

Views of the executor's job

ClearEstate — The 2026 Canadian Wills and Estate Planning Study · Tables accompanying the release — Total, region, gender and age · weighted percentages, unweighted bases

Table 1. Being an executor can turn into a complicated and time-consuming job

The next statements are about acting as an executor for an estate. For each one, please indicate how much you agree or disagree: “Being an executor can likely turn into a complicated and time-consuming job that most people are not prepared for.”

Base: All respondents

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region			Gender		Age		
	(A)	(B)	(C)	Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	3,048	358	508	1,144	819	215	1,431	1,599	812	1,244	992
Base (weighted)	3,048	428	550	1,198	662	202	1,505	1,525	880	980	1,189
Strongly agree	37%	35%	35%	37%	40%	37%	33%	42%	39%	36%	37%
					C			G			
Somewhat agree	52%	53%	55%	52%	50%	50%	55%	49%	50%	54%	51%
							H				
Somewhat disagree	9%	10%	8%	10%	8%	12%	11%	8%	9%	8%	11%
							H				J
Strongly disagree	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%
NET: Agree	89%	89%	90%	89%	90%	87%	88%	91%	89%	91%	88%
								G		K	
NET: Disagree	11%	11%	10%	11%	10%	13%	12%	9%	11%	9%	12%
							H				J

Table 2. Would accept the role of executor for a family member or close friend

The next statements are about acting as an executor for an estate. For each one, please indicate how much you agree or disagree: “I would accept the role of executor for a family member or close friend, even if I do not fully understand what the job involves.”

Base: All respondents

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Gender Men	Women	18-34	Age 35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	3,048	358	508	1,144	819	215	1,431	1,599	812	1,244	992
Base (weighted)	3,048	428	550	1,198	662	202	1,505	1,525	880	980	1,189
Strongly agree	25%	23%	26%	25%	25%	24%	24%	25%	28%	26%	22%
Somewhat agree	52%	52%	51%	54%	48%	50%	53%	50%	49%	55%	52%
Somewhat disagree	18%	18%	18%	15%	22%	19%	17%	19%	19%	15%	19%
Strongly disagree	6%	7%	5%	6%	5%	7%	5%	6%	5%	5%	8%
NET: Agree	76%	75%	77%	79%	73%	74%	78%	75%	76%	80%	73%
NET: Disagree	24%	25%	23%	21%	27%	26%	22%	25%	24%	20%	27%

Table 3. Would want professional support if named as an executor

The next statements are about acting as an executor for an estate. For each one, please indicate how much you agree or disagree: “If I were named as an executor, I would want professional support to guide me through the process and handle most of the paperwork.”

Base: All respondents

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Gender Men	Women	18-34	Age 35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	3,048	358	508	1,144	819	215	1,431	1,599	812	1,244	992
Base (weighted)	3,048	428	550	1,198	662	202	1,505	1,525	880	980	1,189
Strongly agree	33%	35%	30%	33%	34%	35%	28%	38%	39%	32%	29%
Somewhat agree	50%	47%	52%	52%	48%	47%	54%	47%	49%	53%	49%
Somewhat disagree	14%	15%	15%	12%	16%	16%	15%	13%	10%	12%	19%
Strongly disagree	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%
NET: Agree	83%	82%	82%	85%	82%	82%	81%	85%	88%	85%	78%
NET: Disagree	17%	18%	18%	15%	18%	18%	19%	15%	12%	15%	22%

Table 4. Unfair to expect a family member to settle an estate on their own

The next statements are about acting as an executor for an estate. For each one, please indicate how much you agree or disagree: “It is unfair to expect a family member to handle all of the legal, financial, and administrative work of settling an estate on their own.”

