

Quebec Francophone vs Anglophone identities and social outlook: Convergence and divergence

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Introduction

Political and social issues in Quebec are often seen through the lens of language and/or the French/English. Once described as two solitudes, Quebec's French and English language groups have had considerably greater interaction across the purported language divide and there has been much mixing. Still differences in degrees of attachment and outlook on social issues persist that can be the object for mobilization by decision makers. That which follows attempts to identify where the differences in attachment and social values are most pronounced between Quebec francophones and anglophones and where there is greater proximity in views on selected social issues. It also examines the connections Quebecers make between social values and the degree to which they see them as intersecting or in opposition to each other.

The web based survey was conducted between February 20th to March 3rd, 2023 with 1843 Canadians including an oversample for Quebec (572 respondents) and specifically for anglophone Quebecers (247 respondents). A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparative purposes a probability sample of 1 843 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20 and for the Quebec sample $\pm 4.08\%$, 19 times out of 20

Attachment and Social Values



Not surprisingly, francophones are less attached than anglophones to Canada while anglophones are less attached to Quebec; but Qc francophones have a higher rate of 'very attached' to Canada than do anglophones to Quebec

Quebec	Attachment to Canada		Total
	French	English	
Very attached	29.5%	61.5%	36.1%
Somewhat attached	39.5%	28.2%	37.3%
Not very attached	21.3%	5.1%	18.8%
Not attached at all	9.1%	2.6%	7.1%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	0.6%	2.6%	0.7%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Quebec	Attachment to Quebec		Total
	French	English	
Very attached	53.9%	23.7%	45.3%
Somewhat attached	35.4%	44.7%	37.7%
Not very attached	8.2%	18.4%	12.6%
Not attached at all	1.6%	10.5%	3.3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	0.9%	2.6%	1.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Qc Francophones have a similar rate of positive views of the Canadian Charter of Rights than anglophones (thought not when it comes to being very attached)

Quebec	Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - What is your reaction when hearing about the following?		
	French	English	Total
Very positive	20.7%	39.5%	28.3%
Somewhat positive	56.4%	42.1%	50.1%
Somewhat negative	10.7%	7.9%	10.0%
Very negative	6.6%	2.6%	5.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	5.6%	7.9%	6.4%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Quebec	Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms - What is your reaction when hearing about the following?		
	French	English	Total
Very positive	30.4%	15.4%	28.8%
Somewhat positive	49.1%	33.3%	45.5%
Somewhat negative	10.9%	12.8%	13.7%
Very negative	2.5%	25.6%	4.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	7.1%	12.8%	7.8%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Quebec anglophones have a substantially greater negative opinion of the notwithstanding clause than do francophones

Quebec	The Notwithstanding Clause -		Total
	French	English	
Very positive	13.8%	5.3%	11.0%
Somewhat positive	21.6%	13.2%	19.0%
Somewhat negative	18.1%	18.4%	18.3%
Very negative	4.7%	31.6%	6.4%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	41.9%	31.6%	45.2%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Overall Quebecers have a positive view of 'laicite' but there is an important gap between francophone and anglophone Quebecers

Quebec	Secularism/Laïcité		Total
	Francophone	Anglophone	
Very positive	29.2%	7.7%	28.4%
Somewhat positive	31.0%	25.6%	29.9%
Somewhat negative	16.0%	23.1%	14.7%
Very negative	5.3%	12.8%	6.9%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	18.5%	30.8%	20.1%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Overall Quebec francophones and anglophones have positive views of bilingualism and multiculturalism but anglophones are more enthusiastic about both as evidenced by the degree to which they indicate they are very positive

Quebec	Bilingualism		Total
	French	English	
Very positive	21.1%	51.3%	28.6%
Somewhat positive	54.1%	28.2%	49.9%
Somewhat negative	11.6%	7.7%	9.5%
Very negative	5.3%	7.7%	4.8%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	7.9%	5.1%	7.2%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Quebec	Multiculturalism		Total
	French	English	
Very positive	19.7%	35.9%	25.4%
Somewhat positive	41.6%	41.0%	42.5%
Somewhat negative	17.5%	10.3%	14.7%
Very negative	7.5%	2.6%	5.9%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	13.8%	10.3%	11.4%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Quebec francophone and anglophones are equally positive about universal health care

