



From Colony to Nation: When do Canadians think that Canada stopped being part of the British Empire, and do they know the location of Canada's first capital?

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1867 OR 1982? WHEN DID CANADA LEAVE THE BRITISH EMPIRE?

Country	Date of Dominion status	Date of final relinquishment of British powers
Canada	1 July 1867	17 April 1982

ONE IN TWO CANADIANS BELIEVE CANADA LEFT THE BRITISH EMPIRE AT CONFEDERATION, WITH YOUNGER CANADIANS SLIGHTLY MORE LIKELY TO CHOOSE 1867

When did Canada stop being part of the British Empire?	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
1867 - Confederation/British North America Act	50%	59%	52%	42%
1931 - Statute of Westminster for Canada	7%	10%	4%	6%
1945 - Canada joins the United Nations	3%	4%	3%	2%
1982 - Patriation of the Constitution	19%	12%	21%	23%
None of the Above	22%	15%	21%	27%

LANGUAGE IS NOT A VERY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN DETERMINING CANADIANS' OPINION OF WHEN CANADA LEFT BRITISH EMPIRE

When did Canada stop being part of the British Empire?	French	English	Others
1867 - Confederation/British North America Act	48%	49%	57%
1931 - Statute of Westminster for Canada	9%	6%	5%
1945 - Canada joins the United Nations	3%	3%	4%
1982 - Patriation of the Constitution	17%	20%	17%
None of the Above	22%	22%	17%

KINGSTON: CANADA'S FIRST CAPITAL?

The location of the capital city of the Province of Canada changed six times in its 26-year history. The first capital was in Kingston (1841–1844). The capital moved to Montreal (1844–1849) until rioters, spurred by a series of incendiary articles published in *The Gazette* and burned down the Montreal Parliament Buildings. It then moved to Toronto (1849–1852), to Quebec City from 1852 to 1856, then again to Toronto for one year (1858) before returning to Quebec City from 1859 to 1866. In 1857, Queen Victoria chose Ottawa as the permanent capital of the Province of Canada, initiating construction of Canada's first parliament buildings, on Parliament Hill. The first stage of this construction was completed in 1865, just in time to host the final session of the last parliament of the Province of Canada before Confederation.

MOST CANADIANS CHOSE OTTAWA AS CANADA'S FIRST CAPITAL, WITH KINGSTON A CLOSE SECOND; BUT WHILE YOUNGER CANADIANS CHOSE OTTAWA OVER KINGSTON, THE OLDER COHORT DECIDED KINGSTON OVER OTTAWA

Where was the first capital of Canada established?	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
Kingston	30%	25%	26%	37%
Ottawa	37%	43%	39%	32%
Montreal	7%	6%	8%	7%
Toronto	8%	9%	7%	8%
Quebec city	18%	17%	19%	17%

FRANCOPHONES EQUALLY CHOSE OTTAWA AND QUEBEC CITY AS CANADA'S FIRST CAPITAL, WHILE QUEBEC CITY IS FAR LESS LIKELY TO BE CHOSEN AMONG NON-FRANCOPHONES

Where was the first capital of Canada established?	French	English	Other
Kingston	17%	34%	34%
Ottawa	33%	38%	42%
Montreal	13%	6%	6%
Toronto	4%	9%	9%
Quebec City	33%	14%	9%

METHODOLOGY

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

From, June 18-20, 2021 some 1542 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 1542 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.