

# SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW: QUEBEC FRANCOPHONES CONTINUE TO HAVE THE LOWEST ANXIETY RATES ABOUT COVID-19

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AUGUST 24 2020

# QUEBEC ANGLOPHONES ANXIETY ABOUT COVID-19: RULE OR EXCEPTION?

At hearings in the Quebec legislature on government funding for the anglophone community, this past week, (August 17<sup>th</sup>) Quebec Premier Francois Legault was asked why anglos were more worried about the corona virus, He once again targeted reporting by Quebec journalist Aaron Derfel for heightening fears but he also suggested that CNN was responsible saying criticism aired on the U.S. cable-news channel and other U.S. networks of the Trump administration's response to the pandemic reflects concern in the United States. "Quebec anglophones watch CNN", he said, "and they're also worried about what they see."

In making these observations Premier Legault revived a debate that arose last May in responding to figures that revealed Quebec anglophones were feeling higher levels of anxiety about getting COVID-19 than Quebec francophones. In fact however it is not Quebec anglophones that exhibit exceptionally high levels of anxiety, rather it is francophones that displayed exceptionally lower levels of anxiety /fear about getting COVID-19 when compared with other North Americans. And that trend continues as revealed in the most recent surveys conducted by Leger Marketing in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies. There has been some change to the pattern which previously saw distinctions in anxiety levels between francophones and anglophones regardless of regional differences (in effect it did not matter whether they lived in Montreal or elsewhere in Quebec). But the latest survey has seen concerns amongst Montreal francophones noticeably higher than francophones outside of Montreal but still lower than Quebec Anglophones. And one area where the difference is apparent is in Montrealers higher rate of concern with the return of children to school than are other Quebecers.

SINCE EARLY MAY THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT RISE IN FEAR OF CONTRACTING COVID-19 IN QUEBEC AND THE REST OF CANADA DESPITE CONSIDERABLE DROP IN FATALITIES, HOSPITALIZATION AND POSITIVITY (THE RATIO OF CONFIRMED CASES TO TESTS) IN THE UNITED STATES THE RATE OF FEAR OF GETTING THE CONTAGION HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED DESPITE THE SPREAD OF THE CONTAGION

Percent afraid of personally contracting COVID-19	May 4 to 6	August 14-16
Quebec	49%	52%
Rest of Canada	57%	63%
United States	65%	64%

**WHILE QUEBEC ANGLOPHONES STILL HAVE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER FEAR OF GETTING THE CONTAGION THAN QUEBEC FRANCOPHONES, MAJORITY OF MONTREAL FRANCOPHONES CONCERNED ABOUT GETTING THE CONTAGION**

Fear of Getting the contagion (very and somewhat afraid)	Quebec			Outside of Montreal	Montreal
	Total	English	French	French	French
Aug 14-16	52%	74%	46%	38%	53%
July 31 to Aug 2	43%	64%	39%	33%	46%
May 4 -6	52%	69%	46%	45%	49%

# OTTAWA RESIDENTS SURVEYED HAVE HIGHER RATES OF FEAR OF THE CONTAGION WITH MONTREAL LOWEST

Fear of Getting the contagion (very and somewhat afraid) August -14-16, 2020	
Vancouver	74%
Calgary	68%
Edmonton	66%
Toronto	73%
Ottawa	78%
Montreal	62%
New York	74%
Florida	65%
California	68%

# QUEBEC FRANCOPHONES ARE FAR MORE SATISFIED THAN ANGLOPHONES WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF COVID-19

Rates of Satisfaction with Government handling of COVID-19	Quebec	
	French	English
July 24 to August 14 (4 surveys)		
Federal	70%	72%
Provincial	86%	60%
Municipal or Local	67%	56%

# MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS WORRIED ABOUT CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL AND MONTREALERS ARE MORE WORRIED THAN PERSONS ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE

Are you worried or not worried about children going back to school at the end of the summer? August 14-16 (90 parents surveyed)	Quebec Prov	Montreal	Rest of Quebec
Worried	55%	64%	52%
Not worried	38%	30%	46%
I don't know	7%	6%	2%

## METHODOLOGY

The Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) in partnership with the firm Léger Marketing to conduct a Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology. The results are based on two surveys with one conducted from August 14 to August 16 and from May 4 to May 6 , 2020 in Canada and the United States with approximately 1500 and 1000 respondents

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1500 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.52\%$ , 19 times out of 20, while a probability sample of 1000 would have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.08\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.



# COVID-19 SOCIAL IMPACTS NETWORK

- The COVID-19 Social Impacts Network is a multidisciplinary group of some of the country's leading experts to help identify key issues, indicators and socio-demographics to generate evidence-based responses that address the social and economic dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis in Canada.
- Visit <https://acs-aec.ca/en/covid-19-social-impacts-network/>
- For more information and to join the network's Wednesday 4pm weekly call please contact [gillian.aitken@acs-aec.ca](mailto:gillian.aitken@acs-aec.ca)

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Created on August 24, 2020



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