Base: All respondents

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region		Québec	Atlantic	Gender		18-34	Age		55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	Ontario	(D)	(E)	(F)	Men	Women	(I)	35-54	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	3,048	358	508		1,144	819	215	1,431	1,599	812	1,244		992
Base (weighted)	3,048	428	550		1,198	662	202	1,505	1,525	880	980		1,189
Strongly agree	19%	16%	15%		18%	25%	20%	18%	20%	26%	17%		15%
						BCD				JK			
Somewhat agree	45%	48%	43%		45%	45%	39%	45%	45%	46%	48%		41%
		F								K	K		
Somewhat disagree	31%	31%	33%		31%	26%	37%	31%	31%	23%	29%		38%
			E		E		E				I		IJ
Strongly disagree	6%	5%	8%		6%	5%	4%	7%	5%	5%	6%		7%
			E										
NET: Agree	63%	64%	58%		63%	69%	59%	63%	64%	72%	65%		56%
						CDF				JK	K		
NET: Disagree	37%	36%	42%		37%	31%	41%	37%	36%	28%	35%		44%
			E		E		E				I		IJ

Table 5. More comfortable with a professional executor service if fees were clear and lower

The next statements are about acting as an executor for an estate. For each one, please indicate how much you agree or disagree: “I would feel more comfortable naming a professional executor service, or using one to support my executor, if the fees were clearly explained and significantly lower than traditional options.”

Base: All respondents

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Gender Men	Women	18-34	Age 35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	3,048	358	508	1,144	819	215	1,431	1,599	812	1,244	992
Base (weighted)	3,048	428	550	1,198	662	202	1,505	1,525	880	980	1,189
Strongly agree	22%	23%	20%	20%	24%	24%	20%	23%	29%	21%	17%
					D				JK	K	
Somewhat agree	48%	48%	45%	50%	47%	50%	48%	48%	51%	52%	42%
									K	K	
Somewhat disagree	24%	22%	26%	24%	23%	19%	25%	23%	16%	21%	31%
										I	IJ
Strongly disagree	6%	7%	9%	6%	5%	7%	7%	6%	4%	5%	9%
			DE								IJ
NET: Agree	70%	71%	65%	70%	72%	73%	68%	72%	80%	73%	60%
					C	C		G	JK	K	
NET: Disagree	30%	29%	35%	30%	28%	27%	32%	28%	20%	27%	40%
			EF				H			I	IJ

Source: Canada Pulse Insights for ClearEstate. Online survey of 3,048 Canadian adults, July 14–August 18, 2026; sample and data collection by Sago. Weighted to Statistics Canada population estimates by region, age and gender.

Who Canadians name as executor

ClearEstate — The 2026 Canadian Wills and Estate Planning Study · Tables accompanying the release — Total, region, gender and age · weighted percentages, unweighted bases

Table 6. Who will be the estate's executor

Who will be your estate's executor (liquidator in Québec)?

Base: Those with a completed Estate Plan who have not used a professional executor

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Gender Men	Women	18-34	Age 35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	574	65*	94*	218	164	33*	312	262	98*	180	296
Base (weighted)	591	80	105	239	135	32	334	257	102	141	348
Children	30%	36%	28%	32%	26%	28%	28%	33%	13%	11%	43%
Spouse	24%	13%	18%	26%	30%	31%	24%	23%	24%	25%	23%
Other family members	21%	22%	27%	20%	19%	14%	21%	22%	16%	35%	17%
Friend	6%	12%	6%	6%	4%	3%	7%	6%	4%	9%	6%
Estate lawyer	8%	9%	3%	9%	7%	10%	9%	6%	18%	6%	5%
Trust / bank / financial company	5%	4%	7%	3%	4%	9%	4%	5%	10%	5%	3%
Accountant (CPA)	2%	2%	2%	1%	4%	0%	2%	2%	9%	2%	0%
Other	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%	4%	2%	1%	4%	1%	1%
I'm not sure / I don't know	3%	0%	7%	3%	3%	0%	3%	3%	3%	6%	2%
NET: Family member or friend	82%	83%	79%	84%	80%	77%	80%	83%	57%	81%	89%
NET: Professional or institution	14%	15%	12%	14%	15%	19%	15%	13%	37%	13%	8%

Table 7. Primary reason for choosing a family member or friend as executor

What was the primary reason you chose a family member or friend as your executor?

