

Canadian opinion on Indigenous Land Acknowledgements, whether we're on unceded territory and whether we're all guests of indigenous peoples

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Introduction

Land acknowledgments are statements before an event recognizing that people are assembling on Indigenous lands. Such acknowledgments have become increasingly common in Canada. That which follows offers one of the most detailed looks at the extent to which Canadians have heard such land acknowledgments, have done a land acknowledgement, believe that they live on unceded indigenous territory, believe that land acknowledgments should be compulsory and think that all non-Indigenous Canadians are guests of indigenous peoples. It constitutes perhaps the most detailed survey to date on the aforementioned issues

The national survey was conducted by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between June 9 and 21, 2023 with 1705 Canadians (that included 391 immigrants and 81 indigenous persons). A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparative purposes a probability sample of 1705 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20

Two in three Canadians say they have heard an indigenous land acknowledgement, most in BC with least in Quebec

Have you ever heard an Indigenous land acknowledgement? - Land acknowledgments are statements before an event recognizing that people are assembling on Indigenous lands. Such acknowledgements have become increasingly common in Canada. Many conferences							
	Canada	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
Yes	64.6%	75.8%	71.3%	69.4%	66.6%	50.1%	62.9%
No	30.1%	20.3%	23.4%	21.3%	29.1%	43.5%	29.3%
Don't know	5.3%	3.8%	5.3%	9.3%	4.2%	6.4%	7.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Youngest cohort is somewhat more likely to say that they have heard an indigenous land acknowledgement

	Have you ever heard an Indigenous land acknowledgement?						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>= 75
Yes	72.5%	62.3%	62.8%	64.2%	63.9%	63.4%	67.2%
No	26.9%	30.2%	32.3%	29.5%	31.4%	30.6%	26.1%
Don't know	.6%	7.5%	5.0%	6.3%	4.7%	6.0%	6.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

One in five British Columbians say they have done an indigenous land acknowledgement while less than one in ten Quebecers and Atlantic Canadians say they've done one

	Have you ever done an Indigenous land acknowledgement? -						
	Canada	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
Yes	13.7%	20.3%	12.2%	14.7%	17.1%	6.1%	7.0%
No	84.0%	76.7%	87.8%	82.6%	79.7%	92.9%	88.7%
Don't know	2.3%	3.0%		2.8%	3.2%	1.0%	4.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Indigenous land acknowledgements much more common for persons under 25 than over that age and done to a considerably lesser extent amongst persons over 55

	Have you ever done an Indigenous land acknowledgement? -						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>= 75
Yes	40.9%	19.9%	12.8%	11.6%	7.0%	4.9%	5.0%
No	56.7%	76.6%	82.6%	87.7%	91.3%	94.0%	90.8%
Don't know	2.3%	3.5%	4.6%	.7%	1.7%	1.1%	4.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

One in six English Canadians have done a land acknowledgement compared with less than one in twenty Quebecers

	Have you ever done an Indigenous land acknowledgement?		
	French	English	Other
Yes	4.2%	16.6%	8.8%
No	94.7%	80.4%	89.5%
Don't know	1.2%	3.0%	1.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

One in three Canadians think that the city or town in which they reside is on unceded indigenous territory with majority of British Columbians of that view while only one in five Quebecers think so

	Do you think that the city or town in which you reside is on unceded Indigenous territory? - Land acknowledgments are statements before an event recognizing that people are assembling on Indigenous lands. Such acknowledgements have become increasing						
	Canada	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
Yes	33.7%	51.7%	32.8%	44.4%	34.4%	20.1%	29.6%
No	35.3%	22.5%	37.6%	25.0%	30.8%	50.1%	42.6%
Don't know	31.1%	25.8%	29.6%	30.6%	34.8%	29.8%	27.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Ottawa residents most likely to think that their city or town of residence is on unceded indigenous territory a view held by less than one in four Montrealers

	Do you think that the city or town in which you reside is on unceded Indigenous territory? - Land acknowledgments are statements before an event recognizing that people are assembling on Indigenous lands. Such acknowledgements have become increasing					
	Montreal	Ottawa	Toronto	Calgary	Edmonton	Vancouver
Yes	23.9%	46.5%	39.8%	31.3%	39.7%	38.1%
No	45.7%	28.2%	29.4%	37.3%	31.7%	36.5%
Don't know	30.5%	25.4%	30.8%	31.3%	28.6%	25.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

A majority of Canadians under 25 think their city or town is on unceded indigenous territory a view shared by some one in three elsewhere in the country

	Do you think that the city or town in which you reside is on unceded Indigenous territory?						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>= 75
Yes	50.3%	37.7%	35.6%	30.7%	30.0%	27.5%	26.9%
No	31.6%	29.9%	32.4%	37.1%	39.3%	39.8%	34.5%
Don't know	18.1%	32.4%	32.0%	32.2%	30.7%	32.7%	38.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

A plurality of English Canadians think that the city or town in which they reside is on unceded indigenous territory in contrast with one in six francophones

