



Policy Issues Relating to Amateur Radio Call Signs in Canada:

RESULTS FROM THE RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA SURVEY 2022

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Radio Amateurs
of
du Canada

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The Radio Amateurs of Canada conducts periodic surveys of the amateur radio population and associated groups in Canada. This document is a technical report on the initial results of the RAC Survey of 2022. The focus of this survey is on policy issues involving amateur radio call signs issued to ham operators via the Canadian licensing authority. The survey instrument, reproduced in the Appendix, contains several sections of content. The report is arranged around those sections. The RAC executive team requested the author to also focus attention on regional patterns that match RAC Director responsibilities. A template graphic display was used to include regional comparisons to each survey question's results for this purpose. Statistical significance tests were computed to examine the potential for chance variation versus patterns that are not likely to be random.

More publications may emanate from this survey. This technical report emphasizes the basic descriptive results with regional patterns from responses to each question.

The Appendix contains technical aspects of the survey design, realized sample with comparisons to known data, and the instruments used in the survey.

The demographic and administrative questions are described in the final section of this report. Each section below reflects a separate segment of the survey's content.

Sections 2 & 3: Call Sign Changes (Q7 - Q11)

The issue of requiring call sign changes when a Radio Amateur migrates across Provinces or Territories or a requirement for periodic renewal of registration of a call sign is examined in Figures 1-5.

Strong sentiment was expressed on the requirement to require a call sign change to reflect a new address if the new location is located in another Province or Territory. About 70 percent say yes this should be the policy. But there are significant regional patterns. Quebec respondents are 10 percent more in favor than those in British Columbia with other regions falling in between them.

The flip side of that issue is whether retention of a call sign after a similar move should be permitted. Figure 2 contains these results which are split with 50 percent saying they favor or disfavor such retention. The small regional patterns in the accompanying bar chart are simply non-significant.

A related issue is the ability of an operator to obtain an additional call sign for a different Province or Territory. Figure 3 shows that about two-thirds (62%) oppose the acquisition of such additional call signs. There are regional differences of opinion on the matter. Quebec and the Midwest Regions (45%) are more in favor. British Columbia and the Yukon are much less so (29%).

The VEØ prefix is currently only for use on Canadian ships making international voyages. Question 10 asked whether this use should be expanded to space stations or land-based stations. Figure 4 shows that 62 percent of hams in the survey favor expanding the use of VEØ call signs to space stations. About one-third say that this prefix should continue to be reserved only for ships making international voyages. Land use, however, has only a paltry segment of support. There are significant regional differences in these opinions. The Atlantic region has greatest support for continuing a marine-use only policy. Quebec is not far behind. But none of them challenge the dominant opinion in favor of extending the use of the VEØ prefix to space and satellite stations.

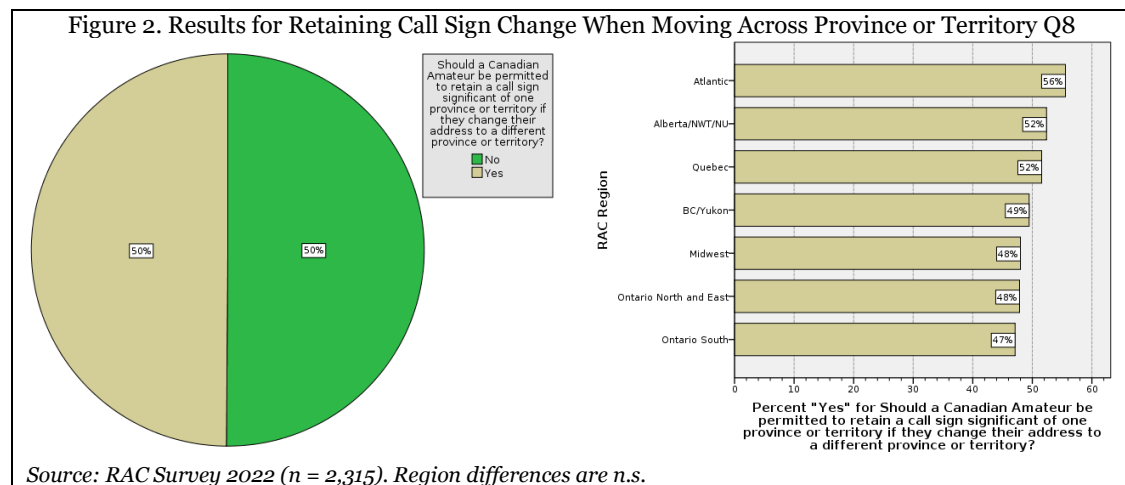
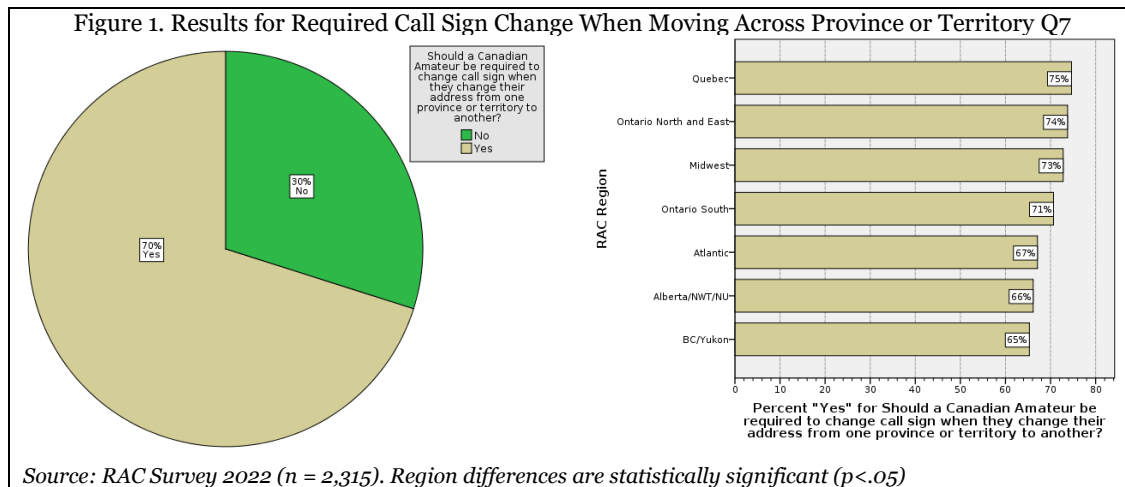


Figure 3. Results for Applying for call sign in a different Province or Territory Q9

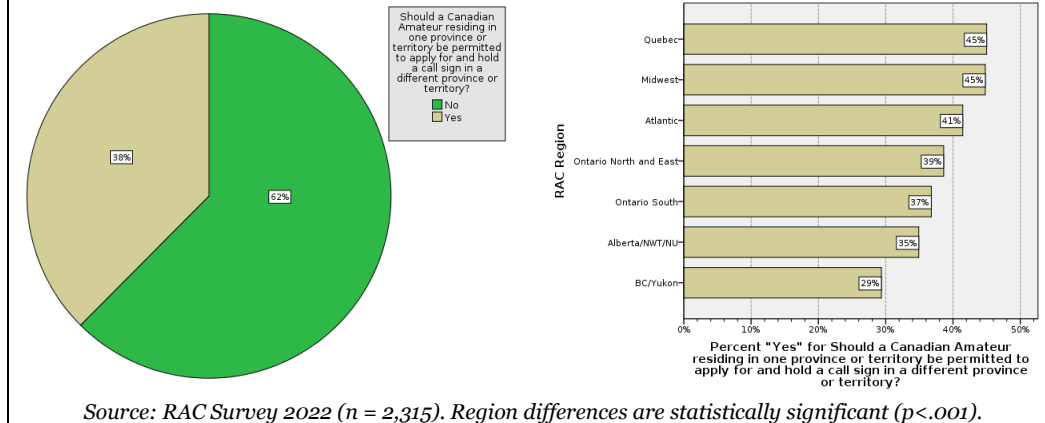


Figure 4. Results for VEØ Prefix Change Q10

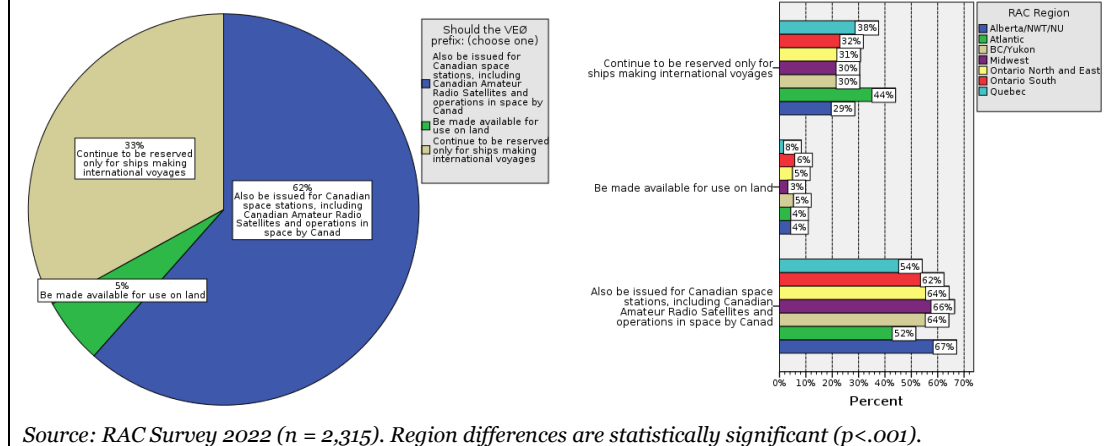
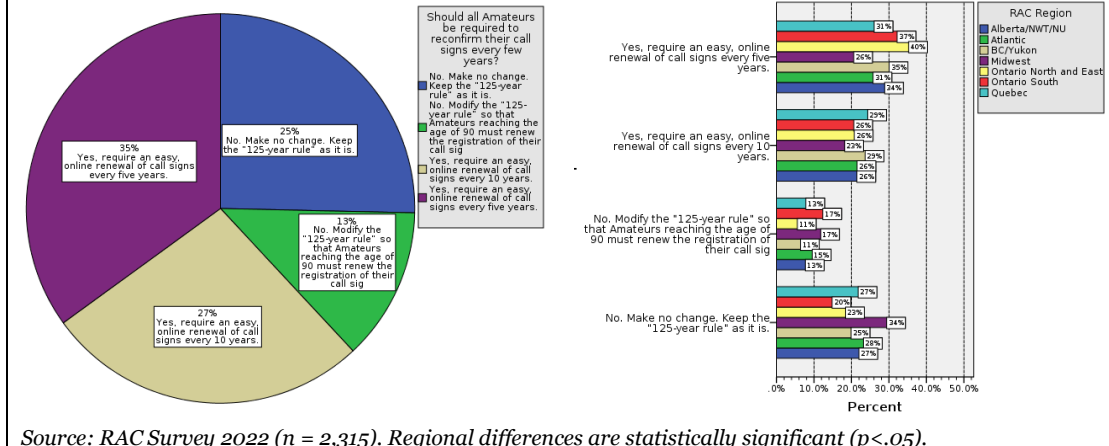


Figure 5. Results for Requiring periodic Call Sign Reconfirmation Years Q11



Section 4: Reassignment of Call Signs and Silent Keys' Call Signs (Q12-Q15)

The intergenerational ties that run through amateur radio are well-known. From grandparent to child to grandchild are themes often heard or read about in the hobby. The policy of allowing a relative to secure the call sign of a deceased relative receives very strong support (84%) in the survey results. While regional differences are not by chance alone, the strongest support for abolishing the policy lies in the Quebec area (22% in favor). The other regions have support numbers on par with the overall sample result (16%).

An extension of this preferred access to two years, has some support, less than one-third (30%) saying they prefer this policy adjustment. There is some significant regional variation: Alberta/NWT/NU and the Midwest have stronger support than does Quebec. Nonetheless, most regions are simply not in favor.

A question asking whether a Silent Key's call sign could also be assigned to a friend designated in the Amateur's will received moderate support. Some 64 percent are in favor. This is a widespread sentiment geographically and regional differences are not significant.

A final question asked whether a call sign voluntarily surrendered by an Amateur should be withheld for a one-year "cooling off" period before being reassigned. The survey respondents are split on this potential policy. Only 54 percent are in favor and there are significant regional variations in this split opinion. All, however, reach the 50 percent threshold on this divided sentiment.

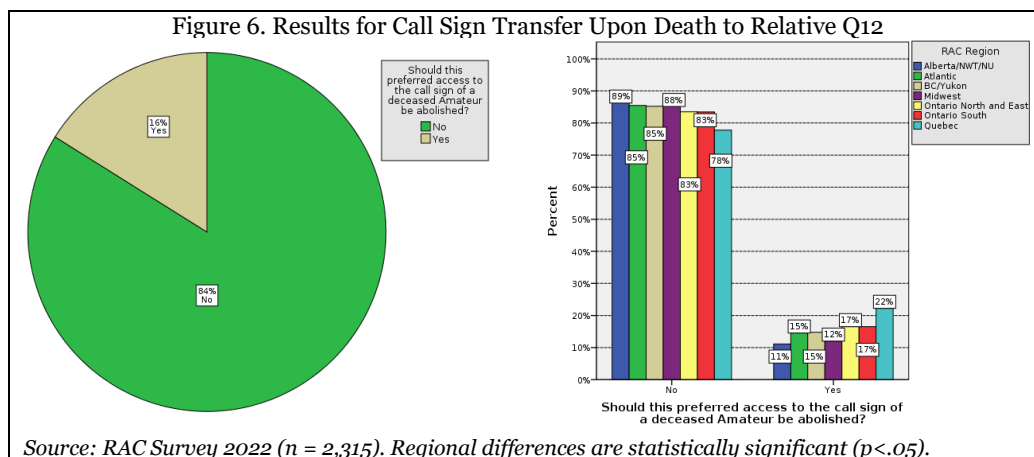


Figure 7. Results for Preferred Access to Call Sign of Deceased Relative to Two Years Q13

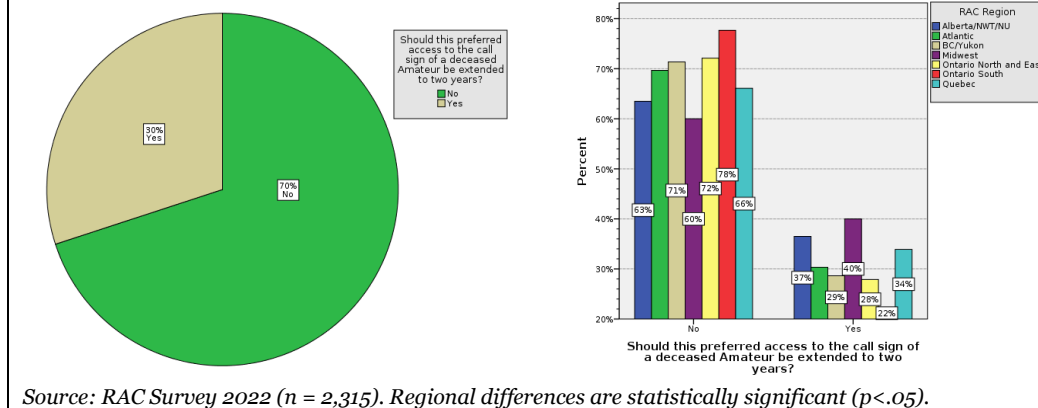


Figure 8. Results for Preferred Access to Call Sign of Deceased to Friend Q14

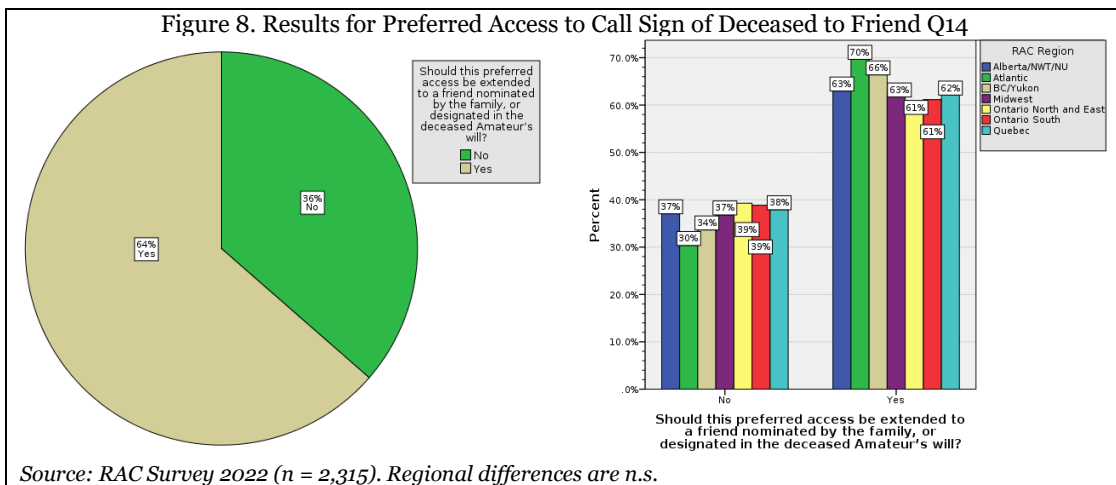
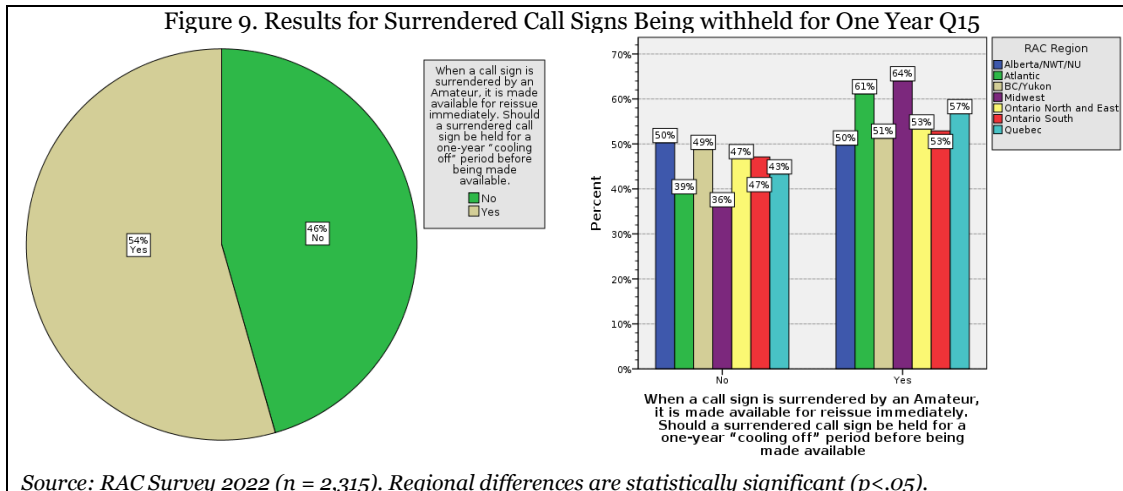


Figure 9. Results for Surrendered Call Signs Being withheld for One Year Q15



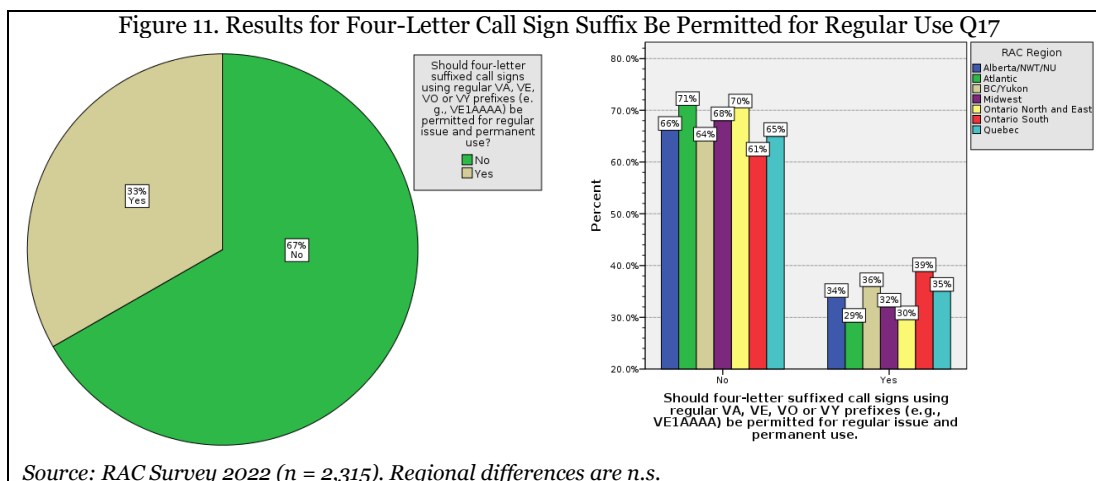
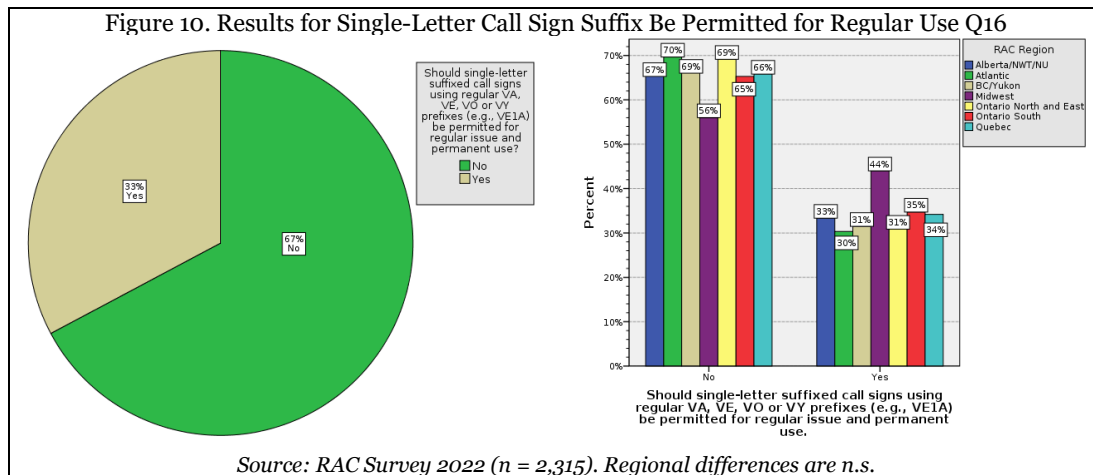
Section 5: Call Sign Composition (Q16-Q17)

The status of call sign composition is a hotly-contested affair. Many amateurs seek to change their call sign suffix to fewer characters. The use of short calls for temporary contest or special

event use is somewhat commonplace. But because of their relative scarcity, regular individual or club call sign use is competition for a scarce resource.

