INTEREST, KNOWLEDGE, CRITICISM AND PRIDE IN CANADIAN HISTORY: HOW SHOULD KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HISTORY CONTRIBUTE TO AN ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP?

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ABSTRACT

This essay confirms that there is a relationship between interest and knowledge of the country's history, and attachment to Canada. Hence, the objective of policy-makers to support enhanced knowledge about Canada's past seems aligned with the goal of strengthening Canadian identity. However, those indicating a strong knowledge of Canada's history are most likely to agree that they are uncomfortable with criticism of the past and such concern may be inconsistent with the objective of many educators that see the study of history as a means to develop critical thinking skills. It is contended that there is more research needed to determine how these objectives are best reconciled.

Improving the population's knowledge of the country's history has become a growing priority amongst policy-makers. It is widely held that there is an important link between knowledge of the country's history, and attachment to Canada. Therefore attention and resources are directed towards such programs as the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and other events. But the question that underlies much of the celebration about our past is the extent to which it is of interest to the population, and how best to raise consciousness about the nation's past. That issue is of some interest to policy-makers to policy-makers, historians and history educators.

Based on a series of focus groups, a 2011 report for Citizenship and Immigration Canada found that with regard to the country's citizenship test, a number of participants expressed certain reservations over it's history-related questions. They generally expected that such questions should/would be part of the citizenship exam. Concerns tended to relate to the memorization of specific dates and names as they wondered how this information would be helpful to them in their day-to-day lives. They added that it was unlikely that they would retain this information beyond the 'day of the exam'. These views reflect a perspective often related by students around the contemporary relevance of the history they learn. Does this imply limited interest in the country's past, or for that matter to history in general? Surveys of Canadians do not support the idea that the population is uninterested in history.

That which follows looks at the degree of interest manifested by Canadians in various types of history. Our specific focus is on whether age, place of birth and language identity has an impact on levels of interest in the history of family, country, other countries, province or region and religious or ethnic group. We also compare the level of interest on the part of Canadians in the history of their country with the views of American, French and British populations that were also surveyed. We then proceed to examine the degree of pride in history, openness to criticism of history and the perceived need for a shared or common

history. That analysis aims at contributing to ongoing discussion around the development of critical thinking in learning history. This skill generally calls on students to question assumptions and determine the veracity of various historic and/or contemporary claims. Ordinarily, the process of critical thinking targets the university undergraduate level student. However, educators have increasingly attempted to introduce these skills earlier in the education process.

If critical thinking is considered important, it does not imply that individuals should assume that all criticism about the past is constructive and acceptable. Criticism may be seen as challenging consensus in the interpretation of historic events. For some individuals and groups criticism undercut pride in the nation's history and thus weakens group identities.

As stated at the outset, policy-makers may regard knowledge of the country's history as an important dimension of citizenship engagement and is believed to enhance attachment to Canada. The table below supports the link between perceived knowledge of Canada and the strength of attachment to it with approximately 73% of Canadians that report a very strong knowledge of the country indicating that they are very attached to Canada. The gaps in attachment between anglophone and allophone Canadians are quite wide between those reporting the strongest degree of knowledge and those reporting the weakest. While there are gaps amongst francophones in this regard they are not as significant as they are for non-francophone Canadians.

Table 1: Strength of knowledge of the history of the country (Canada) and degree of attachment to Canada by language group, 2011

		MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY			
	Attachment to Canada	Very strong	Somewhat strong	Somewhat weak	Very weak
Total	Very attached	72.9%	49.1%	36.9%	25.0%
	Somewhat attached	11.5%	28.3%	29.7%	30.7%
Francophone	Very attached	45.5%	29.3%	21.5%	28.6%
	Somewhat attached	20.0%	35.9%	39.0%	33.3%
Anglophone	Very attached	73.9%	55.4%	43.0%	30.2%
	Somewhat attached	11.6%	23.0%	25.3%	27.9%
Allophone	Very attached	84.2%	50.2%	52.1%	15.4%
	Somewhat attached	6.9%	36.8%	26.0%	30.8%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

The most attached to Canada are also the most likely to express interest in its history. Indeed amongst Canada's francophones of those indicating they are very and somewhat attached to the country, about 77% express interest in the history of the country compared with 26% of those francophones saying their interest is very weak.

