

CANADIAN PRESS / LEGER MARKETING

Canadians and the Canadian Charter of Rights

Report



1.0 Study Highlights

- Half of Canadians were unable to name even one of the rights they receive under the Canadian Charter of Rights.

Question : Could you tell me what Rights you receive under the Canadian Charter of Rights?

n=1501			
Freedom of expression	27%	Right to security	3%
Freedom of opinion	12%	Protection of linguistic rights	3%
Right to speak his/her language	12%	Freedom of association	3%
Freedom of religion	12%	Right to protect confidential information	3%
Legal rights	9%	Freedom of information	2%
Right to life	7%	Freedom to choose one's sexual orientation	2%
Political rights	6%	Other	5%
Right to equality	6%	Don't know / Can't name any	52%
Economic and social rights	5%	Refusal	1%

Note : The total can exceed 100% since the respondents could name several rights.

- Of all the forms of discrimination prohibited by the Charter, race is the most recognised.

Question : Could you tell me which forms of discrimination are forbidden under the Canadian Charter of Rights?

Discrimination based on ...

n=1501	
Race or colour	54%
Religion	32%
Gender	30%
Sexual orientation	22%
Age	19%
National or ethnic origin/culture	17%
Disability, incapacity	12%
Don't know/Can't name any	35%
Refusal	1%

Note : The total could exceed 100%, since respondents were given the opportunity to name several forms of discrimination.

- The majority of Canadians feel that the Canadian Charter is generally respected.

Question : Do you think Rights in Canada are generally VERY WELL RESPECTED, SOMEWHAT RESPECTED, NOT VERY WELL RESPECTED, OR NOT AT ALL RESPECTED?

n=1501	Very well respected	Somewhat well respected	Not very well respected	Not at all respected	Don't know
Canada	31%	53%	10%	2%	3%

- Within the context of September 11th, 2001, the majority of Canadians would agree with certain laws or articles relating to security infringing on the Charter of Rights.

Question : Following the September 11th terrorist attacks, would you agree with certain Canadian laws and articles relating to security infringing on the charter of Rights?

n=1501	YES	NO	Don't know / Refusal
Canada	53%	32%	15%

- Canada should not maintain commercial or diplomatic relations with countries that do not respect fundamental human rights.

Question : Do you think Canada should maintain commercial or diplomatic relations with countries that do not respect fundamental human rights ?

n=1501	YES	NO	Don't know/ Refusal
Canada	28%	63%	9%

2. Results

2.1 Half of Canadians are unable to name even one of the rights they receive under the Charter of Rights

More than one out of two Canadians (52%) are unable to name even one of the rights they receive under the Charter of Rights and a little over a quarter of them (27%) mentioned freedom of expression. This was followed by freedom of opinion, the right to speak one's language, and freedom of religion which were recognised by 12% of Canadians.

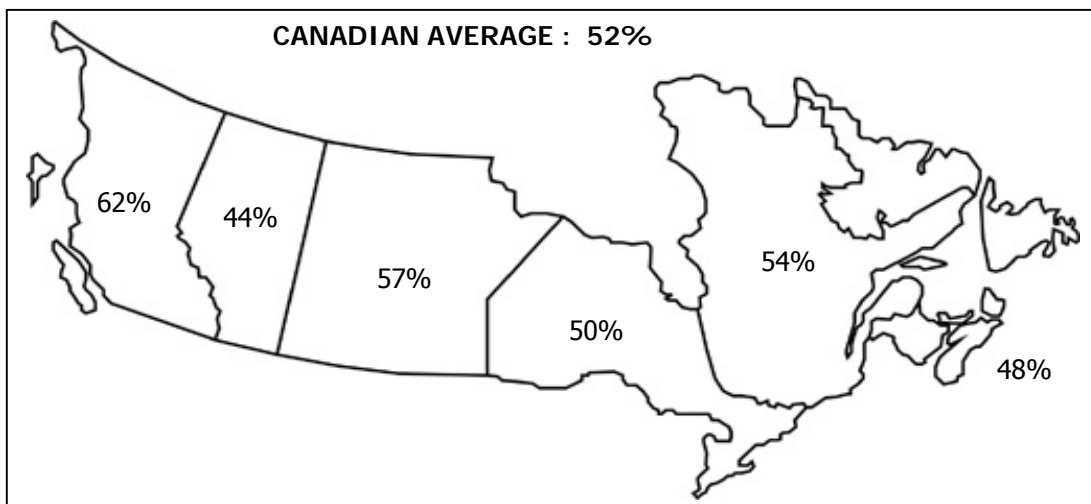
Younger (18-24 year olds) and older (65 years and over) Canadians were significantly less able (62% and 65% respectively) to name one of the rights listed under the Charter.

