
MULTICULTURALISM VERSUS INTERCULTURALISM: MYTH AND REALITY

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

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INTRODUCTION

- Today the federal government marks Canadian Multiculturalism Day. In Quebec, policy-makers and intellectuals have since the introduction of federal multicultural policy expressed much ambivalence about multiculturalism and over the since the 1990's have insisted that Quebec rejects multiculturalism and rather promotes interculturalism. It suggests that interculturalism promotes interaction between communities in contrast with multiculturalism that purportedly promotes ethnic specificity. Presumably the intercultural model gives rise to divergent approaches to newcomer adaptation with a more integrationist and less accommodation of cultural difference. In this third part of the series on difference and similarity in views between Quebec francophone and anglophone we look at issues of immigration, diversity and accommodation. As we observe the results point to some of the sharpest differences in attitudes. They also reveal that the independent of linguistic background, Quebecers do not see much difference between multiculturalism and interculturalism despite years of insistence that the two purported models offer distinct messages.



IMMIGRATION AND DIVERSITY



NON-FRANCOPHONES MORE POSITIVE TOWARDS IMMIGRANTS THAN FRANCOPHONES BUT MAJORITY OF FRANCOPHONES HOLD POSITIVE VIEWS OF IMMIGRANTS

Immigrants	What is the language you first learned at home in your childhood and that you still understand?			
	French	English	Other	Total
Very positive	11.2%	32.8%	28.9%	17.8%
Somewhat positive	51.5%	40.6%	57.8%	49.4%
Somewhat negative	28.5%	20.3%	8.9%	24.9%
Very negative	8.8%	6.3%	4.4%	7.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

MAJORITY OF FRANCOPHONES AGREE THAT IMMIGRANTS SHOULD GIVE UP THEIR CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS WHILE MAJORITY OF NON-FRANCOPHONES DISAGREE

Immigrants should be encouraged to give up their customs and traditions and become more like the majority	What is the language you first learned at home in your childhood and that you still understand?		
	French	English	Other
Totally agree	29.3%	16.7%	11.1%
Somewhat agree	35.4%	29.2%	24.4%
Somewhat disagree	27.6%	28.1%	35.6%
Totally disagree	7.7%	26.0%	28.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

MAJORITY OF FRANCOPHONES AGREE THAT OUR SOCIETY IS THREATENED BY THE INFLUX OF NON-CHRISTIAN IMMIGRANTS A VIEW SHARED BY A SIGNIFICANT MINORITY OF ANGLOPHONES

Our society is threatened by the influx of non-Christian immigrants to Canada.	What is the language you first learned at home in your childhood and that you still understand?		
	French	English	Other
Totally agree	27.7%	19.8%	20.0%
Somewhat agree	29.5%	26.0%	20.0%
Somewhat disagree	29.1%	20.3%	26.7%
Totally disagree	13.7%	33.9%	33.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

MOST QUEBECERS DO NOT THINK THAT QUEBEC DOES A BETTER JOB OF INTEGRATING IMMIGRANTS THAN THE REST OF CANADA

Is Quebec doing a better job of integrating immigrants than the rest of Canada?	What is the language you first learned at home in your childhood and that you still understand?		
	French	English	Other
Yes	23.1%	16.7%	22.2%
No	45.2%	47.4%	40.0%
I don't know	31.7%	35.9%	37.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

DEEP DIVISION BETWEEN FRANCOPHONES AND NON-FRANCOPHONES LINES OVER WHETHER A FEMALE POLICE OFFICER SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO WEAR A HIJAB

A female police officer should be allowed to wear a hijab (a veil that covers the head but not the face).	What is the language you first learned at home in your childhood and that you still understand?			
	French	English	Other	Total
Strongly agree	11.6%	44.3%	28.9%	19.7%
Somewhat agree	14.7%	22.4%	24.4%	18.1%
Somewhat disagree	21.3%	12.5%	17.8%	18.8%
Strongly disagree	52.4%	20.8%	28.9%	43.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

POSITIVE VIEWS OF MULTICULTURALISM AND INTERCULTURALISM AT ROUGHLY SIMILAR LEVELS

Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Multiculturalism	What is the language you first learned at home in your childhood and that you still understand?			
	French	English	Other	Total
Very positive	17.2%	47.4%	48.9%	26.4%
Somewhat positive	51.0%	39.6%	42.2%	48.1%
Somewhat negative	22.8%	8.3%	2.2%	18.0%
Very negative	9.0%	4.7%	6.7%	7.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Interculturalism	What is the language you first learned at home in your childhood and that you still understand?			
	French	English	Other	Total
Very positive	17.2%	32.3%	37.8%	22.8%
Somewhat positive	58.2%	50.5%	48.9%	55.2%
Somewhat negative	20.1%	12.0%	6.7%	17.3%
Very negative	4.5%	5.2%	6.7%	4.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

THOSE HOLDING VERY POSITIVE VIEWS OF MULTICULTURALISM AND INTERCULTURALISM OFFER NO DIFFERENCE IN VIEWS AROUND ISSUES OF ACCOMMODATION AND DIVERSITY

