

**CANADIAN PRESS / LEGER MARKETING**

**Immigration and Racism  
following the September 11  
Attacks**

**Report**



## 1.0 Research Findings

- Nine Canadian out of ten would like immigrants who have not yet obtained their Canadian citizenship to have a photo ID card.

Question: Do you TOTALLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE or TOTALLY DISAGREE with the idea of Canada issuing a photo ID card to all permanent residents in Canada who have not yet obtained their Canadian citizenship?

n=1524	Totally agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know/Refusal
	68.5%	19.3%	5.6%	4.7%	1.9%

- Canada should be stricter when it comes to immigration.

Question: In your opinion, should Canada be stricter when it comes to immigration?

N=1524	YES	NO	Dnk/Refusal
	83.5%	13.1%	3.5%

- The opinions of Canadians regarding boarder security measures range from "just strict enough" to "not strict enough".

Question: Since the September 11 attacks, the Government of Canada has taken several measures aimed at better controlling the boarders. Please tell me, which of the following statements best corresponds to your personal opinion:...the security measures taken at Canadian borders...

n =1504	
... do not go far enough to ensure our safety	42.5%
... represent a good balance between the safety of all Canadians and the rights of immigrants in Canada	46.1%
... go too far to ensure our safety	4.5%
Dnk/Refusal	6.9%

- The majority of Canadians wish to see Canada remain open to individuals of Arab descent or Muslim faith.

Question: Should Canada forbid people of Arab descent or Muslim faith from entering the country?

N=1524	YES	NO	Dnk/Refusal
	12.3%	83.3%	4.5%

- Negative or racist comments against people of Arab descent or Muslim faith have been witnessed.

Question: Since the attacks of September 11, have you witnessed, in your surroundings, any racist or negative comments about people of Arab or Muslim descent?

N=1524	YES	NO	Dnk/Refusal
	32.9%	66.4%	0.7%

- The perception of Canadians of people of Arab descent or Muslim faith has not changed since September 11.

Question: Since the September 11 attacks, would you say that your perception of people of Arab or Muslim descent has changed? Is that for the BETTER or for the WORST?

N=1524	For the better	For the worst	Did not change	Don't know/Refusal
	4.1%	18.2%	75.0%	2.7%

## 2.0 Results

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### 2.1 Nine Canadians out of Ten Would like All Immigrants Who Have not yet Obtained their Citizenship to have a Photo ID

87.8% of the population agrees with the idea of Canada issuing a photo identification card to all permanent residents who have not yet obtained their Canadian citizenship. Of that proportion, 68.5% totally agrees with this suggestion and 19.3% somewhat agrees with it.

80.7% of Quebecers mentioned that they totally agree with the photo ID card along with 78.1% of those 55 years of age or over, 75.5% of retirees and 86.0% of Canadians with lower levels of schooling.

Question: Do you TOTALLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE or TOTALLY DISAGREE with the idea of Canada issuing a photo ID card to all permanent residents in Canada who have not yet obtained their Canadian citizenship?

N=1524	Totally agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know/Refusal
Atlantic provinces	64.7%	19.6%	4.7%	7.6%	3.4%
Quebec	80.7%	10.2%	3.8%	3.4%	1.9%
Ontario	66.5%	20.6%	5.4%	6.1%	1.4%
Prairies	70.3%	20.4%	6.9%	2.3%	0.0%
Alberta	67.1%	16.3%	10.6%	4.4%	1.6%
British Columbia	53.9%	34.0%	5.9%	2.7%	3.5%
Canada	68.5%	19.3%	5.6%	4.7%	1.9%

## 2.2 Canada Should be Stricter When it Comes to Immigration

According to 83.5% of the population, Canada should be stricter when it comes to immigration while 13.1% hold the opposite view.

89.9% of those 65 years of age and over, 89.9% of homemakers and 89.0% of Canadians with lower levels of schooling would like to see stricter norms when it comes to immigration. Conversely, 30.7% of students, 22.6% of University-educated Canadians, 22.0% of those 18 to 24 and 20.6% of those whose mother tongue is neither French nor English would like less severity when it comes to immigration.

