

QUEBECERS AND OTHER CANADIANS ARE FINE WITH THE USE OF THE TERM SYSTEMIC RACISM DESPITE ITS SYSTEMATIC REJECTION BY POLITICAL LEADERS

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INTRODUCTION:

MAJORITIES ACROSS CANADA ARE THINK SYSTEMIC RACISM IS AN ACCURATE TERM TO DESCRIBE THE LEVEL OF PREJUDICE IN THEIR REGION

Quebec Premier Francois Legault systematically rejects the use of the term systemic racism in conversations about the state of prejudice and discrimination continuing to insist that the use of the term is a slur or accusation against Quebecers. But a majority of Quebecers are not as uncomfortable with the use of the term as the Premier would have us believe. A Leger survey for the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that some two in three Quebecers agree that the term systemic racism is an accurate way of describing the level of prejudice and discrimination in their province/region. It is a view that is shared to a similar degree by other Canadians. There are differences in opinion on the basis of gender (women are more likely to agree than men), age (younger persons are more likely to agree than others), visible minority status (visible minorities are more likely to agree) and partisan identification (NDP, Green and Liberals more likely to agree than Conservative, Bloc and PPC supporters). Nonetheless, majorities across all demographics and nearly all partisan identifiers regard the use of the term systemic racism to be an accurate description.

Some 1537 Canadians were surveyed via web panel between September 24th and 26th, 2021 and while no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1537 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20

Two in three Canadians across all parts of Canada think that systemic racism is an accurate way of describing prejudice and discrimination in their province or region

Systemic Racism is an accurate way of describing the level of prejudice and discrimination in my province or region – Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:							
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL AGREE	67%	77%	66%	65%	66%	68%	66%
Strongly agree	22%	28%	21%	21%	18%	24%	25%
Somewhat agree	44%	48%	46%	44%	48%	43%	40%
TOTAL DISAGREE	33%	23%	34%	35%	34%	32%	34%
Somewhat disagree	21%	13%	22%	22%	22%	19%	24%
Strongly disagree	12%	10%	11%	14%	12%	13%	10%

A Majority of Quebecers and other Canadians are fine with the use of the term systemic racism

Systemic Racism is an accurate way of describing the level of prejudice and discrimination in my province or region –
Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:

	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
TOTAL AGREE	67%	59%	73%	77%	77%	70%	63%	63%	55%
Strongly agree	22%	21%	23%	27%	27%	23%	20%	20%	20%
Somewhat agree	44%	38%	50%	50%	50%	47%	44%	43%	36%
TOTAL DISAGREE	33%	41%	27%	23%	23%	30%	37%	37%	45%
Somewhat disagree	21%	22%	20%	15%	16%	15%	24%	23%	30%
Strongly disagree	12%	18%	6%	8%	8%	15%	12%	14%	14%

Visible Minorities more likely than persons not identifying as a visible minority to think systemic racism is an accurate term...

Systemic Racism is an accurate way of describing the level of prejudice and discrimination in my province or region –
Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:

	Total	Visible Minorities	Not a Visible Minority
TOTAL AGREE	67%	76%	65%
Strongly agree	22%	35%	20%
Somewhat agree	44%	41%	45%
TOTAL DISAGREE	33%	24%	35%
Somewhat disagree	21%	14%	23%
Strongly disagree	12%	10%	13%

Liberal NDP and Green supporters more likely to think systemic racism is accurate than conservatives, Bloc and PPC supporters

Systemic Racism is an accurate way of describing the level of prejudice and discrimination in my province or region – Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:							
	Total	PLC	PCC	NPD	BQ	GPC	PPC
TOTAL AGREE	67%	77%	51%	86%	53%	85%	41%
Strongly agree	22%	29%	15%	40%	7%	23%	11%
Somewhat agree	44%	48%	35%	46%	46%	62%	30%
TOTAL DISAGREE	33%	23%	49%	14%	47%	15%	59%
Somewhat disagree	21%	18%	27%	12%	31%	11%	20%
Strongly disagree	12%	5%	23%	3%	16%	3%	39%

Quebec non-francophones somewhat more likely than francophones to regard systemic racism as an accurate term

Systemic Racism is an accurate way of describing the level of prejudice and discrimination in my province or region – Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:	Quebec		Total
	Francophone	Non- Francophone	
Total Agree	64.6%	71.0%	66.1%
Strongly agree	16.4%	36.1%	20.9%
Somewhat agree	48.2%	34.9%	45.2%
Somewhat disagree	24.3%	15.7%	22.3%
Strongly disagree	11.1%	13.3%	11.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those who strongly disagree with the use of the term systemic racism are most likely to reject the decision to make Truth and reconciliation day a statutory holiday

The Federal Government's Decision to make September 30th a statutory holiday to mark National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples – Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following	Systemic Racism is an accurate way of describing the level of prejudice and discrimination in my province or region - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:				Total
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	
Total Agree	89.5%	74.3%	56.4%	32.6%	73.1%
Strongly agree	68.7%	35.6%	19.1%	17.1%	37.2%
Somewhat agree	20.5%	48.7%	37.3%	15.5%	35.9%
Somewhat disagree	5.0%	10.7%	29.4%	25.7%	15.3%
Strongly disagree	5.8%	5.0%	14.2%	41.7%	11.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those who reject the use of the term systemic discrimination are most likely to support newcomer assimilation

Immigrants should give up their customs and traditions and become more like us – Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:	Systemic Racism is an accurate way of describing the level of prejudice and discrimination in my province or region - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:				Total
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	
Total Agree	37%	38.2%	49.3%	63.6%	43.4%
Strongly agree	13.4%	8.1%	12.2%	28.3%	12.6%
Somewhat agree	23.6%	30.1%	37.1%	35.3%	30.8%
Somewhat disagree	28.9%	41.3%	36.8%	21.9%	35.2%
Strongly disagree	34.1%	20.4%	14.0%	14.4%	21.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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