Is this a religious school?

- Yes [*Go to CD*]
- No [*Go to CD*]

CC/ [*ONLY ask if teacher responds "public school" and "not independent / private or denominational or religious" in CB/*]

Do you teach in a specialized school or in any type of special program?

- Yes
- No [*Go to CD*]
- Don't Know/Refused [*Go to CD*]

CC/A What type of program is it? [*Do Not Read*]

- Alternative language instruction ( e.g. immersion)
- Gifted/enriched programs (e.g. Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate)
- Special theme or focus (e.g. arts, science or sports)
- Alternative programs
- Special Needs
- Other [please specify] \_\_\_\_\_

CD/ In your judgement, is there sufficient information available to help parents make good educational choices about the best type of schooling for their children?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know/Refused

CE/ Have you ever checked school academic performance reports in newspapers or on education websites?

- Yes
- No (*Go To CG*)
- Don't Know/Refused (*Go To CG*)

CF/ Have you ever used such information to choose a school in which to teach?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know/Refused

CG/ Using a 4 point scale, where 1 is STRONGLY AGREE and 4 is STRONGLY DISAGREE, I'd like to know your views on the following issues:

*[Rotate and Record Order]*

There should be a greater variety of academic programs in public schools.	1	2	3	4	D/K
The amount of school choice available in my district is sufficient.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Government funding should follow the child, regardless of where he or she is enrolled. <i>[Ask equal half of parents and teachers, split by region]</i>	1	2	3	4	D/K
Government tax money should follow the child, regardless of where he or she is enrolled. <i>[Ask equal half of parents and teachers, split by region]</i>	1	2	3	4	D/K
All parents should have the right to choose their child's school.	1	2	3	4	D/K
School choice matters little because all schools are pretty much the same.	1	2	3	4	D/K

Safety and Discipline:

DA/ At your school, do you consider student discipline and behavior to be.....

- A serious problem
- Somewhat of a problem
- Not at all a problem
- Don't Know/Refused

DB/ In the last three years at your school, have issues and concerns about student discipline and behaviour decreased, increased, or stayed about the same?

- Decreased
- Increased
- Stayed about the same
- Don't Know/Refused

DC/ Using a 4 point scale, where "1" is NOT AT ALL and "4" is TO A GREAT EXTENT, to what extent do each of the following contribute to classroom disruption?

*[Rotate and Record Order]*

Failure of parents to instill acceptable standards of behaviour	1	2	3	4	D/K
Large class sizes	1	2	3	4	D/K
One or a few problem students	1	2	3	4	D/K
Too great a mix of academic abilities	1	2	3	4	D/K
Too great a mix of special needs students	1	2	3	4	D/K

Roles and Responsibilities of Teachers' Unions:

UA/ Is the ability of teacher unions to influence what happens in schools?  
*[Ask half of parents and teachers, split by region]*

- About right
- Too strong
- Not strong enough
- Don't Know/Refused

**OR**

Is the power of teacher unions to influence what happens in schools:  
*[Ask half of parents and teachers, split by region]*

- About right
- Too strong
- Not strong enough
- Don't Know/Refused

UB/ How involved should teachers' unions be in each of the following areas, where "1" is NOT AT ALL INVOLVED and "4" is VERY INVOLVED? *[Rotate and Record Order]*

Salaries and working conditions	1	2	3	4	D/K
Class Size	1	2	3	4	D/K
Curriculum and assessments	1	2	3	4	D/K
Professional development	1	2	3	4	D/K
Teaching performance standards	1	2	3	4	D/K
Certification and licensing	1	2	3	4	D/K
Teacher discipline	1	2	3	4	D/K
Influencing public opinion on educational issues	1	2	3	4	D/K

UC/ Using a 4 point scale, where "1" is NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE and "4" is VERY EFFECTIVE how effective are provincial teacher unions in contributing to school improvement?

