

A clear majority of Canadians believes judges should have final say over politicians when it comes to interpreting the laws of the land, suggests a poll that challenges the notion that the courts have become too powerful.

The poll, a follow-up to a 1987 York University poll when the Charter of Rights was only five years old, found that Canadians' opinions have stayed much the same in the last 12 years.

Canadians, however, appear to be evenly split on whether the right of the Supreme Court to decide certain controversial issues should be reduced. The poll found 43 per cent of respondents thought the court's decision-making power should remain the same, while 42 per cent disagreed.