

# Bill 21: PART 1

## Evolving support, federal intention and the perceived role of the ROC

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January, 2022

The Association for Canadian Studies commissioned the firm Leger Marketing to assess Quebecers and other Canadians views on Bill 21 and varying issues that underlie the legislation. As there have been several recent developments on Bill 21 the questions were preceded by the preamble below so as to provide pertinent context to respondents.

Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs). To protect the legislation from court challenges based on freedom of religion provisions of the Quebec and Canadian Charter of Rights, the Quebec government used the notwithstanding clause to limit judicial recourse on this basis. Nonetheless the Quebec Superior Court ruled that Bill 21 violated English-language minorities' right to manage its institutions and exempted English-language school boards from its application. The Quebec government is appealing that decision which will ultimately be heard by the Supreme Court. Some city Mayors outside of Quebec are prepared to support the group opposing the Bill before the courts. As the Bill continues to be applied, in December 2021 a Quebec teacher who wears a hijab lost her teaching position.

The survey was conducted via web panel between January 7th and 9th 2022 with 1547 Canadians 18 years of age or older and has a probabilistic margin of error of  $\pm 2.9\%$  19 times out of 20

## Introduction: Question Preamble and Methodology

# Support for banning visible religious symbols declines in Quebec relative to previous surveys but holds majority support: Minority support in ROC with some one in four in favor

I support banning visible religious symbols being worn by public school teachers (Considering the recent evolution on issues around Bill 21, can you tell us whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements):

Canada	Total	French	English	Others	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	33%	<b>59%</b>	<b>26%</b>	28%	31%	<b>55%</b>	<b>26%</b>	30%	<b>23%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	20%	<b>43%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>11%</b>	16%	<b>40%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	14%	16%
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	14%	16%	<b>12%</b>	17%	15%	15%	15%	18%	8%	11%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	55%	<b>32%</b>	<b>61%</b>	58%	56%	<b>35%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>64%</b>	60%	61%
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	17%	<b>13%</b>	17%	20%	17%	14%	17%	18%	21%	18%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	38%	<b>19%</b>	<b>44%</b>	38%	40%	<b>21%</b>	<b>44%</b>	46%	38%	43%
<b>I don't know / I prefer not to answer</b>	12%	9%	13%	14%	13%	10%	13%	<b>6%</b>	<b>18%</b>	13%

# A majority of quebecers and other Canadians agree that it is important for It is important for the Supreme Court to issue an opinion on whether Bill 21 discriminates against religious groups

It is important for the Supreme Court to issue an opinion on whether Bill 21 discriminates against religious groups - Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs)

	Total	French	English	Others	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	63%	55%	65%	69%	61%	57%	64%	69%	66%	64%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	39%	24%	44%	40%	39%	30%	41%	44%	49%	40%
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	24%	30%	21%	28%	22%	28%	23%	25%	18%	25%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	16%	27%	14%	10%	13%	25%	14%	15%	10%	13%
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	7%	10%	7%	6%	8%	9%	8%	6%	6%	6%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	9%	18%	7%	3%	5%	16%	6%	9%	5%	7%
<b>I don't know / I prefer not to answer</b>	21%	18%	22%	22%	26%	18%	22%	17%	23%	23%

# The largest plurality of Canadians think the federal government should intervene in the supreme court case relative to Bill 21 though Quebecers are somewhat more likely to oppose such federal involvement

The federal government should intervene in order to expedite the Supreme Court's decision relative to Bill 21 - Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs)

	Total	French	English	Others	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	39%	34%	40%	42%	38%	37%	43%	31%	34%	39%
Strongly agree	20%	14%	21%	22%	14%	16%	22%	16%	20%	23%
Somewhat agree	19%	21%	19%	21%	24%	21%	21%	15%	15%	16%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	29%	44%	26%	23%	19%	42%	25%	33%	24%	29%
Somewhat disagree	13%	15%	13%	13%	10%	14%	14%	14%	12%	13%
Strongly disagree	16%	29%	14%	10%	9%	28%	11%	19%	12%	15%
<b>I don't know / I prefer not to answer</b>	32%	22%	34%	35%	43%	21%	32%	36%	42%	32%

# Many Canadians and especially francophone Quebecers wrongly believe that the use of the Notwithstanding Clause means that Bill 21 does not suspend minority rights

Bill 21's notwithstanding clause means that the legislation does not suspend minority rights - Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs)

	Total	French	English	Others	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	27%	48%	21%	25%	22%	45%	21%	30%	17%	23%
Strongly agree	11%	24%	8%	9%	3%	24%	8%	8%	8%	8%
Somewhat agree	16%	24%	13%	16%	19%	21%	13%	22%	9%	15%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	27%	20%	30%	26%	28%	22%	32%	29%	25%	26%
Somewhat disagree	11%	12%	10%	15%	14%	12%	11%	15%	9%	8%
Strongly disagree	16%	8%	20%	11%	13%	10%	21%	13%	15%	18%
<b>I don't know / I prefer not to answer</b>	46%	32%	49%	49%	51%	33%	47%	42%	59%	51%

# The majority of Quebecers oppose city mayors outside of Quebec supporting opponents of Bill 21; other Canadians are divided on such action by non-Quebec Mayors

The Mayors of cities outside of Quebec should not support opponents of Bill 21 - Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs)

	Total	French	English	Others	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	34%	50%	28%	34%	28%	48%	30%	30%	23%	30%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	20%	32%	16%	17%	16%	32%	16%	12%	16%	16%
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	14%	18%	12%	17%	12%	17%	14%	18%	8%	14%
<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	29%	22%	32%	29%	27%	23%	33%	33%	27%	29%
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	12%	11%	12%	13%	14%	12%	12%	10%	12%	10%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	17%	10%	20%	16%	14%	11%	21%	23%	16%	19%
<b>I don't know / I prefer not to answer</b>	37%	28%	40%	37%	44%	28%	36%	37%	49%	41%

# The majority of Quebecers oppose city mayors outside of Quebec supporting opponents of Bill 21; other Canadians are divided on such action by non-Quebec Mayors

**I support banning visible religious symbols being worn by public school teachers - Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs).**

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>= 75	Total
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>41.1%</b>	<b>52.6%</b>	<b>58.8%</b>	<b>57.6%</b>	<b>73.9%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>55.1%</b>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	11.1%	23.2%	39.0%	42.9%	42.4%	67.1%	20.0%	40.2%
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	16.7%	17.9%	13.6%	15.9%	15.2%	6.8%	50.0%	14.9%
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	33.3%	17.9%	10.2%	9.5%	7.6%	13.7%	20.0%	14.0%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	33.3%	23.2%	27.1%	19.0%	24.2%	9.6%	10.0%	21.2%
<b>I don't know / I prefer not to answer</b>	5.6%	17.9%	10.2%	12.7%	10.6%	2.7%		9.6%



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