Figure 10 shows the results of the survey for single-letter suffixes being permitted for regular use with the standard VA, VE VO and VY prefixes. Most (two-thirds) are not in favour. None of the regional variations in this opinion are significant beyond random fluctuation.

The use of four-letter suffixes for regular call signs received the same negative sentiment. Figure 11 also reveals that this opinion is not significantly different among the regions.



Section 6: Two-Letter Call Signs (Q18-Q28)

Policies involving calls assigned to newly certified Amateurs and the machinations on qualifications are often discussed by amateur operators. Figure 12 shows that a large majority (75%) favors three-letter calls for all new Amateurs, no matter where they live in Canada. The Midwest region holds the lowest support, although it is still in the majority sentiment (61%), and others vary, too. Quebec has the strongest belief level (85%) on this required policy.

The five-year qualification to hold a two-letter call sign is something that most Canadian hams in the survey say should be retained (71%). Figure 13 contains these results. There is a nominal sentiment for changing the number of years (17%) with less who say just abolish it altogether (12%). The dominance of the attitude to retain this policy is fairly universal across regions. There are significant variations by this geography but they are just not large by comparison.

That segment who recommended the adjustment to a different number of years (n=383) expressed a wide variety of years. But most (46%) stated 10 years was appropriate. This set of recommendations also varied significantly by region although the decade length was very commonly suggested. Figure 14 contains these results for those suggesting a modified change.

One view is to require higher qualifications for a two-letter call sign. Figure 15 shows that an Advanced certificate, however, only receives moderate support. Some 60 percent said that they support the Advanced certificate requirement. While the bar chart shows some region-to-region variations, and the set of them are statistically significant, the strongest pro-sentiment lies in Ontario.

If a Silent Key holds a two-letter call sign, the requirement for a family member seeking that call sign hold an Advanced certificate is summarized in Figure 16. Slightly above one-half (58%) favor this requirement to receive the relative's two-letter call sign. The Midwest is least in favor (45%) while the two Ontario regions are most in favor (60% and 64%). These overall regional differences are statistically significant so there is some real patterns of varying beliefs in this policy.

A parallel question whether a Morse Code qualification should be required to obtain a two-letter call sign was the focus of Question 23 in the survey. Figure 17 shows that two-thirds (68%) say they are not in favor of this policy. It's similar across the regions in Canada as the differences are not significant.

The issue of Amateurs holding more than one two-letter call sign is largely a "no-go" among Canadian amateurs. Figure 18 contains these results with 86 percent say the policy of a single two-letter call sign per Radio Amateur should stay in place. While regions vary, the lowest level of support, in the Atlantic region, reaches 77 percent. So, the negative attitude toward this policy is widespread for the most part.

Allowing existing holders of multiple two-letter call signs to exchange one of them while retaining the others is a related issue. But it receives a similar negative recommendation. Two-thirds say "no" to this question (see Figure 18). A couple of regions have slightly stronger support, such as Atlantic (39%) and Midwest (38%), resulting in a significant overall variability among them.

Often, there are multiple requests for the same call sign, especially when two-letter call signs become available. ISED's Amateur Radio Service Centre (ARSC) currently uses a first-come, first served procedure. But should this be changed in some specific ways? Figure 20 summarizes the survey results for this question. There is no dominant feeling about these potential changes. Maintaining the current procedure receives shy of one-half of the respondents' responses (41%). Using seniority as an Amateur (28%) or certificate qualifications (21%) are distant policy options. Using a simple random lottery has only a ten percent support. Regional patterns do vary significantly but they are not wide variations by percent. The rightmost panel in Figure 20 illustrates that the most prominent option is for no change to ISED's current practice.

These options have thus far focused on call signs held by individuals. Some older clubs hold two-letter call signs issued before the current policy was adopted. Figure 21 contains the results for the question of whether clubs should be allowed to again acquire two-letter call signs. The answer is largely no. Two-thirds (66%) respond in the negative toward permitting clubs to acquire two-letter call signs. While there are statistically significant regional variations in this response, all regions have over one-half saying no to this idea.

Should clubs holding two-letter call signs be required to surrender them to make them available to individuals? Figure 22 shows that two-thirds (64%) are against clubs being required to surrender currently held two-letter call signs. This sentiment does vary significantly and substantively by region. Quebec, for instance, has only 58 percent sentiment against the prospective policy. Southern Ontario (61%) and British Columbia/Yukon (63%) are only slightly above that level.

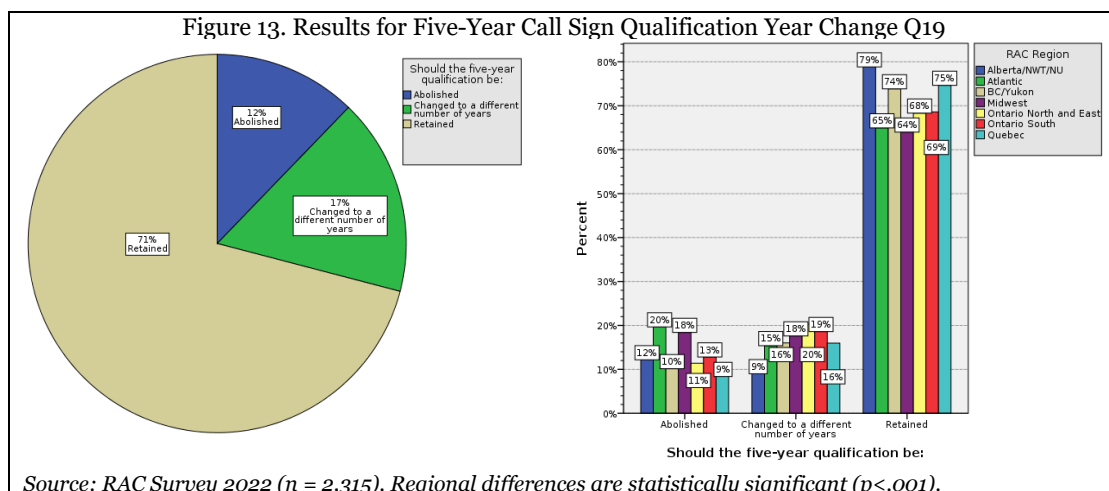
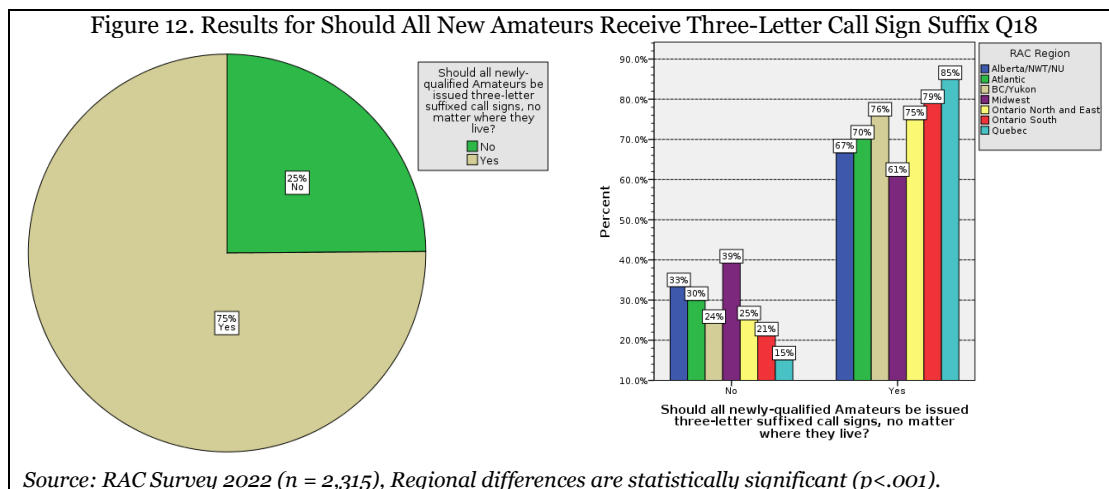
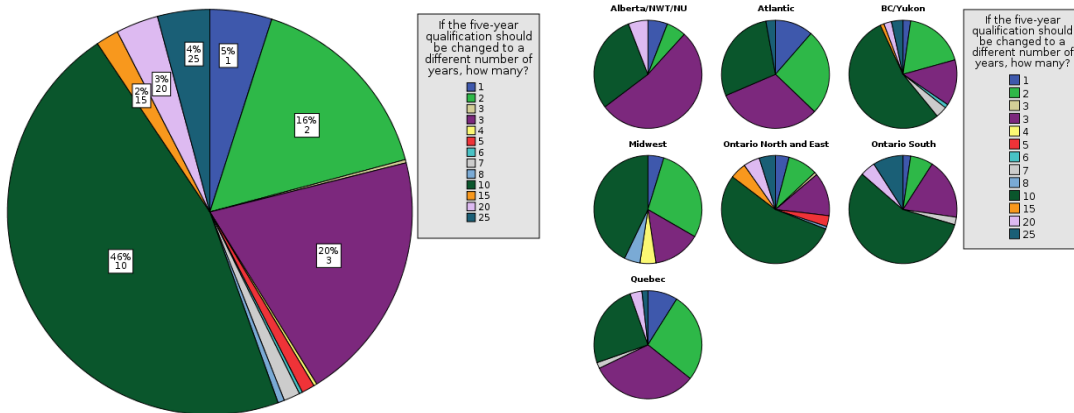
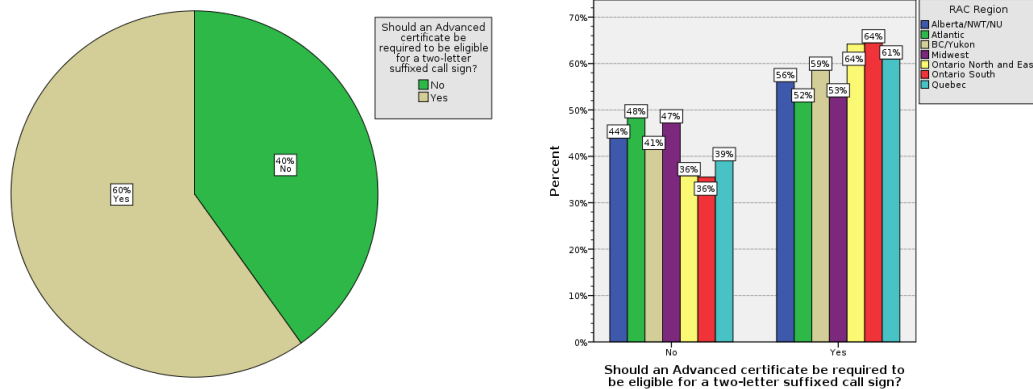


Figure 14. Results for Five-Year Call Sign Qualification Year Change Q20



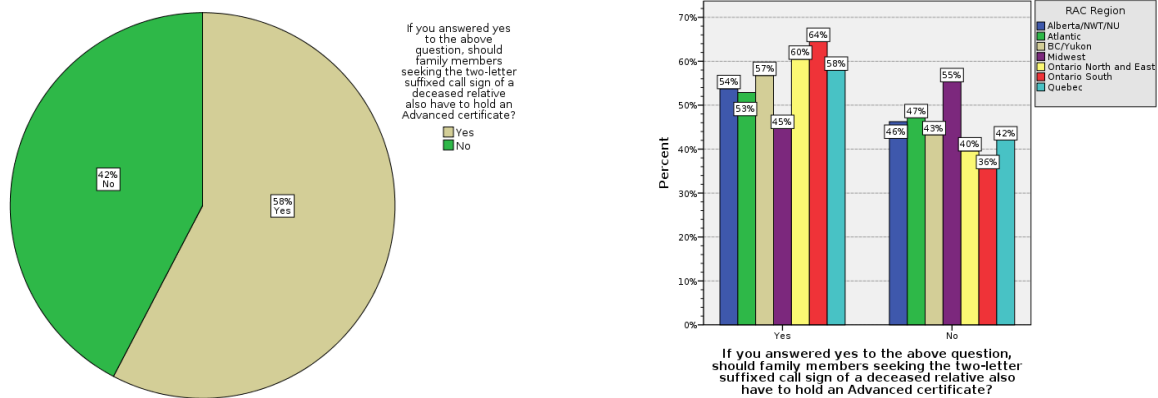
Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 383). Regional differences are statistically significant ($p < .001$).

Figure 15. Results for Should Advanced Certificate Be Required for Two-Letter Call Sign Suffix Q21



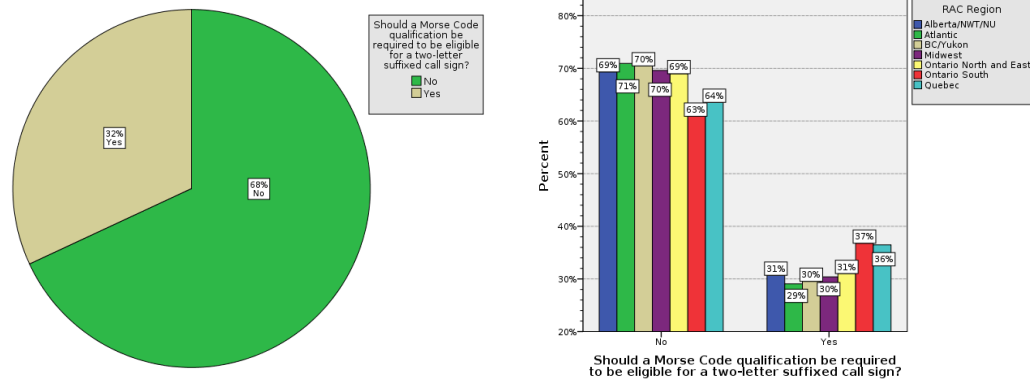
Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional differences are statistically significant ($p < .01$).

Figure 16. Results for Should Family Seeking Two-Letter Call Sign Suffix of Deceased Relative Be Required to Hold Advanced Certificate? Q22



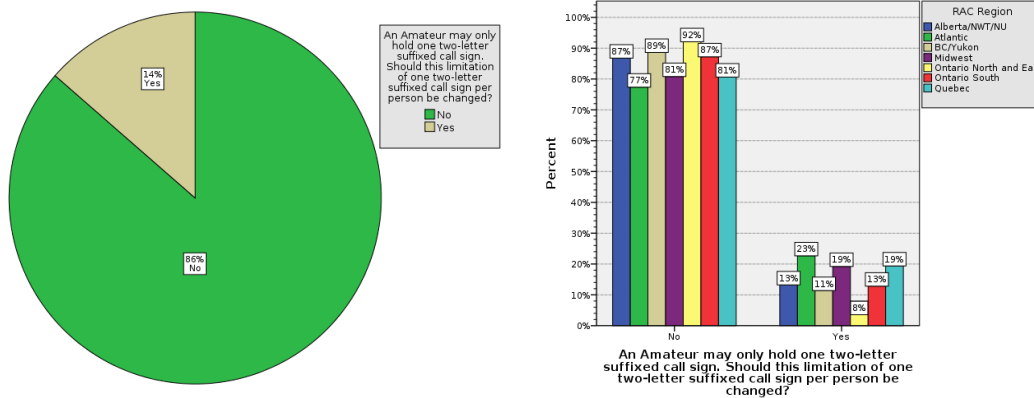
Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 1,852) Regional results are statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Figure 17. Results for Should Morse Code Certification for Two-Letter Call Sign Be Required? Q23



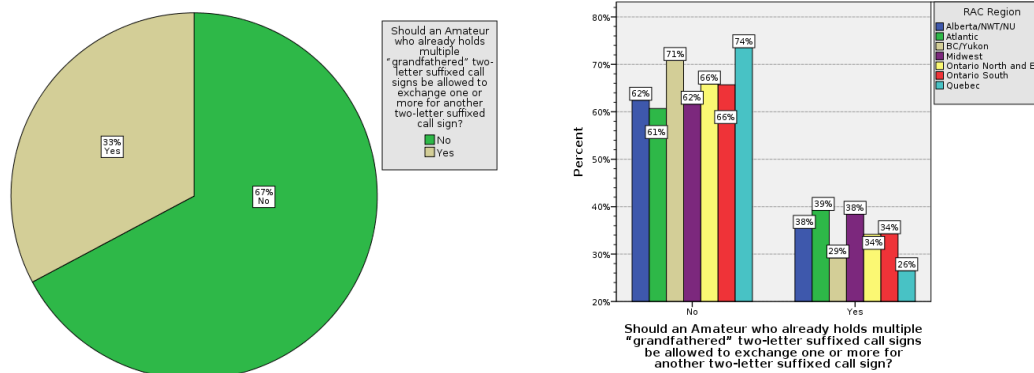
Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional results are n.s.

Figure 18. Results for Should Single Two-Letter Call Sign Limit Be Changed? Q24



Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional results are statistically significant ($p < .001$).

Figure 19. Results for Should "Grandfathered" Two-Letter Call Sign Be Exchangeable for Another? Q25



Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional results are statistically significant ($p < .01$).

