

OUR HOME AND 'NATIVE' LAND? CANADIAN OPINION ON WHETHER WE'RE LIVING ON UNCEDED INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

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INTRODUCTION:

Frequent references by elected officials, policy-makers, academics and others regarding unceded Indigenous lands serve as reminders that First Nations people never ceded or legally signed away their lands to the Crown or to Canada. Land acknowledgements are increasingly common during introductions to artistic, sporting, cultural, academic or civic events. The Maritimes, nearly all of British Columbia, and a large swath of eastern Ontario and Quebec, including Ottawa, sit on territories that were never signed away by the Indigenous people who inhabited them before Europeans colonized and settled in North America. But while one in two Canadians agree that “our elected officials, educators and business leaders need to regularly and publicly acknowledge that Canadians are residing on unceded indigenous territory,” most do not agree “that they are currently living on unceded indigenous territory”. Resolving this contradiction may hold the key to advancing such territorial acknowledgements.

MOST CANADIANS DISAGREE WHEN ASKED WHETHER THEY LIVE ON UNCEDED INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES AND THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR BABY BOOMERS, QUEBECERS AND ALBERTANS

I am currently living on unceded indigenous territory - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:										
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL AGREE	25%	38%	25%	17%	32%	20%	25%	23%	20%	36%
Strongly agree	13%	19%	14%	8%	12%	9%	14%	11%	10%	20%
Somewhat agree	12%	19%	11%	9%	20%	11%	11%	12%	10%	17%
TOTAL DISAGREE	42%	33%	42%	48%	40%	47%	39%	42%	47%	40%
Somewhat disagree	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%	13%	8%	6%	8%	10%
Strongly disagree	33%	23%	33%	39%	30%	34%	31%	36%	38%	30%
I don't know	33%	29%	33%	35%	28%	33%	36%	34%	33%	24%

HOWEVER ONE IN TWO CANADIANS AGREE THAT OFFICIALS SHOULD REGULARLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE'RE LIVING ON UNCEDED INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES THOUGH BABY BOOMERS ARE LESS LIKELY TO FEEL AS SUCH AND PRAIRIE AND ALBERTA RESIDENTS ARE DIVIDED OVER THE ISSUE

Our elected officials, educators and business leaders need to regularly and publicly acknowledge that Canadians are residing on unceded indigenous territory - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:										
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL AGREE	50%	67%	47%	40%	58%	44%	56%	43%	43%	46%
Strongly agree	22%	31%	23%	15%	16%	16%	27%	19%	24%	22%
Somewhat agree	28%	36%	25%	24%	42%	29%	29%	25%	19%	24%
TOTAL DISAGREE	34%	21%	32%	44%	25%	34%	29%	42%	42%	39%
Somewhat disagree	15%	13%	13%	18%	10%	18%	12%	15%	13%	23%
Strongly disagree	18%	8%	19%	26%	15%	16%	17%	28%	29%	17%
I don't know	17%	12%	21%	16%	17%	21%	16%	14%	15%	14%

NDP AND GREEN SUPPORTERS ARE THE MOST LIKELY TO AGREE THAT THEY'RE LIVING UNCEDED INDIGENOUS TERRITORY WHILE MORE LIBERALS DISAGREE THAN AGREE AND MAJORITIES OF BLOC AND CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTERS DISAGREE

I am currently living on unceded indigenous territory - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:						
	Total	LPC	NDP	BQ	CPC	GPC
TOTAL AGREE	25%	32%	41%	15%	15%	31%
Strongly agree	13%	13%	27%	4%	6%	20%
Somewhat agree	12%	19%	13%	12%	9%	12%
TOTAL DISAGREE	42%	39%	23%	52%	62%	23%
Somewhat disagree	9%	11%	7%	13%	10%	6%
Strongly disagree	33%	28%	15%	39%	52%	17%
I don't know	33%	28%	36%	33%	23%	46%

LIBERAL, NDP AND GREEN SUPPORTERS AGREE THAT OFFICIALS SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT CANADIANS RESIDE ON UNCEDED INDIGENOUS TERRITORY WHILE THE MAJORITY OF CONSERVATIVES DO NOT AND BLOC SUPPORTERS ARE DIVIDED OVER THE ISSUE

Our elected officials, educators and business leaders need to regularly and publicly acknowledge that Canadians are residing on unceded indigenous territory - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:						
	Total	LPC	NDP	BQ	CPC	GPC
TOTAL AGREE	50%	62%	73%	40%	33%	63%
Strongly agree	22%	26%	38%	10%	11%	36%
Somewhat agree	28%	36%	34%	30%	22%	27%
TOTAL DISAGREE	34%	24%	14%	40%	56%	25%
Somewhat disagree	15%	14%	10%	25%	17%	19%
Strongly disagree	18%	11%	4%	15%	39%	5%
I don't know	17%	13%	13%	20%	11%	13%

CALGARIANS, OTTAWA AND MONTREAL RESIDENTS ARE THE MOST LIKELY TO 'STRONGLY DISAGREE THAT THEY ARE CURRENTLY LIVING ON UNCEDED INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

	I am currently living on unceded indigenous territory - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:					Total
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know	
Greater Vancouver (Metro)	22.5%	14.4%	16.2%	27.9%	18.9%	100.0%
Calgary	11.7%	11.7%	3.3%	45.0%	28.3%	100.0%
Edmonton	7.1%	14.3%	14.3%	28.6%	35.7%	100.0%
Greater Toronto area	13.4%	13.8%	6.9%	25.7%	40.2%	100.0%
Greater Ottawa area	16.7%	10.6%	10.6%	31.8%	30.3%	100.0%
MTL RMR	12.2%	10.5%	10.5%	32.0%	34.8%	100.0%

Our elected officials, educators and business leaders need to regularly and publicly acknowledge that Canadians are residing on unceded indigenous territory - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	I am currently living on unceded indigenous territory - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:					Total
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know	
Strongly agree	75.1%	17.2%	7.6%	9.4%	20.2%	22.2%
Somewhat agree	17.3%	63.0%	34.7%	17.3%	26.4%	27.6%
Somewhat disagree	3.0%	14.6%	45.1%	16.1%	10.3%	15.1%
Strongly disagree	1.5%	2.6%	4.2%	42.2%	11.5%	18.5%
I don't know	3.0%	2.6%	8.3%	14.9%	31.5%	16.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

METHODOLOGY

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

From June 4 to June 6, 2021 some 1539 Canadians were surveyed via web panel

Using data from the 2016 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 1539 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 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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