Table 2: Strength of knowledge of the history of the country (Canada) and interest in the history of the country (Canada), 2011

	MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY			
My interest in the history of my country	Very strong	Somewhat strong	Somewhat weak	Very weak
Very strong	72.7%	18.6%	6.6%	6.7%
Somewhat strong	23.4%	65.2%	40.8%	14.6%
Somewhat weak	3.2%	14.9%	45.7%	27.0%
Very weak	0.5%	0.7%	6.1%	50.6%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Interest in history is clearly associated with knowledge. As illustrated below, 96% of those surveyed expressing a strong knowledge in the country's history have a strong interest in its history compared with 21% of those with weak knowledge expressing similar interest.

Table 3: Degree of interest in the history of family, country (Canada), province or region, other countries and religious or ethnic group, 2011

INTEREST IN THE HISTORY OF …	MY FAMILY	MY COUNTRY	MY PROVINCE OR REGION	OTHER COUNTRIES	MY RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC GROUP
Total strong	80.9%	74.6%	68.4%	56.7%	45.6%
Very strong	35.9%	25.0%	19.9%	14.5%	14.7%
Somewhat strong	45.0%	49.6%	48.5%	42.2%	30.9%
Total weak	17.7%	23.9%	30.0%	41.6%	51.1%
Somewhat weak	14.5%	20.1%	25.0%	32.3%	32.0%
Very weak	3.2%	3.8%	5.0%	9.3%	19.1%
I prefer not to answer	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	1.6%	3.2%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Three in four Canadians express a strong sense of interest in the country, just behind the degree of interest in the history of one's family. It is the history of religious and ethnic groups that elicits the least interest from Canadians.

Table 4: Percentage very and somewhat interested by age group in the history of family, country (Canada), province or region, other countries and religious or ethnic group, 2011

VERY AND SOMEWHAT INTERESTED (%) IN THE HISTORY OF …	BETWEEN 18 AND 24	BETWEEN 25 AND 34	BETWEEN 35 AND 44	BETWEEN 45 AND 54	BETWEEN 55 AND 64	BETWEEN 65 AND 74
My Family	77%	77%	82%	79%	83%	86%
My Country	64%	66.6%	75.5%	73.7%	79.1%	83.5%
Countries other than my own	63.5%	56.3%	60.5%	53.3%	56.5%	52.3%
My province or region	57%	61%	70%	65%	74%	80%
My religion or ethnic group	45%	42%	46%	42%	44%	55%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Interest in the history of one's country and one's province rises with age. This is somewhat less the case when it comes to family histories. In the case of the history of other countries, it is the youngest cohort that is manifests the most interest.

On the basis of one's level of education, the widest gap around interest in history is over countries other than one's own.

Table 5: Percentage very and somewhat interested by level of education in the history of family, country (Canada), province or region, other countries and religious or ethnic group by level of education, 2011

VERY AND SOMEWHAT INTERESTED (%) IN THE HISTORY OF …	ELEM / HS	COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY
My Family	78%	82%	82%
My Country	70%	73%	81%
Countries other than my own	42%	56%	70%
My province or region	64%	69%	72%
My religion or ethnic group	42%	45%	50%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Immigrants have roughly similar levels of interest in the history of families and the history of their province as do other Canadians. They manifest somewhat higher rates of interest in the history of the the country, which is partly attributable to the lower degree of interest of the overwhelmingly Canadian-born francophone population.

Table 6: Percentage very and somewhat interested by place of birth in the history of family, country (Canada), province or region, other countries and religious or ethnic group, 2011

VERY AND SOMEWHAT INTERESTED (%) IN THE HISTORY OF …	BORN IN CANADA	NOT BORN IN CANADA
My Family	80%	84%
My Country	73%	81%
Countries other than my own	68%	71%
My province or region	55%	65%
My religion or ethnic group	42%	60%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Interest in the history of the country is highest amongst Canada's anglophones, followed by allophones and the country's francophones. Francophones are more interested than non-francophones in the history of their province. Non-francophones are more interested than francophones in the history of countries other than their own. The largest gap is in the interest expressed by allophones in the history of their religious or ethnic group which is considerably greater than the interest manifested in the same subject by anglophones and by francophones. That said, it is very likely that the religious dimension of the group's history that contributes to the relatively low degree of interest on the part of francophones.