Base: Those who have named a family member or friend as their executor

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Gender Men	Women	Age 18-34	35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	466	54*	74*	182	130	26	250	216	57*	146	263
Base (weighted)	482	66	83	200	108	25	267	215	58	114	310
They are the most trustworthy person I know	58%	60%	54%	62%	59%	–	61%	55%	47%	57%	61%
My estate is simple enough for a family member to handle	26%	27%	32%	24%	17%	–	24%	28%	7%	24%	30%
I wanted to honour them with this responsibility	7%	6%	7%	5%	12%	–	7%	7%	30%	5%	4%
I was not aware of other options	5%	5%	3%	6%	7%	–	5%	6%	10%	9%	3%
Professional services seemed too expensive	1%	0%	3%	1%	2%	–	1%	2%	6%	1%	0%
Other	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	–	2%	2%	0%	3%	2%

Source: Canada Pulse Insights for ClearEstate. Online survey of 3,048 Canadian adults, July 14–August 18, 2026; sample and data collection by Sago. Weighted to Statistics Canada population estimates by region, age and gender.

Access to estate information

ClearEstate — The 2026 Canadian Wills and Estate Planning Study · Tables accompanying the release — Total, region, gender and age · weighted percentages, unweighted bases

Table 8. How an executor would access information on estate assets and liabilities

Upon your death, how will an executor (liquidator in Québec) have access to your latest information on estate assets and liabilities (e.g., accounts, house deeds, passwords)?

Base: All except those who have used a professional executor

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Gender Men	Women	18-34	Age 35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	2,971	351	496	1,112	803	206	1,392	1,561	802	1,214	955
Base (weighted)	2,969	420	535	1,165	650	193	1,464	1,487	868	957	1,144
I've organized the information myself in a safe place at my home	35%	36%	34%	38%	31%	38%	35%	36%	24%	28%	51%
I've organized the information myself in a digital vault	6%	4%	5%	5%	9%	4%	7%	4%	9%	5%	3%
I've placed it in a safety deposit box at a bank	5%	5%	6%	4%	5%	6%	6%	4%	5%	4%	6%
Information is managed by another professional (e.g., accountant, lawyer, or financial advisor)	10%	9%	10%	11%	11%	9%	12%	9%	8%	9%	13%
I'm not sure how this information will be communicated after my death	44%	46%	44%	42%	44%	44%	41%	46%	54%	55%	27%
NET: Has organized the information somewhere	56%	54%	56%	58%	56%	56%	59%	54%	46%	45%	73%

Source: Canada Pulse Insights for ClearEstate. Online survey of 3,048 Canadian adults, July 14–August 18, 2026; sample and data collection by Sago. Weighted to Statistics Canada population estimates by region, age and gender.

Experience as an executor

ClearEstate — The 2026 Canadian Wills and Estate Planning Study · Tables accompanying the release — Total, region, gender and age · weighted percentages, unweighted bases

Table 9. Has acted as an estate executor

Have you ever acted as an estate executor?

Base: All respondents

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Gender Men	Women	18-34	Age 35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	3,048	358	508	1,144	819	215	1,431	1,599	812	1,244	992
Base (weighted)	3,048	428	550	1,198	662	202	1,505	1,525	880	980	1,189
Yes	20%	18%	21%	20%	23%	16%	23%	17%	12%	10%	35%
No	80%	82%	79%	80%	77%	84%	77%	83%	88%	90%	65%
					F	E	H	G	K	K	IJ

Table 10. Time spent on executor duties

Approximately how much total time did you personally spend on executor duties, including administration, communication, legal, and financial tasks?