Figure 20. Results for How Should Call Sign Requests Be Processed? Q26

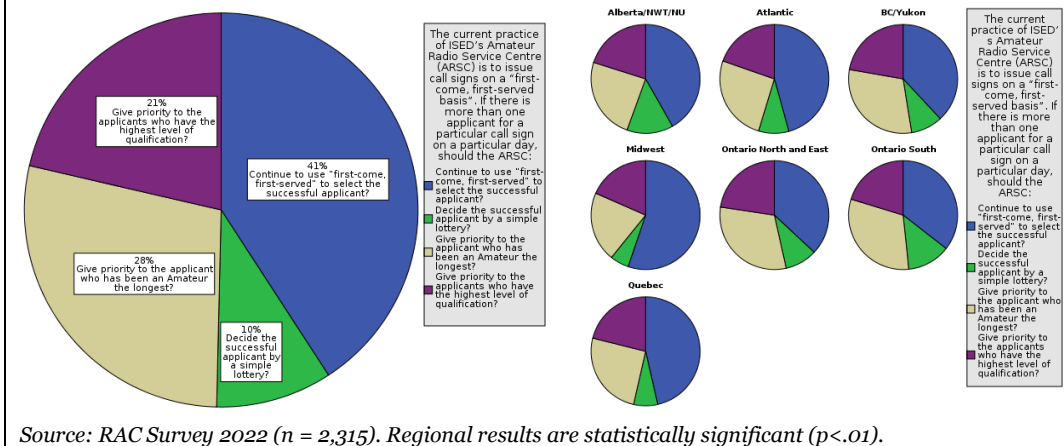


Figure 21. Results for Should Clubs Be Permitted to Acquire Two-Letter Suffix Call Signs? Q27

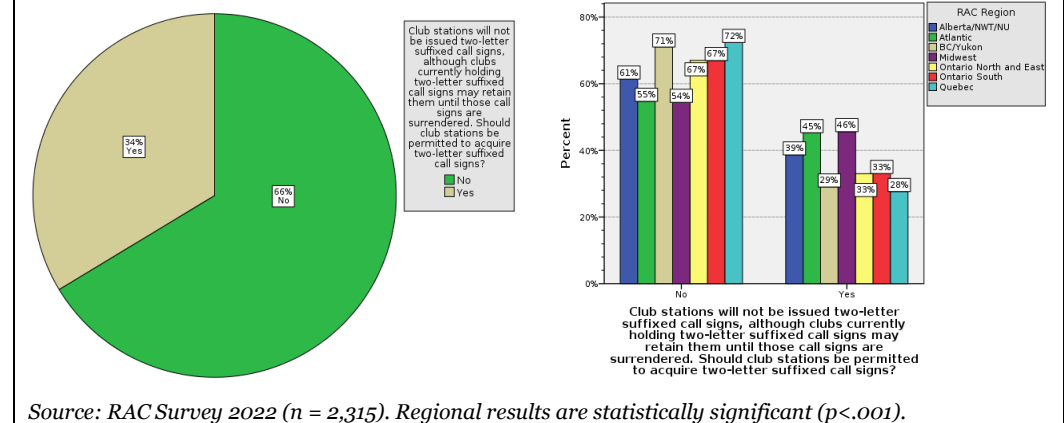
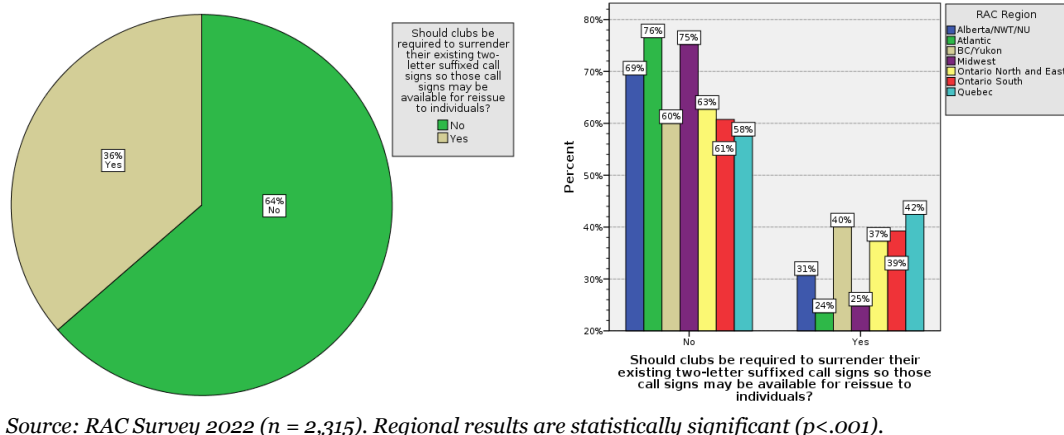


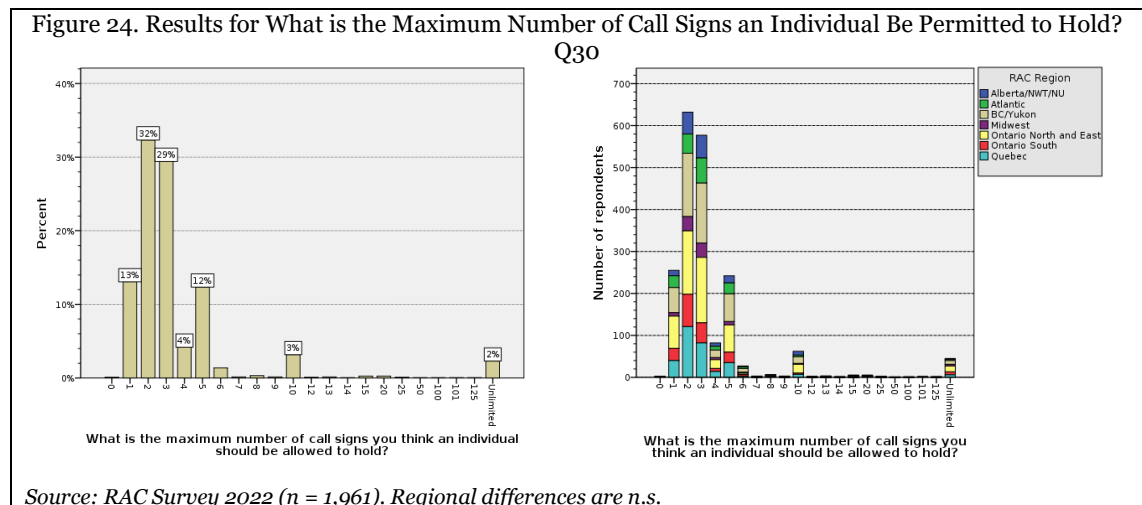
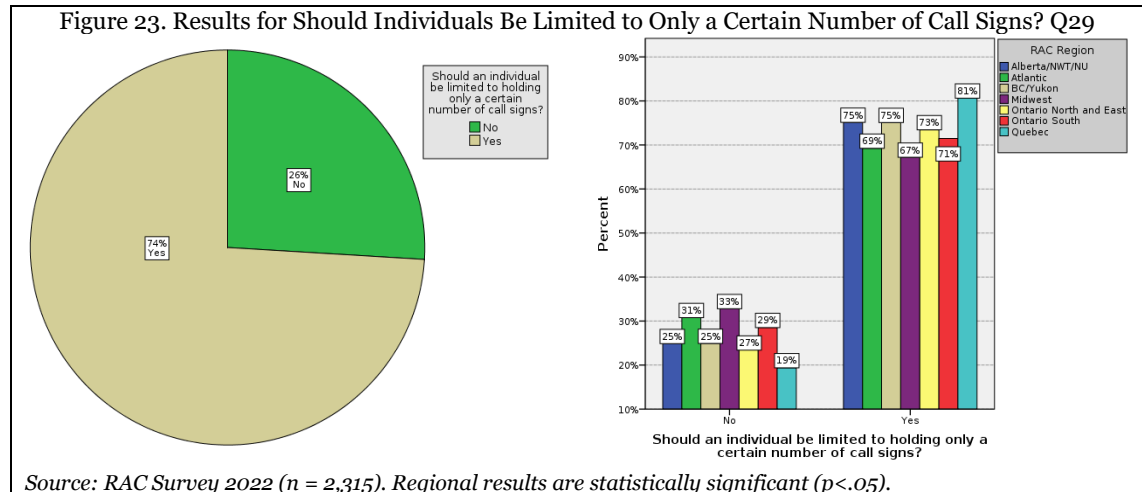
Figure 22. Results for Should Clubs Be Required to Surrender Existing Two-Letter Suffix Call Signs for Reissuance to Individuals? Q28



Section 7: Limits on Call Signs(Q29-Q30)

The resource of call signs has another element to the scarcity issues. Individuals holding multiple call signs potentially contributes to this scarcity. Survey respondents were asked about whether individuals should be limited to a certain number and, if so, what should that number be? Shown in Figure 23, the sentiment is that there should be such a limit (74%). This is largely the same across the various regions of Canada (although the patterns are statistically significant).

For those who responded affirmatively (n=1,961), the limit should be 2 or 3 for over one-half (32% & 29%). Small proportions suggest one (13%) or 5 (12%). The regional patterns are not significant.



Section 8: Call Sign Letter Configuration(Q31-Q39)

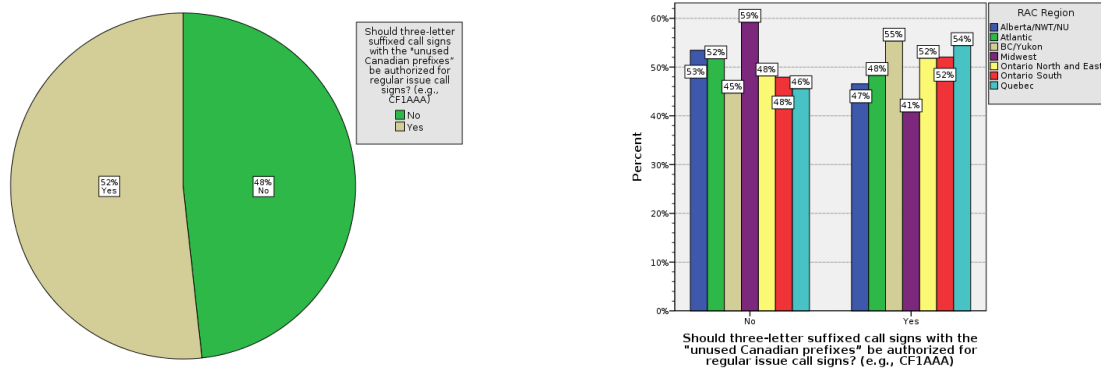
Competition for call signs requires the judicious use of letters and configurations to meet the present and future needs of ISED to authorize and manage certifications in Canada. The survey asked about several specific configurations to better understand potential policy options.

The idea of authorizing one-letter suffix call signs for permanent call signs with the current VA, VE, VO and VY prefixes does not find favour with those in the survey. Almost three-fourths (71%) are against using one-letter suffixes this way. The regional patterns are non-significant. Figure 31 contains these results.

Considering a one-letter suffix call as a scarce resource, should certain qualifications be required to hold one? Respondents who said that these call sign configurations should be available for regular use were asked about what options should be required to receive them. Figure 32 summarizes a very split set of responses on it. The Advanced certificate and the set of all qualifications each receive about a quarter of the response (28%). Seniority as an amateur has just less than a quarter supporting it (22%). The Basic or Basic with Honours certifications receive far less support. There are small but significant regional variations in this split set of views on single-letter call signs.

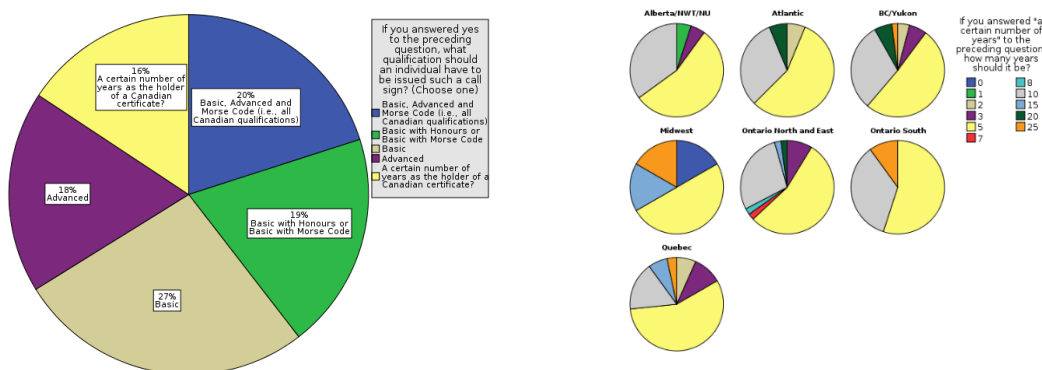
For those who said that seniority as a Radio Amateur in years should have a threshold for this type of call sign, Figure 33 summarizes their suggestions. Five or ten years are the modal recommendations among this small sub-sample (n=143). No significant regional differences are observed.

Figure 25. Results for Should “Unused” Prefixes with three-letter suffixed Call Signs Be Issued for General Use? Q31



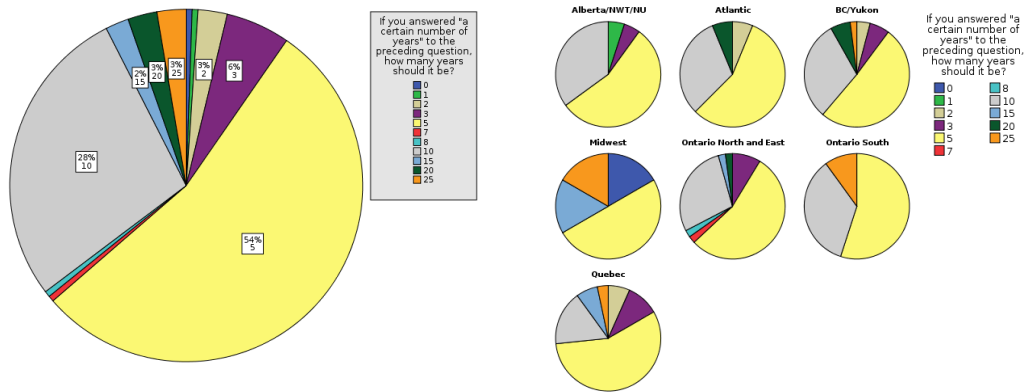
Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional differences are statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Figure 26. Results for Qualifications Needed for Three-Letter Suffix Call Sign with the “unused prefixes”? Q32



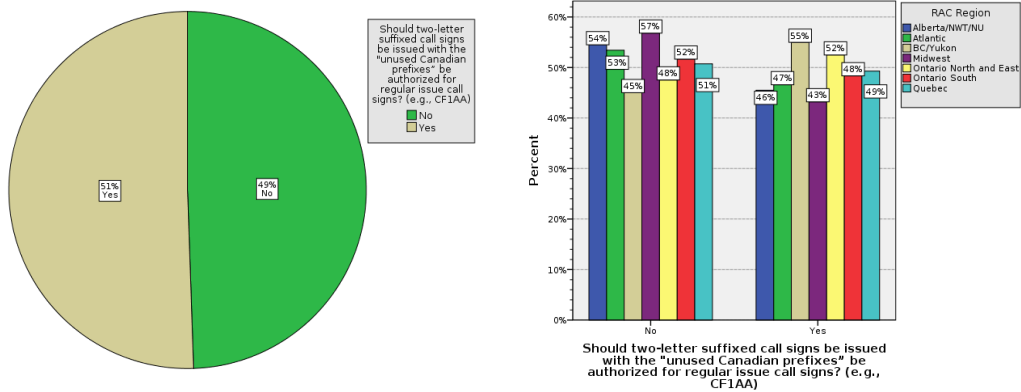
Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 1,197). Regional differences are n.s.

Figure 27. Results for Years Needed for Three-Letter Suffix Call Sign with the “unused prefixes”? Q33



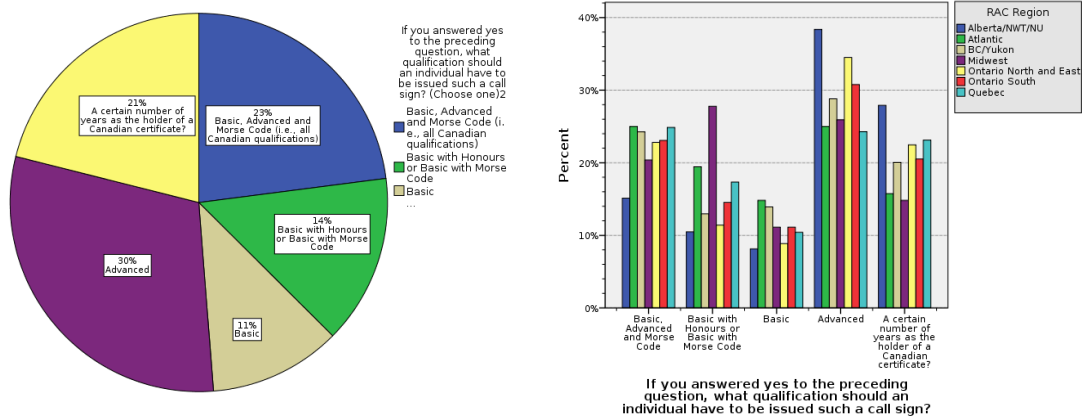
Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 187). Regional differences are statistically significant ($p < .05$).

Figure 28. Should Two-Letter Suffix Call Sign with the “unused prefixes” be available? Q34

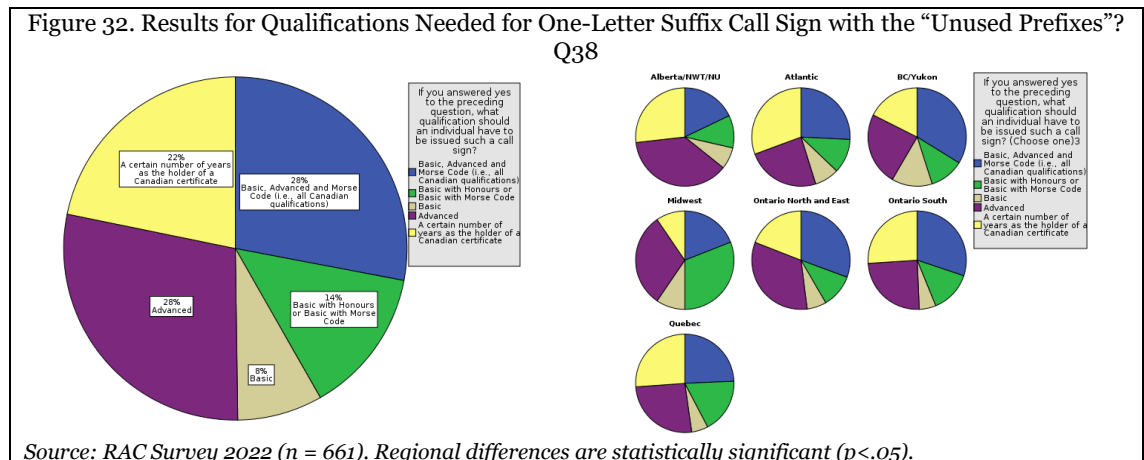
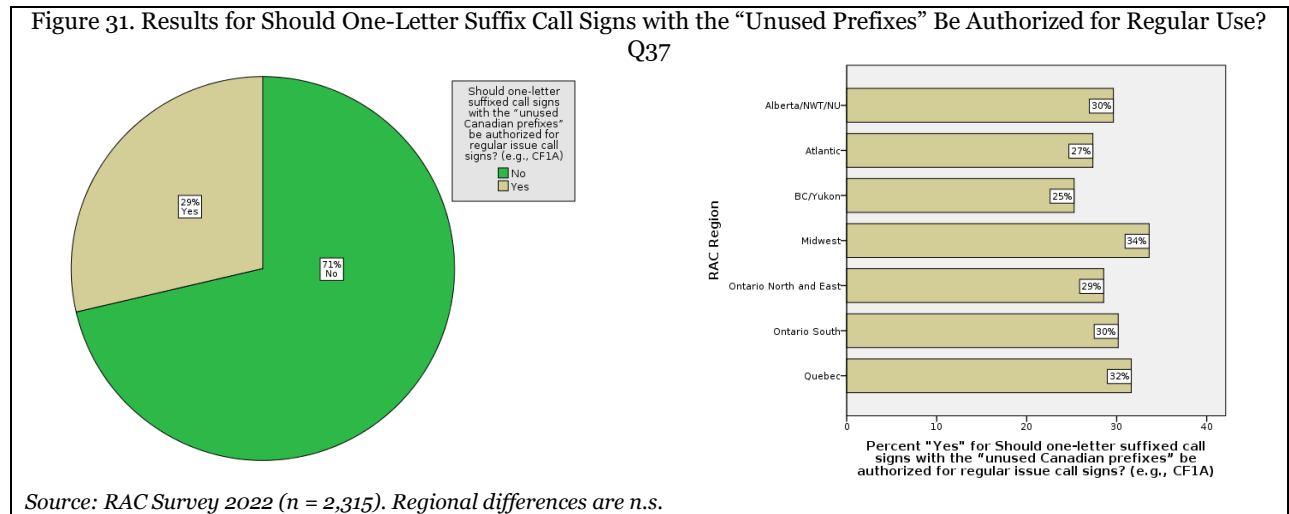
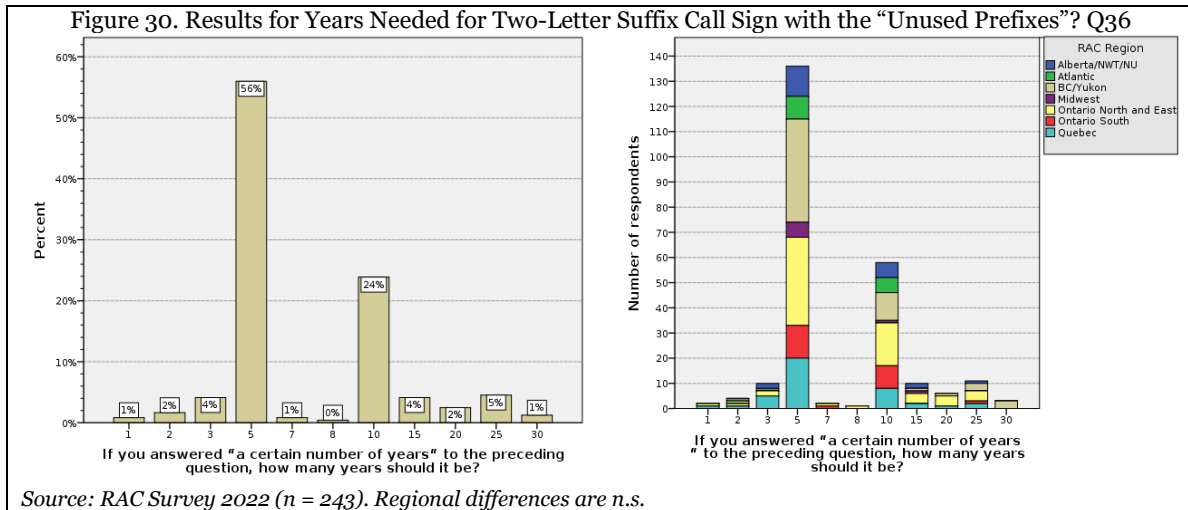


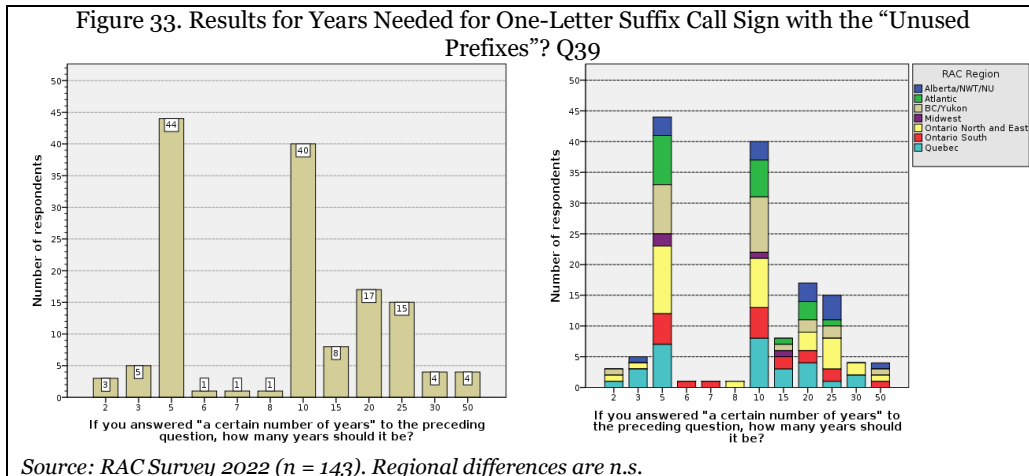
Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional differences are n.s.