Table 7: Percentage very and somewhat interested by language group in the history of family, country (Canada), province or region, other countries and religious or ethnic group, 2011

MY INTEREST IN THE HISTORY OF…	WHAT IS THE LANGUAGE YOU FIRST LEARNED AT HOME IN YOUR CHILDHOOD AND THAT YOU STILL UNDERSTAND?		
	FRENCH	ENGLISH	OTHER
My Family	81%	81%	82%
My Country	65%	79%	73%
Countries other than my own	74%	67%	66%
My province or region	51%	58%	60%
My religion or ethnic group	30%	46%	63%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

In contrast with the age profile of those interested in the history of Canada, interest in the history of countries other than Canada is highest amongst the youngest cohort and weakens with age and is lowest amongst the oldest. As observed below the youngest cohort expresses equal levels of interest in the history of other countries than that in Canada's history which is in stark contrast with the pattern exhibited by older Canadians.

Table 8: Percentage interested in the history of the country (Canada) and the history of other countries ages 18 to 24 and 65 to 74, 2011

	BETWEEN 18 AND 24		BETWEEN 65 AND 74	
	My interest in the history of countries other than my own	My interest in the history of Canada	My interest in the history of countries other than my own	My interest in the history of Canada
Very strong	23.6%	19.6%	7.2%	31.5%
Somewhat strong	39.6%	44.4%	45.1%	52.0%
Somewhat weak	24.0%	24.4%	38.7%	14.2%
Very weak	9.1%	8.7%	8.1%	1.2%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Canadian history and the history of other countries should not be assumed to be in competition. As illustrated below, those most interested in the history of Canada are by far more interested in the history of other countries.

Table 9: Percentage interested in the history of the country (Canada) correlated with degree of interest in the history of other countries ages 18 to 24 and 65 to 74, 2011

	MY INTEREST IN THE HISTORY OF MY COUNTRY			
My interest in the history of countries other than my own	Very strong	Somewhat strong	Somewhat weak	Very weak
Very strong	40.8%	6.9%	3.5%	3.3%
Somewhat strong	44.4%	54.7%	18.3%	7.7%
Somewhat weak	12.8%	33.0%	61.5%	15.4%
Very weak	1.8%	4.7%	16.6%	72.5%
I don't know	0.2%	0.7%	-	1.1%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

When comparing Canadians level of interest in the history of their country with that of three other countries, it is Americans that express the highest level of interest in the history of their country followed by Brits. Canadians are next, ahead of the population of France.

Table 10: Percentage interested in the history of the country, Canada, France, the United States and the United Kingdom, 2011

My interest in the history of my own country	Canada (1)	France	U. S.	U. K.
Total strong	75.6%	74.5%	82.9%	78.1%
Very strong	25.5%	17.9%	33.3%	24.9%
Somewhat strong	50.1%	56.6%	49.6%	53.2%
Total weak	24.4%	25.5%	17.1%	21.9%
Somewhat weak	20.4%	22.6%	14.1%	18.8%
Very weak	4.0%	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%

(1) Percentages adjusted for those responding don't know or refusing to respond

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

INTEREST, CRITICISM, CONSENSUS AND PRIDE IN HISTORY

In this section we turn our attention to the issue of critical thinking skills in history. To this end, the analysis is based on the results of three survey questions. First, we examine the degree to which Canadians think it is important that everyone share the same perception of our history, next we look at whether Canadians are uncomfortable with criticism about our history and finally we look at the extent to which Canadians take pride in our history.

When looking at how those expressing interest in Canadian history respond to the three questions one observes a correlation between stronger interest in history and a greater desire for a common history, less comfort with criticism and greater pride in the past. In fact, some 66% of those with a very strong interest in the country's history, strongly agree that they take pride in our history a figure that drops to 27% amongst those expressing a "somewhat strong" interest in our history.

