



# KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN CANADA

## PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

### SEPTEMBER 2022



# INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honoring the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. Revelations about residential schools and other issues pointing to mistreatment and abuse of indigenous peoples have enabled continued introspection and reflection on the part of the population. But to what extent have Canadians taken up the challenge of enhancing their knowledge about indigenous peoples and their histories?

That which follows examines awareness and interest in indigenous peoples and their quest for justice. To that end the findings are based on two surveys conducted by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies and the University of Manitoba. The more recent study conducted in September 2022 looks at self-assessed knowledge of indigenous peoples and efforts to combat inequities. An earlier survey examines the extent to which Canadians seek information about indigenous peoples in Canada. The May 2022 survey compares the results with knowledge about Canada's history, about one's ancestry and about immigration and diversity. We also compared the extent to which information is sought about indigenous peoples compared with other selected areas of interest. The May results point to somewhat less knowledge and less interest (as determined by the degree to which the issues are searched) when compared with other selected subjects.

The surveys were respectively conducted online over the month of September 2022 with 1424 Canadians and the other between May 6 and May 8, 2022 with 1534 Canadians. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparative purposes a probability sample of 1,424 and 1,534 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.5\%$ , 19 times out of 20

# EASTERN CANADA LESS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT CONTEMPORARY RIGHTS CLAIMS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES; JUST OVER HALF OF CANADIANS SAY THEY ARE NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE

September 2022	How knowledgeable are you about contemporary rights claims of Indigenous Peoples?						
	Canada	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes
<b>Total knowledgeable</b>	<b>49.1%</b>	<b>55.5%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>63.7%</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>45.2%</b>	<b>44.1%</b>
Very knowledgeable	9.1%	10.1%	13.8%	15.9%	7.9%	7.6%	5.1%
Somewhat knowledgeable	40.0%	45.4%	40.2%	47.8%	38.2%	37.6%	39.0%
Not very knowledgeable	40.7%	37.4%	37.0%	28.9%	42.4%	44.0%	44.6%
Not knowledgeable at all	10.1%	7.2%	9.1%	7.5%	11.5%	10.8%	11.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# EASTERN CANADA SOMEWHAT LESS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HISTORIC INEQUITIES

September 2022	How knowledgeable are you about Indigenous Peoples and efforts to address historic inequities?						
	Canada	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes
<b>Total knowledgeable</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>64.1</b>
Very knowledgeable	11.3%	10.6%	17.3%	21.9%	10.7%	7.6%	8.7%
Somewhat knowledgeable	50.4%	56.9%	49.2%	54.2%	50.0%	45.4%	55.4%
Not very knowledgeable	31.2%	26.4%	27.6%	18.9%	31.1%	40.1%	28.7%
Not knowledgeable at all	7.1%	6.0%	5.9%	5.0%	8.3%	7.0%	7.2%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

THREE ON FOUR CANADIANS REGARD THEMSELVES AS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT CANADA'S HISTORY; OVER HALF REGARD THEMSELVES AS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WITH LESS THAN ONE IN TEN SAYING THEY ARE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE

May 2022 To what extent would you evaluate your knowledge of	Canadian History	Your Ancestry or Origins	Immigration and Diversity	Indigenous Peoples
<b>TOTAL KNOWLEDGE</b>	77%	72%	62%	56%
<b>Very good knowledge</b>	18%	23%	11%	8%
<b>Some knowledge</b>	59%	49%	51%	48%
<b>TOTAL LOW KNOWLEDGE</b>	23%	28%	38%	44%
<b>Little knowledge</b>	21%	24%	33%	38%
<b>No knowledge</b>	2%	4%	5%	5%

**A MAJORITY OF CANADIANS SAY THAT THEY OFTEN OR SOMETIMES SEEK INFORMATION ON CANADIANS POLITICS AND ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ABOUT ONE-THIRD DO SO ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

<b>May 2022 Do you often, sometimes, occasionally or never seek information about...?</b>	<b>Canadian Politics</b>	<b>Environmental issues</b>	<b>Canadian History</b>	<b>Your Ancestry and Origins</b>	<b>Immigration and Diversity</b>	<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>Religion</b>
<b>TOTAL often+sometimes</b>	58%	56%	48%	44%	37%	34%	29%
<b>Often</b>	22%	17%	9%	10%	7%	7%	9%
<b>Sometimes</b>	36%	39%	39%	33%	30%	27%	20%
<b>TOTAL occasionally+never</b>	42%	44%	52%	56%	63%	66%	71%
<b>Occasionally</b>	27%	31%	34%	35%	37%	40%	28%
<b>Never</b>	5%	13%	18%	21%	27%	26%	43%



# IMMIGRANTS AND NON-IMMIGRANTS SELF ASSESS SIMILAR RATES OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

<b>May 2022 Indigenous Peoples - To what extent would you evaluate your knowledge of the following topics?</b>	<b>Born in Canada</b>	<b>Born outside Canada</b>
<b>Very good knowledge</b>	8.2%	8.7%
<b>Some knowledge</b>	48.4%	46.8%
<b>Little knowledge</b>	38.7%	37.4%
<b>No knowledge</b>	4.7%	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%	100.0%



# A MAJORITY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SAY THEY RE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**May 2022**

**To what extent would you evaluate your knowledge of Indigenous Peoples**

<b>Canada</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Aboriginal / First Nations</b>	<b>Latin American (Mexican, Chilean, Costa Rican, etc.)</b>
<b>Very good knowledge</b>	7.6%	54.3%	14.3%
<b>Some knowledge</b>	49.2%	25.7%	46.4%
<b>Little knowledge</b>	38.9%	14.3%	39.3%
<b>No knowledge</b>	4.2%	5.7%	--

# A MAJORITY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SAY THEY OFTEN OR SOMETIMES SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**May 2022**

**Indigenous Peoples - Do you often, sometimes, occasionally or never seek information about...?**

	White	Aboriginal / First Nations	Latin American (Mexican, Chilean, Costa Rican, etc.)
<b>Often</b>	5.5%	41.7%	13.8%
<b>Sometimes</b>	27.0%	19.4%	27.6%
<b>Occasionally</b>	41.2%	25.0%	37.9%
<b>Never</b>	26.3%	13.9%	20.7%

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