Figure 29. Results for Qualifications Needed for Two-Letter Call Sign with the “Unused Prefixes”? Q35



Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 1,167). Regional differences are n.s.



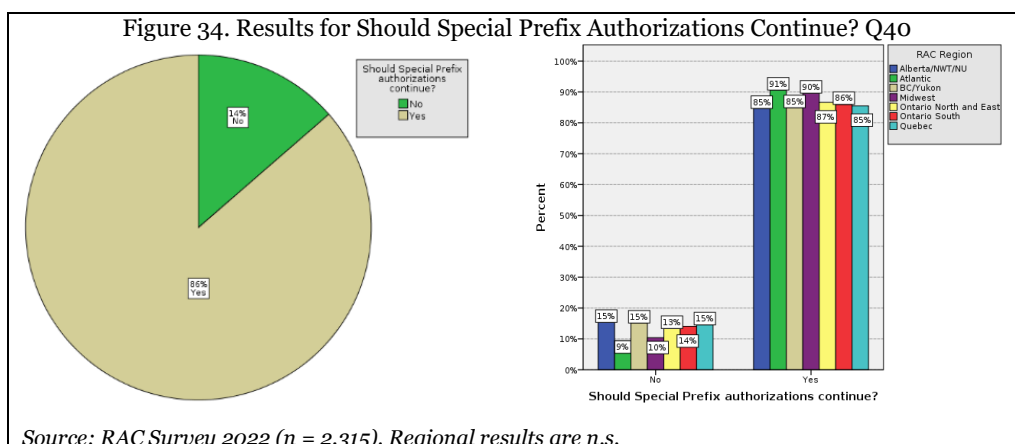


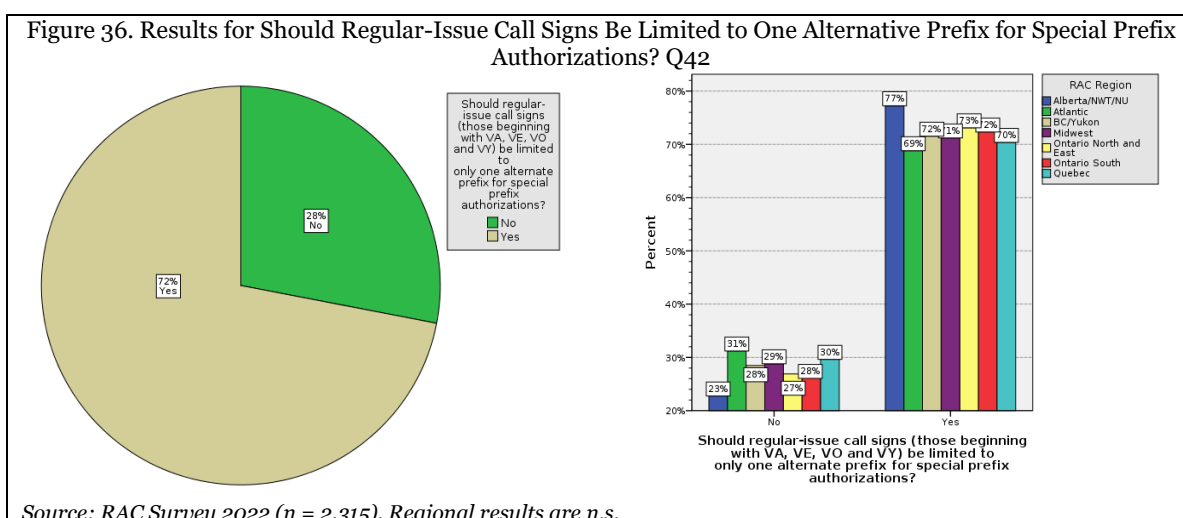
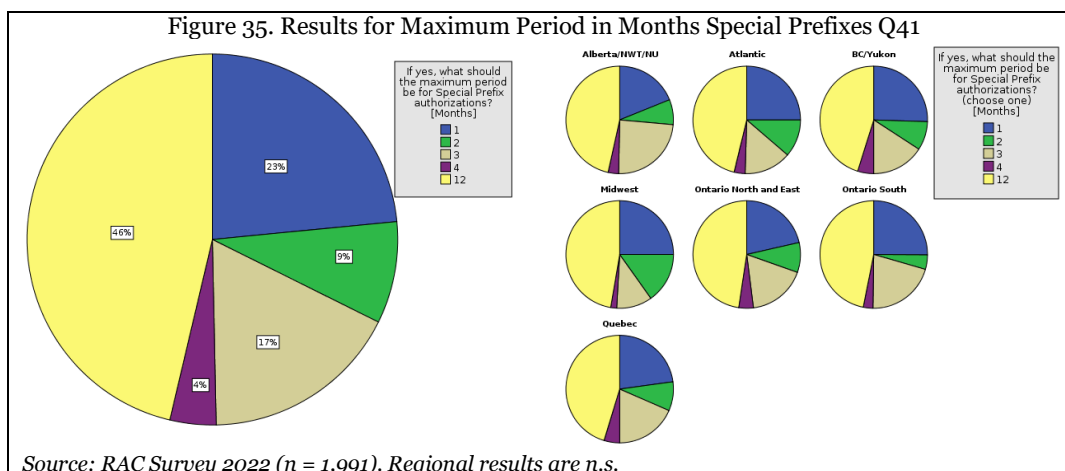
Section 9: Special Prefix Call Signs(Q40-Q42)

Special prefix authorizations receive very strong support for continuing as a policy. Figure 34 shows this result. There is very little variation across regions. The variations observed are not significant.

Respondents who supported the continuation of this policy were asked about what period of time should they be in use. Figure 35 shows this, expressed in months, as the period of 12 months had the single most support (46%). There is a smaller segment of the sample who recommend only one month (23%). The third most popular period is three months (17%). There are no significant regional patterns in this set of responses.

For whether regular-use call signs be limited to one alternative prefix for Special Prefix authorization, Canadian hams once again support moderation (see Figure 36). Almost three-fourths (72%) support the limitation to one alternative prefix in this case. There are no significant regional variations in this support.

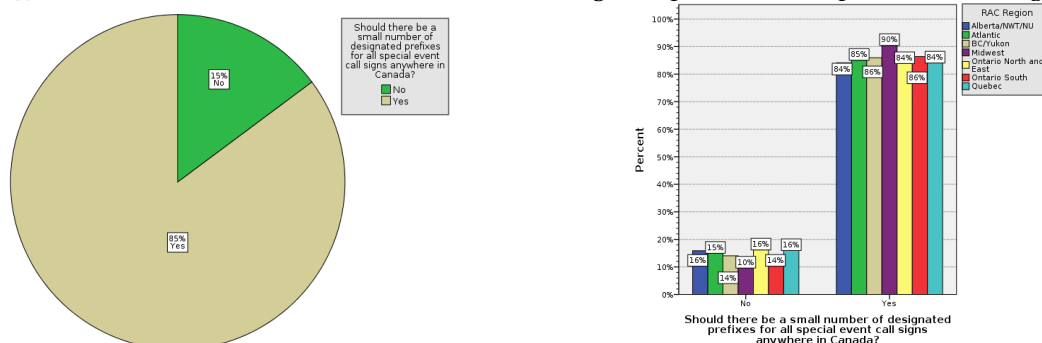




Section 10 & 11: Special Event Station Call Signs (Q43-44)

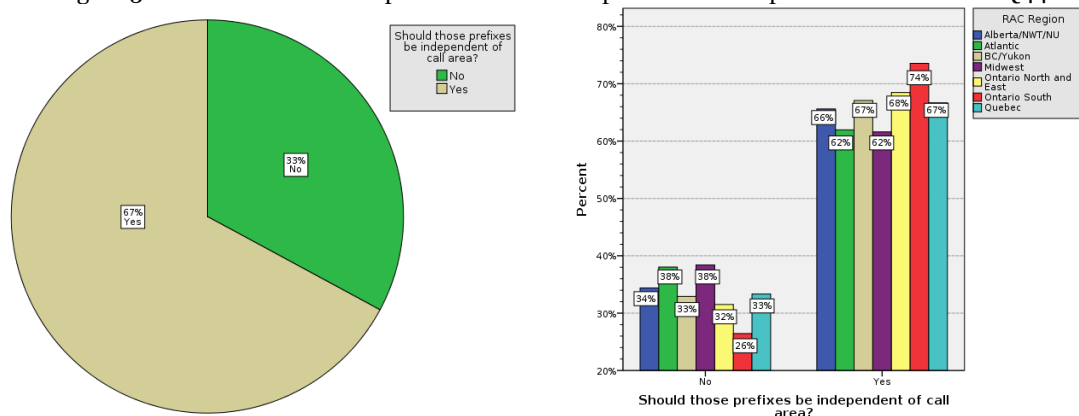
In questions 43 and 44, the survey asked whether Special Event Station call signs should use only a small number of designated prefixes, and whether these call signs should be assigned independent of call area. Responses are summarised in Figures 37 and 38, which show strong support (85%) for a small number of designated prefixes, and moderately strong support (67%) for making these allocations independent of call area.

Figure 37. Results for “Should there be a small number of designated prefixes for all special event call signs? Q43



Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional results are n.s.

Figure 38. Results for Should Special Event Station prefixes be independent of Call Area? Q44



Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional differences are n.s.

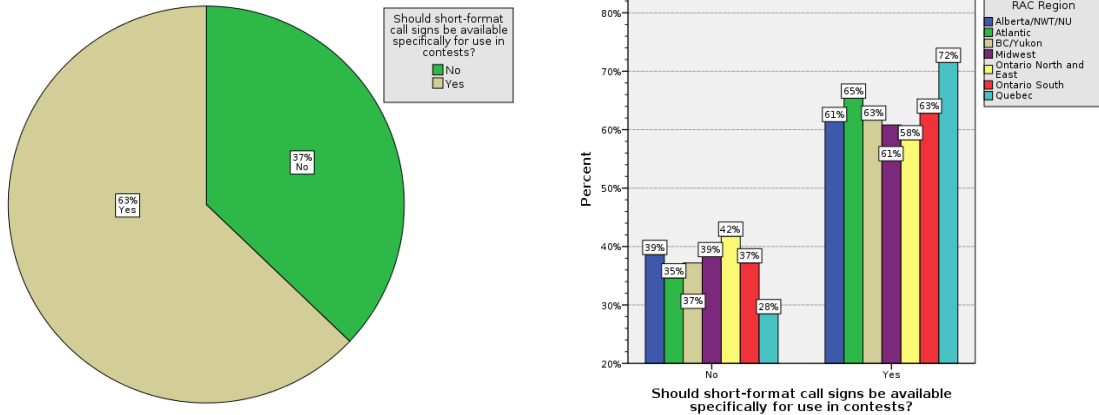
Section 12: Short-Format Call Signs (Q45-47)

The use of short-format call signs being available specifically for use in contests is a policy that all hams might not agree upon. Nonetheless, the results in Figure 39 show that the dominant (63%) response favours it. Support is higher in Quebec (72%) and lowest in North and East Ontario (58%). These are significant differences relative to sample fluctuation.

For those who responded yes that individuals should be issued a short-form call sign, they were asked about qualifications that might be required for that format call. Figure 40 shows that there is a variety of equally held opinions. Holding an Advanced or combination of Basic with either Honours or Morse Code certification, all Canadian qualifications, or “significant previous participation” in contests share the vast number of responses. Having only a Basic certification or just a “certain number of years” as a Radio Amateur received minor shares. The splits among Canadian hams are not significantly different across regions.

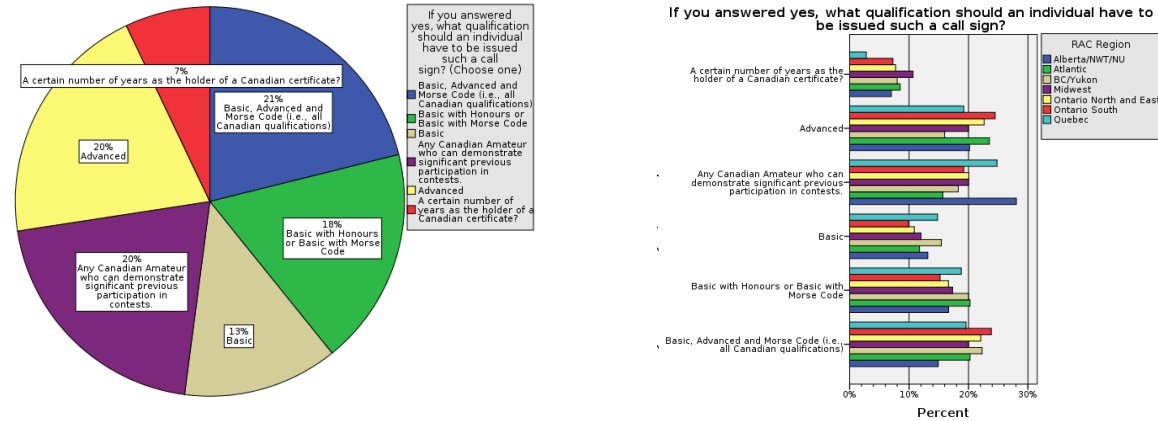
A follow-up question about the proposed requirement for a certain number of years was relevant for only 98 respondents. Figure 41 shows their response for how many years should be required. Over one-half (54%) suggested five years with a quarter (26%) offered ten years as a requirement. Small shares recommended various other numbers of years as a requirement. The regional variation was non-significant.

Figure 39. Results for Should Short-Format Call Signs Be Available Specifically for Use in Contests?Q45



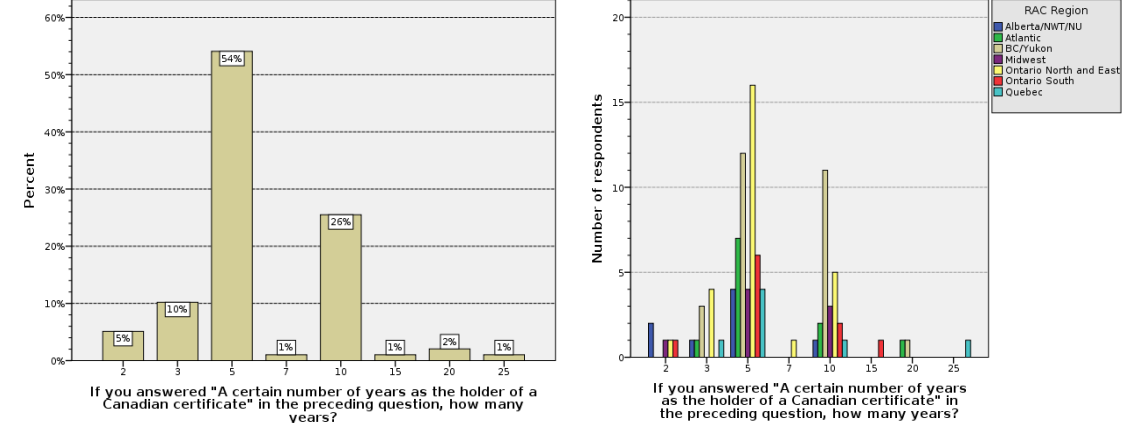
Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional differences are statistically significant ($p < .01$).

Figure 40. Results for What qualifications should be required to Be Issued a Short-Format Call Sign for contests? Q46



Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional differences are n.s.

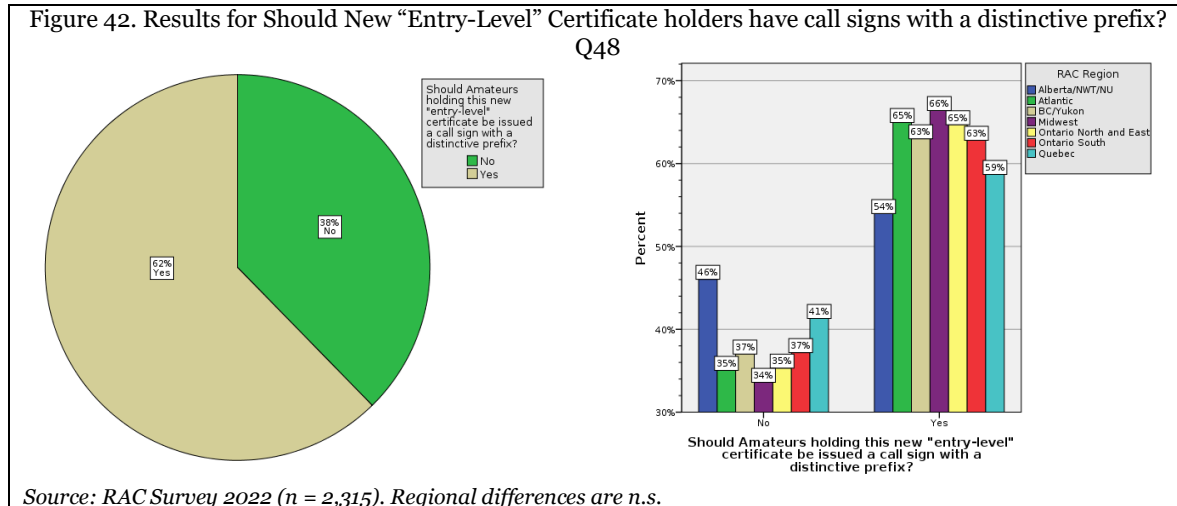
Figure 41. Results for Number of Years an Individual to Hold a Short-Format Call Sign? Q47



Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 98). Regional differences are n.s.

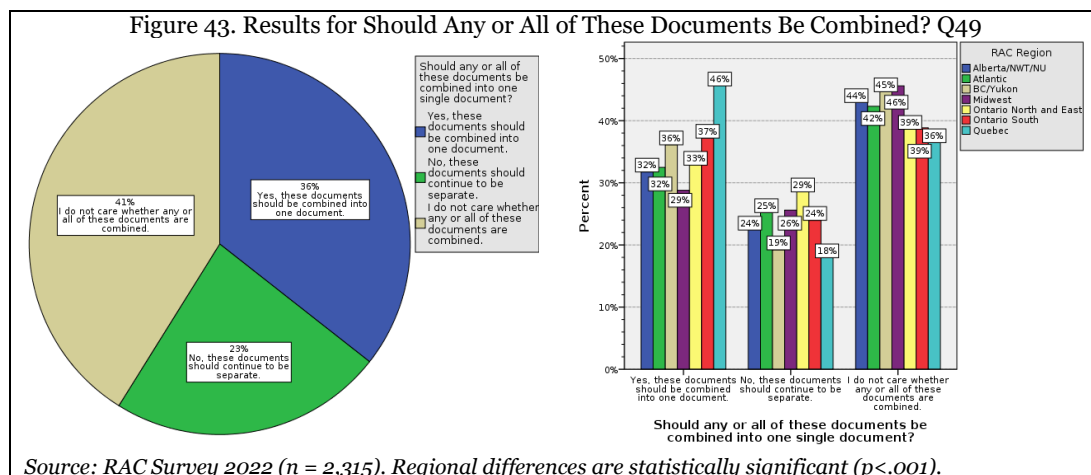
Section 13: New Entry-Level Certificate(Q48)

The question of assigning a new “entry-level” certificate holder with a distinctive prefix is supported by almost two-thirds (62%) in the survey. There are no significant differences across regions in this set of responses.



Section 14: ISED Document Organization(Q49)

ISED publishes several regulatory and policy documents related to Amateur Radio. Should any or all of these documents be consolidated into a single document? The survey responses are summarized in Figure 43. There is a clear split of opinion on this one. Most (41%) say that they do not care about whether they are consolidated or not. Over one-third (36%) think they should. Less than one-quarter (23%) say that the documents should continue to be separate. There are significant and substantive regional differences such as Quebec having, by far, the highest support for consolidation (46%). This region has the lowest support for maintaining separate documents (18%). These differences are largely predicated on this single region's patterns.



Section 15: Fee Structure for ISED Services (Q50-54)

ISED's Amateur Radio Service Centre (ARSC) currently charges fees for some services to Amateurs, and charges no fees for certain other services. A large majority of survey participants are opposed to any changes in fees (82%). This is an almost universal view across the various regions as they are all within four percent of one another (non-significant).

The current \$60 fee for services should also not be changed (78%) according to these respondents. Some 14 percent thought they should be raised while 8 percent said they should be abolished. This is also a fairly widespread view and regional variations are not significant.

For those who responded that fees should be changed (n=283), they were asked how much they should be raised or lowered? Figure 46 shows that there are two groups of recommended amounts. One is between \$20-\$30 while the mode is \$100 dollars. These amounts do not vary significantly by region.

Some services do not require payment of a fee. But should those be raised? The response is a resounding "unchanged" for these survey respondents. This is shown in Figure 47. The regional differences are small and not statistically significant.

