

Part 1

Is there a common culture in Canada?

and

Part 2

Multiculturalism: Lessons to Learn?

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Exclusive for CW News

June 2, 2010

Canadians are divided on the issue of whether there is a common Canadian culture. A national survey conducted between May 16 and May 20th, 2010 by the firm Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that some 51% of Canadians do not think that there is a common Canadian culture. Canada's language groups are divided over the question with a narrow majority of English Canadians (50.1%) thinking that there is a common Canadian culture, most allophones not inclined to agree (50.9%) and Francophones most likely to refute the idea at (70.6%) of the opinion there is no common Canadian culture.

There is no common Canadian culture	French	English	Other	Total
Strongly Agree	24,2%	11,1%	11,9%	14,6%
somewhat Agree	46,4%	34,3%	39,0%	36,5%
Somewhat Disagree	18,4%	33,4%	31,4%	30,1%

Strongly Disagree	4,0%	16,7%	11,4%	12,5%
I don't know/I prefer not answering	6,9%	4,4%	6,2%	6,3%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

If they don't think that there is a common Canadian culture it is not because they believe that Canadian and American culture are basically the same. Less than one in three Canadians hold that view and there is little distinction across language groups around such questions.

Canadian and U.S. culture are basically the same	French	English	Other	Total
Strongly Agree	4,3%	3,3%	1,9%	3,8%
Somewhat Agree	33,9%	26,3%	34,0%	28,8%
Somewhat Disagree	43,7%	37,6%	25,4%	37,4%
Strongly Disagree	12,6%	29,7%	37,3%	26,6%
I don't know/I prefer not answering	5,5%	3,2%	1,4%	3,4%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Canadians are somewhat more likely to think that globalization is a threat to Canadian culture with some four in ten holding this view.

Globalisation threatens Canadian culture	French	English	Other	Total
Strongly Agree	13,3%	13,3%	6,7%	12,6%
Somewhat Agree	32,9%	28,4%	20,7%	28,3%
Somewhat Disagree	35,4%	35,7%	33,7%	34,4%
Strongly Disagree	10,1%	12,5%	22,6%	14,2%
I don't know/I prefer not answering	8,4%	10,1%	16,3%	10,5%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Three-quarters of Canadians agree that Canada's cultural life is enriched by people with different cultural backgrounds than the majority. Francophones are somewhat less likely to agree but the majority still hold that view.

Canada's cultural life is enriched by people with different cultural backgrounds than the majority	French	English	Other	Total
Total Agree	64.9	79,8	82.7	76.9
Strongly Agree	15,3%	32,0%	45,7%	30,0%
Somewhat Agree	49,6%	47,8%	37,0%	46,9%
Somewhat Disagree	23,1%	12,0%	9,6%	14,0%
Strongly Disagree	6,3%	5,0%	4,3%	4,8%
I don't know/I prefer not answering	5,8%	3,1%	3,4%	4,4%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Canadians also agree that recent immigrants have different values from that of the majority of Canadians. Hence that immigrants possess different values does not detract from the fact that the majority believe immigrants enrich the cultural life of Canadians.

Recent immigrants have different values from that of the majority of Canadians	French	English	Other	Total
Total Agree	83.3	76.7	74.6	77.1
Strongly Agree	37,5%	29,5%	26,8%	30,3%
Somewhat Agree	45,8%	47,2%	47,8%	46,8%
Somewhat Disagree	10,7%	14,3%	13,9%	13,8%
Strongly Disagree	1,7%	2,6%	3,3%	3,0%
I don't know/I prefer not answering	4,3%	6,4%	8,1%	6,1%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Even those who strongly agree that recent immigrants have different values from that of the majority of Canadians agree that Canada's cultural life is enriched by people with different cultural backgrounds than the majority.

	Recent immigrants have different values from that of the majority of Canadians			
Canada's cultural life is enriched by people with different cultural backgrounds than the majority	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Strongly Agree	20,1%	29,1%	47,0%	70,2%
Somewhat Agree	42,7%	56,0%	38,8%	12,8%
Somewhat Disagree	24,2%	10,6%	9,6%	8,5%
Strongly Disagree	11,4%	2,0%	,5%	2,1%
I don't know/I prefer not answering	1,7%	2,3%	4,1%	6,4%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Finally Canadians tend to see that they have more in common when they compare themselves with other countries.