1    2    3    4    D/K

UD/ Do you understand teachers to be members of a union or of a profession? *[Do Not Read]*

- Profession
- Union
- Both
- Don't Know/Refused

Teacher Evaluation and Compensation:

TA/ Again on a 4 point scale, where "1" is NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE and "4" is VERY EFFECTIVE, how effective would the following suggestions be in improving the quality of teacher's work? *[Rotate and Record Order]*

Increase pay for all teachers	1	2	3	4	D/K
Reduce class sizes	1	2	3	4	D/K
Financially reward outstanding teachers	1	2	3	4	D/K
Increase professional development and training	1	2	3	4	D/K
Make it easier to dismiss ineffective teachers	1	2	3	4	D/K
Ensure job security for teachers	1	2	3	4	D/K

TB/ Using the same 4 point scale, where "1" is NOT AT ALL EFFECTIVE and "4" is VERY EFFECTIVE, how effective would the following be for evaluating teachers?  
*[Rotate and Record Order]*

Student improvement on standardized tests	1	2	3	4	D/K
Evaluation by an outside education professional <i>[if needed, "as in the UK"]</i>	1	2	3	4	D/K
Principal's judgment	1	2	3	4	D/K
Evaluation by an experienced teacher	1	2	3	4	D/K
Parent evaluations	1	2	3	4	D/K
Student evaluations	1	2	3	4	D/K
Yearly exams for teachers	1	2	3	4	D/K

TC/ Using the same 4 point scale, where "1" is NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT and "4" is VERY IMPORTANT, how important do you think each of the following factors should be in determining a teacher's salary?*[Rotate and Recode Order]*

Teaching skills	1	2	3	4	D/K
Years of teaching experience	1	2	3	4	D/K
Academic progress of their students	1	2	3	4	D/K
Professional development or training completed	1	2	3	4	D/K
Leadership responsibilities	1	2	3	4	D/K
Teaching in a more challenging school <i>[if needed, "more ESL, more special needs"]</i>	1	2	3	4	D/K
Teaching in an area of shortage, such as physics	1	2	3	4	D/K

TD/ If teacher salaries were based on performance, which method would be most effective for improving student achievement? *(Choose only one answer)*

- Rewarding individual teachers
- Rewarding teams of teachers
- Rewarding all teachers in a school
- Don't Know/Refused
- If "none" – *[record]*

**School Accountability:**

AA/Using a 4 point scale, where "1" is STRONGLY DISAGREE and "4" is STRONGLY AGREE, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?  
*[Rotate and Recode Order]*

School boards should be able to close poor performing schools.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Ranking school performance on standardized tests is unfair to some schools.	1	2	3	4	D/K
The school principal should be accountable to the parents for school performance.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Schools should do an annual survey of parent satisfaction.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Schools should have an annual improvement plan and report their progress.	1	2	3	4	D/K

Parent Involvement:

**PA/** Using the same 4 point scale, where "1" is NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT and "4" is VERY IMPORTANT, how important is parent participation in each of the following areas?  
*[Rotate and Record Order]*

on school committees	1	2	3	4	D/K
in parent-teacher meetings	1	2	3	4	D/K
in hiring a school principal	1	2	3	4	D/K
in school improvement planning	1	2	3	4	D/K

**PB/** Using a 4 point scale, where "1" is STRONGLY DISAGREE and "4" is STRONGLY AGREE, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement about your school?  
*[Rotate and Record Order]*

Parents' present level of participation in schools is too low.	1	2	3	4	D/K
It is easy for parents to get involved in school activities.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Most often it is self-interested parents who participate in their school.	1	2	3	4	D/K

Standardized Assessments:

**SA/** Using a 4 point scale, where 1 is STRONGLY AGREE and 4 is STRONGLY DISAGREE, how much do you agree or disagree with each statement:  
*[Rotate and Record Order]*

Provinces should administer standardized tests at key stages of schooling. <i>[Ask equal half of parents and teachers, split by region]</i>	1	2	3	4	D/K
Provinces should administer standardized assessments at key stages of schooling. <i>[Ask equal half of parents and teachers, split by region]</i>	1	2	3	4	D/K
Canada should have national standards indicating what students should know or be able to do at various grade levels.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Teacher evaluations of students are better indicators of student performance than are standardized tests.	1	2	3	4	D/K
All students should pass a test of basic skills in language and mathematics before being allowed to graduate from high school.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Standardized tests are unfair to students from disadvantaged family backgrounds.	1	2	3	4	D/K

Teacher Training and Professional Development:

**PDA/** Using a 4 point scale, where "1" is **STRONGLY DISAGREE** and "4" is **STRONGLY AGREE**, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