Table 11: Percentage interested in the history of the country (Canada) correlated with agreement around questions on shared perceptions of history, discomfort with criticism of history and pride in Canadian history (strongly agree and somewhat agree)

	MY INTEREST IN THE HISTORY OF MY OWN COUNTRY			
Agree	Very strong	Somewhat strong	Somewhat weak	Very weak
Everyone should share the same perception of our history	48.4%	39.1%	30.6%	20.9%
I am uncomfortable with criticism about our history	49.0%	39.5%	30.0%	18.9%
I take great pride in Canadian history (total agree)	92.0%	86.6%	67.1%	33.0%
Strongly agree	66.3%	27.4%	11.4%	5.5%
Somewhat agree	25.7%	59.2%	55.7%	27.5%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

As revealed below a narrow majority of Canadians are comfortable with criticism of our history. The most educated segment of the population is more comfortable with such criticism while the least educated are less so.

Table 12: Percentage agreeing/disagreeing they are uncomfortable with criticism about our history by level of education, 2011

	I AM UNCOMFORTABLE WITH CRITICISM ABOUT OUR HISTORY			
	Total	Elem / HS	College	University
Total agree	39%	45%	37%	34%
Total disagree	51%	41%	51%	60%
I don't know	9%	12%	10%	5%
I prefer not to answer	1%	1%	2%	1%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Those least comfortable with criticism of our history tend to be over the age of 65 while those between the ages of 25 and 34 are most comfortable with criticism. Foreign-born Canadians are less comfortable with criticism about our history than are the Canadian-born population.

Table 13: Percentage agreeing/disagreeing they are uncomfortable with criticism about our history by place of birth and age cohort, 2011

		I AM UNCOMFORTABLE WITH CRITICISM ABOUT OUR HISTORY							
	Total	Born in Canada	Not Born in Canada	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Total agree	39%	37%	45%	34%	29%	35%	39%	41%	52%
Strongly agree	9%	9%	10%	9%	8%	9%	9%	8%	11%
Somewhat agree	30%	28%	35%	25%	20%	27%	30%	32%	41%
Total disagree	51%	53%	45%	51%	56%	53%	50%	56%	43%
Somewhat disagree	34%	37%	26%	33%	36%	38%	33%	36%	31%
Strongly disagree	17%	16%	20%	18%	20%	15%	17%	20%	12%
I don't know	9%	9%	8%	12%	14%	10%	10%	4%	4%
I prefer not to answer	1%	1%	1%	4%	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

On the basis of language, while francophones are least likely to express discomfort with criticism about their history, anglophone Canadians are most likely to agree that they are not uncomfortable with criticism about our history.

Table 14: Percentage agreeing/disagreeing they are uncomfortable with criticism about our history by language group, 2011

I AM UNCOMFORTABLE WITH CRITICISM ABOUT OUR HISTORY	FRENCH	ENGLISH	OTHER
Total agree	33%	38%	47%
Strongly agree	5%	10%	9%
Somewhat agree	28%	28%	38%
Total disagree	49%	55%	43%
Somewhat disagree	38%	37%	24%
Strongly disagree	12%	18%	19%
I don't know	15%	7%	8%
I prefer not to answer	2%	1%	2%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

When compared with other countries, Canadians are more comfortable with criticism of their history than are Americans and Brits but less so than the population surveyed in France.

Table 15: Percentage agreeing/disagreeing they are uncomfortable with criticism about our history in Canada, France, the United States and the United Kingdom, 2011

I am uncomfortable with criticism about our history	Canada	France	U. S.	U. K.
Total agree	43.0%	38.9%	47.7%	46.8%
Strongly agree	10.0%	5.3%	13.2%	10.7%
Somewhat agree	33.0%	33.6%	34.5%	36.1%
Total disagree	57.0%	61.1%	52.3%	53.2%
Somewhat disagree	38.0%	51.7%	36.6%	41.6%
Strongly disagree	19.0%	9.4%	15.7%	11.6%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011, for France, the United States and the United Kingdom, ORC International for the Association for Canadian Studies, 2011

Age is an important determinant in the extent to which the population takes pride in Canadian history as the youngest cohort is least likely to express such sentiment. There is in fact a significant difference in pride in history between those between the age of 18-24 (62%) and those between the ages of 25 and 34 (78%).

