

much more likely than anglophone journalists to say they would publish or broadcast such information (49 percent to 27 percent).

As mentioned earlier, the results of the survey demonstrate that three-quarters of Canadian journalists pay little or no attention to a code of ethics or news policy manual. We were interested in probing the ideas they do use to help them decide how to deal with controversial matters.

We asked respondents to agree or disagree with a series of statements about the extent to which they consider certain factors "when deciding how to deal with controversial matters." Answers were on a 1-to-10 scale, with 1 representing "disagree strongly" (the factor is not at all important) and 10 representing "agree strongly" (the factor is very important). The results are presented in Table 3.

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Insert Table 3 here

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Journalists tend to rely on their own personal sense of ethics in deciding what to do in controversial situations, our results show. For anglophones and francophones, the average agreement with reliance on personal ethics was about 8 on the 10-point scale. The respondents were neutral about whether they would consider what other journalists at their news organization would do in a similar situation; anglophone and francophone journalists rated that factor at about 5 on the 10-point scale.

Journalists seemed concerned about the possibility of being sued, with an average agreement of just under 7 on the 10-point scale that the possibility of a lawsuit was a factor they considered. Journalists' concern about being sued may be misguided,