

Nations and National Pride in Canada

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August 2022

How many nations are there in Canada?

Although they're often used interchangeably there is a difference between the terms nation, state, and country. Country and State are often symmetrical as they tend to apply to self-governing political entities while nation is generally considered a group of people who share the same culture but do not have sovereignty, A multinational state is a sovereign entity that comprises two or more nations or states. This contrasts with a nation state, where a single nation accounts for the bulk of the population. The terms risk generating confusion as many citizens still equate nation with country. While Quebec politicians often refer to Quebec as a single nation it is clear that Quebecers like other Canadians believe that there are many nations within Canada. A July 8-10, 2022 Leger-ACS survey reveals that Quebecers and

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

The concept of nation confuses many Canadians as 38% say there is only one while 44% say that there are at least ten (and 28% say that there are more than 50 nations)

Quebec increasingly refers to itself as a nation as do several indigenous groups. How many nations do you think that there are in the country?	Total	BC	AB	Prairies	ON	QC	Atlantic	French	English	Other	Indigenous
One	38%	42%	49%	53%	41%	16%	49%	13%	45%	38%	38%
Two	8%	4%	7%	5%	10%	9%	6%	10%	8%	7%	12%
Three	11%	4%	11%	9%	11%	15%	8%	15%	10%	8%	13%
Ten	16%	19%	8%	15%	14%	23%	11%	25%	14%	15%	14%
Fifty Plus	28%	31%	25%	19%	24%	36%	27%	37%	25%	31%	37%

When asked about their Canadian identification the largest plurality of respondents say they are Canadian only and Ontario is the only province in which a majority do so; in Quebec 39% put Canada before province while 49% put their province first

Rank in order which of the following best describes you by	Total	BC	AB	Prairies	ON	QC	Atlantic
Canadian only	40%	37%	41%	45%	55%	18%	29%
Canadian first and province	20%	27%	23%	21%	21%	11%	16%
Canadian and province equally	21%	22%	18%	20%	18%	21%	35%
Province first and Canadian	13%	8%	17%	6%	4%	30%	16%
Province only	7%	5%	1%	7%	1%	19%	4%

When asked about their Canadian identification the largest plurality of respondents say they are Canadian only

Rank in order which of the following best describes you by	Total	French	English	Other	Born in Canada	Born outside of Canada	Indigenous
Canadian only	40%	13%	47%	47%	39%	45%	39%
Canadian first and province	20%	12%	21%	26%	19%	21%	16%
Canadian and province equally	21%	20%	21%	18%	20%	26%	20%
Province first and Canadian	13%	33%	8%	7%	14%	6%	16%
Province only	7%	21%	3%	3%	7%	2%	8%

Canadians saying that they are Canadians only or Canadians first are most likely to believe that there is only one nation while those who see themselves as either province first or province only believe that there are at least ten nations

	Canadian only	Canadian first and province	Canadian and province equally	Province first and Canadian	Province Only
One	44.5%	43.2%	35.8%	24.1%	10.4%
Two	8.1%	8.4%	7.1%	6.5%	12.2%
Three	8.8%	8.1%	13.1%	13.4%	16.5%
Ten	14.9%	11.6%	18.3%	20.7%	20.9%
Fifty plus	23.8%	28.7%	25.7%	35.3%	40.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those with a very strong sense of attachment to Canada ate most likely to believe that there is only one nation in the country while a plurality of respondents reporting a weaker sense of attachment believe that there at least 50 nations

Quebec increasingly refers to itself as a nation as do several indigenous groups. How many nations do you think that there are in the country?	Canada - To what extent do you have a sense of attachment for the following:			
	Very strong sense of attachment	Somewhat strong sense of attachment	Somewhat weak sense of attachment	Very weak sense of attachment
One	46.3%	30.3%	23.5%	25.6%
Two	6.7%	9.3%	8.6%	9.8%
Three	9.2%	11.8%	12.3%	15.9%
Ten	13.8%	19.0%	18.7%	13.4%
Fifty plus	24.0%	29.6%	36.9%	35.4%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Some nine in ten Canadians say they are proud to be Canadian (very and somewhat); in Quebec it's 8 in 10 that say they're proud

I am proud...	Total	BC	AB	Prairies	ON	QC	Atlanti c	Frenc h	Engli sh	Othe r
to be Canadian	89%	92%	88%	93%	92%	81%	93%	81%	91%	92%

Four in ten that say that they are proud to be Canadian believe that there is only one nation in the country compared to one in five amongst those who say that they are not proud; some four in ten of the latter believe that there are more than fifty nations in the country

Quebec increasingly refers to itself as a nation as do several indigenous groups. How many nations do you think that there are in the country?	I am proud to be Canadian - Please respond with Yes or No to the following:	
	Yes	No
One	39.5%	22.3%
Two	7.8%	8.8%
Three	10.7%	10.4%
Ten	15.7%	19.2%
Fifty plus	26.4%	39.4%
	100.0%	100.0%

In Quebec French and English differ considerably when it comes to identifying as Canadian vs identifying as Quebecers

Rank in order which of the following best describes you by	Quebec	French	English
Canadian only	18%	10%	59%
Canadian first and province	11%	8%	22%
Canadian and province equally	21%	21%	10%
Province first and Canadian	30%	37%	9%
Province only	19%	24%	----

Quebec francophones and anglophones hold very different views on how many nations there are in the country. More than one in three Quebec anglophones think that there is only one nation in the country compared with one in six francophones; some 63% of francophones think there are more than 10 nations compared with 45% of anglophones that share this view

Quebec increasingly refers to itself as a nation as do several indigenous groups. How many nations do you think that there are in the country?	Quebecers	French	English
One	16%	11%	36%
Two	9%	9%	5%
Three	15%	17%	14%
Ten	23%	26%	14%
Fifty Plus	36%	37%	31%

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