Agreement with... ↓	Very Positive view of... →	Multiculturalism	Interculturalism
A female police officer should be allowed to wear a hijab (a veil that covers the head but not the face)		68	68
Immigrants should be encouraged to give up their customs and traditions and become more like the majority.		33	35
Our society is threatened by the influx of non-Christian immigrants to Canada.		27	25
Is Quebec doing a better job of integrating immigrants than the rest of Canada?		66	69

ACROSS SPECTRUM OF OPINION OVER MULTICULTURALISM AND INTERCULTURALISM THERE APPEARS VIRTUALLY NO DISCERNABLE DIFFERENCE IN VIEWS TOWARDS IMMIGRANTS

		Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Multiculturalism				
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Immigrants	Very positive	53.7%	4.4%	5.4%	6.6%	17.8%
	Somewhat positive	41.0%	67.1%	26.7%	19.8%	49.4%
	Somewhat negative	4.3%	24.9%	53.4%	28.6%	24.9%
	Very negative	.9%	3.6%	14.5%	45.1%	7.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Interculturalism				
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Immigrants	Very positive	55.7%	7.5%	3.3%	7.0%	17.8%
	Somewhat positive	38.6%	64.8%	26.9%	3.5%	49.4%
	Somewhat negative	4.6%	25.0%	51.9%	22.8%	24.9%
	Very negative	1.1%	2.7%	17.9%	66.7%	7.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

THOSE QUEBECERS WITH A POSITIVE VIEW OF INTERCULTURALISM HAVE A POSITIVE VIEW OF MULTICULTURALISM AND THOSE WHO DON'T LIKE INTERCULTURALISM NEITHER LIKE MULTICULTURALISM

		Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Interculturalism				
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Multiculturalism	Very positive	81.4%	12.3%	4.2%	7.0%	26.4%
	Somewhat positive	13.6%	71.5%	31.1%	3.5%	48.1%
	Somewhat negative	2.9%	13.4%	53.3%	15.8%	18.0%
	Very negative	2.1%	2.8%	11.3%	73.7%	7.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

FOR OR AGAINST MULTICULTURALISM AND INTERCULTURALISM HOLD SIMILAR VIEWS OVER WHETHER IMMIGRANTS SHOULD GIVE UP CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

		Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Multiculturalism			
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Immigrants should be encouraged to give up their customs and traditions and become more like the majority.	Totally agree	13.3%	23.1%	37.1%	56.0%
	Somewhat agree	19.8%	38.1%	43.0%	27.5%
	Somewhat disagree	31.5%	31.5%	18.1%	12.1%
	Totally disagree	35.5%	7.3%	1.8%	4.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Interculturalism			
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Immigrants should be encouraged to give up their customs and traditions and become more like the majority.	Totally agree	14.3%	20.7%	44.8%	64.9%
	Somewhat agree	20.7%	40.0%	32.5%	19.3%
	Somewhat disagree	28.2%	32.1%	18.9%	5.3%
	Totally disagree	36.8%	7.2%	3.8%	10.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

NO DIFFERENCE IN VIEW AROUND THREAT TO FRENCH BASED ON THE RESPECTIVE OPINION OF MULTICULTURALISM AND INTERCULTURALISM

Do you think the French language is well protected in Quebec? *					
Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Interculturalism Crosstabulation					
Do you think the French language is well protected in Quebec?	Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Interculturalism				
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Yes	72.5%	53.3%	32.1%	43.9%	53.6%
No	25.4%	41.5%	59.4%	54.4%	41.5%
I don't know	2.1%	5.2%	8.5%	1.8%	4.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Do you think the French language is well protected in Quebec? *					
Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Multiculturalism Crosstabulation					
Do you think the French language is well protected in Quebec?	Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Multiculturalism				
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Yes	78.1%	51.7%	33.5%	27.5%	53.6%
No	19.4%	42.0%	61.1%	69.2%	41.5%
I don't know	2.5%	6.3%	5.4%	3.3%	4.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

NO DIFFERENCE IN VIEW AS TO WHETHER QUEBEC DOES A BETTER JOB ON IMMIGRATION INTEGRATION BASED ON THE RESPECTIVE OPINION OF MULTICULTURALISM AND INTERCULTURALISM

Is Quebec doing a better job of integrating immigrants than the rest of Canada?	Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Multiculturalism				
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Yes	27.5%	24.4%	14.9%	18.7%	23.1%
No	38.3%	42.9%	55.2%	57.1%	44.9%
I don't know	34.3%	32.7%	29.9%	24.2%	32.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Is Quebec doing a better job of integrating immigrants than the rest of Canada? * Interculturalism Crosstabulation					
Is Quebec doing a better job of integrating immigrants than the rest of Canada?	Do you have a positive or a negative opinion of the following? Interculturalism				
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Total
Yes	27.5%	22.9%	17.9%	22.8%	23.1%
No	41.4%	43.3%	51.9%	56.1%	44.9%
I don't know	31.1%	33.8%	30.2%	21.1%	32.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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