Among those who say that they should be changed, the amounts suggested are summarized in Figure 48. There is a similar pattern in that from \$20-\$30 or from \$50-\$60 are the dominant recommendations. Continuing the pattern in this section, regional variations are not significantly different.

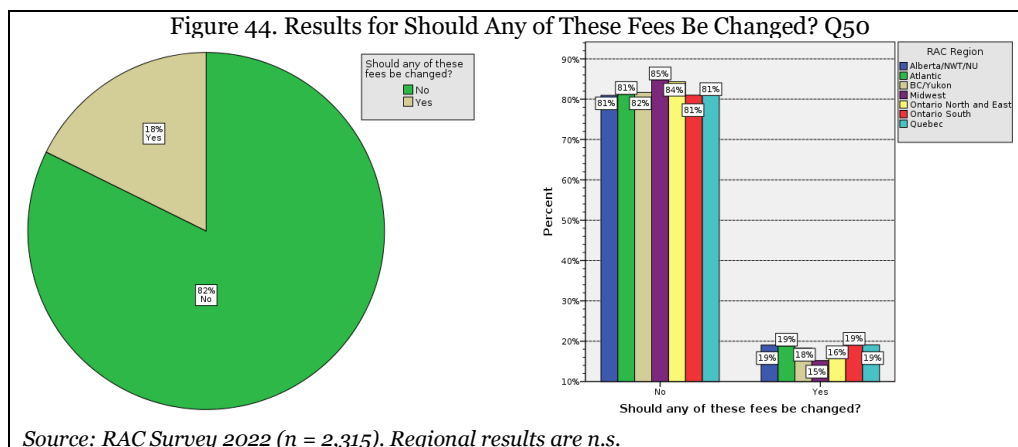
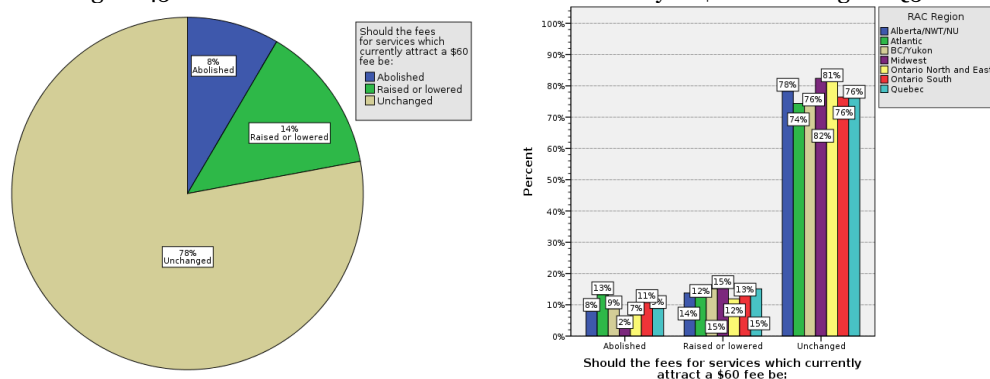
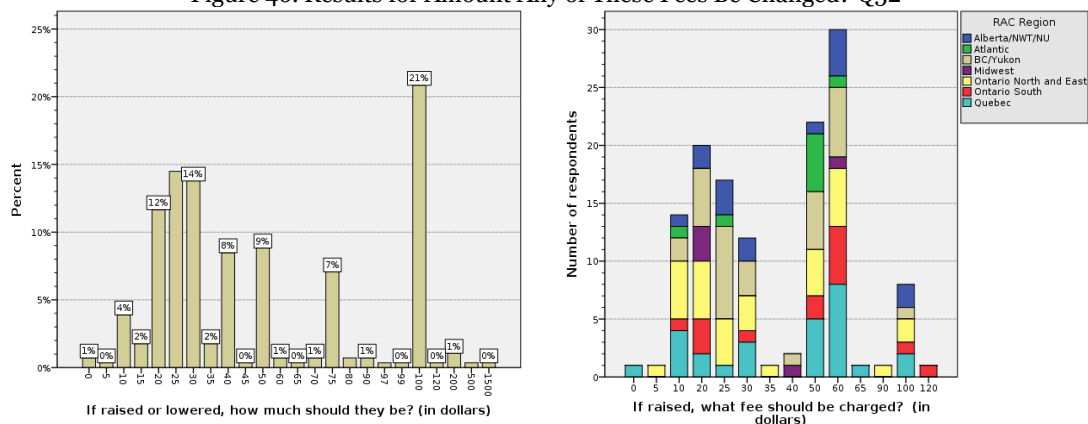


Figure 45. Results for Should Fees for Services Currently at \$60 Be Changed? Q51



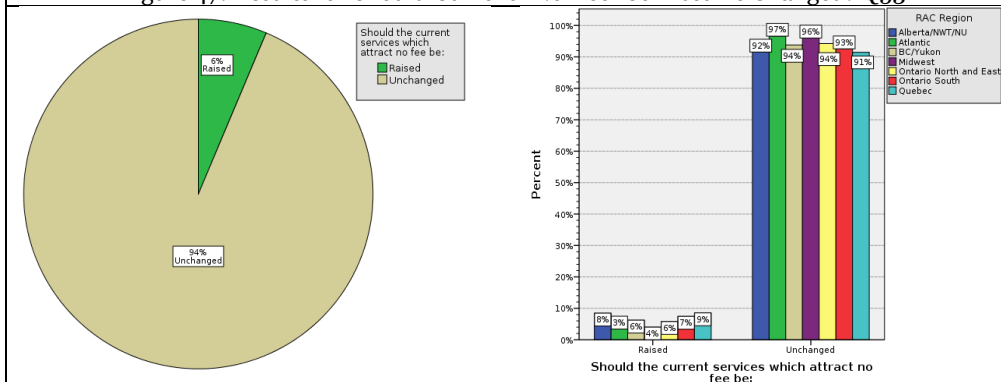
Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional differences are n.s.

Figure 46. Results for Amount Any of These Fees Be Changed? Q52

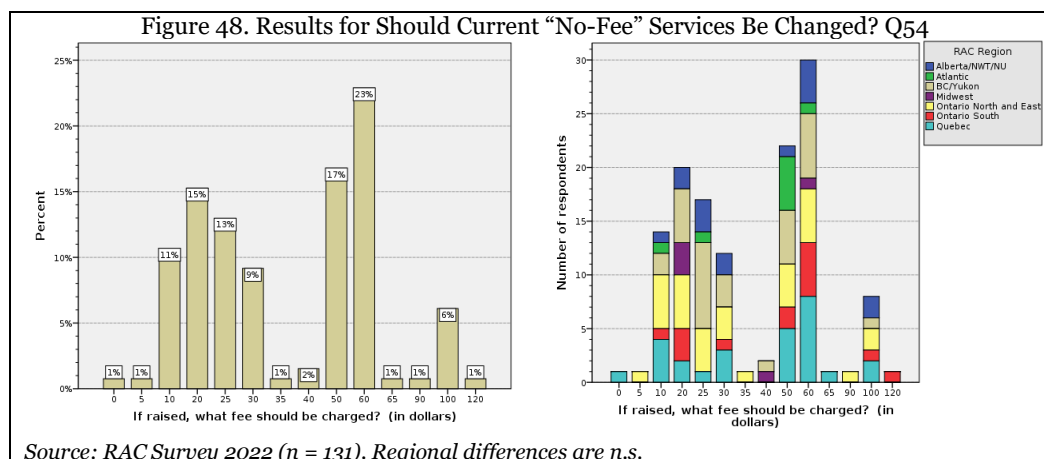


Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 283). Regional differences are n.s.

Figure 47. Results for Should Current “No-Fee” Services Be Changed? Q53



Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n = 2,315). Regional differences are n.s.



Section 1: Demographic Patterns: (Q1-Q5)

In this section, various demographic, qualification, and club participation patterns are investigated.

Figure 49 shows that for this survey sample, there is heavy participation by those with Advanced (33%) or Morse Code (37%) certifications. However, these patterns vary significantly by region. Among survey participants, those holding Advanced certificates are fewest in British Columbia/Yukon (28%), for instance, and most numerous in Alberta/NWT/NU (37%). Various other regional patterns can be observed as well.

Participation in the survey by province or territory and by RAC membership is summarized in Figure 50. Twenty-four percent (24%) of survey participants reside in British Columbia. The two Ontario regions combined also represent 24% of survey participants. Among those participating in the survey, RAC membership is highest amongst those in the Midwest Region (83%) and in the Alberta/NWT/NU Region (84%). Quebec respondents showed the lowest level of RAC membership (41%).

Amateur radio is facing an apparent aging crisis but there are sparse data to empirically place the parameters around what can be observed at ham fests, online or in the apparent voices heard on the air. Figure 51 contains age and “licence tenure” patterns. (*Note: the term “licence tenure” may be used to describe the length of time a Canadian Amateur has held a certificate. Canadian Amateurs are “certified,” not “licensed.”*) The average year of birth for the sample is 1959, resulting in an average reported age of 62.8. The skew toward earlier years is indicative of the greater older age groups than younger ones. The average year in which survey participants became Radio Amateurs is 1995. The shape of the middle histogram, however, illustrates more than the simple average. There is a group of hams certified 40 years (i.e., pre-1980) or more with a spike in recently qualified hams (since 2010). One might assume that many were qualified during their youth but one would be wrong. This is clearly the case in a segment of the sample but there are enough “later-in-life” hams to disabuse the reader of this often-made assumption. “Licence tenure” is the length of time the survey respondent has been qualified as a Radio Amateur (computed as birth year minus year in which they became a Radio Amateur). The average “licence tenure” is 36 years with a standard deviation (measuring the differences

around this mean score). Perusing the shape of the histogram shows the significant bulk of hams with 25 years or less tenure in the hobby. The tapering off after 60 years, of course, largely reflects those fitting the stereotype of Radio Amateurs entering the hobby during youth or young adulthood.

To better understand the association of age and the timing of earning an Amateur Radio certificate, a scatterplot of “licence tenure” by age is shown in Figure 52. To assist RAC executives, RAC members are denoted in red with non-members shown in solid green circles. A dashed blue line is placed along the diagonal of these two variables. It demarcates the one-to-one correspondence of age at licensure in a way that examining each variable separately cannot. The extent to which survey respondents fall away from this blue dashed line reflects the deviation from the assumed pattern of youthful qualification as a Radio Amateur.

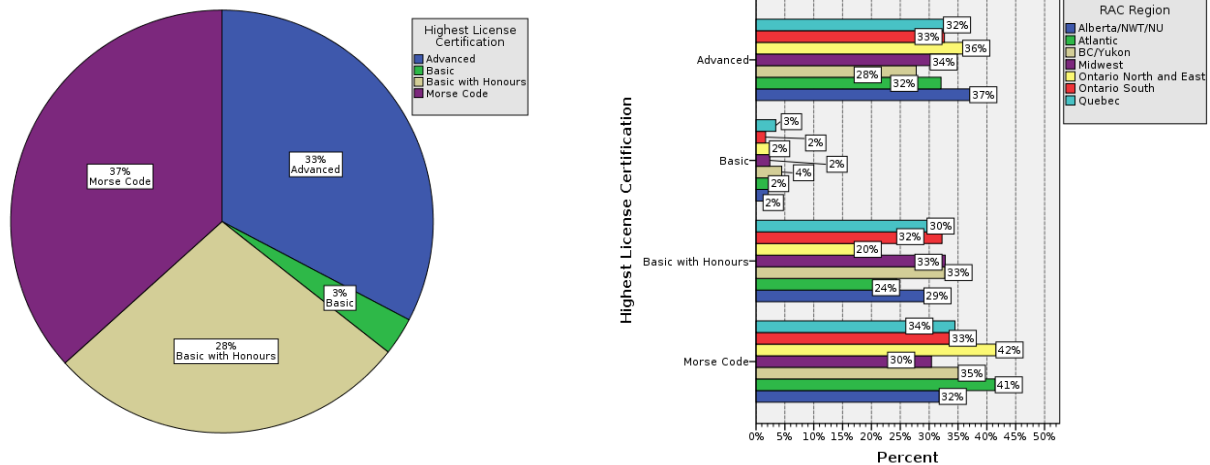
The pattern demonstrates how many late-in-life amateur operators there are in the survey. Many who report being 80 years of age or more also report being qualified as Radio Amateurs less than 20 years. Note, too, the cluster of non-RAC members between 40-60 years of age who were qualified as a Radio Amateur during their younger years. Some age or qualification responses may not be reliable.

Three-quarters (75%) of hams in this survey reported that they are members of a local club. These patterns show some age patterns but overall, they are not significant. It’s important to note that the younger age groups tend to have at least one-half say they are members of local clubs. By age 30, the rates are fairly constant.

In Figure 54, local club membership is compared by region and by RAC membership. Both sets of differences are statistically significant. Let’s examine the patterns. Overall, some 72 percent of the survey participants say they are RAC members. This is not surprising to some degree because of the “opt-in” sample design. But national organization membership is significantly linked to local club membership. In the full sample (results not shown), some 77 percent of RAC members are also members of local clubs as compared to 69 percent of non-RAC members, a statistically significant difference. The observed differences in specific regions favor this RAC-local club membership pattern. In Alberta/NWT/NU, the Midwest, and Ontario, there are higher percentages of local club members among RAC members. Exceptions are in the Atlantic region where the relationship is the opposite (higher local membership among non-RAC members) and in Quebec. The Quebec region has about the same percentage of memberships in RAC as in local clubs (89% vs. 92%).

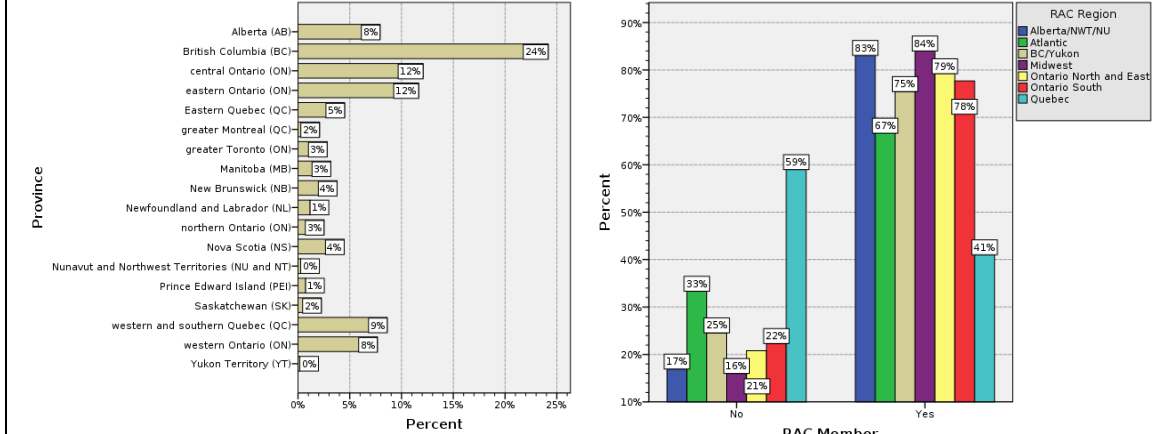
There is no significant relationship between highest qualification and RAC membership. In the right panel of Figure 54, the variations among certificate classes do fluctuate but they are small except for the Basic (only) certification: 77% RAC membership vs. 58% for other qualifications.

Figure 49. Which Canadian Amateur Radio Qualifications Do You Have? (Q3)



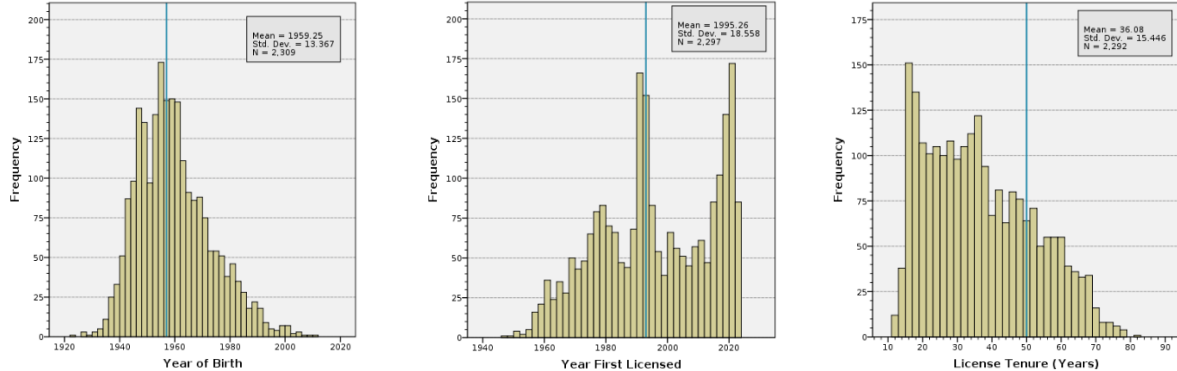
Source: RAC 2022 Survey (n=2,315). Regional differences are statistically significant ($p < .001$).

Figure 50. Location and RAC Membership (Q4, Q5)



Source: RAC 2022 Survey (n=2,315). Province differences are statistically significant ($p < .001$).

Figure 51. Year of Birth, Year First Qualified, Number of Years as a Radio Amateur (Q1, Q2)



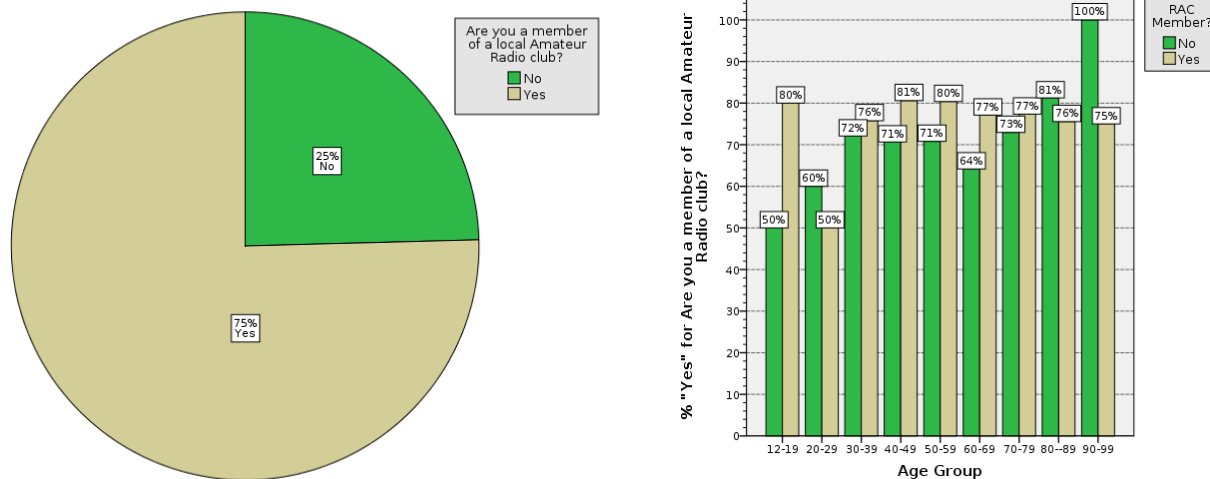
Source: RAC 2022 Survey (n=2,315). "Licence tenure" is the difference between age (from birth year) and year of licensure. Median values are shown in blue.

Figure 52. Scatterplot of “License Tenure” by Age with RAC Membership Q1,Q2,Q5

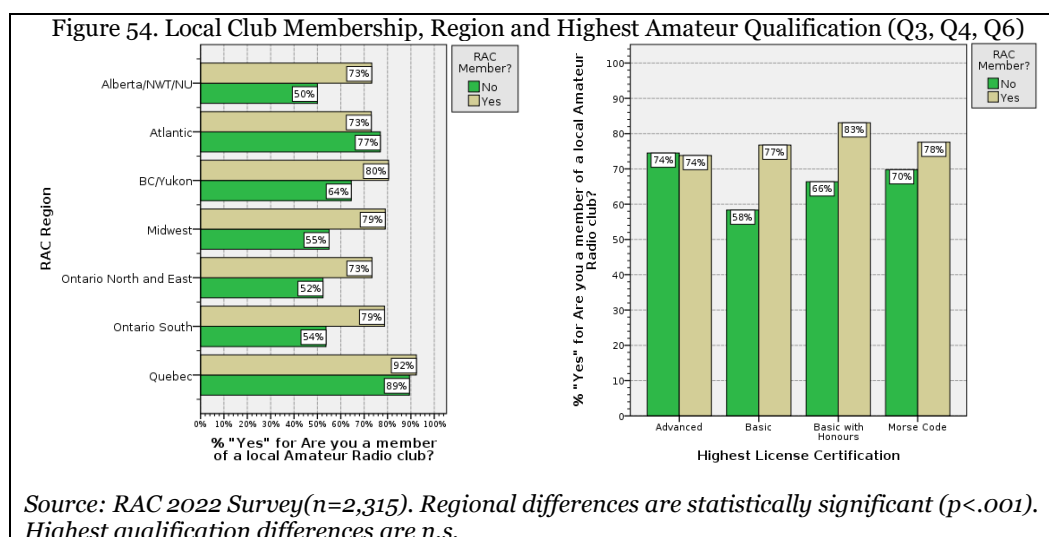


Source: RAC Survey 2022 (n=2,292). Birth and year of qualification as a Radio Amateur are self-reports by the survey respondent.

