

Religion in Canada: Is Sentiment about Faith Levelling off across the country?

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Introduction

- These are challenging times for organized religion. Rocked by scandals and tough adjustments to social change. Quebecers have tended to be more averse to organized religion. But while the government proposes to adopt a secularism charter and the province's schools teach a required course on world religion, there is much talk about the next Pope potentially coming from Quebec in the candidacy of Bishop Marc Ouellette. Recent data shows that Quebec's antipathy to religion may have bottomed while parts of Canada notably out West have seen drops in attachment and favourable sentiment towards religion that have rendered the Quebec difference when it comes to this expression of identity near insignificant. In that which follows we look at how recent survey data on attachment, interest and the effect of religion are seen by Canadians

Methodology

- The findings were collected from a survey of 2200 Canadians conducted by the firm Leger Marketing during the week of November 5th, 2012 and commissioned by the Association for Canadian Studies. Done via web panel, the probabilistic margin of error is 2.9 percent 19 times out of 20

With the exception of the Prairies rest of Canada exhibits roughly similar rates of attachment to religion

Attachment to Religion Very and Somewhat Combined							
	Tot	Mariti mes	QC	ON	MB/S K	AB	BC
November 2012	36%	39%	34%	38%	43%	31%	34%
September 2010	39%	33%	26%	46%	48%	49%	31%

Only 65 plus are in the majority attached to religion

Attachment to Religion Very and Somewhat Combined	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
November 2012	36%	36%	33%	31%	31%	35%	52%
September 2010	39%	32%	31%	38%	38%	37%	52%

Quebecers, Albertans and British Columbians most likely to see religion as divisive

Religion brings people together more than it divides them							
	Total	Maritimes	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL YES	30%	32%	27%	33%	40%	25%	24%
Strongly agree	7%	5%	6%	9%	13%	7%	5%
Somewhat agree	23%	28%	21%	25%	27%	18%	19%
TOTAL NO	61%	51%	67%	57%	50%	66%	67%
Somewhat disagree	29%	22%	34%	27%	25%	32%	26%
Strongly disagree	32%	29%	33%	30%	25%	34%	40%
I don't know	7%	10%	5%	8%	7%	6%	8%
I prefer not to answer	2%	7%	0%	1%	2%	3%	1%

Baby Boomers and older most likely to see religion as divisive

Religion brings people together more than it divides them							
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
TOTAL YES	30%	32%	33%	32%	30%	22%	32%
Strongly agree	7%	13%	6%	9%	5%	5%	7%
Somewhat agree	23%	19%	27%	23%	25%	16%	25%
TOTAL NO	61%	56%	55%	60%	64%	69%	60%
Somewhat disagree	29%	24%	20%	28%	33%	35%	31%
Strongly disagree	32%	31%	35%	32%	31%	33%	29%
I don't know	7%	9%	9%	7%	4%	9%	6%
I prefer not to answer	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%

Quebecers, British Columbians and Prairie Residents Least Interested in Learning more about other religions

I want to learn more about religions other than my own							
	Total	Maritimes	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL YES	44%	49%	39%	48%	35%	50%	40%
Strongly agree	10%	14%	8%	12%	5%	10%	12%
Somewhat agree	34%	35%	31%	36%	30%	40%	27%
TOTAL NO	48%	42%	54%	44%	57%	39%	53%
Somewhat disagree	24%	23%	31%	21%	27%	20%	25%
Strongly disagree	23%	19%	23%	23%	30%	20%	28%
I don't know	6%	4%	6%	6%	7%	9%	4%
I prefer not to answer	2%	5%	1%	2%	1%	2%	3%

Canadians divided across the age spectrum when asked whether they want to learn more about other religions

I want to learn more about religions other than my own							
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
TOTAL YES	44%	44%	49%	41%	44%	44%	42%
Strongly agree	10%	18%	14%	10%	7%	8%	8%
Somewhat agree	34%	26%	35%	31%	38%	36%	34%
TOTAL NO	48%	44%	43%	50%	48%	49%	50%
Somewhat disagree	24%	29%	15%	27%	24%	25%	27%
Strongly disagree	23%	15%	28%	23%	25%	24%	24%
I don't know	6%	9%	5%	7%	6%	4%	6%
I prefer not to answer	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%