

# ÇA VA BIEN FINIR? QUEBECERS ARE BY FAR THE MOST LIKELY TO THINK THE WORST IS BEHIND US WHEN IT COMES TO THE THREAT OF COVID-19

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# INTRODUCTION: QUEBEC FRANCOPHONES LESS LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO SEE COVID-19 AS A THREAT

- Quebec francophones have consistently displayed lower levels of anxiety /fear about getting COVID-19 when compared to other North Americans. It is not clear why that has been the case especially given that overall Quebecers have had the highest number of cases and fatalities compared with the rest of Canada. Based on survey results from Leger Marketing in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies for the period August 21 to August 23, 2020 it is clear that what underlies the lesser degree of COVID-19 anxiety amongst francophone Quebecers is a different assessment of the severity of the threat that the virus presents. When Quebec Premier Legault recently suggested that Quebec anglophones higher anxiety about COVID-19 was attributable to watching CNN it implied that the assessment they made of the situation was exaggerated. The survey data confirms that Quebec francophones are by far the most likely to believe that the worst of the contagion is behind us and that they are the least likely compared to any part of Canada and the United States to think a return to a lockdown is possible over the next three months. An ACS –Leger survey released earlier this week revealed that Quebec francophones were also the least likely to believe that safety measures (social distancing, mask wearing) would continue after a vaccine/cure for the contagion was found.

# QUEBECERS ARE THE MOST LIKELY ON THE CONTINENT TO THINK THAT THE WORST OF THE CRISIS IS BEHIND US

What statement best describes your personal opinion of the COVID-19 crisis for The United-States?					
	United States	NE	MW	South	West
The worst of the crisis is behind us	25%	32%	24%	27%	20%
We are in the worst period of the crisis now	26%	22%	24%	30%	27%
The worst of the crisis is yet to come	34%	30%	36%	30%	40%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	15%	16%	16%	14%	13%

What statement best describes your personal opinion of the COVID-19 crisis for Canada?							
	Canada	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
The worst of the crisis is behind us	30%	24%	45%	31%	18%	21%	18%
We are in the worst period of the crisis now	11%	12%	12%	9%	13%	13%	11%
The worst of the crisis is yet to come	40%	39%	31%	37%	49%	51%	51%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	19%	25%	12%	23%	20%	15%	20%

# QUEBEC IS THE ONLY PART OF THE CONTINENT WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION DO NOT FEEL THAT WE'LL GO BACK TO A PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

In your view, what is the likelihood that, over the next three months, that we will go back to a pandemic lockdown, with business closures and stay-at-home orders (similar to March and April)?										
	Total	French	English	Others	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL LIKELY</b>	58%	<b>38%</b>	64%	60%	61%	42%	<b>63%</b>	61%	62%	67%
Very likely	16%	<b>9%</b>	19%	18%	20%	9%	<b>16%</b>	23%	21%	21%
Somewhat likely	42%	<b>30%</b>	46%	42%	42%	32%	<b>48%</b>	38%	41%	45%
<b>TOTAL UNLIKELY</b>	34%	<b>55%</b>	29%	30%	26%	52%	<b>29%</b>	32%	33%	27%
Somewhat unlikely	26%	<b>37%</b>	22%	27%	19%	36%	<b>23%</b>	23%	26%	21%
Very unlikely	8%	<b>17%</b>	7%	3%	7%	16%	<b>6%</b>	10%	6%	5%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	7%	<b>7%</b>	7%	10%	12%	6%	<b>8%</b>	6%	5%	7%

# THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS WE WILL GO BACK TO A PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN, WITH BUSINESS CLOSURES AND STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS

In your view, what is the likelihood that, over the next three months, that we will go back to a pandemic lockdown, with business closures and stay-at-home orders (similar to March and April)?					
	Total	NE	MW	South	West
<b>TOTAL LIKELY</b>	56%	57%	55%	56%	57%
Very likely	24%	20%	25%	23%	26%
Somewhat likely	33%	37%	31%	33%	32%
<b>TOTAL UNLIKELY</b>	32%	31%	32%	31%	33%
Somewhat unlikely	18%	21%	20%	14%	20%
Very unlikely	14%	10%	13%	17%	13%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	12%	12%	12%	13%	10%

# LOWER ANXIETY IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH FEELING THE WORST OF THE CRISIS IS BEHIND US AND THE FUTURE IS NOT AS DIM

	Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?			
	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
The worst of the crisis is behind us	18.9%	23.0%	40.3%	48.6%
In your view, what is the likelihood that, over the next three months, that we will go back to a pandemic lockdown, with business closures and stay-at-home orders (similar to March and April)?	81.4%	63.1%	48.2%	42.1%

# QUEBEC FRANCOPHONES LESS LIKELY THAN QUEBEC ANGLOPHONES TO VIEW AS SERIOUSLY THE THREAT OF COVID-19

	Quebec Francophones	Quebec Anglophones
The worst of the crisis is behind us	46.7%	33.3%
In your view, what is the likelihood that, over the next three months, that we will go back to a pandemic lockdown, with business closures and stay-at-home orders (similar to March and April)?	36.9%	66.7%

## 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 21 to August 23, 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/>