Figure 53. Local Club Membership (Q6)



Source: RAC 2022 Survey (n=2,315). Province differences are n.s.



Summary of Major Findings

In this extensive survey of policy options regarding call sign allocations in Canada, there are many specific results in this analysis. Only the major findings are summarized in this section. This discussion may omit some specific results that have great significance for some readers. This narrative emphasizes the main themes predicated on the survey design.

Call Sign Changes (Q7 - Q11). Strong sentiment is observed for requiring a call sign change for operators who relocate to another Province or Territory. There is a split opinion on whether retention of the same call in a similar move should be permitted. There is moderate opposition to permitting additional call signs in additional Provinces or Territories for individual hams. There are significant regional differences in this evaluation. A moderate level of support is observed for the use of VEØ as a prefix in satellite or other space operations. Small regional variations in this support are present.

Call Sign Transfer (Q12-Q15). Very strong support is expressed for the ability of a relative of a deceased ham operator to receive a transference of the silent key's call sign. Some sentiment is observed for abolishing this policy in the Quebec region. A modification to limited preferred access to this call sign for a two-year period has greater support (30%). Several regions support this but most are not in favor. Another policy option of the use of a personal will executed upon death to extend a call sign's preferred transfer to a relative or friend has moderate support. No regional differences in this option are observed. A final option involved a one-year "cooling off" period being implemented before ISED recycles the call sign. A split opinion over this policy is observed with divided regional patterns.

Call Sign Composition (Q16-Q17). The use of single-letter suffixes being permitted for regular is not in favor with Canadian hams, regardless of region. Four-letter suffixes for regular call signs are similarly not supported. This does not vary by region.

Call Sign Composition Qualifications (Q18-Q28). There is a strong sentiment for requiring three-letter call signs for newly-qualified hams. There are some regional differences in this support but all are in the majority supporting it. The five-year qualification requirement is

strongly supported with a nominal suggestion that the number of years should be changed. Most of these suggest 10 years as an alternative. For two-letter call suffix assignment, moderate support favors requiring an Advanced certificate. This is most prominent in the various regions of Ontario. There is moderate support for relatives obtaining two-letter calls for a deceased family member being required to hold an Advanced certificate. Ontario's regions support this policy at the highest levels. An option to this policy, of requiring a Morse Code certification for the recipient of such a call sign, is moderately not supported by this survey.

Holding more than one two-letter call sign is largely a “no-go” as 86 percent are against it. This negative sentiment is mostly irrespective of regional location. There is a similar negative opinion about existing two-letter call signs being exchanged for a different one by individual hams. Small support for this policy, however, was observed in the Atlantic and Midwest regions. “Grandfathering” of two-letter calls as to whether they should be exchangeable for another is also not a policy receiving support. All regions have majority support for this not being an acceptable policy. There is no dominate feeling about the potential policy changes to the ISED “first-come, first-served” method for call sign requests. Maintaining the current policy receives moderate support among the other options. Regional differences in this policy package are small.

The potential for *all* clubs to receive two-letter call signs receives only a small level of support. All regions have a majority of responses against such a policy. By the same token, there is moderate negative sentiment toward a requirement of clubs surrendering currently held two-letter calls for reissuance to individuals. But there are regionally distinct views on this, such as in Quebec, Southern Ontario and British Columbia/Yukon.

Limits on Call Signs (Q29-Q30). Holding multiple call signs appears to have little support. Strong opinions about limiting the number of call signs held by individuals are observed. Few important regional differences in this strong sentiment are evident. For those who said the number should be adjusted, a majority supported 2 or 3 as a limit on the number of calls.

Call Sign Letter Configuration (Q31-Q39). Relatively scarce one-letter call signs being authorized for regular use does not find much support, irrespective of region. Examination of qualifications to receive one shows that a split occurs on them. Some sentiment is expressed for holding an Advanced certification as a requirement. Small regional variations in this split opinion are observed. For a minimum “licence tenure” as a qualification shows that this small segment of the survey respondents (n=143) suggests either five or ten years as a requirement with no regional divergence in the recommendation.

Special Prefix Call Signs (Q40-Q42). Strong support for continuing the policy of special prefix call signs was found. It appears universally across all regions. Those who supported the continued use said that twelve months (one year) is the right period for authorization. There are smaller segments of respondents who recommend only one or three months. The restriction of regular-use call signs being limited to just one alternative Special Prefix authorization is strongly supported with not regional divergence in opinions.

One-Letter Call Sign Allocation (Q43-44). The question of whether a small number of the scarce one-letter suffix call signs should be set aside for all Special Event calls throughout Canada was strongly supported by survey respondents. All regions supported this very strongly. A parallel sentiment was expressed in support of these prefixes should be independent of call sign area. A majority of respondents across every region supported this lack of call sign geography restriction.

Short-Format Call Signs (Q45-47). The use of short-format call signs specifically for contests has a moderately positive preference. This is higher support in Quebec than in, for instance, North or East Ontario. For those supporting their use in contests, they are split on potential qualifications that might be required. This diverse set of suggestions does not significantly vary across regions. Rather than certifications as qualifications, they were also asked about long they had been Radio Amateurs. A majority of the 98 respondents for whom this was a relevant question recommended either five or 10 years as a requirement without significant regional dissent.

New Entry-Level Certificate (Q48). A moderate level of support was found for a distinctive prefix being used for a new “entry-level” certificate. This was without significant regional distinctions.

ISED Document Organization (Q49). ISED currently has disparate documents for the management of amateur certificates, call sign allocations and the regulations as they apply to Amateur Radio. Respondents clearly split on whether these documents should be consolidated or remain separate. A modal, non-majority sentiment expressed indifference as to whether this policy should change. Significant regional views were observed in that Quebec, in specific, had the highest favoritism for consolidation than other regions.

Fee Structure for Licensing (Q50-54). Canadian amateurs strongly opposed any fee changes, an almost universally supported sentiment across regions. A strong feeling that the current \$60 fee for services should not be changed. Only 14 percent felt that it should be raised while 8 percent recommended abolishment of the current \$60 for services. Little regional difference in these strong sentiments was observed. For those who felt fees should be changed (n=283), there was a split of a group suggesting \$20-\$30 with another at \$100. No significant regional variation was present. Free services being change to paid services had a strong sentiment for not changing them from their current free status. Those who did, however, thing charging for them suggested another split set of recommends. One group recommended a \$20-\$30 range while another felt a \$50-\$60 fee pattern was appropriate. Again, regional variations were not significant.

Demographic Patterns: (Q1-Q5). There are several important demographic patterns observed that are independent of the call sign policy matters. The survey itself had heavy participation by those with Advanced or Morse Code certifications but they vary significantly by region (as to the qualifications recorded in ISED’s Amateur Radio Call Sign database). Province or Territory contributed different shares to the overall survey respondents, led by British Columbia/Yukon and Ontario.

RAC membership is highest in the Midwest and in Alberta/NWT/NU. Quebec has the lowest membership percent in the survey.

The age distribution confirms the often-discussed aging ham population in Canada. The average age in the survey is 62.8 years with a skew toward the older end. The average year of licensure is 1995 but a graph shows that there are two “lumps” in the distribution. There is a group of hams who qualified as Radio Amateurs 40 or more years (i.e., pre-1980) and a spike in recently qualified hams (since 2010). Using a scatterplot of age by “licence tenure” shows that the conventional wisdom of most hams earning their Amateur Radio certificates as teens or young adults holds only for a certain segment of the ham population, at least as observed in this survey. The average “licence tenure” is 36 with a standard deviation of 15. The scatterplot illustrates that

there are many hams in this survey who were qualified as Radio Amateurs later in life reflecting a clear policy option for RAC in recruitment.

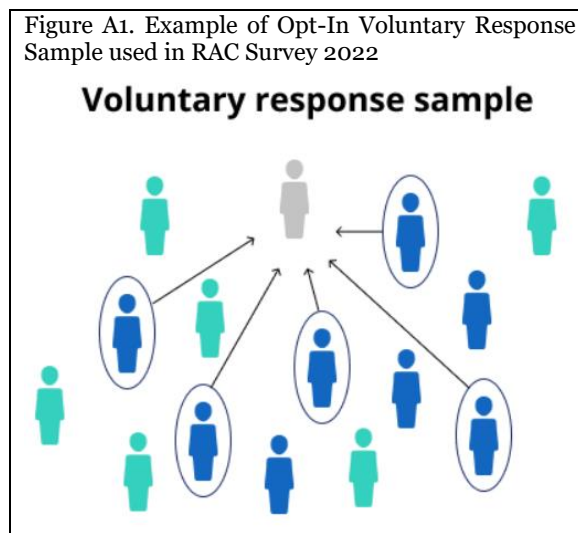
Strong local club membership was reported. Some three-fourths say they belong to a local club. There are some age-group patterns but they are not statistically significant. By age 30, the rates of club membership remain fairly constant through the age range in the survey. Some 72 percent of the survey participants say they are RAC members, not surprising for an opt-in survey promoted by RAC. But national organization membership in RAC is significantly linked to local club membership (by a margin of 77% to 69%). The only regional exception to this link occurs in Alberta/NWT/NU where it has an opposite pattern. Highest Amateur Radio qualification has no significant relationship to RAC membership.

Appendix

Survey Methodology

The RAC Survey of 2022 was designed by several RAC officials, listed below. It was deployed as an online “opt-in” sampling method and thus is not considered a random sample of Canadian amateur radio operators. The survey and website link were announced through various media outlets in Canada for several weeks to encourage participation. Separate French and English language survey instruments were deployed so potential respondents could self-select their preferred language through which to complete the instrument. The online survey was open for response from August 5, 2022 through September 30, 2022. A total of 2,315 completed surveys were obtained, including 2,009 in English and 306 in French. They are combined in a common translated English form for this analysis.

A diagram illustrating an opt-in online survey is shown below, taken by permission from Frank K4FMH’s article in the *ARRL National Contest Journal*. Those individuals encircled chose to respond while those not enclosed opted to not respond. Thus, the mechanism producing the set of respondents is unknown.



Dave Goodwin VE3KG was the main author of the survey instrument and design. Commenters on the draft survey instrument included: Frank Davis VO1HP, Chris Allingham VE3FU, John Sluymer VE3EJ, Richard Ferch VE3KI, two members of the staff of the department of Industry, Science and Economic Development (ISED) who would prefer to remain unidentified. In addition, all the members of the RAC Board and Executives had opportunities to comment: Phil McBride VA3QR, Allan Boyd VE3AJB, Jeff Dale VA3ISP, Al Masse VE3CWP, Margaret Tidman VA3VXN, Serge Bertuzzo VA3SB, Marcel Mongeon VA3DDD, Stephen Lee VA6SGL, Al Penney VO1NO, Keith Whitney VE7KW, Ed Richardson VE4VT, Pat Dopson VE3HZQ, Barry Brousseau VE3SLD, Guy Richard VE2XTD. RAC's Marketing and Communications Director, Alan Griffin, and his team of unidentified translators were also involved in editing the final survey instrument.

RAC member, Dr. Frank M. Howell K4FMH, conducted the analysis of the survey data and prepared the draft version of this report. He is Professor Emeritus at Mississippi State University and Adjunct Professor at Emory University with expertise in survey research and statistics, contributing a chapter to the *Handbook of Survey Research*, 2nd Edition. Dr. Howell was formerly Editor-in-Chief at Springer Media, a large scientific publisher in The Netherlands. This report was reviewed by RAC officials and edited into the final form for release by the Radio Amateurs of Canada.

Realized Sample Characteristics

Several characteristics of the final (or realized) sample data have been compared with known population data. These include the official Amateur Radio Call Sign database from ISED by Province and Territory and the age distribution of the Canadian population with the sample's age variable. An additional comparison is the highest Amateur Radio qualification using the ISED Call Sign Database and the RAC Survey. None of these sources should be expected to perfectly coincide with the RAC Survey sample. Not every qualified Radio Amateur is engaged in the hobby. Many could be deceased. There is no national measurement of birth year in the ISED call sign database so the population profile of Canada from the Census in 2021 is only a reference, as much as a comparison of active or engaged ham operators in our survey to the full national population as it is a check on the representativeness of the realized survey respondents.

Radio Amateurs by Province and Territory vs Sample

Shown in Table A1 is a comparison of ISED's Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign database with the RAC Survey 2022 on the distribution by Province. The percent columns were compared and the arithmetic difference is shown in the rightmost column. The survey response is in close margins to each Province with two exceptions. The survey is over-represented in Ontario and under-represented in Quebec. Each difference is less than ten percent, suggesting that the realized survey is a reasonable approximation for Canada's Provinces and Territories although it is not based on a random sampling design.

Table A1. Comparison of ISED Amateur Call Sign Database and RAC 2022 Survey by Province					
Province or Territory:	ISED	%	RAC Survey 2022	%	Difference: ISED-Survey
AB - Alberta	7,790	9.63	183	7.90	1.73
BC - British Columbia	19,104	23.64	558	24.11	-0.47
MB - Manitoba	2,139	2.65	73	3.15	-0.5
NB - New Brunswick	1609	1.99	87	3.76	-1.77
NL - Newfoundland/Labrador	1,404	1.74	27	1.17	0.57
NS - Nova Scotia	2,573	3.18	103	4.45	-1.27
NT - Northwest Territories&					
NU - Nunavut	121	0.15	6	0.26	-0.11
ON - Ontario	23,191	28.69	848	36.63	-7.94
PE - Prince Edward Island	305	0.38	17	0.73	-0.35
QC - Quebec	19,135	23.68	351	15.16	8.52
SK - Saskatchewan	1,597	1.98	52	2.25	-0.27
YT - Yukon	188	0.23	4	0.17	0.06
No data	1,664	2.06	6	0.26	1.80
Totals	80,820	100.00	2,315	100.00	

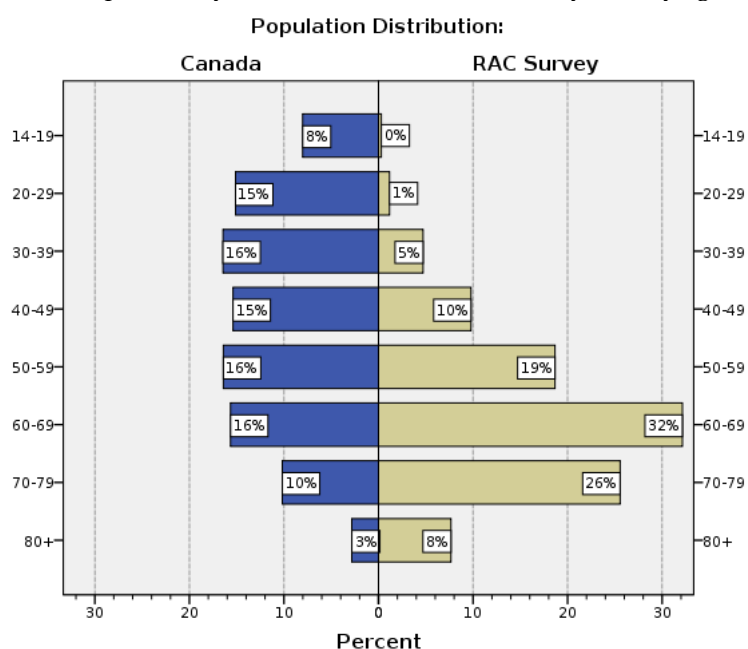
Source: ISED Call Sign database, RAC Survey 2022, author's computations.

Age distribution vs Canadian Population

The population age distribution of Canada is not unlike other developed countries in terms of age. Figure A2 is a “population pyramid” display of the age distribution comparison between Canada and the realized RAC Survey 2022 set of respondents. Given what is strongly suspected in most developed countries with regard to engaged amateur radio operators, these two data sources should not be expected to follow one another very closely. In fact, it would be highly unusual that they did!

The results of each age group as compared across the set of ten-year categories verifies what is expected: amateur radio operators are older and over-represented in the senior age groups. Beginning at about age sixty, the RAC Survey 2022 respondents are twice or more represented versus the Canadian population itself. Hams in the Survey are predictably situated in older age groups.

Figure A2. Population Pyramid of Canadian vs RAC Survey 2022 by Age Group



Source: StatsCan 2021 Census and RAC Survey.

Certificate class in Canada vs Sample

The full call sign database for Canadian Radio Amateurs was interrogated for the highest certification held by each recorded Radio Amateur. The same was done with the RAC Survey 2020 dataset. Table A2 is a comparison of the distribution of these certificate classes. They are very different. However, it is strongly suspected that the “licence-for-life” presents strange anomalies for comparisons to current, engaged ham operators in Canada. Thus, this table is presented as merely a formality so the reader should be careful in making much of a judgment about the sample’s representativeness on this basis.

Table A2. Comparison of ISED Call Sign database and RAC Survey by Highest Amateur Radio qualification Q3, Q4

	Basic	Basic with Honours	Morse Code	Advanced	Total
ISED	8,843	36,624	5,640	29,713	80,820
%	10.94	45.32	6.98	36.76	100.00
RAC Survey	67	642	846	754	2,309
%	2.91	27.80	36.64	32.65	100.00

Source: ISED Call Sign Database, RAC 2022 Survey, author’s computations.

Instrument Used *English*

Canadian Amateurs Call Sign Policy Survey

Please see the RAC website for links to the updated survey in English and French:

RAC website: <https://www.rac.ca/canadian-amateurs-call-sign-policy-survey/>

The regulator for Amateur Radio in Canada is the federal department of Industry, Science and Economic Development (ISED).

Amateur Radio call signs in Canada are issued according to a policy document called “RIC-9 – Call Sign Policy and Special Event Prefixes”.

The current version of RIC-9 has been in effect since 2005. The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) believes it is time to update this policy. We seek the views of Canadian Amateurs on the various aspects of RIC-9. Your answers to this survey will help RAC prepare a proposal to ISED.

You can obtain a copy of RIC-9 from the ISED website:

English: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf02102.html>

French: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/fra/sf02102.html>

Section 1

Participant Information

RAC also wants to understand who is participating in this survey. Please answer the following questions:

1. What is your year of birth? (for example, 1980) Required to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

2. In what year did you earn your Amateur Certificate? Required to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

3. Which Canadian Amateur Radio qualifications do you have? (choose all that apply) Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Basic

Basic with Honours

Morse Code

Advanced

4. What are the first three characters of your postal code? (A#A) Required to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

5. Are you a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

6. Are you a member of a local Amateur Radio club? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

Section 2

Current ISED policy on Amateur Radio call signs: A Canadian Amateur Radio call sign may be held by anyone who passes the Basic exam. It is not necessary to be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident.

Citizens of other countries may operate in Canada under:

- 1) Reciprocal operating agreements
- 2) The Canada-USA Reciprocal Operating Treaty of 1952 (for Canadian and US Citizens only when visiting the other country)
- 3) CEPT T/R 61-01, also known as a “CEPT Licence”
- 4) The International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP)

These agreements all allow for visitors from one country to operate while visiting the other.

Foreign citizens will only be issued Canadian call signs if they pass the Canadian Basic examination.

Call signs are issued to an individual for life. If an Amateur is deceased, any call signs assigned to him or her will be held for one year after their death and made available to a qualified member of the immediate family. If no qualified member of the immediate family requests such a call sign within one year of the death of the Amateur, the call sign will become available for reassignment to any qualified Radio Amateur.

Call signs can be surrendered when exchanged for another call sign. Surrendered call signs will be made available immediately for reassignment.

In the absence of authoritative proof of death, call signs are made available for reassignment in the year in which the holder turns 125 years old. Because of this “125-year rule”, the call signs of deceased Amateurs are sometimes unavailable for reissue for decades when ISED has not been informed of an Amateur’s death. – continued in the next section

Section 3

Current ISED policy on Amateur Radio call signs: Canadian Call Areas (continued from previous section)

A Canadian Amateur will be issued a call sign with a prefix corresponding to the province or territory in which they reside. When a Canadian Amateur changes residence from one province or territory to another, they are required to apply for a change of call sign with the new call sign corresponding to the new area in which they reside.

A foreign citizen may hold a Canadian call sign even if they do not reside in Canada. They must provide a Canadian address, and the call sign prefix will reflect the Canadian address.

The current Canadian call areas are:

- VE1 and VA1 – Nova Scotia
- VE2 and VA2 – Quebec
- VE3 and VA3 – Ontario
- VE4 and VA4 – Manitoba
- VE5 and VA5 – Saskatchewan
- VE6 and VA6 – Alberta
- VE7 and VA7 – British Columbia

VE8 – Northwest Territories

VE9 – New Brunswick

VEØ – International waters (i.e., on vessels that make international voyages)

VO1 – Newfoundland

VO2 – Labrador

VY1 – Yukon

VY2 – Prince Edward Island

VY0 – Nunavut

Note: ISED allows Amateurs to hold multiple call signs, but requires a registered address for each call sign that agrees with the call area.

7. Should a Canadian Amateur be required to change call sign when they change their address from one province or territory to another? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

8. Should a Canadian Amateur be permitted to retain a call sign significant of one province or territory if they change their address to a different province or territory? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

9. Should a Canadian Amateur residing in one province or territory be permitted to apply for and hold a call sign in a different province or territory? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

10. Should the VEØ prefix: (choose one) Required to answer. Single choice.

Continue to be reserved only for ships making international voyages?