	Do you think that the city or town in which you reside is on unceded Indigenous territory?		
	French	English	Other
Yes	16.3%	38.7%	33.3%
No	52.2%	31.7%	25.4%
Don't know	31.5%	29.6%	41.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Just over one in five Canadians think their home/apt is on unceded indigenous territory with one in three British Columbians holding that view compared with just over one in ten Quebecers

Do you think your home/apartment is on unceded Indigenous territory? - Land acknowledgments are statements before an event recognizing that people are assembling on Indigenous lands. Such acknowledgements have become increasingly common in Canada.							
	Canada	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
Yes	22.8%	35.2%	24.3%	29.6%	24.3%	11.6%	18.4%
No	45.6%	36.9%	45.0%	39.8%	40.1%	59.7%	52.6%
Don't know	31.6%	28.0%	30.7%	30.6%	35.7%	28.6%	28.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Over in five English Canadians think that their home/apartment is on unceded Indigenous territory compared with less than one in ten francophones

	Do you think your home/apartment is on unceded Indigenous territory? - Land acknowledgments are statements before an event recognizing that people are assembling on Indigenous lands. Such acknowledgements have become increasingly common in Canada.		
	French	English	Other
Yes	8.9%	28.1%	15.8%
No	60.5%	41.4%	41.2%
Don't know	30.6%	30.5%	43.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Amongst those who think their city or town is on unceded indigenous territory, over one in three either don't think or don't know whether their home/apartment is on indigenous territory

Do you think your home/apartment is on unceded Indigenous territory?	Do you think that the city or town in which you reside is on unceded Indigenous territory? -		
	Yes	No	Don't know
Yes	64.6%	1.7%	1.3%
No	18.5%	96.3%	17.6%
Don't know	16.9%	2.0%	81.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Amongst Canadians that have done a land acknowledgement some two in three think their city or town is on unceded indigenous territory while one in three disagree or don't know

Do you think your city or town is on unceded Indigenous territory?	Have you ever done an Indigenous land acknowledgement? -	
	Yes	No
Yes	67.5%	28.5%
No	21.4%	37.8%
Don't know	11.1%	33.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

A majority of Canadians who have done indigenous land acknowledgements think that their home/apartment are on unceded territory yet some 42% either disagree or don't know

Do you think your home/apartment is on unceded Indigenous territory?	Have you ever done an Indigenous land acknowledgement? -	
	Yes	No
Yes	57.7%	17.2%
No	26.1%	49.3%
Don't know	16.2%	33.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Canadians divided over whether indigenous land acknowledgements should be compulsory before government meetings with Ontarians most favorable

	Land acknowledgements should be compulsory before government meetings. - To what extent do you agree with the following statements?						
	Canada	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
Strongly agree	20.5%	22.4%	22.1%	17.4%	22.5%	16.5%	20.2%
Somewhat agree	23.5%	20.3%	23.2%	17.4%	25.9%	24.8%	18.4%
Somewhat disagree	16.7%	16.5%	16.3%	19.3%	13.5%	20.5%	19.3%
Strongly disagree	21.3%	29.5%	21.1%	24.8%	19.7%	20.0%	14.9%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	18.0%	11.4%	17.4%	21.1%	18.4%	18.2%	27.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Canadians under 35 are most favorable to making land acknowledgements compulsory before government meetings

	Land acknowledgements should be compulsory before government meetings. - To what extent do you agree with the following statements?						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>= 75
Strongly agree	34.1%	24.2%	22.3%	18.7%	14.7%	18.0%	12.5%
Somewhat agree	26.5%	28.1%	21.2%	26.1%	21.3%	21.5%	18.3%
Somewhat disagree	15.9%	11.4%	17.0%	17.2%	19.3%	16.9%	21.7%
Strongly disagree	10.0%	16.0%	21.9%	20.1%	29.0%	25.7%	20.8%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	13.5%	20.3%	17.7%	17.9%	15.7%	18.0%	26.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Indigenous peoples are by far most favorable to land acknowledgements being compulsory; men considerably less favorable than women and francophones much less so than non-francophones

	Land acknowledgements should be compulsory before government meetings. - To what extent do you agree with the following statements?						
	Male	Female	French	English	Other	Not Indigenous person	Indigenous person (First Nations, Inuk (Inuit) or Métis)
Strongly agree	14.9%	24.2%	13.6%	22.8%	18.6%	18.9%	52.4%
Somewhat agree	21.9%	25.5%	25.5%	22.3%	29.2%	23.3%	29.3%
Somewhat disagree	20.1%	14.0%	19.0%	16.1%	13.3%	17.3%	4.9%
Strongly disagree	28.0%	15.4%	24.9%	22.2%	12.4%	21.9%	7.3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	15.1%	21.0%	16.9%	16.5%	26.5%	18.6%	6.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Canadians are divided over requiring land acknowledgments prior to concerts, conferences and sporting events with British Columbians and Prairie residents least favorable