Quebec	Universal Health Care		Total
	Francophone	Anglophone	
Very positive	42.6%	46.2%	40.9%
Somewhat positive	34.5%	30.8%	34.7%
Somewhat negative	10.0%	10.3%	11.6%
Very negative	6.3%	7.7%	6.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	6.6%	5.1%	6.7%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Anglophone Quebecers generally view religious symbols and religious groups more favorably than do francophones. When it comes to hijabs anglophones see them more negatively than positively though the gap in that regard is substantially wider amongst francophones

Quebec	Francophone			Anglophone			Total		
	Very Positive and Somewhat Positive	Very and somewhat negative	I don't know	Very Positive and Somewhat Positive	Very and somewhat negative	I don't know	Very Positive and Somewhat Positive	Very and somewhat negative	I don't know
Crucifix	25	49	26	42	39	18	28	44	28
Crosses	31	48	21	52	33	15	34	43	23
Hijabs	16	61	23	37	41	23	21	55	24
Muslims	37	39	24	58	24	18	40	36	24
Catholics	52	32	16	71	19	10	55	29	16
Protestants	42	33	25	68	19	13	46	29	25
Jews	43	31	26	68	14	18	46	27	27

Making Social Connections



Social Issues: Making connections

In Quebec and the rest of Canada it is relatively common to make assumptions about how certain views impact others when it comes to unpacking complex issues. In effect, some influencers assume that proponents of multiculturalism should logically oppose secularism and bilingualism and the inverse should apply as well. Another assumption is that perhaps favoring exceptions to Charter Rights (by way of the notwithstanding clause) will inevitably imply weakening support for the Charter of Rights.

Certainly those experts that see the issues as undercutting or a threaten to the other have a following that supports their interpretation. But the general public doesn't always make the same connections and thus arrive at their own conclusions. For example where thought leaders insist that multiculturalism undercuts Bill 21 they very often provide their own definition of multiculturalism which may or may not be shared by the public which may simply equate multiculturalism with the presence of ethnocultural and ethnoracial diversity.

In the section that follows we look at the extent to which Quebecers make some of the connections between secularism/laïcité, multiculturalism, the Charter of Rights, religious symbols, etc.

Positive views of secularism/laicite aren't seen in opposition to multiculturalism nor do negative views of secularism align with positive views of multiculturalism

What is your reaction when hearing about the following? QUEBEC	Secularism/Laïcité			
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Multiculturalism				
Very positive	46.3%	8.8%	14.8%	28.6%
Somewhat positive	25.6%	72.8%	37.7%	32.1%
Somewhat negative	19.8%	10.4%	29.5%	17.9%
Very negative	7.4%	4.0%	11.5%	17.9%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	0.8%	4.0%	6.6%	3.6%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those Quebecers who are most positive about multiculturalism are very positive about bilingualism

What is your reaction when hearing about the following? QUEBEC	Multiculturalism			
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Bilingualism				
Very positive	66.7%	19.7%	14.8%	
Somewhat positive	22.2%	68.9%	54.1%	48.0%
Somewhat negative	3.7%	6.6%	29.5%	20.0%
Very negative	2.8%	2.2%	1.6%	32.0%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	4.6%	2.7%		
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those Quebec viewing the notwithstanding clause most favorably are more divided when asked to assess the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

What is your reaction when hearing about the following? QUEBEC	Notwithstanding Clause			
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms				
Very positive	30.4%	37.8%	44.8%	53.3%
Somewhat positive	21.7%	42.2%	48.3%	26.7%
Somewhat negative	17.4%	13.3%	6.9%	6.7%
Very negative	30.4%	6.7%		13.3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer				
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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