Table 16: Percentage agreeing/disagreeing that they take great pride in our history by age cohort and language group, 2011

	I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN CANADIAN HISTORY									
	Total	18 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65+	French	English	Other
Total agree	81%	62%	78%	79%	84%	87%	90%	70%	86%	78%
Strongly agree	33%	19%	25%	29%	33%	43%	46%	19%	40%	29%
Somewhat agree	48%	43%	53%	50%	52%	44%	45%	52%	47%	49%
Total disagree	13%	28%	13%	14%	8%	10%	8%	20%	9%	14%
Somewhat disagree	10%	19%	10%	11%	7%	7%	7%	15%	8%	9%
Strongly disagree	3%	9%	3%	3%	1%	3%	2%	5%	2%	5%
I don't know	5%	7%	7%	6%	6%	3%	1%	8%	3%	6%
I prefer not to answer	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Survey data implies that greater acceptance of criticism may indeed undercut pride in history. As seen below, those Canadians who express the most discomfort with criticism of our history are by far more likely to affirm their pride in the history of Canada. Some 78% of those surveyed that are most uncomfortable with criticism about our history are most inclined to affirm their pride in Canadian history.

Table 17: Percentage agreeing/disagreeing they are uncomfortable with criticism about our history correlated with percentage agreeing/disagreeing they take great pride in Canadian history, 2011

	I AM UNCOMFORTABLE WITH CRITICISM ABOUT OUR HISTORY			
I take great pride in Canadian history	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	77.8%	35.0%	27.5%	29.3%
Somewhat agree	18.5%	53.5%	54.7%	48.0%
Somewhat disagree	0.9%	8.3%	12.9%	11.6%
Strongly disagree	2.3%	1.5%	1.7%	7.1%
I don't know	0.5%	1.1%	3.0%	2.7%
I prefer not to answer	-	0.6%	0.1%	1.2%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Americans and Canadians are more likely to express pride in their history than the populations surveyed in Britain and France.

Table 18: Percentage agreeing/disagreeing that they take great pride in our history in Canada, France, the United States and Great Britain, 2011

I take great pride in our history	Canada	France	U. S.	U. K.
Total agree	86.5%	76.8%	86.4%	79.4%
Strongly agree	35.0%	17.9%	41.1%	29.5%
Somewhat agree	51.5%	58.9%	45.3%	49.9%
Total disagree	13.5%	23.2%	13.6%	20.6%
Somewhat disagree	10.0%	21.4%	11.9%	17.8%
Strongly disagree	3.5%	1.8%	1.7%	2.8%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011, for France, the United States and the United Kingdom, ORC International for the Association for Canadian Studies, 2011

A majority of Canadians do not agree that everyone should share the same perception of our history. Still some 40% do agree that a common perception of our history is needed and most such individuals are over the age of 35.

Table 19: Percentage agreeing/disagreeing that everyone should share the same perception of our history by age cohort, 2011

	EVERYONE SHOULD SHARE THE SAME PERCEPTION OF OUR HISTORY						
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Total agree	39%	34%	33%	39%	42%	42%	40%
Strongly agree	11%	9%	8%	11%	11%	13%	12%
Somewhat agree	28%	25%	24%	29%	31%	29%	28%
Total disagree	53%	56%	58%	53%	48%	53%	52%
Somewhat disagree	34%	33%	34%	33%	32%	34%	39%
Strongly disagree	19%	22%	24%	20%	16%	19%	13%
I don't know	7%	7%	8%	5%	9%	5%	7%
I prefer not to answer	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

In the tables below we differentiate the anglophone and francophone Canadian sample of the survey to look at the relationships between pride, consensus and discomfort with criticism about history. As observed in the table, those francophones who are uncomfortable with criticism about history are most favourable to the idea that there should be a shared perception of the past.