Question: In your opinion, should Canada be stricter when it comes to immigration?

n=1524	YES	NO	Dnk/refusal
Atlantic provinces	80.9%	14.2%	4.9%
Quebec	86.5%	12.0%	1.5%
Ontario	80.9%	14.8%	4.3%
Prairies	89.2%	8.5%	2.3%
Alberta	88.1%	9.5%	2.4%
British Columbia	80.3%	14.5%	5.2%
Canada	83.5%	13.1%	3.5%

### 2.3 The Opinions of Canadians Regarding Boarder Security Measures Range from “Just Strict Enough” to “Not Strict Enough”

According to 86.6% of Canadians, security measures at Canadian borders are barely or not strict enough to ensure our protection. This percentage includes 46.1% of Canadians who find that the measures represent a good balance between the safety of Canadians and the rights of immigrants and 42.5% who feel that the measures do not go far enough to ensure our safety.

Question: Since the September 11 attacks, the Government of Canada has taken several measures aimed at better controlling the boarders. Please tell me, which of the following statements best corresponds to your personal opinion :...The security measures taken at Canadian boarders...

n =1504	
... do not go far enough to ensure our safety	42.5%
... represent a good balance between the safety of all Canadians and the rights of immigrants in Canada	46.1%
... go too far to ensure our safety	4.5%
Dnk/Refusal	6.9%

## 2.4 The majority of Canadians Would like Canada to Remain Open to People of Arab Descent or Muslim Faith

83.3% of Canadians feel that Canada should keep its borders open to people of Arab descent or Muslim faith while 12.3% would like Canada to deny them access.

92.7% of University-educated Canadians, 90.6% of professionals and 88.8% of those 18 to 24 years of age are opposed to the idea of restricting the access to Arabs and Muslims.

We note however that 21.2% of individuals with lower incomes, 18.7% of labourers, 43.1% of those with lower levels of schooling and 19.6% of Canadians 65 years old and over would like our borders to be closed to people of Arab descent or Muslim faith.

Question: Should Canada forbid people of Arab descent or Muslim faith from entering the country?

n=1524	YES	NO	Dnk/Refusal
	12.3%	83.3%	4.5%

## 2.5 Negative or Racist Comments Directed Towards People of Arab Descent or Muslim Faith

32.9% of Canadians admit having witnessed in their surroundings, negative or racist comments about people of Arab descent or Muslim faith.

It is in Quebec that such negative remarks were most often heard. In fact, 41.8% of Quebecers mentioned witnessing such incidents along with 44.3% of those 18 to 34 years old, 40.3% of Francophones, 39.2% of office workers, 45.6% of students and 37.6% of the active population.