Also be issued for Canadian space stations, including Canadian Amateur Radio Satellites and operations in space by Canadian astronauts?

Be made available for use on land?

11. Should all Amateurs be required to reconfirm their call signs every few years? This could make it easier to make the call signs of deceased Amateurs available for reissue. (choose one) Required to answer. Single choice.

No. Make no change. Keep the “125-year rule” as it is.

No. Modify the “125-year rule” so that Amateurs reaching the age of 90 must renew the registration of their call signs.

Yes, require an easy, online renewal of call signs every five years.

Yes, require an easy, online renewal of call signs every 10 years.

Section 4

Reissue of Call Signs: Silent Keys and Surrendered Call Signs

Current ISED policy on Amateur Radio call signs allows that when an Amateur passes away, his or her call sign will be reserved for one year, during which time a qualified member of the immediate family can obtain that call sign. After that year, the call sign is made available for reissue to any qualified Amateur.

12. Should this preferred access to the call sign of a deceased Amateur be abolished? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

13. Should this preferred access to the call sign of a deceased Amateur be extended to two years? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

14. Should this preferred access be extended to a friend nominated by the family, or designated in the deceased Amateur's will? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

15. When a call sign is surrendered by an Amateur, it is made available for reissue immediately. Should a surrendered call sign be held for a one-year "cooling off" period before being made available for reissue? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

Section 5

One-Letter and Four-Letter Call Signs

Current ISED policy on Amateur Radio call signs:

Single-letter suffixed and four-letter suffixed call signs will only be issued for special event call signs for limited periods.

16. Should single-letter suffixed call signs using regular VA, VE, VO or VY prefixes (e.g., VE1A) be permitted for regular issue and permanent use? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

17. Should four-letter suffixed call signs using regular VA, VE, VO or VY prefixes (e.g., VE1AAAA) be permitted for regular issue and permanent use? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

Section 6

Two-Letter Call Signs

In most provinces, two-letter suffixed call signs (e.g., VE1AA) are only issued to Amateurs who have held at least a Basic certificate for five years. The current exceptions are:

- 1) When issued to a member of the immediate family of a deceased Amateur within one year of the Amateur's death.
- 2) VE8 – Northwest Territories
- 3) VE9 – New Brunswick
- 4) VO2 – Labrador
- 5) VY1 – Yukon
- 6) VY2 – Prince Edward Island
- 7) VYO – Nunavut

In these locations and in these circumstances, two-letter suffixed call signs may be issued to newly-qualified Amateurs.

18. Should all newly-qualified Amateurs be issued three-letter suffixed call signs, no matter where they live? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

19. Should the five-year qualification be: (choose one) Required to answer. Single choice.

Retained

Abolished

Changed to a different number of years

20. If the five-year qualification should be changed to a different number of years, how many? Single line text.

Enter your answer

21. Should an Advanced certificate be required to be eligible for a two-letter suffixed call sign? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

22. If you answered yes to the above question, should family members seeking the two-letter suffixed call sign of a deceased relative also have to hold an Advanced certificate? Single choice.

Yes

No

23. Should a Morse Code qualification be required to be eligible for a two-letter suffixed call sign? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

24. An Amateur may only hold one two-letter suffixed call sign. Existing call signs will remain valid until the call sign is released. Should this limitation of one two-letter suffixed call sign per person be changed? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

25. Should an Amateur who already holds multiple “grandfathered” two-letter suffixed call signs be allowed to exchange one or more for another two-letter suffixed call sign? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

26. The current practice of ISED’s Amateur Radio Service Centre (ARSC) is to issue call signs on a “first-come, first-served basis”. In some provinces, the demand for two-letter suffixed call signs exceeds the supply and any newly-available two-letter call can attract many applicants. If there is more than one applicant for a particular call sign on a particular day, should the ARSC (choose one): Required to answer. Single choice.

Continue to use “first-come, first-served” to select the successful applicant?

Decide the successful applicant by a simple lottery? (i.e., throw the names in a hat and draw the winner?)

Give priority to the applicant who has been an Amateur the longest?

Give priority to the applicants who have the highest level of qualification?

27. Club stations will not be issued two-letter suffixed call signs, although clubs currently holding two-letter suffixed call signs may retain them until those call signs are surrendered. Should club stations be permitted to acquire two-letter suffixed call signs? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

28. Should clubs be required to surrender their existing two-letter suffixed call signs so those call signs may be available for reissue to individuals? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

Section 7

Multiple Call Signs

An Amateur may hold as many three-letter suffixed (e.g., VE1AAA) call signs as he or she wishes.

29. Should an individual be limited to holding only a certain number of call signs? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

30. What is the maximum number of call signs you think an individual should be allowed to hold? Single line text.

Enter your answer

Section 8

Unused Canadian Prefixes

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has allocated 24 call sign blocks to Canada. The two-letter prefix combinations available to Canada are:

CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CY, CZ, VA, VB, VC, VD, VE, VF, VG, VO, VX, VY, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN and XO.

Of these 24 possible two-letter prefix combinations, only four are used for regular-issue call signs for Amateur Radio: VA, VE, VO and VY.

The other prefixes (CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CY, CZ, VB, VC, VD, VF, VG, VX, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN and XO) are not used for regular-issue Amateur Radio call signs. Amateur use of these prefixes is for special prefixes and special event call signs only.

For the purposes of the next few questions, this survey will refer only to those 20 prefixes as the "unused Canadian prefixes". This term will exclude the VA, VE, VO and VY prefixes in current use.

31. Should three-letter suffixed call signs with the "unused Canadian prefixes" be authorized for regular issue call signs? (e.g., CF1AAA) Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

32. If you answered yes to the preceding question, what qualification should an individual have to be issued such a call sign? (Choose one) Single choice.

Basic

Basic with Honours or Basic with Morse Code

Advanced

Basic, Advanced and Morse Code (i.e., all Canadian qualifications)
A certain number of years as the holder of a Canadian certificate?

33. If you answered "a certain number of years" to the preceding question, how many years should it be?
Single line text.
Enter your answer

34. Should two-letter suffixed call signs be issued with the "unused Canadian prefixes" be authorized for regular issue call signs? (e.g., CF1AA) Required to answer. Single choice.
Yes
No

35. If you answered yes to the preceding question, what qualification should an individual have to be issued such a call sign? (Choose one) Single choice.
Basic
Basic with Honours or Basic with Morse Code
Advanced
Basic, Advanced and Morse Code (i.e., all Canadian qualifications)
A certain number of years as the holder of a Canadian certificate?

36. If you answered "a certain number of years" to the preceding question, how many years should it be?
Single line text.
Enter your answer

37. Should one-letter suffixed call signs with the "unused Canadian prefixes" be authorized for regular issue call signs? (e.g., CF1A) Required to answer. Single choice.
Yes
No

38. If you answered yes to the preceding question, what qualification should an individual have to be issued such a call sign? (Choose one) Single choice.
Basic
Basic with Honours or Basic with Morse Code
Advanced
Basic, Advanced and Morse Code (i.e., all Canadian qualifications)
A certain number of years as the holder of a Canadian certificate?

39. If you answered "a certain number of years" to the preceding question, how many years should it be?
Single line text.
Enter your answer

Section 9

Special Prefixes

Special prefixes may be authorized to mark special events or anniversaries. These authorizations are time limited and, depending on the occasion, they may be limited to a particular region, province, territory, or be authorized for all Canadian Amateurs. For example, for the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017, all Canadian Amateurs were authorized to use an alternative prefix with their regular call signs.

Stations with:

- 1) VA call signs were authorized to use CF in place of VA, (e.g., VA1AAA could operate as CF1AAA)
- 2) VEs were authorized to use CG (VE1AAA could operate as CG1AAA)
- 3) VOs were authorized to use CH (VO1AAA could operate as CH1AAA)

4) VYs were authorized to use CI (VY1AAA could operate as CI1AAA)

40. Should Special Prefix authorizations continue? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

41. If yes, what should the maximum period be for Special Prefix authorizations? (choose one)Single choice.

One month

Two months

Three months

Four months

One Year

42. Should regular-issue call signs (those beginning with VA, VE, VO and VY) be limited to only one alternate prefix for special prefix authorizations? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

Section 10

Special Event Call Signs

Current ISED policy on Amateur Radio call signs:

Unusual call signs (e.g., CG1A, VE100VIMY, etc.) may be authorized for:

1) Special events

2) Special anniversaries

3) Selected Amateur Radio contests

There are important limitations on these call signs such as:

1) They can be authorized only for limited periods.

2) The first numeral in the call sign must be the same as the call area of the applicant.

3) For contesters, there is no secure tenure of a particular special call sign from one year to the next.

The current format for special event and anniversary event call signs is:

1) A two-letter prefix

2) Followed by a numeral that agrees with the normal call area of the station

3) Followed by a group of letters or numerals

4) Ending in a letter

Continued in next section...

Section 11

Special Event Call Signs (continued)

Recently, a group of Amateurs in Ontario requested the special call sign VE8ØLAN to mark the 80th anniversary of the Lancaster Bomber, an important warplane in Canada's effort in the Second World War. ISED initially declined the application, because the policy required the first numeral in the call sign had to correspond with the address of the applicant. VE38ØLAN was one alternative suggested by ISED. Another alternative was to find a Radio Amateur in the Northwest Territories (VE8) to apply for VE8ØLAN. The group ultimately found a VE8 Amateur to make the application, and all VE8ØLAN operations were from Ontario.

A possible way to prevent this from happening again is provided below:

- 1) One or two designated prefixes could be used exclusively for all special event call signs anywhere in Canada.
- 2) The first numeral in these special call signs could be independent of region. For example, if “VB” were the designated “special event” prefix, VB8ØLAN could have been authorized for this event by a group anywhere in Canada.

43. Should there be a small number of designated prefixes for all special event call signs anywhere in Canada? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

44. Should those prefixes be independent of call area? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

Section 12

Call Signs for Contests

Under the current policy, participants in selected Amateur Radio contests can obtain authorization to use a special short-format call sign with a special prefix solely for the purpose of a contest. These call signs are normally in the format CF1A. The current policy limits each authorization to a maximum of 60 days, but only for use in the selected contests. The participants using these call signs now have no reliable means of obtaining the same special call sign in consecutive years.

45. Should short-format call signs be available specifically for use in contests? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes; please see the following question.

No, short format call signs should be available as regular-issue permanent call signs.

46. If you answered yes, what qualification should an individual have to be issued such a call sign? (Choose one) Single choice.

Basic

Basic with Honours or Basic with Morse Code

Advanced

Basic, Advanced and Morse Code (i.e., all Canadian qualifications)

A certain number of years as the holder of a Canadian certificate? (see next question)

Any Canadian Amateur who can demonstrate significant previous participation in contests.

47. If you answered "A certain number of years as the holder of a Canadian certificate" in the preceding question, how many years? Single line text.

Enter your answer

Section 13

Entry-Level Call Signs

RAC is developing a proposal for a new “entry-level” Amateur Radio certificate. This would allow limited power and limited bands. This would be a three-year non-renewable certificate, based on passing a limited portion of the current Basic certificate exam. Once the holder’s three years as an entry-level certificate holder expired, they would have to pass the Basic exam to continue in Amateur Radio.

48. Should Amateurs holding this new "entry-level" certificate be issued a call sign with a distinctive prefix? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

Section 14

ISED Documents

ISED produces several separate documents concerning Amateur Radio:

- 1) RBR-4, a regulatory document which establishes the operational and technical standards for stations in the Amateur Radio Service
- 2) RIC-1, a policy document which sets standards for the conduct of examinations for Amateur Radio Certificates and standards for Accredited Examiners (AEs)
- 3) RIC-3, which provides general information about the Amateur Radio Service and the privileges of each qualification
- 4) RIC-9, a policy document which details the call sign policy for Amateur Radio

49. Should any or all of these documents be combined into one single document? (Choose one) Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes, these documents should be combined into one document.

No, these documents should continue to be separate.

I do not care whether any or all of these documents are combined.

Section 15

ISED Fees

ISED currently charges a fee of \$60 for each of the following transactions:

- 1) Exchanging one call sign for another
- 2) Issuing an additional call sign
- 3) Issuing a club call sign
- 4) An authorization for a special call sign for a special event or a special anniversary
- 5) An authorization for a special prefix for all Amateurs in a particular area to mark a special event or a special anniversary

ISED charges no fees for:

- 1) Issuing a new certificate and call sign for a new Radio Amateur
- 2) Issuing a new certificate for an Amateur who has earned an additional qualification
- 3) Issuing a replacement certificate to a Radio Amateur
- 4) Conducting examinations for an Amateur Radio certificate at an ISED office
- 5) Changing a call sign because of a move to a new province or territory

50. Should any of these fees be changed? Required to answer. Single choice.

Yes

No

51. Should the fees for services which currently attract a \$60 fee be: Required to answer. Single choice.

Unchanged

Raised or lowered (see below)

Abolished

52. If raised or lowered, how much should they be? (in dollars) Single line text.

Enter your answer

53. Should the current services which attract no fee be: Required to answer. Single choice.
Unchanged
Raised (see below)

54. If raised, what fee should be charged? (in dollars) Single line text.
Enter your answer

Section 16

Thank You
Thank you for completing this survey!

French

Sondage sur les politiques sur les indicatifs d'appel pour radio amateurs au Canada

English / Anglais : <https://www.rac.ca/canadian-amateurs-call-sign-policy-survey/>

L'organisme de réglementation de la radio amateur au Canada est le ministère fédéral de l'Industrie, des Sciences et du Développement économique (ISDE).

Les indicatifs d'appel pour radio amateurs au Canada sont attribués en application des dispositions d'un document stratégique intitulé « CIR-9 – Politique relative aux indicatifs d'appel et aux préfixes pour les événements spéciaux ».

La version actuelle de la CIR 9 est en vigueur depuis 2005. Radio Amateurs du Canada (RAC) estime qu'il est temps d'actualiser cette politique.

Nous souhaitons recueillir les opinions des amateurs canadiens sur les divers aspects de la CIR-9. Vos réponses à ce sondage aideront RAC à préparer une proposition qui sera présentée à ISDE.

Vous pouvez accéder au texte de la CIR-9 à partir du site Web d'ISDE à l'adresse suivante :

English: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sfo2102.html>

French: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/fra/sfo2102.html>

Section 1

Renseignements sur les participants

RAC aimerait également comprendre qui participe à ce sondage. Veuillez répondre aux questions suivantes :

1. Quelle est votre année de naissance?(par exemple : 1980) Required to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

2. Au cours de quelle année avez-vous obtenu votre certificat d'amateur? Required to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

3. Quelles qualifications possédez-vous en tant que radio amateur canadien? (cochez toutes les réponses qui s'appliquent) Required to answer. Multiple choice.

Compétence de base

Compétence de base avec distinction

Code Morse

Compétence supérieure

4. Quels sont les trois premiers caractères de votre code postal? (A#A) Required to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

5. Êtes-vous membre de Radio Amateurs du Canada (RAC)? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

6. Êtes-vous membre d'un club local de radio amateurs? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

Section 2

Politique actuelle d'ISDE en ce qui concerne les indicatifs d'appel pour radio amateurs : Un indicatif d'appel pour radio amateur canadien peut être détenu par quiconque réussit l'examen de base. Il n'est pas nécessaire d'être citoyen ou résident permanent du Canada.

Un indicatif d'appel pour radio amateur canadien peut être détenu par quiconque réussit l'examen de base. Il n'est pas nécessaire d'être citoyen ou résident permanent du Canada.

Un ressortissant d'un autre pays peut exploiter une station au Canada à condition de se conformer aux exigences suivantes dans les situations décrites ci-dessous :

- 1) Existence d'une entente d'exploitation réciproque
- 2) Dans le cadre de la Convention sur l'exploitation réciproque conclue en 1952 entre le Canada et les États-Unis d'Amérique (applicable uniquement aux citoyens canadiens et américains lorsqu'ils séjournent dans l'autre pays)
- 3) Détention d'un permis émis en vertu de la Recommandation T/R 61-01 de la CEPT, également connu sous le nom de « licence CEPT »
- 4) Détention d'un permis international de radio amateur (PIRA)

Toutes ces ententes autorisent les visiteurs originaires de l'un des deux pays à exploiter une station pendant leur séjour dans l'autre pays.

Les citoyens étrangers ne recevront un indicatif d'appel canadien que s'ils réussissent l'examen de base canadien.

Un indicatif d'appel est attribué à son titulaire pour toute sa durée de vie. En cas de décès d'un amateur, tout indicatif qui lui avait été attribué sera gardé en réserve pendant un an après la date de son décès et sera mis à la disposition d'un membre qualifié de sa famille immédiate. Si aucun membre qualifié de la famille immédiate ne demande que cet indicatif d'appel lui soit attribué dans l'année s'écoulant après le décès de l'amateur, l'indicatif sera retourné au bloc d'indicatifs disponibles pour être attribué à tout radio amateur qualifié. – suite dans la section suivante

Section 3

Politique actuelle d'ISDE en ce qui concerne les indicatifs d'appel pour radio amateurs : (suite de la section précédente)

Les indicatifs d'appel peuvent être retournés en cas de demande de remplacement par un autre indicatif. Les indicatifs libérés seront immédiatement retournés au bloc d'indicatifs disponibles en vue d'être réattribués.

En l'absence de preuve de décès faisant autorité, les indicatifs d'appel peuvent être réattribués au cours de l'année pendant laquelle le titulaire aurait atteint l'âge de 125 ans. En raison de cette « règle des 125 ans », les indicatifs d'appel d'amateurs décédés ne peuvent parfois pas être réattribués pendant des décennies dans les cas où ISDE n'a pas été informé du décès de l'amateur en cause.

Zones d'appel au Canada

Tout amateur canadien recevra un indicatif d'appel comportant un préfixe correspondant à la province ou au territoire dans lequel il est domicilié. Quand un amateur canadien déménage d'une province ou d'un territoire pour aller résider dans une autre province ou un autre territoire, il est tenu de présenter une demande de modification de son indicatif d'appel et, dans ce cas, le nouvel indicatif correspondra à la nouvelle zone de service dans laquelle il réside.

Un ressortissant étranger peut être titulaire d'un indicatif d'appel canadien même s'il ne réside pas au Canada. Il doit disposer d'une adresse au Canada, et le préfixe de l'indicatif d'appel est déterminé d'après l'adresse canadienne.

Section 4

Politique actuelle d'ISDE en ce qui concerne les indicatifs d'appel pour radio amateurs : (suite de la section précédente)

Les préfixes sont attribués conformément à la liste suivante :

VE1 et VA1 – Nouvelle-Écosse

VE2 et VA2 – Québec

VE3 et VA3 – Ontario

VE4 et VA4 – Manitoba

VE5 et VA5 – Saskatchewan

VE6 et VA6 – Alberta

VE7 and VA7 – Colombie-Britannique

VE8 – Territoires du Nord-Ouest

VE9 – Nouveau-Brunswick

VEØ – Eaux internationales – à bord de navires qui entreprennent des voyages internationaux

VO1 – Terre-Neuve

VO2 – Labrador

VY1 – Yukon

VY2 – Île-du-Prince-Édouard

VYO – Nunavut

Remarque : ISDE autorise les amateurs à détenir plus d'un indicatif d'appel, mais exige qu'une adresse enregistrée soit indiquée pour chaque indicatif correspondant à une zone d'appel.

7. Un amateur canadien est-il tenu de changer d'indicatif d'appel quand il change d'adresse suite à son déménagement d'une province ou d'un territoire pour aller s'installer dans une autre province ou un autre territoire? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

8. Un amateur canadien devrait-il être autorisé à conserver un indicatif d'appel correspondant à une province ou à un territoire s'il change d'adresse suite à son déménagement dans une province ou un territoire différents? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

9. Un amateur canadien résidant dans une province ou dans un territoire devrait-il être autorisé à demander et posséder un indicatif d'appel correspondant à une province ou à un territoire différents? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

10. Le préfixe VEØ : (choisir une question) Required to answer. Single choice.

Devrait-il continuer d'être réservé uniquement aux navires qui entreprennent des voyages internationaux?

Devrait-il être attribué également aux stations spatiales canadiennes, y compris aux satellites relevant du service amateur canadien et aux opérations liées à la radio amateur exécutées dans l'espace par des astronautes canadiens?

Devrait-il être mis à la disposition d'opérateurs désireux de l'utiliser dans le cadre d'activités terrestres?

11. Tous les amateurs devraient-ils être tenus de reconfirmer leur indicatif d'appel à des intervalles de quelques années? Cela devrait simplifier les formalités à accomplir pour réattribuer les indicatifs d'amateurs décédés. (choisir une réponse) Required to answer. Single choice.

Non. N'apporter aucune modification. Garder la « règle des 125 ans » telle quelle.

Non. Modifier la « règle des 125 ans » de manière à exiger que les amateurs atteignant l'âge de 90 ans renouvellent l'enregistrement de leur indicatif.

Oui, exiger que les indicatifs d'appel soient renouvelés tous les cinq ans en ligne et selon des formalités faciles à accomplir.

Oui, exiger que les indicatifs d'appel soient renouvelés tous les 10 ans en ligne et selon des formalités faciles à accomplir.