*[Rotate and Record Order]*

New teachers are not adequately prepared to work in today's schools.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Teachers need specific training when major curriculum changes are introduced.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Most professional development activities have been quite valuable in improving my teaching ability.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Teacher professional development days detract from time for student learning.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Teachers should be paid extra for attaining additional university degrees.	1	2	3	4	D/K

School Leadership:

**LA/** Does your school have a written annual improvement plan?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know/Refused

**LB/** Focusing on the performance of the principal at your school, and using the same 4 point scale where "1" is **STRONGLY DISAGREE** and "4" is **STRONGLY AGREE**, please indicate how much you agree or disagree that your principal is: *[Rotate and Record Order]*

Creating a safe, caring, and respectful environment.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Responding to my needs.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Providing a sense of vision and purpose.	1	2	3	4	D/K
Communicating to parents.	1	2	3	4	D/K

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Moving into our final section, now.

**DEM1/** What is the highest level of education you have finished? *[Do Not Read]*

- High school Graduate
- Some community college/vocational/trade school/CEGEP
- Graduated from Community college/vocational/trade school/CEGEP
- Some university
- University Graduate
- Post-graduate university/professional school
- Refused / Don't know

**M2/** In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

*[Open ended and code all four digits of year] 9999 (DK/Refused)*

**DEM4/** If a federal election were held today, which party would you vote for? *[Do Not Read]*

- Bloc Québécois *[Only code Bloc in Quebec, if elsewhere code Other]*
- Conservatives
- Liberals

- New Democratic Party
- Other – please specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't Know/Refused

**DEM5/** In political matters, people talk of “the left” and of “the right.” Using a ten point scale where 1 is left and 10 is right, where would you place yourself on most political issues?

Left    1        2        3        4        5        6        7        8        9        10        Right

- Don't Know/Refused

Final Questions:

A few final questions about schooling:

**FA/**    What grades do you teach? (or ages if ungraded) \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Open ended and record] 99 (DK/Refused)*

**FB/**    How many years teaching experience do you have? \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Open ended and record] 99 (DK/Refused)*

**FC/**    Are you currently teaching fulltime or part-time?  
 ○ Full time  
 ○ Part time  
 ○ Don't Know/Refused

**FD/**    About how many students attend the school where you teach most often? \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Open ended and record] 99 (DK/Refused)*

**FE/**    What's the population size of the city or community where you teach?  
 ○ under 10,000  
 ○ 10,000 - 50,000  
 ○ 50,001 – 100,000  
 ○ 100,001 - 500,000  
 ○ Over 500,000

*[If over 500,000]*

Is the school located closer to....

- the city centre
- more in the suburbs

**FF/**    Which one of the following best describes the income level of most families of students attending the school at which you teach most often?

- Low-income,
- Middle-income *[if people say “wide mixture /very diverse” use this category]*
- High-income
- Don't Know/Refused

FG/ In this current school year, have you had an opportunity to do any of the following:  
*[Rotate and Record Order]*

Lead an extracurricular trip	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> D/K
Work with your teacher federation/association	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> D/K
Meet individually with parents	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> D/K
Speak on the phone with any student's parents	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> D/K
Mentor a beginning teacher	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> D/K
Work with a school group (in athletics, drama or music)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> D/K

FH/ In the past year, have you seriously considered retiring?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know/Refused

FI/ In the past year, have you seriously considered changing careers?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know/Refused

And finally a couple questions for classification purposes:

FJ/ What is your ethnic or ancestral background? \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if needed, "e.g., Scottish, Chinese, Cree") (code multiple backgrounds)*

*[Open ended and record] 99 (DK/Refused)*

FK/ Could you please tell me your total annual family income from all sources before taxes. Is it?

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,000 to less than \$35,000
- \$35,000 to less than \$50,000
- \$50,000 to less than \$65,000
- \$65,000 to less than \$80,000
- \$80,000 to less than \$95,000
- \$95,000 and over
- Don't Know/Refused

And could I just verify your phone number, is it. \_\_\_\_\_

RECORD GENDER

- Male
- Female

RECORD LANGUAGE

- French
- English

*Those are all the questions I had. Thank you very much for participating in our survey. Have a great day/evening!*