	Land acknowledgements should be compulsory before concerts, conferences and sporting events. - To what extent do you agree with the following statements?						
	Canada	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
Strongly agree	15.0%	15.3%	13.3%	10.9%	16.7%	13.7%	15.7%
Somewhat agree	25.0%	22.0%	26.6%	17.3%	27.4%	24.1%	25.2%
Somewhat disagree	18.3%	18.2%	17.6%	21.8%	15.2%	22.1%	20.9%
Strongly disagree	23.2%	31.4%	25.0%	28.2%	21.8%	21.6%	12.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	18.5%	13.1%	17.6%	21.8%	18.9%	18.5%	26.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Canadians under 35 are most favorable to land acknowledgements being compulsory before concerts, conferences and sporting events

	Land acknowledgements should be compulsory before concerts, conferences and sporting events. - To what extent do you agree with the following statements?						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>= 75
Strongly agree	17.5%	18.1%	19.5%	12.7%	10.0%	14.8%	11.8%
Somewhat agree	38.0%	33.1%	22.3%	25.0%	22.0%	19.8%	14.3%
Somewhat disagree	17.0%	14.9%	16.3%	20.9%	21.0%	18.0%	21.8%
Strongly disagree	14.6%	16.0%	24.1%	23.5%	31.0%	25.4%	22.7%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	12.9%	17.8%	17.7%	17.9%	16.0%	21.9%	29.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Some one in three Canadians agree that non-indigenous peoples are all guests of indigenous peoples in Canada

Non-Indigenous people are all guests of Indigenous peoples in Canada.	Non-Indigenous people are all guests of Indigenous peoples in Canada						
	Canada	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
Strongly agree	14.7%	17.4%	14.2%	15.7%	15.0%	13.5%	12.2%
Somewhat agree	22.4%	17.8%	24.7%	15.7%	26.4%	18.5%	23.5%
Somewhat disagree	19.0%	14.0%	11.6%	20.4%	20.2%	23.4%	19.1%
Strongly disagree	28.2%	36.4%	39.5%	38.0%	24.4%	23.4%	22.6%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	15.7%	14.4%	10.0%	10.2%	14.1%	21.3%	22.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Most francophones and anglophones disagree that non-indigenous peoples are all guests of indigenous peoples; the issue divides opinion on the basis of gender

	Non-Indigenous people are all guests of Indigenous peoples in Canada						
	Male	Female	French	English	Other	Not Indigenous	Indigenous
Strongly agree	12.3%	15.9%	10.4%	15.6%	18.4%	13.4%	41.5%
Somewhat agree	20.2%	24.5%	17.2%	22.5%	36.0%	22.1%	29.3%
Somewhat disagree	18.7%	19.7%	25.8%	17.0%	14.9%	19.3%	13.4%
Strongly disagree	36.7%	20.7%	26.1%	30.6%	18.4%	29.1%	9.8%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	12.2%	19.2%	20.5%	14.3%	12.3%	16.1%	6.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Canadians under 35 are most likely to agree that non-indigenous peoples are all guests of indigenous peoples in Canada

	Non-Indigenous people are all guests of Indigenous peoples in Canada						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>= 75
Strongly agree	23.5%	19.2%	17.1%	12.7%	10.7%	10.6%	10.8%
Somewhat agree	24.7%	25.3%	23.8%	20.1%	21.4%	23.2%	15.0%
Somewhat disagree	22.4%	14.6%	19.2%	18.7%	17.1%	19.4%	29.2%
Strongly disagree	17.6%	22.4%	24.9%	30.6%	35.5%	32.7%	29.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	11.8%	18.5%	14.9%	17.9%	15.4%	14.1%	15.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Amongst Canadians that do land acknowledgements nearly two in three agree that non-indigenous peoples are all guests of indigenous peoples while by contrast amongst those who have never done it a majority disagree that non-indigenous persons are all guests

Non-Indigenous people are all guests of Indigenous peoples in Canada. – (non-indigenous sample) To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	Have you ever done an Indigenous land acknowledgement? - Land acknowledgments are statements before an event recognizing that people are assembling on Indigenous lands. Such acknowledgements have become increasingly common in Canada. Many conference	
	Yes	No
Strongly agree	27.0%	11.3%
Somewhat agree	35.8%	20.2%
Somewhat disagree	12.6%	20.6%
Strongly disagree	16.7%	31.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	7.9%	16.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Those Canadians who feel land acknowledgements should be compulsory are far more likely to believe that non-indigenous peoples are all guests of indigenous peoples in Canada

Non-Indigenous people are all guests of Indigenous peoples in Canada (non-indigenous sample) .	Land acknowledgements should be compulsory before concerts, conferences and sporting events. - To what extent do you agree with the following statements?			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	51.1%	15.7%	4.3%	2.8%
Somewhat agree	29.0%	43.3%	16.4%	4.4%
Somewhat disagree	9.0%	23.1%	43.8%	6.2%
Strongly disagree	5.0%	8.2%	26.0%	81.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	5.9%	9.7%	9.5%	5.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%