

OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM: VIEWED POSITIVELY IN QUEBEC AND THE REST OF CANADA AMIDST LANGUAGE DEBATES

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INTRODUCTION: OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM WIDELY SEEN AS POSITIVE

Concerns over the situation of the French language in Quebec and the spread of bilingualism in the province have seen the government of Quebec call for the federal government again to apply the Charter of the French Language (Bill 101) to companies operating under federal jurisdiction in Quebec. Additionally the Quebec government considerably increased spending for language inspectors in the province. The move to apply Bill 101 to federal agencies in Quebec has been endorsed by the leaders of the Federal NDP and Conservative parties. Yet when Quebecers and other Canadians are asked about Official Bilingualism they express generally positive views and this is particularly the case for younger Quebecers and youth in the rest of Canada. Indeed majorities of supporters across all federal political parties positively view official bilingualism according to a national survey conducted for the Association for Canadian Studies by Leger marketing between September 18th and 20th, 2020

YOUNG CANADIANS HOLD PARTICULARLY POSITIVE VIEWS OF OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM

Official Bilingualism - Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following?				
Canada	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
TOTAL POSITIVE	66%	78%	63%	59%
Very positive	23%	28%	23%	19%
Somewhat positive	43%	50%	40%	40%
TOTAL NEGATIVE	34%	22%	37%	41%
Somewhat negative	24%	14%	27%	27%
Very negative	11%	7%	10%	14%

THREE IN FOUR QUEBEC FRANCOPHONES AND NON-FRANCOPHONES FAVORABLY SEE OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM

Official Bilingualism - Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following?		
Quebec	Francophone	Other
Total Positive	76%	73%
Very positive	32%	47%
Somewhat positive	44%	26%
Somewhat negative	16%	17%
Very negative	8%	10%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

QUEBECERS ARE MOST FAVORABLE TO OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM

	Official Bilingualism - Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following?					
	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL POSITIVE	62%	75%	65%	57%	66%	58%
Very positive	14%	35%	22%	19%	19%	14%
Somewhat positive	48%	40%	42%	38%	46%	45%
TOTAL NEGATIVE	38%	25%	35%	43%	34%	42%
Somewhat negative	32%	16%	25%	27%	22%	29%
Very negative	6%	8%	11%	16%	12%	13%

QUEBEC FRANCOPHONES UNDER 35 HOLD MOST FAVORABLE VIEWS IN CANADA OF OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM

Official Bilingualism - Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following?		
Quebec Francophones	18 to 34	35 and over
Total Positive	82.9%	75.4%
Very positive	38.6%	33.2%
Somewhat positive	44.3%	42.2%
Somewhat negative	12.5%	16.8%
Very negative	4.5%	7.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

TWO IN THREE BLOQUISTES ARE FAVORABLE TO OFFICIAL BILINGUALISM WHILE CONSERVATIVES ARE MORE DIVIDED

Official Bilingualism - Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following?					
	Total	LPC	NDP	BQ	CPC
TOTAL POSITIVE	66%	75%	75%	68%	52%
Very positive	23%	31%	27%	23%	16%
Somewhat positive	43%	45%	48%	45%	36%
TOTAL NEGATIVE	34%	25%	25%	32%	48%
Somewhat negative	24%	19%	19%	19%	29%
Very negative	11%	6%	7%	12%	19%

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted via web panel by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between September 18th and September 20th, 2020 with 1538 Canadians and while no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample for comparative purposes it would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20

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