
TWO IN THREE QUEBECERS FEEL THAT RESTRICTIONS ARE BEING LIFTED TOO QUICKLY

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INTRODUCTION: QUEBEC ANTI-CURFEW PROTESTS COME AT A BAD TIME

On Sunday, Montreal's curfew was pushed back to 8PM just a few weeks after it had been moved to 9:30 p.m. Sunday evening, April 11, opponents of Quebec's curfew measures gathered in Old Montreal to express their disapproval of the restrictions. Protesters want the Quebec government to ease restrictions generally and chose to violate the curfew to make their point. A Leger survey for the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that a clear majority of Quebecers surveyed over that weekend (April 9-11) feel that the provincial government has been lifting restrictions too quickly and the feeling is even stronger in Montreal. That said younger Quebecers are more divided on the issue of restrictions according to the survey.

The timing of the protests coincided with a period where there has been a marked shift in how Quebecers see the current state of the Covid crisis as in the past two weeks the percentage of Quebecers that thought the crisis was behind us dropped from 38% (March 26-28, 2021) to 18% (April 9-11, 2021). The vast majority of Quebecers think we're in the worst of the crisis now (42%) or that the worst is yet to come (31%). The Leger-ACS survey was conducted via web panel with 1504 Canadians (346 Quebecers) over the period April 9-11, 2021 and has a probabilistic margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20.

QUEBECERS MOST LIKELY IN CANADA TO FEEL THAT RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN LIFTED TOO QUICKLY

Do you believe that your provincial government has been lifting restrictions too quickly or not quickly enough?										
	Total	French	English	Others	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Too quickly	60%	63%	59%	60%	39%	66%	60%	50%	63%	64%
Not quickly enough	25%	26%	25%	25%	27%	22%	28%	29%	26%	20%
I don't know	15%	12%	16%	15%	34%	13%	12%	22%	11%	16%

WHAT A DIFFERENCE TWO WEEKS MAKES: A MASSIVE DECLINE OCCURRED IN THE PERCENTAGE OF QUEBECERS THAT FELT THE WORST OF THE CRISIS WAS BEHIND US AT THE END OF MARCH WHEN COMPARED WITH MID APRIL

What statement best describes your personal opinion of the COVID-19 crisis for Canada?		
Quebec	March 26-28, 2021	April 11-13, 2021
The worst of the crisis is behind us	38%	18%
We are in the worst period of the crisis now	29%	42%
The worst of the crisis is yet to come	25%	31%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	8%	9%

NEARLY SEVEN IN TEN MONTREALERS FELT RESTRICTIONS WERE BEING LIFTED TOO QUICKLY

Do you believe that your provincial government has been lifting restrictions too quickly or not quickly enough?	Quebec		Total
	MTL RMR	OTHER QC REGIONS	
Too quickly	69.3%	59.6%	65.6%
Not quickly enough	19.3%	25.5%	21.7%
I don't know	11.4%	14.9%	12.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

QUEBECERS AGE 18-24 SOMEWHAT MORE DIVIDED THAN OTHER QUEBECERS WHEN IT COMES TO LIFTING RESTRICTIONS

Do you believe that your provincial government has been lifting restrictions too quickly or not quickly enough?	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>= 75
Too quickly	54.3%	61.1%	69.6%	72.9%	67.7%	63.2%	81.0%
Not quickly enough	42.9%	25.9%	25.0%	15.3%	16.9%	15.8%	9.5%
I don't know	2.9%	13.0%	5.4%	11.9%	15.4%	21.1%	9.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

CONSENSUS AMONGST QUEBEC FRANCOPHONES AND ANGLOPHONES WHEN IT COMES TO LIFTING RESTRICTIONS WITH BOTH GROUPS FEELING IT HAPPENED TOO QUICKLY

Do you believe that your provincial government has been lifting restrictions too quickly or not quickly enough?	Quebec	
	Francophone	None Francophone
Too quickly	65.3%	65.4%
Not quickly enough	23.0%	18.5%
I don't know	11.7%	16.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

ABOUT SEVEN IN TEN QUEBECERS THAT FEEL THAT WE ARE IN THE WORST OF THE CRISIS OR THE WORST IS YET TO COME THINK THAT RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN LIFTED TOO QUICKLY

Do you believe that your provincial government has been lifting restrictions too quickly or not quickly enough?	What statement best describes your personal opinion of the COVID-19 crisis for Canada?			
	The worst of the crisis is behind us	We are in the worst period of the crisis now	The worst of the crisis is yet to come	I don't know / I prefer not to answer
Quebec				
Too quickly	54.7%	70.9%	67.3%	53.3%
Not quickly enough	29.7%	17.6%	23.6%	23.3%
I don't know	15.6%	11.5%	9.1%	23.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

THREE QUARTERS OF QUEBECERS FEEL THAT RETAIL SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAY OPEN

In your opinion, should each of the following where you live be closed or be allowed to open/stay open (regardless of whether they are currently open or closed)?

Quebec	Retail businesses	Restaurants	Office Buildings	Schools	Movie theatres and show venues	Sports facilities and gyms	Sports stadiums
Be closed	24%	53%	60%	42%	67%	74%	82%
Be allowed to open / stay open	76%	47%	40%	58%	33%	26%	18%

METHODOLOGY

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

From April 9-11, 2021 some 1504 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 1504 Canadians would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

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