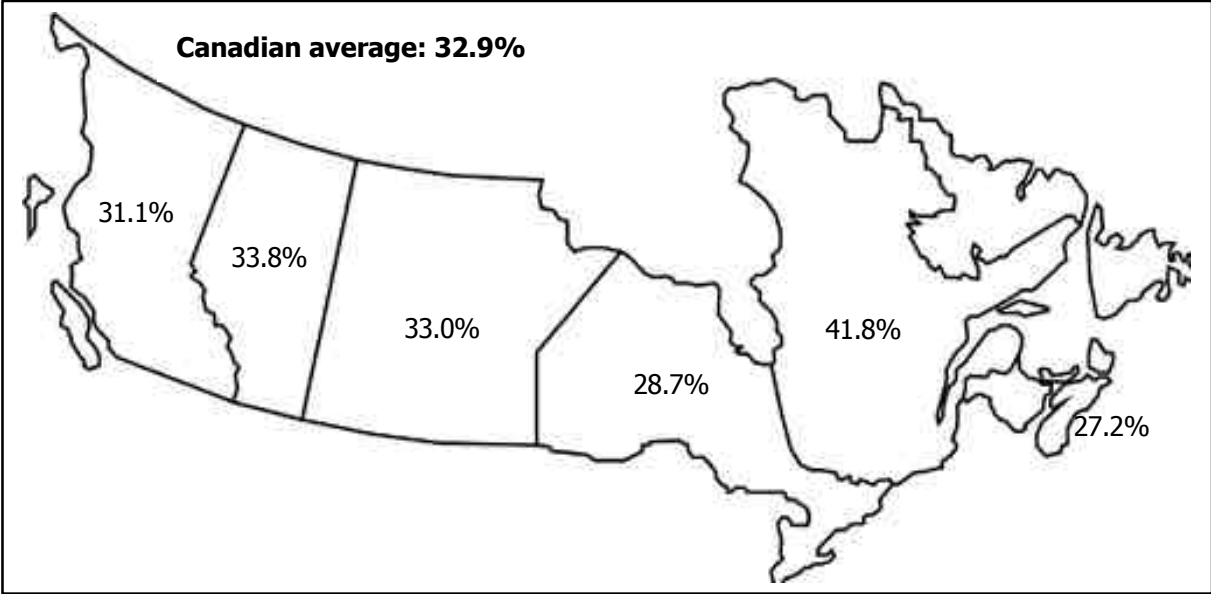
The fact that only 15.7% of homemakers and 18.7% of retirees have heard such comments clearly indicates that these comments are mainly being made by members of the active population.

Moreover, 7.7% of the population mentioned having witnessed events during which individuals of Arab origin or Muslim faith were the direct object of negative comments. 15.1% of those 18 to 24 and 15.8% of students were witness to such incidents.

Question: Since the attacks of September 11, have you witnessed, in your surroundings, any racist or negative comments about people of Arab or Muslim descent?

n=1524	YES	NO	Dnk/Refusal
Atlantic provinces	27.2%	72.8%	0.0%
Quebec	41.8%	57.9%	0.3%
Ontario	28.7%	70.3%	1.0%
Prairies	33.0%	67.0%	0.0%
Alberta	33.8%	63.8%	2.4%
British Columbia	31.1%	68.2%	0.7%
Canada	32.9%	66.4%	0.7%

**Percentage of Canadians who have witnessed racist or negative comments being made to people of Arab descent or Muslim faith since the attacks of September 11**



## 2.6 The Way in which Canadians Perceive People of Arab Descent or Muslim Faith has not Changed since September 11

75.0% of Canadians have the same perception of people of Arab descent or Muslim faith today as they did prior to the attacks of September 11. However, 18.2% have a perception that is more negative today than prior to the attacks while 4.1% have a more positive perception.

23.1% of Quebecers, 22.1% of Francophones, 22.0% of those 25 to 34 years of age and 29.6% of those who have completed lower levels of schooling correspond to the Canadians whose view of Arabs and Muslims has deteriorated since the terrorist attacks.

Finally, 89.3% of the population feels that persons of Arab descent or Muslim faith must have a harder time feeling comfortable in Canada today.

Question: Since the September 11 attacks, would you say that your perception of people of Arab or Muslim descent has changed? Is that for the BETTER or for the WORST?

n=1524	For the better	For the worst	Has not changed	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic provinces	4.3%	14.9%	76.2%	4.7%
Quebec	4.0%	23.1%	70.6%	2.3%
Ontario	5.2%	14.1%	78.0%	2.8%
Prairies	1.6%	19.8%	74.0%	4.6%
Alberta	4.7%	22.9%	70.0%	2.4%
British Columbia	1.9%	18.9%	77.9%	1.3%
Canada	4.1%	18.2%	75.0%	2.7%

### **3.0 Methodology**

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This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1524 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal call centre between October 16 and October 21, 2001. Up to ten recalls were made in the case of non-response.

Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to geographic location, gender and language spoken at home to ensure a sample representative of the entire Canadian adult population. In the end, the maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1524 respondents is of  $\pm 2.6\%$ , 19 times out of 20.