

Bill 21: Part 2

The View from Quebec: How Francophone and Anglophone Quebecers View issues around Bill 21

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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

In this second part, we provide results for questions that are especially relevant to Quebecers. We provide a breakdown for Francophones and Anglophones.

INTRODUCTION : QUESTION PREAMBLE AND METHODOLOGY

A majority of Quebecers agree that Bill 21 is dividing Quebec and the Rest of Canada

Bill 21 is dividing Quebec and the rest of Canada - Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs)	Quebec sample What is the language you first learned at home and that you still understand?		Total
	French	English	
Total Agree	48.4%	69.0%	53.3%
Strongly agree	19.0%	42.6%	23.7%
Somewhat agree	29.4%	26.2%	29.6%
Total Disagree	31.9%	16.4%	28.85%
Somewhat disagree	16.8%	8.2%	14.8%
Strongly disagree	15.1%	8.2%	14.0%

Most Quebecers think that Bill 21 is divisive but there is a significant difference between Francophones and anglophones on the issue

Bill 21 is dividing Quebecers - Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs)	Quebec sample What is the language you first learned at home and that you still understand?		Total
	French	English	
Total Agree	38.1%	71.9%	46%
Strongly agree	14.0%	32.8%	19%
Somewhat agree	24.1%	39.1%	27%
Total Disagree	44.6%	15.6%	38%
Somewhat disagree	27.0%	7.8%	22%
Strongly disagree	17.6%	7.8%	16%

One in three Quebec Francophones believe that Quebec opponents of Bill 21 are 'disloyal'

Opponents of Bill 21 who live in Quebec are not 'loyal' Quebecers - Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs).	Quebec Sample What is the language you first learned at home and that you still understand?		Total
	French	English	
Total Agree	34.1%	11.3%	30.1%
Strongly agree	15.1%	4.8%	13.4%
Somewhat agree	19.0%	6.5%	16.7%
Total Disagree	44.4%	71%	50.1%
Somewhat disagree	19.0%	11.3%	17.0%
Strongly disagree	25.4%	59.7%	33.1%

A slim majority of Quebecers believe the school board was right to prevent the hijab wearing teacher from continuing to teach

The school board was right to prevent the hijab wearing teacher from continuing to teach - Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs).	Quebec Sample What is the language you first learned at home and that you still understand?		Total
	French	English	
Total Agree	57.7%	25.8%	51.3%
Strongly agree	37.3%	14.5%	32.9%
Somewhat agree	20.4%	11.3%	18.4%
Total Disagree	31.6%	61.3%	37.9%
Somewhat disagree	12.2%	8.1%	12.0%
Strongly disagree	19.4%	53.2%	25.9%

Francophone and anglophone Quebecers are deeply divided over whether Quebec English schools should be exempted from Bill 21

Quebec English Language School Boards should be exempted from Bill 21 - Quebec's Bill 21 prohibits public school teachers from wearing religious symbols (e.g., hijabs, crosses, turbans and kippahs).	Quebec Sample What is the language you first learned at home and that you still understand?		Total
	French	English	
Total Agree	11.0%	50.0%	20.1%
Strongly agree	4.3%	40.3%	11.8%
Somewhat agree	6.7%	9.7%	8.3%
Total Disagree	70.6%	29.1%	62.0%
Somewhat disagree	22.0%	9.7%	19.3%
Strongly disagree	48.6%	19.4%	42.7%

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