

Quebecers Views on the Increases in University Tuition for Out of Province Students

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Introduction

The Leger survey was conducted during the week of November 13th, 2023 for the Association for Canadian Studies via web panel with 1253 Quebecers that is weighted according to the population demographics in Quebec as determined by the 2021 census (there is an oversample of 390 anglophone Quebecers in the unweighted sample). A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1253 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20

Most Quebecers believe the Quebec government's university tuition increases are justified. Most Quebecers under 35 disagree as do a majority of non-francophones. Montrealers are divided over the issue

On October 13th, 2023, the Quebec government announced its intention to significantly increase the tuition fees paid by out-of-province students studying at all universities. Do you believe these tuition reform measures are justified ?	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	English	French	Other	MTL	Rest of QC
Justified	48%	35%	48%	54%	18%	56%	25%	41%	54%
Unjustified	35%	46%	30%	33%	69%	26%	59%	42%	28%
I don't know	17%	18%	23%	12%	13%	17%	17%	17%	17%

A majority of Quebecers believe that out of province students make an important contribution to Quebec's economy

Do you think that out of province students make an important contribution to Quebec's economy?	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	English	French	Other	MTL	Rest of QC
Yes	56%	53%	57%	56%	73%	51%	69%	57%	54%
No	27%	30%	24%	28%	14%	32%	15%	27%	28%
I don't know	17%	17%	18%	16%	13%	18%	16%	16%	18%

Most Quebecers agree that increases in tuition fees for students outside of Quebec will have a negative effect on the enrollment of students in English language universities

Do you think that the increases in tuition fees for students outside of Quebec will have a negative effect on the enrollment of students in English language universities?	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	English	French	Other	MTL	Rest of QC
Yes	51%	64%	45%	49%	77%	43%	73%	58%	45%
No	29%	22%	32%	32%	13%	35%	14%	25%	34%
I don't know	19%	14%	23%	19%	10%	22%	13%	18%	21%

Most Quebecers agree that increases in tuition fees for students outside of Quebec will have a negative effect on the enrollment of students in French language universities

Do you think that the increases in tuition fees for students outside of Quebec will have a negative effect on the enrollment of students in French language universities?	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	English	French	Other	MTL	Rest of QC
Yes	43%	53%	44%	38%	46%	40%	58%	42%	44%
No	37%	34%	37%	40%	38%	40%	27%	38%	37%
I don't know	19%	14%	19%	23%	16%	21%	15%	20%	19%

Nearly two in three Quebecers say that the Quebec government should consider a proposal by Quebec's English language universities to substantially increase French language instruction and support out of province students with the expectation that tuition hikes would not be significant

Quebec English language universities proposed to substantially increase French language instruction and support out of province students with the expectation that tuition hikes would not be significant. What do you think the Government of Quebec's response should be	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	English	French	Other	MTL	Rest of QC
Consider it	63%	64%	61%	64%	69%	63%	60%	63%	63%
Reject it	19%	16%	16%	23%	17%	21%	13%	18%	20%
I don't know	18%	20%	22%	13%	14%	16%	27%	19%	17%

Amongst those Quebecers who feel that tuition hikes are justified a larger percentage agree than disagree that out of province students make an important contribution to the Quebec economy

Do you think that out of province students make an important contribution to Quebec's economy ?	On October 13th, 2023, the Quebec government announced its intention to significantly increase the tuition fees paid by out-of-province students studying at all universities. Do you believe these tuition reform measures are justified ?		
	Justified	Unjustified	I don't know / I prefer not to answer
Yes	45.1%	73.6%	47.6%
No	42.5%	15.1%	10.8%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	12.4%	11.3%	41.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Amongst those Quebecers who feel that tuition hikes are justified most feel that the increases will not negatively impact enrollment in English language universities, a view that is in sharp contrast to those who feel the increases are not justified

Do you think that the increases in tuition fees for students outside of Quebec will have a negative effect on the enrollment of students in English language universities ?	On October 13th, 2023, the Quebec government announced its intention to significantly increase the tuition fees paid by out-of-province students studying at all universities. Do you believe these tuition reform measures are justified ?		
	Justified	Unjustified	I don't know / I prefer not to answer
Yes	30.8%	83.5%	41.0%
No	50.9%	9.0%	12.3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	18.3%	7.4%	46.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Similarly, amongst those Quebecers who feel that tuition hikes are justified most feel that the increases will not negatively impact enrollment in English language universities, a view that is in sharp contrast to those who feel the increases are not justified

Do you think that the increases in tuition fees for students outside of Quebec will have a negative effect on the enrollment of students in French language universities ?	Q5: On October 13th, 2023, the Quebec government announced its intention to significantly increase the tuition fees paid by out-of-province students studying at all universities. Do you believe these tuition reform measures are justified ?		
	Justified	Unjustified	I don't know / I prefer not to answer
Yes	24.1%	72.9%	35.4%
No	58.8%	19.4%	14.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	17.1%	7.7%	50.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

A majority of the Quebecers who believe the tuition fee hikes are justified think that the Quebec government should consider the proposal from English language universities...

Quebec English Language Universities proposed to substantially increase French language instruction and support for out of province students with the expectation that tuition hikes would not be significant. What do you think the Government of Quebec	On October 13th, 2023, the Quebec government announced its intention to significantly increase the tuition fees paid by out-of-province students studying at all universities. Do you believe these tuition reform measures are justified ?		
	Justified	Unjustified	I don't know / I prefer not to answer
Consider it	58.0%	77.5%	47.4%
Reject it	29.1%	12.6%	4.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	12.9%	9.9%	48.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Who is getting a university degree in Quebec these days?



Since 2000 there has been a substantial and steady increase in the percentage of immigrants in Quebec holding bachelor's degree of higher

Quebec 35-44 2021	Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree	Bachelor's degree or higher	Percentage Bachelor's degree or higher
Total - Immigrant status and period of immigration	1116870	386905	34.6
Non-immigrants	823705	235325	28.6
Immigrants	255515	131585	51.5
Before 1980	990	390	39.4
1980 to 1990	18515	6865	37
1991 to 2000	30815	9350	30.3
2001 to 2010	80145	41035	51.2
2011 to 2021	125040	73945	59.1
Non-permanent residents	37650	19990	53.1