Base: Those who have acted as an executor

	Region						Gender		Age		
	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	579	59*	101	215	172	31*	317	262	108	120	351
Base (weighted)	617	76	116	240	150	31	352	265	108	94	414
Less than 20 hours	12%	5%	18%	10%	11%	20%	13%	10%	12%	14%	11%
20-50 hours	32%	27%	35% BD	28%	41% D	30%	34%	30%	42% JK	28%	31%
50-100 hours	20%	10%	12%	24% BC	25% BC	21%	22%	18%	32% JK	20%	17%
100-200 hours	10%	15%	8%	10%	7%	7%	11%	8%	4%	8%	12% I
More than 200 hours	9%	17% E	8%	9%	5%	16% E	7%	13% G	5%	8%	11%
I don't know / lost track of time	17%	26% EF	18%	18%	11%	6%	13%	22% G	4%	23% I	19% I
NET: 50 hours or more	39%	43%	28%	44% C	37%	44%	40%	38%	42%	36%	39%

Time was collected in ranges. The median respondent falls in the 20-50 hour range, reported in the release as its midpoint, 35 hours.

Source: Canada Pulse Insights for ClearEstate. Online survey of 3,048 Canadian adults, July 14-August 18, 2026; sample and data collection by Sago. Weighted to Statistics Canada population estimates by region, age and gender.

Choosing an executor today

ClearEstate — The 2026 Canadian Wills and Estate Planning Study · Tables accompanying the release — Total, region, gender and age · weighted percentages, unweighted bases

Table 11. Who they would appoint as executor today

Imagine you had to appoint an executor (liquidator in Québec) for your estate today. Which ONE of the following would you be most likely to choose?

Base: All respondents

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Gender		18-34	Age 35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	Men	Women	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	3,048	358	508	1,144	819	215	1,431	1,599	812	1,244	992
Base (weighted)	3,048	428	550	1,198	662	202	1,505	1,525	880	980	1,189
A family member or close friend who would handle everything themselves	30%	32%	35%	29%	26%	29%	31%	29%	24%	34%	32%
A family member or close friend who would handle things, but could hire professionals (such as a lawyer or accountant) as needed	48%	48%	49% ^{DE}	49%	45%	49%	47%	49%	42%	46% ^I	54% ^I
A financial institution or trust company that would act as the professional executor and manage the estate settlement	9%	7%	7%	9%	11%	10%	10%	8%	13%	8%	6% ^{IJ}
A professional executor service that can either act as the executor itself or do most of the work behind the scenes while a family member or friend remains the executor	13%	14%	9%	12%	17% ^{BC}	13%	13%	13%	21% ^{JK}	12%	7%
NET: Family member or friend led	78%	80% ^C	84% ^C	79% ^C	72% ^{CD}	78%	78%	79%	66% ^{JK}	80% ^K	86%
NET: Professional led	22%	20% ^E	16% ^{DEF}	21% ^E	28% ^C	22% ^{BCD}	22% ^C	21%	34% ^{JK}	20% ^K	14% ^{IJ}

Table 12. Familiarity with professional executors

Before today, how familiar were you with the role of a professional executor?

Base: All respondents

	Total	British Columbia	Prairies	Region Ontario	Québec	Atlantic	Gender Men	Women	18-34	Age 35-54	55+
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Base (unweighted)	3,048	358	508	1,144	819	215	1,431	1,599	812	1,244	992
Base (weighted)	3,048	428	550	1,198	662	202	1,505	1,525	880	980	1,189
I am not familiar with professional executors	43%	44%	44%	44%	40%	37%	41%	44%	41%	47%	40%
I have heard of the concept or am vaguely familiar with professional executors	30%	29%	29%	29%	34%	30%	29%	31%	37%	31%	24%
I am familiar with the concept of a professional executor	23%	24%	22%	23%	22%	27%	25%	21%	18%	18%	31%
I have seriously considered using a professional executor	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%
I have used a professional executor or plan to as part of my will	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	2%	1%	2%	4%

Source: Canada Pulse Insights for ClearEstate. Online survey of 3,048 Canadian adults, July 14–August 18, 2026; sample and data collection by Sago. Weighted to Statistics Canada population estimates by region, age and gender.