Table 20: Correlation agreement/disagreement amongst francophone Canadians for "I am uncomfortable with criticism about our history" and "Everyone should share the same perception of our history", 2011

FRENCH	I AM UNCOMFORTABLE WITH CRITICISM ABOUT OUR HISTORY			
Everyone should share the same perception of our history	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	44.4%	8.7%	3.1%	9.8%
Somewhat agree	29.6%	40.9%	28.2%	13.1%
Somewhat disagree	3.7%	37.6%	50.3%	29.5%
Strongly disagree	22.2%	11.4%	15.4%	45.9%
I don't know	-	0.7%	2.6%	1.6%
I prefer not to answer	-	0.7%	0.5%	-

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

The relationship is quite similar amongst English Canadians where 43% of those who are most uncomfortable with criticism about their history strongly agree that everyone should share the same perception of it.

Table 21: Correlation agreement/disagreement amongst anglophone Canadians for "I am uncomfortable with criticism about our history" and "Everyone should share the same perception of our history", 2011

ENGLISH	I AM UNCOMFORTABLE WITH CRITICISM ABOUT OUR HISTORY			
Everyone should share the same perception of our history	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	43.0%	10.1%	5.5%	5.2%
Somewhat agree	25.4%	44.7%	21.1%	11.6%
Somewhat disagree	19.7%	28.6%	51.5%	26.0%
Strongly disagree	9.2%	11.7%	17.6%	49.6%
I don't know	2.8%	4.7%	4.1%	7.2%
I prefer not to answer	-	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

There is a very strong relationship between those favouring a shared perception of history and the extent to which pride is expressed in Canadian history. Over 80% of those English Canadians that strongly agree everyone should share the same perception of our history, strongly agree that they take great pride in Canadian history.

Table 22: Correlation agreement/disagreement amongst anglophone Canadians for and "Everyone should share the same perception of our history" and "I take great pride in our history", 2011

ENGLISH	EVERYONE SHOULD SHARE THE SAME PERCEPTION OF OUR HISTORY			
I take great pride in Canadian history	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	80.7%	38.4%	32.4%	39.9%
Somewhat agree	17.1%	53.2%	57.1%	39.9%
Somewhat disagree	2.1%	5.6%	7.9%	13.9%
Strongly disagree	0.0%	1.1%	0.4%	4.6%
I don't know	-	1.6%	1.9%	1.1%
I prefer not to answer	0.0%	-	0.4%	0.7%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Though on a lesser scale, a similar finding arises amongst francophone respondents. Some 51% in strong agreement that everyone should share the same perception of our history strongly agree that they take great pride in Canadian history.

Table 23: Correlation agreement/disagreement amongst francophone Canadians for and "Everyone should share the same perception of our history" and "I take great pride in our history", 2011

FRENCH	EVERYONE SHOULD SHARE THE SAME PERCEPTION OF OUR HISTORY			
I take great pride in Canadian history	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	51.3%	16.1%	18.6%	14.1%
Somewhat agree	28.2%	63.8%	50.0%	48.5%
Somewhat disagree	12.8%	11.4%	21.1%	15.2%
Strongly disagree	7.7%	3.4%	2.6%	12.1%
I don't know	-	5.4%	7.2%	9.1%
I prefer not to answer	-	-	0.5%	1.0%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

Respondents in France were slightly more inclined to agree that everyone should share the same perception of our history. People in the United Kingdom are least likely to agree with the idea.

Table 24: Percentage agreement/disagreement that "Everyone should share the same perception of our history" in Canada, France, the United States and the United Kingdom, 2011

Everyone should share in the same perception of our history	Canada	France	U. S.	U. K.
Total agree	42.0%	43.8%	35.8%	40.4%
Strongly agree	12.0%	7.4%	7.7%	7.8%
Somewhat agree	30.0%	36.4%	28.1%	32.6%
Total disagree	58.0%	56.3%	64.3%	59.6%
Somewhat disagree	38.0%	47.2%	42.4%	46.1%
Strongly disagree	20.0%	9.1%	21.9%	13.5%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011, for France, the United States and the United Kingdom, ORC International for the Association for Canadian Studies, 2011

Returning to the premise at the outset of this analysis, the data points to a relationship between knowledge of the history of the country and the level of agreement with a shared perception of history, pride in history and discomfort with criticism. It is important to keep in mind that the survey is based on self-assessed knowledge of history as opposed to actual knowledge but it clear that those who think they know more are more averse to criticism more amenable to a shared vision and take greater pride in Canada's history.