Section 5

Réattribution d'indicatifs d'appels : Indicatifs d'amateurs décédés et indicatifs libérés

La politique actuellement suivie par ISDE en matière d'indicatifs d'appel dans le domaine de la radio amateur prévoit que quand un amateur décède, son indicatif sera gardé en réserve pendant un an, période au cours de laquelle un membre qualifié de sa famille immédiate pourra l'obtenir. Passé ce délai, l'indicatif d'appel peut être réattribué à n'importe quel amateur qualifié.

12. Faudrait-il abolir la disposition accordant cet accès préférentiel à l'indicatif d'appel d'un amateur décédé? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

13. La durée de validité de cet accès préférentiel à l'indicatif d'appel d'un amateur décédé devrait-elle être portée à deux ans? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

14. Cet accès préférentiel devrait-il être accordé à un ami désigné par la famille de l'amateur décédé ou par ce dernier dans son testament? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

15. Quand un indicatif est libéré par un amateur, il peut être réattribué immédiatement.

Un indicatif d'appel libéré devrait-il être gardé en réserve pendant une période « de répit » d'une durée d'un an avant de pouvoir être réattribué? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

Section 6

Indicatifs d'appels comportant un suffixe à une seule lettre ou à quatre caractères

Politique d'ISDE actuellement applicable aux indicatifs d'appel dans le domaine de la radio amateur :

Les indicatifs d'appel comportant un suffixe à une seule lettre ou à quatre caractères alphanumériques sont uniquement attribués dans le cas d'événements spéciaux pendant des périodes limitées.

16. Les indicatifs d'appels comportant un suffixe à une seule lettre et un préfixe ordinaire VA, VE, VO ou VY (p. ex. VE1A) devraient-ils être autorisés pour être attribués dans des conditions ordinaires et en vue d'une utilisation permanente? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

17. Les indicatifs d'appels comportant un suffixe à quatre lettres et un préfixe ordinaire VA, VE, VO ou VY (p. ex. VE1AAAA) devraient-ils être autorisés pour être attribués dans des conditions ordinaires et en vue d'une utilisation permanente? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

Section 7

Indicatifs d'appel comportant deux lettres

Dans la plupart des provinces, les indicatifs d'appel comportant deux lettres (p. ex. VE1AA) ne sont attribués qu'aux amateurs qui détiennent un certificat de base depuis au moins cinq (5) ans. Les exceptions actuelles sont les suivantes :

- 1) Dans le cas de l'attribution à un membre de la famille immédiate d'un amateur décédé, dans un délai d'un an suivant le décès de ce dernier.
- 2) VE8 – Territoires du Nord-Ouest
- 3) VE9 – Nouveau-Brunswick
- 4) VO2 – Labrador
- 5) VY1 – Yukon
- 6) VY2 – Île-du-Prince-Édouard
- 7) VY0 – Nunavut

À ces endroits et dans ces circonstances, des indicatifs d'appel comportant un suffixe à deux lettres peuvent être attribués à des amateurs ayant récemment acquis les qualifications nécessaires.

18. Tous les amateurs ayant récemment acquis les qualifications nécessaires devraient-ils recevoir un indicatif d'appel comportant un suffixe de trois lettres, quel que soit l'endroit où ils résident? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

19. L'exigence relative à la détention d'une compétence de base depuis un minimum de cinq ans devrait-elle être maintenue? (choisir une réponse) Required to answer. Single choice.

Maintenue

Abolie

Modifiée de manière à porter sur un nombre d'années différent

20. Si l'exigence relative à la détention d'une compétence de base depuis un minimum de cinq ans devait être modifiée pour porter sur un nombre d'années différent, de combien d'années s'agirait-il? Single line text.

Enter your answer

21. Un certificat avec compétence supérieure devrait-il être nécessaire pour être admissible à l'obtention d'un indicatif d'appel comportant un suffixe à deux lettres? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

22. Si vous avez répondu « Oui » à la question ci-dessus, les membres de la famille d'un amateur décédé qui souhaitent reprendre l'indicatif avec suffixe à deux lettres de ce dernier devraient-ils également être titulaires d'un certificat avec compétence supérieure? Single choice.

Oui

Non

23. Une compétence en code Morse devrait-elle être exigée pour être admissible à l'attribution d'un indicatif d'appel comportant un suffixe à deux lettres? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

24. Un amateur ne peut être titulaire que d'un indicatif d'appel à suffixe à deux lettres. Les indicatifs existants resteront valides jusqu'au moment où ils sont restitués. Cette règle limitant l'attribution d'un indicatif d'appel à suffixe à deux lettres par personne devrait-elle faire l'objet d'une modification? Required to answer. Single choice.

Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

25. Un amateur qui est déjà titulaire de multiples indicatifs d'appel à suffixe à deux lettres couverts par une clause de droits acquis devrait-il être autorisé à changer un ou plusieurs de ces indicatifs pour un autre indicatif à suffixe à deux lettres? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

26. La pratique actuellement appliquée par le Centre de service pour la radio amateur (CSRA) consiste à attribuer les indicatifs d'appel selon le principe du « premier arrivé, premier servi ». Dans certaines provinces, la demande d'indicatifs d'appel à suffixe à deux lettres dépasse l'offre, et tout indicatif à deux lettres qui devient disponible peut susciter des demandes émanant d'un grand nombre de requérants. S'il y a plus d'un requérant qui souhaite obtenir un indicatif d'appel particulier à un moment donné, le CSRA devrait-il (choisir une réponse) : Required to answer. Single choice.

Continuer d'appliquer la règle du « premier arrivé, premier servi » pour choisir le requérant dont la demande sera approuvée?

Décider du requérant dont la demande sera approuvée en tirant au sort? (c.-à-d. en plaçant des cartes portant le nom de tous les requérants dans un chapeau et en prélevant celle qui portera le nom du gagnant?)

Accorder la priorité au requérant qui possède les plus longs antécédents en tant qu'amateur?

Accorder la priorité aux requérants qui ont le niveau de compétence le plus élevé?

27. Aucun indicatif d'appel comportant un suffixe à deux lettres ne sera attribué à une station de club, bien que les clubs actuellement titulaires d'indicatifs comportant un suffixe à deux lettres puissent les conserver jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient libérés. Les stations de club devraient-elles être autorisées à acquérir un indicatif d'appel comportant un suffixe à deux lettres? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

28. Les clubs devraient-ils être tenus de libérer un indicatif d'appel comportant un suffixe à deux lettres qu'ils détiennent actuellement pour que cet indicatif puisse être réattribué à un individu? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

Section 8

Plusieurs indicatifs d'appel

Un amateur peut-être titulaire de tous les indicatifs d'appel à suffixe à trois lettres (p. ex. VE1AAA) qu'il souhaite, quel qu'en soit le nombre.

29. Faudrait-il poser une limite en vertu de laquelle une personne ne pourrait détenir qu'un certain nombre d'indicatifs d'appel? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

30. Quel est le nombre maximum d'indicatifs qu'une personne serait autorisée à détenir? Single line text.
Enter your answer

Section 9

Préfixes canadiens non utilisés

L'Union internationale des télécommunications (UIT) a attribué 24 blocs d'indicatifs d'appel au Canada. Les deux combinaisons de préfixes à deux lettres mises à la disposition du Canada sont les suivantes : CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CY, CZ, VA, VB, VC, VD, VE, VF, VG, VO, VX, VY, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN et XO.

Parmi ces 24 combinaisons possibles de préfixes à deux lettres, il n'y en a que quatre qui sont utilisées pour des indicatifs d'appel ordinaires attribués dans le domaine de la radio amateur : VA, VE, VO et VY.

Les autres préfixes (CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CY, CZ, VB, VC, VD, VF, VG, VX, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN et XO) ne sont pas utilisés pour former des indicatifs d'appel ordinaires attribués dans le domaine de la radio amateur. L'utilisation de ces préfixes dans le domaine de la radio amateur ne peut avoir lieu que pour la formation d'indicatifs avec préfixes spéciaux et pour les événements spéciaux.

Aux fins de l'analyse des aspects abordés dans les questions suivantes, le présent sondage ne portera que sur les vingt (20) préfixes connus sous le nom de « préfixes canadiens non utilisés ». Cette expression exclura les préfixes VA, VE, VO et VY actuellement utilisés.

31. Les indicatifs d'appel comportant des suffixes à trois lettres et « les préfixes canadiens non utilisés » devraient-ils être autorisés pour former des indicatifs ordinaires? (p. ex. CF1AAA) Required to answer.
Single choice.

Oui

Non

32. Si vous avez répondu par « Oui » à la question précédente, quelle compétence une personne devrait-elle posséder pour se faire attribuer un tel indicatif d'appel? (Choisir une réponse) Single choice.

Compétence de base

Compétence de base avec distinction, ou compétence de base avec code Morse

Compétence supérieure

Compétence de base, compétence supérieure et code Morse (c.-à-d., toutes les compétences reconnues au Canada)

Antécédents représentant un certain nombre d'années en tant que titulaire d'un certificat canadien?

33. Si vous avez indiqué « un certain nombre d'années » en réponse à la question précédente, de quel nombre d'années devrait-il s'agir? Single line text.

Enter your answer

34. Les indicatifs d'appel comportant des suffixes à deux lettres et « les préfixes canadiens non utilisés » devraient-ils être autorisés pour former des indicatifs ordinaires? (p. ex., CF1AA) Required to answer.
Single choice.

Oui

Non

35. Si vous avez répondu par « Oui » à la question précédente, quelle compétence une personne devrait-elle posséder pour se faire attribuer un tel indicatif d'appel? (Choisir une réponse) Single choice.

Compétence de base

Compétence de base avec distinction, ou Compétence de base avec code Morse

Compétence supérieure

Compétence de base, compétence supérieure et code Morse (c.-à-d., toutes les compétences reconnues au Canada)

Antécédents représentant un certain nombre d'années en tant que titulaire d'un certificat canadien?

36. Si vous avez indiqué « Oui » en réponse à la question précédente, de quel nombre d'années devrait-il s'agir? Single line text.

Enter your answer

37. Les indicatifs d'appels comportant un suffixe à une lettre attribué avec un « préfixe canadien non utilisé » devraient-ils être autorisés pour former des indicatifs ordinaires? (p. ex. CF1A) Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

38. Si vous avez répondu par « Oui » à la question précédente, quelles sont les compétences qu'une personne devrait posséder pour se faire attribuer un tel indicatif? (Choisir l'une des réponses suivantes) Single choice.

Compétence de base

Compétence de base avec distinction, ou compétence de base avec code Morse

Compétence supérieure

Compétence de base, compétence supérieure et code Morse (c.-à-d., toutes les compétences reconnues au Canada)

Antécédents représentant un certain nombre d'années en tant que titulaire d'un certificat canadien?

39. Si vous avez indiqué « un certain nombre d'années » en réponse à la question précédente, de quel nombre d'années devrait-il s'agir? Single line text.

Enter your answer

Section 10

Préfixes spéciaux

L'attribution de préfixes spéciaux peut être autorisée pour célébrer des événements spéciaux ou des anniversaires. Les autorisations ainsi accordées ne sont valables que pendant une durée limitée, et selon l'occasion qu'il s'agit de célébrer, elles peuvent n'être valables que pour une région, province ou territoire particuliers, ou être accordées à tous les amateurs canadiens. Par exemple, pour le 150^e anniversaire de la Confédération en 2017, tous les amateurs canadiens ont été autorisés à utiliser un autre préfixe avec leur indicatif d'appel habituel.

Les stations utilisant :

1) un indicatif d'appel comportant les lettres VA ont été autorisées à utiliser CF au lieu de VA (p. ex., la station utilisant l'indicatif VA1AAA pourrait être exploitée en utilisant CF1AAA)

2) les amateurs dont l'indicatif commence par VE ont été autorisés à utiliser CG (la station utilisant l'indicatif VE1AAA pourrait être exploitée en utilisant CG1AAA)

3) les amateurs dont l'indicatif commence par VO ont été autorisés à utiliser CH (la station utilisant l'indicatif VO1AAA pourrait être exploitée en utilisant CH1AAA) et

4) les amateurs dont l'indicatif commence par VY ont été autorisés à utiliser CI (la station utilisant l'indicatif VY1AAA pourrait être exploitée en utilisant CI1AAA)

40. Faudrait-il continuer d'accorder des autorisations pour préfixes spéciaux? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

41. Si votre réponse est « Oui », quelle devrait être la période de validité maximum pour les autorisations de préfixes spéciaux? (choisir une réponse) Single choice.

Un mois

Deux mois

Trois mois

Quatre mois

Un an

42. Les indicatifs d'appel ordinaires (c'est-à-dire ceux qui commencent par les lettres VA, VE, VO et VY) devraient-ils faire l'objet d'une règle visant à n'attribuer qu'UN seul préfixe de remplacement dans le cas des autorisations pour préfixes spéciaux? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

Section 11

Préfixes pour les événements spéciaux

Politique actuelle d'ISDE en ce qui concerne les indicatifs d'appel pour radio amateurs :

Des indicatifs d'appel inhabituels (p. ex. CG1A, VE100VIMY, etc.) peuvent être autorisés dans les cas suivants:

1) Événements spéciaux

2) Anniversaires spéciaux

3) Certains concours pour radio amateurs

D'importantes limitations s'appliquent à ces indicatifs d'appel, p. ex. dans les cas suivants :

1) Ils ne peuvent être autorisés que pour des périodes limitées.

2) Le premier chiffre faisant partie de l'indicatif doit être le même que celui qui identifie la zone d'appel du requérant.

3) En ce qui concerne les participants à des concours, rien ne garantit qu'un indicatif d'appel spécial attribué à titre particulier au cours d'une année pourra encore être utilisé l'année suivante.

Le format actuel adopté pour les indicatifs d'appel pour événements spéciaux et événement célébrant un anniversaire est le suivant :

1) Un préfixe à deux lettres

2) Suivi d'un chiffre qui correspond à la zone d'appel normale de la station

3) Suivi d'un groupe de lettres ou de chiffres

4) Pour se terminer par une lettre

Suite dans la section suivante...

Section 12

Préfixes pour les événements spéciaux (suite)

Récemment, un groupe d'amateurs de l'Ontario a demandé que l'indicatif d'appel spécial VE8ØLAN lui soit attribué pour célébrer le 80^e anniversaire du bombardier Lancaster, l'avion de combat qui avait joué un rôle si important dans le cadre de l'effort déployé par le Canada au cours de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. ISDE avait initialement rejeté cette demande parce que sa politique exigeait que le premier chiffre figurant dans l'indicatif corresponde à l'adresse du requérant. VE38ØLAN était la version proposée

par ISDE. Une autre possibilité consistait à trouver un radio amateur des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (VE8) qui se déclare disposé à demander que l'indicatif VE8ØLAN lui soit attribué. Le groupe a fini par trouver un amateur possédant un indicatif commençant par VE8 qui s'est chargé de faire la demande, et toutes les activités liées à l'indicatif VE8ØLAN ont été entreprises à partir de l'Ontario.

Un moyen d'éviter que des problèmes de ce genre ne se produisent de nouveau pourrait consister à faire ce qui suit :

- 1) Un ou deux préfixes désignés pourraient être utilisés exclusivement pour tous les indicatifs d'appel pour événements spéciaux ayant lieu n'importe où au Canada.
- 2) Le premier chiffre de ces indicatifs spéciaux pourrait être choisi indépendamment de la région. Par exemple, si « VB » était le préfixe désigné « pour événements spéciaux », VB8ØLAN aurait pu être autorisé pour cet événement organisé par un groupe se trouvant n'importe où au Canada.

43. Faudrait-il prévoir un petit nombre de préfixes désignés pour tous les indicatifs pour événements spéciaux n'importe où au Canada? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

44. Ces préfixes devraient-ils être choisis indépendamment de la zone d'appel? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

Section 13

Indicatifs d'appel pour concours

En vertu de la politique actuelle, les participants à certains concours pour radio amateurs peuvent obtenir l'autorisation d'utiliser un indicatif d'appel spécial de format succinct comportant un préfixe spécial uniquement aux fins d'un concours. Ces indicatifs ont normalement le format CF1A. La politique actuelle limite la durée de validité de chaque autorisation à un maximum de 60 jours, mais uniquement en vue de son utilisation dans le cadre des concours indiqués. Les participants qui utilisent ces indicatifs d'appel sont désormais privés de tous moyens fiables d'obtenir le même indicatif spécial au cours des années suivantes.

45. Les indicatifs d'appel de format succinct devraient-ils être attribuables expressément en vue d'être utilisés dans le cadre de concours? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui, voir question suivante.

Non, les indicatifs de format succinct devraient être attribuables en tant qu'indicatifs permanents ordinaires.

46. Si vous avez répondu « Oui », quelles sont les compétences que devrait posséder un amateur pour se faire attribuer un tel indicatif? (Choisir l'une des réponses suivantes) Single choice.

Compétence de base

Compétence de base avec distinction, ou Compétence de base avec code Morse

Compétence supérieure

Compétence de base, compétence supérieure et code Morse (c.-à-d., toutes les compétences reconnues au Canada)

Antécédents représentant un certain nombre d'années en tant que titulaire d'un certificat canadien? (voir question suivante)

Tout amateur canadien qui peut donner la preuve qu'il a déjà participé dans une large mesure à des concours.

47. Si vous avez répondu « un certain nombre d'années en tant que titulaire d'un certificat canadien » à la question précédente, de combien d'années s'agit-il? Single line text.
Enter your answer

Section 14

Indicatifs d'appels de niveau « Entrée »

RAC est actuellement en train d'élaborer une proposition portant sur la délivrance d'un nouveau certificat de radio amateur de niveau « entrée ». Son titulaire serait autorisé à émettre avec une puissance limitée et sur certaines bandes uniquement. Ce certificat, valable pendant trois ans, serait non renouvelable et serait attribué aux personnes qui ont répondu correctement à un nombre limité des questions posées dans le cadre de l'examen actuellement destiné aux candidats désireux d'obtenir le certificat de base. Dès l'expiration du délai de validité de trois ans d'un certificat de niveau « entrée », son titulaire devra réussir l'examen de base pour pouvoir poursuivre son activité dans le domaine de la radio amateur.

48. Faudrait-il attribuer aux amateurs qui sont titulaires de ce nouveau certificat de niveau « entrée » un indicatif d'appel comportant un préfixe distinct? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

Section 15

Documents d'ISDE

ISDE publie plusieurs documents consacrés expressément à la radio amateur :

- 1) IBR-4, document de réglementation qui énonce les normes opérationnelles et techniques applicables aux stations autorisées dans le service de radio amateur
- 2) CIR-1, document de politique qui fixe les normes à appliquer lors de l'administration des examens menant à l'obtention du certificat d'opérateur radio amateur, ainsi que les normes à observer par les examinateurs accrédités (EA)
- 3) CIR-3, qui fournit des renseignements généraux sur le service de radio amateur et les privilèges correspondant à chaque niveau de compétence
- 4) CIR-9, document de politique qui décrit en détail la politique relative aux indicatifs d'appel dans le domaine de la radio amateur

49. Deux ou plusieurs de ces documents, voire la totalité d'entre eux, devraient-ils être combinés sous la forme d'un document unique? (Choisissez l'une des réponses ci-dessous) Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui, ces documents devraient être combinés sous la forme d'un document unique.

Non, ces documents devraient continuer d'être publiés séparément.

Cela m'est égal. Ils peuvent être publiés séparément ou être combinés à deux, trois ou quatre.

Section 16

Droits perçus par ISDE

ISDE perçoit actuellement des droits de 60,00 \$ à chaque occurrence des transactions suivantes :

- 1) Changement d'indicatif d'appel pour un autre
- 2) Attribution d'un indicatif d'appel de station supplémentaire
- 3) Attribution d'un indicatif d'appel de station à un club
- 4) Attribution d'un indicatif d'appel spécial pour un événement ou un anniversaire spécial
- 5) Attribution d'un préfixe spécial pour tous les amateurs situés dans une zone particulière en vue de la célébration d'un événement ou d'un anniversaire spécial

ISDE ne perçoit aucuns droits dans les cas suivants :

- 1) Attribution d'un nouveau certificat et d'un indicatif d'appel à un nouveau radio amateur
- 2) Attribution d'un nouveau certificat à un amateur qui a acquis une qualification supplémentaire
- 3) Attribution d'un certificat de remplacement à un radio amateur
- 4) Administration d'examens dans un bureau d'ISDE en vue de l'attribution d'un certificat de radio amateur
- 5) Changement d'indicatif d'appel en raison d'un déménagement dans une autre province ou un autre territoire

50. Faudrait-il modifier ces droits dans l'un ou l'autre des cas où ils sont perçus? Required to answer. Single choice.

Oui

Non

51. Les services qui sont actuellement fournis moyennant paiement de droits de 60,00 \$ devraient-ils? Required to answer. Single choice.

Être laissés tels quels?

Faire l'objet d'une augmentation ou d'une réduction des droits perçus? (voir ci-dessous)

Abolis?

52. Si les droits perçus devaient être augmentés ou réduits, à combien devraient-ils s'élever? (en dollars)

Single line text.

Enter your answer

53. Les services actuellement fournis sans paiement de droits, devraient-ils? Required to answer. Single choice.

Ne faire l'objet d'aucun changement

Faire l'objet d'une augmentation des droits perçus (voir ci-dessous)

54. En cas d'augmentation, quel devrait être le montant des droits à percevoir? (en dollars) Single line text.

Enter your answer

Section 17

Merci

Merci d'avoir répondu à ce sondage!