When compared to other countries it is much easier to see what Canadians have in common culturally	French	English	Other	Total
Total agree	55.1	54.2	52.7	54.9
Strongly Agree	7,8%	9,8%	12,0%	10,7%
Somewhat Agree	47,3%	44,4%	40,7%	44,2%
Somewhat Disagree	29,1%	29,7%	19,6%	27,6%
Strongly Disagree	5,8%	6,5%	12,0%	6,7%

{b}I don't know/I prefer not answering{/b}	10,1%	9,7%	15,8%	10,8%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Part 2

Multiculturalism: Lessons to Learn?

Jack Jedwab

May 25, 2010

Canada's multicultural policy has been the object of much criticism since its introduction. And with the growing diversity of the Canadian population it seems that the policy of multiculturalism has come under increasing criticism. However, despite the criticism there is a

considerable paradox when it comes to the population's views around multiculturalism. On the one hand most Canadians feel that the rest of the world could learn from Canada's multicultural policy while the other hand most admit they can't identify anything that is done by the government to promote multiculturalism. Whatever they know about the policy, the majority of Canadians do not feel their country has something to learn from the United States, Britain or France when it comes to dealing with cultural diversity. This despite the ongoing debates about accommodation of diversity, the perceived influence of Europe's approach to cohesion and the presumption by some observers that the melting pot offers a better alternative than the mosaic to the management of diversity.

The rest of the world could learn from Canada's multicultural policy	French	English	Other	Total
Strongly Agree	7,8%	22,6%	39,9%	22,3%
Somewhat Agree	53,8%	50,8%	35,1%	49,1%
Somewhat Disagree	22,8%	14,1%	13,9%	15,4%
Strongly Disagree	4,6%	6,8%	5,8%	6,0%
I don't know/I prefer not answering	11,0%	5,7%	5,3%	7,2%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

	French	English	Other	Total
Canada could learn more from the United States about how to deal with cultural diversity	18,4%	13,8%	16,8%	16,8%
Canada could learn more from Britain about how to deal with cultural diversity	24,1%	16,9%	19,7%	20,2%

Canada could learn more from France about how to deal with cultural diversity	32.8%	17.5%	17.8%	22.2%
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As mentioned above some 64% of Canadians were unable to name any actions taken by the government of Canada to promote multiculturalism. As seen in the table below it is Quebec where the criticism of multicultural policy is often the harshest that the people are least able to identify actions taken by the government in this regard. Some 93% of francophone respondents admit that are unable to name any actions taken by the government to promote multiculturalism! When asked, some four in ten non-francophone Canadians name actions they believe are taken by the government to promote multiculturalism. Nonetheless their responses are often off the mark, with the government focusing on cross-cultural exchange, combating racism and supporting vulnerable groups with programs aimed at greater equity.

According to you, what are actions taken by the Government of Canada to promote multiculturalism?	French	English	Other
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	93,1%	55,1%	56,9%
Accepting immigrants from different cultures / Immigration p	1,7%	8,5%	5,7%

Funding of events / Involvement in cultural events	,9%	4,2%	6,6%
Allowing the different cultural and ethnic groups to keep th		3,9%	4,3%
Advertising multiculturalism	,3%	1,7%	
Bilingualism / Efforts for bilingualism	,3%	1,5%	
Charter of rights and freedoms	,0%	1,0%	
Everyone is treated equally	,0%	1,0%	3,3%
Freedom of belief and religion		1,4%	1,9%
Education efforts / Funding education	,6%	1,5%	,9%
Religious and other forms of compromises	,0%	1,6%	2,4%
Grants and funds to different cultural groups		1,4%	1,4%
Governmental services are provided in different languages		,8%	
Equal I in the workforce		,5%	
Helping immigrants settle in Canada	,3%	1,7%	1,4%
Hiring members from all ethnic groups in civil service		,1%	
Nothing with the conservatives / with Stephen Harper	,3%	1,9%	3,3%

I am not for multiculturalism and other ethnic groups should	,9%	4,2%	3,3%
Please write down your answer:	1,2%	3,5%	1,9%
Nothing in particular / Not enough	,6%	4,5%	6,6%