

CURFEWS AND CLOSING BORDERS WITH NEIGHBORING PROVINCES:  
QUEBECERS ARE THE ONLY CANADIANS THAT IN THE MAJORITY REGARD  
CURFEWS AS EFFECTIVE IN CURBING THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS; BUT A  
MAJORITY OF CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT CLOSING PROVINCIAL BORDERS  
IS EFFECTIVE

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# INTRODUCTION: QUEBECERS MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE IN CURFEW EFFECTIVENESS

Quebec was the first province to institute a curfew as part of new restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19, but already its legality and effectiveness are being questioned by both health experts and civil liberties groups. Premier François Legault said the curfew was part of a "shock therapy" designed to ease the burden on the health-care system that has worsened along with the pandemic. On April 27<sup>th</sup> Legault announced that the 8 p.m. curfew in Montreal and Laval, in place since April 11, would move back to 9:30 p.m. as of Monday. Montreal has seen public demonstrations in opposition to the curfew. Some have questioned the legality of a curfew and others its effectiveness in stopping transmission of the virus.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/23/health/coronavirus-curfews.html#:~:text=and%20his%20colleagues.-,Dr.,effective%20way%20to%20reduce%20transmission.>

But a clear majority of Quebecers are convinced that curfews are effective as revealed in the latest Leger survey for the Association for Canadian Studies conducted between April 23 and April 25, 2021. Some 1548 Canadians were surveyed via web panel (431 in Quebec). The view is in contrast with the rest of Canada where no other region yields a majority view regarding the effectiveness of the curfew. Also, in Quebec there is a consensus across the regions of the province and a slight difference amongst francophone and non-francophones with respect to the perception of the curfew's effectiveness.

If Quebecers and other Canadians disagree on the effectiveness of curfews, majorities in each province do agree that closing the borders with the neighboring province is effective in curbing the spread of the virus. It is worth noting however that only in Atlantic Canada and Quebec do majorities of respondents regard it as very effective. That view is in line with the views of the Ontario government which has closed its boundaries with Quebec and Manitoba to non-essential travel and on Monday (April 26<sup>th</sup>) expressed concerns that there are no measures in place to protect provinces from the spread of COVID-19 variants through interprovincial air travel.

# IT'S ONLY A MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS THINK CURFEWS ARE EFFECTIVE

Setting/establishing evening curfews - In terms of the spread of the virus do you think the following are very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective or not effective at all?

	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL EFFECTIVE</b>	48%	46%	<b>69%</b>	<b>40%</b>	46%	<b>36%</b>	45%
Very effective	16%	9%	<b>32%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>8%</b>	11%	<b>10%</b>
Somewhat effective	32%	37%	<b>37%</b>	<b>28%</b>	38%	25%	35%
<b>TOTAL NOT EFFECTIVE</b>	48%	51%	<b>28%</b>	<b>55%</b>	48%	<b>59%</b>	52%
Not very effective	26%	28%	<b>13%</b>	<b>29%</b>	33%	<b>34%</b>	27%
Not effective at all	22%	23%	<b>15%</b>	<b>25%</b>	15%	24%	24%
I don't know	4%	3%	3%	5%	6%	5%	3%

# IN MONTREAL AND THE REST OF QUEBEC SIMILAR SHARES OF RESPONDENTS THINK THAT THE CURFEW IS EFFECTIVE

Setting/establishing evening curfews - In terms of the spread of the virus do you think the following are very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective or not effective at all?	Quebec	
	MTL RMR	OTHER REGIONS
Total Effective	68.7%	69.0%
Very effective	32.4%	29.0%
Somewhat effective	36.3%	40.0%
Not very effective	14.8%	9.7%
Not effective at all	12.6%	18.6%
I don't know	3.8%	2.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

# QUEBEC FRANCOPHONES MORE LIKELY THAN NON-FRANCOPHONES TO THINK THAT CURFEW'S ARE EFFECTIVE

Setting/establishing evening curfews - In terms of the spread of the virus do you think the following are very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective or not effective at all?	Quebec		Total
	Francophone	None Francophone	
Very effective	35.1%	20.2%	31.7%
Somewhat effective	36.6%	40.5%	37.5%
Not very effective	11.8%	15.5%	12.7%
Not effective at all	14.0%	17.9%	14.9%
I don't know	2.5%	6.0%	3.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# ATLANTIC CANADIANS AND QUEBECERS ARE MOST LIKELY TO THINK THAT CLOSING BORDERS WITH THE NEIGHBORING PROVINCE IS VERY EFFECTIVE IN CURBING THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

Closing the borders with our neighboring province - In terms of the spread of the virus do you think the following are very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective or not effective at all?

	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL EFFECTIVE</b>	77%	<b>92%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>73%</b>	76%	<b>65%</b>	76%
<b>Very effective</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>47%</b>
Somewhat effective	34%	30%	32%	36%	34%	37%	30%
<b>TOTAL NOT AFFECTIVE</b>	21%	<b>7%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>25%</b>	18%	<b>34%</b>	21%
Not very effective	13%	<b>2%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>15%</b>	12%	18%	12%
Not effective at all	9%	4%	6%	10%	6%	<b>15%</b>	9%
I don't know	2%	1%	1%	2%	<b>6%</b>	1%	3%

# METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From April 23 -25, 2021 some 1548 Canadians were surveyed via web panel

Using data from the 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 1548 Canadians would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.5\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

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

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