

Not two but three founding peoples is by far the consensus for describing the country's origins

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Introduction and Methodology

The idea of a Canada as the product of two founding peoples was popularized in the 1960's with the report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. But since the 1990's that description of the country's origins has been increasingly displaced by the belief that Indigenous peoples must be included when noting the "founders" of the nation. That view is confirmed by the latest Leger poll for the Association for Canadian Studies (June 10-12) which found that a majority of Canadians (51%) believe that there are not two but three founding peoples of Canada. An emerging trend has nearly one in five Canadians (and one in four between the ages of 18 and 34) saying that solely Indigenous peoples founded Canada. And some one in three Canadians west of Ontario don't include the French as founders, while in Quebec some one in four respondents don't include the British as founders. Finally the survey reveals that Indigenous peoples are split on the issue with more saying there are three rather than two founding peoples.

The findings arise from a Leger survey for the ACS that was conducted between June 10 to June 12, 2022 via web panel with 2118 Canadians (oversample in this case resulted in approximately 1000 respondents). 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 2118 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 1.9\%$, 19 times out of 20

A majority of Canadians believe that Indigenous, French and British peoples founded Canada, while one in four Canadians between the ages of 18 and 24 believe the nation was founded solely by Indigenous peoples

Which of the following group(s) founded Canada?	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
Indigenous only	18%	25%	15%	17%
French only	2%	2%	2%	1%
British only	4%	6%	4%	2%
Indigenous, French and British	51%	43%	51%	56%
French and British	12%	10%	11%	15%
Indigenous and French	4%	4%	5%	4%
Indigenous and British	4%	5%	5%	4%
Other	5%	6%	7%	3%

Quebecers are most likely to say there are three founders but least inclined to say Indigenous only; West of Ontario, some one in three don't include the French as founders; in Quebec one in four don't include the British as founders

Which of the following group(s) founded Canada?	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Indigenous only	21%	9%	22%	24%	18%	20%
French only	2%	5%	1%	0%	1%	1%
British only	3%	1%	5%	2%	5%	4%
Indigenous, French and British	48%	59%	47%	48%	49%	51%
French and British	17%	13%	10%	13%	15%	16%
Indigenous and French	3%	9%	3%	2%	4%	2%
Indigenous and British	1%	1%	7%	7%	4%	4%
Other	5%	4%	6%	3%	5%	4%

Indigenous peoples somewhat more likely to think there were three founding peoples rather than Indigenous only

Which of the following group(s) founded Canada?	Not Aboriginal / First Nations	Aboriginal / First Nations
Indigenous only	17.8%	37.5%
French only	1.6%	1.8%
British only	3.7%	3.6%
Indigenous, French and British	50.7%	42.9%
French and British	12.6%	5.4%
Indigenous and French	4.2%	3.6%
Indigenous and British	4.5%	
Other	4.9%	5.4%

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