Table 25: Correlation knowledge of the history of Canada with percentage agreement that "everyone should share the same perception of our history", "I take great pride in Canadian history" and "I am uncomfortable with criticism about our history", 2011

	MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY			
Agree	Very strong	Somewhat strong	Somewhat weak	Very weak
Everyone should share the same perception of our history	49.8%	39.0%	32.5%	25.8%
I take great pride in Canadian history	90.8%	85.1%	73.2%	43.8%
I am uncomfortable with criticism about our history	50.5%	39.8%	30.1%	26.9%

Source: Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies, September-October, 2011

CONCLUSION

The surveys we conducted strongly affirm that interest and knowledge in national history are strongly interwoven and that both are associated with higher rates of attachment to the country. That is less the case for francophones in Quebec when it comes to interest and knowledge of history and the contribution to attachment to Canada. In the latter case, much depends what history, how and by whom it is interpreted and what ends being retained. Our survey does not deal with those issues, rather it investigates the general relationships between interest, knowledge, discomfort with history, the perceived need for a shared history and pride in national history. The results raise potentially important issues for history educators and policy-makers. To the extent that national attachment is seen by policy-makers as a key indicator of good citizenship, it follows that the promotion of knowledge and consensus in history would be important state objectives as they respectively contribute to attachment to Canada and pride in its history. To the extent that history educators promote knowledge of Canada's history, they may be contributing to policy objectives given the relationship established by the data. Of course this presumes that the majority of those surveyed learned most of their history in the classroom, a relationship not established by the survey.

On the other hand, educators that seek to prioritize critical thinking skills via history education may feel that the results of the survey do not support that objective to the extent that those respondents who regard themselves as more knowledgeable are less sympathetic to criticism and far more favourable to a shared version of the past. The survey results suggest that many people believe a

shared perception of history is likely to quell criticism. It is conceivable that we can possess good critical thinking skills and arrive at the conclusion that there is a need for a shared perception of the past. Nonetheless the issues raised by the survey merit greater attention from educators and policy-makers alike as regards discussion and dialogue between them when it comes to the role of knowledge about history towards fostering engaged citizens.

METHODOLOGY

This poll was conducted online in all regions of Canada with a representative sample of **2,345 Canadians**, between **September 20th and October 3th, 2011**. Final data was weighted by age, gender, language, level of education, regions and household composition (with or without children under the age of 18) in order to obtain a representative sample of the Canada population. A probabilistic sample of 2,345 respondents would yield a **margin of error of 2%, 19 times out of 20**. Survey respondents were selected randomly from the LegerWeb Internet panel, which has over 350,000 Canadian households. A stratification process was applied to invitation lists to ensure optimal representation of respondents. The panelists were recruited randomly from Leger Marketing telephone surveys. Several quality control measures ensure the representativeness and accuracy of Leger Marketing's surveys with its panel members.

United States

ORC International conducted the survey on behalf of the Association for Canadian Studies among a sample of 1,019 adults comprising 503 men and 516 women 18 years of age and older. Interviewing for this survey was completed on September 15-18, 2011.

United Kingdom

ORC International conducted the survey on behalf of the Association for Canadian Studies in the U.K. with a sample of 1,000 adults 18 years of age and older. Interviewing for this survey was completed on September 16-21, 2011.

France

ORC International conducted the survey on behalf of the Association for Canadian Studies among a sample of 1,001 adults in France comprising 487 men and 514 women 18 years of age and older. Interviewing for this survey was completed on September 16-21, 2011.

Completed interviews are weighted by five variables: age, sex, geographic region, race and education to ensure reliable and accurate representation The raw data are weighted by a custom designed program which automatically develops a weighting factor for each respondent. Each respondent is assigned a single weight derived from the relationship between the actual proportion of the population based on Census data with its specific combination of age, sex, geographic characteristics, race and education and the proportion in the sample. Tabular results show both weighted and unweighted bases.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have volunteered to participate in online surveys and polls. The data have been weighted to reflect the demographic composition of the 18+ population. Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation. ORC International has exercised its best efforts in the preparation of this information. In any event, ORC assumes no responsibility for any use which is made of this information or any decisions based upon it.