

# **Gaps in Canada's historic narrative widen, while Canadians lack consensus when asked who first discovered and settled Canada**

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## The gap in the historic narrative widens between Quebec and the rest of Canada

A recent Leger ACS survey (June 10-12) revealed that Canadians are increasingly questioning the idea that Canada was founded by two peoples, and that any reference to the country's beginnings must also incorporate Indigenous peoples. The rethinking of Canada's historic narrative is further confirmed by a July 8-10 survey which reveals that when Canadians are asked about who discovered Canada and who settled Canada the largest plurality of respondents say it is Indigenous peoples, in both instances. When it comes to the discovery of Canada, this is especially the case outside of Quebec and amongst respondents under the age of 35. However taken together, the responses reveal that there is much more of a consensus within Quebec over who discovered Canada and who first settled it. Despite the relative lack of consensus outside of Quebec, Canadians believe that they have a good knowledge of their history and remain proud of Canada's past regardless of the degree to which they assess their knowledge.

The findings arise from a Leger survey for the ACS that was conducted between July 8 to July 10, 2022 via web panel with 1764 Canadians. 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 1764 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.5\%$ , 19 times out of 20

**When asked who discovered Canada one in five Canadians say it is Indigenous persons, one in six name Jacques Cartier, and one in eight believe it is Columbus. Respondents under 55 are more likely to identify Indigenous persons before Cartier while those over 55 place the latter first**

Who Discovered Canada?	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
Indigenous person (First Nations, Inuk (Inuit) or Métis)	21%	27%	22%	16%
Jacques Cartier	16%	10%	13%	21%
I don't know	15%	21%	17%	8%
Christopher Columbus	12%	12%	10%	13%
Vikings / Leif Erickson / Scandanavians	10%	4%	5%	17%
Samuel de Champlain	7%	5%	6%	7%

# Regional differences see Quebecers more than four times more likely than other Canadians to choose Jacques Cartier over Indigenous peoples

Who Discovered Canada?	BC	AB	Prairies	ON	QC	Atlantic
Indigenous person (First Nations, Inuk (Inuit) or Métis)	30%	20%	25%	22%	11%	22%
Jacques Cartier	4%	5%	6%	8%	46%	7%
I don't know	16%	16%	13%	19%	6%	14%
Christopher Columbus	8%	9%	13%	8%	20%	11%
Vikings / Leif Erickson / Scandanavians	8%	14%	15%	12%	5%	11%
Samuel de Champlain	4%	13%	3%	7%	4%	9%

# Three in ten Canadians say that Canada was first settled by Indigenous peoples

Who First Settled Canada	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
Indigenous person (First Nations, Inuk (Inuit) or Métis)	30%	30%	32%	29%
I don't know	16%	24%	16%	10%
France / French	12%	6%	10%	16%
Samuel de Champlain	7%	4%	7%	10%
Jacques Cartier	6%	5%	5%	6%
England / British	6%	6%	4%	7%
Vikings / Leif Erickson / Scandanavians	6%	3%	5%	10%
The French and British (equally)	5%	3%	4%	8%
Europeans (others and unspecified) / white people	5%	7%	5%	4%

# Atlantic Canadians and British Columbians are most likely to believe that Indigenous peoples first settled Canada; meanwhile, Quebecers put 'French' (French, Champlain and Cartier) well ahead of Indigenous

Who First Settled Canada	BC	AB	Prairies	ON	QC	Atlantic
Indigenous person (First Nations, Inuk (Inuit) or Métis)	37%	31%	35%	33%	18%	39%
I don't know	17%	17%	16%	17%	11%	19%
France / French	10%	10%	17%	10%	15%	9%
Samuel de Champlain	1%	7%	3%	7%	15%	4%
Jacques Cartier	2%	1%	0%	2%	18%	4%
England / British	4%	5%	6%	8%	5%	6%
Vikings / Leif Erickson / Scandanavians	8%	8%	10%	6%	3%	11%
The French and British (equally)	4%	6%	6%	7%	3%	6%
Europeans (others and unspecified) / white people	6%	11%	7%	5%	2%	5%

**When asked who discovered Canada the majority of Canada's francophones say it was Jacques Cartier, followed by Christopher Columbus, while a significant minority of English and allophone Canadians select Indigenous persons but data points to little consensus on the issue**

Who Discovered Canada	French	English	Other
Jacques Cartier	51%	7%	6%
Christopher Columbus	20%	9%	16%
Indigenous person (First Nations, Inuk (Inuit) or Métis)	9%	24%	19%
Samuel de Champlain	5%	7%	6%
Vikings / Leif Erickson / Scandanavians	5%	12%	5%
I don't know	5%	17%	15%

# Canada's francophones are far more inclined than non-francophones to credit Cartier and Champlain as the first settlers of Canada and far less likely to say it is Indigenous persons

Who First Settled Canada	French	English	Other
Jacques Cartier	20%	2%	3%
Samuel de Champlain	17%	5%	5%
Indigenous person (First Nations, Inuk (Inuit) or Métis)	16%	35%	26%
France / French	16%	11%	12%
Christopher Columbus	8%	1%	1%
I don't know	8%	17%	22%
Nothing/nobody in particular	5%	4%	1%
The French and British (equally)	4%	5%	8%
Vikings / Leif Erickson / Scandanavians	4%	7%	5%
Other	4%	3%	1%
England / British	3%	6%	10%



# Three in four Canadians say they have a good knowledge of the country's history

	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	BC	AB	Prairies	ON	QC	Atlantic
I have a good knowledge of Canada's history	75%	80%	71%	70%	74%	80%	72%	81%	75%	77%	72%	80%

# Pride in Canada's history is highest in Ontario and lowest in BC

I am proud...	Total	BC	AB	Prairies	ON	QC	Atlantic	French	English	Other
to be Canadian	89%	92%	88%	93%	92%	81%	93%	81%	91%	92%
of Canada's History	63%	58%	64%	62%	68%	59%	63%	62%	65%	54%
of my province's history	68%	60%	64%	65%	68%	75%	77%	82%	66%	54%

# Amongst Canadians saying they have a good knowledge of the country's history, two in three say they are proud of its past; but regardless of their knowledge of the country's history, nine in ten say that they are proud to be Canadian

I am proud of Canada's history - Please respond with Yes or No to the following:	I have a good knowledge of Canada's history - Please respond with Yes or No to the following:	
	Yes	No
Yes	67.2%	52.1%
No	32.8%	47.9%
	100.0%	100.0%

I am proud to be Canadian - Please respond with Yes or No to the following:	I have a good knowledge of Canada's history - Please respond with Yes or No to the following:	
	Yes	No
Yes	89.5%	87.8%
No	10.5%	12.2%
	100.0%	100.0%

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