Question : Could you tell me what Rights you receive under the Canadian Charter of Rights?

n=1501			
Freedom of expression	27%	Right to security	3%
Freedom of opinion	12%	Protection of linguistic rights	3%
Right to speak his/her language	12%	Freedom of association	3%
Freedom of religion	12%	Right to protect confidential information	3%
Legal rights	9%	Freedom of information	2%
Right to life	7%	Freedom to choose one's sexual orientation	2%
Political rights	6%	Other	5%
Right to equality	6%	Don't know / Can't name any	52%
Economic and social rights	5%	Refusal	1%

Note : The total can exceed 100% since the respondents could name several rights.

Proportion of Canadians who were unable to name any of the rights contained in the Canadian Charter of Rights



2.2 Of all the forms of discrimination prohibited by the Charter, race is the most widely recognised

More than half of Canadians (54%) spontaneously mentioned race or colour as being one of the types of discrimination prohibited by the Charter of Rights. Other forms of discrimination mentioned were as follows: religious discrimination (32%), sexual discrimination (30%) discrimination towards sexual orientation (22%).

Paradoxically, although only 6% of Quebecers mentioned the right to speak one's language as a fundamental right guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights, they were the most numerous (11%) in mentioning language as a reason for discrimination.

Question : Could you tell me which forms of discrimination are forbidden under the Canadian Charter of Rights?
Discrimination based on ...

n=1501	
Race or colour	54%
Religion	32%
Gender	30%
Sexual orientation	22%
Age	19%
National or ethnic origin/culture	17%
Disability, incapacity	12%
Language	5%
Social conditions/level of education	3%
Pregnancy	2%
Civil status / children	2%
Criminal conviction	1%
Sexual harassment	1%
Other	3%
Don't know/Can't name any	35%
Refusal	1%

Note : The total could exceed 100%, since respondents were given the opportunity to name several reasons for discrimination.

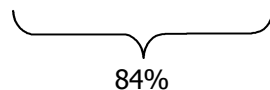
2.3 The majority of Canadians feel that the Canadian Charter is generally respected

84% of Canadians feel that human rights are respected in comparison to 12% who believe the contrary and 3% who have no opinion on the subject.

More Ontarians (38%) think that human rights are generally respected compared to Quebecers who are more likely (18%) to feel that human rights are not always well respected.

Question : Do you think human rights in Canada are generally VERY WELL RESPECTED, SOMEWHAT RESPECTED, NOT VERY WELL RESPECTED or NOT AT ALL RESPECTED?

n=1501	Very well respected	Somewhat well respected	Not very well respected	Not at all respected	Don't know
Atlantic Provinces	31%	56%	9%	1%	3%
Quebec	19%	57%	18%	4%	2%
Ontario	38%	49%	9%	1%	2%
Prairies	26%	62%	5%	3%	4%
Alberta	37%	48%	7%	2%	4%
British Columbia	33%	56%	7%	1%	3%
Canada	31%	53%	10%	2%	3%



84%

2.4 Within the context of September 11th, 2001, the majority of Canadians would agree with certain laws or articles relating to security infringing on the Charter of Rights

The majority of Canadians (53%) agree that some Canadian laws and articles relating to security could infringe on the Charter if it were within the context of the September 11th terrorist attack. However, 32% of Canadians are against this deviation from the Charter.

It should be mentioned that a separate Leger Marketing study conducted in October 2001 showed that since September 11th, 46% of Canadians felt that the security measures in place at the Canadian border were a happy compromise between the security of Canadians and the respect of human rights of Canadian immigrants. At this time, only 4% felt the measures undertaken by Canada went too far.

Question : Following the September 11th terrorist attacks would you agree with certain Canadian laws and articles relating to security infringing on the Charter of Rights?

n=1501	YES	NO	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	46%	34%	20%
Quebec	56%	36%	8%
Ontario	55%	28%	17%
Prairies	48%	37%	15%
Alberta	56%	27%	17%
British Columbia	46%	33%	20%
Canada	53%	32%	15%

2.5 Canada should not maintain commercial or diplomatic relations with countries that do not respect fundamental human rights

Nearly two thirds of Canadians (63%) expressed their disagreement with Canada maintaining commercial or diplomatic relations with countries that do not respect fundamental human rights. In comparison, 28% have no objection.

Women (66%), Francophones (78%), Quebeckers (77%), and those with a high school education (70%) are more likely to be opposed.

Question : Do you think Canada should maintain commercial or diplomatic relations with countries that do not respect fundamental human rights ?

n=1501	Yes	No	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	32%	57%	11%
Quebec	21%	77%	3%
Ontario	31%	58%	11%
Prairies	33%	59%	8%
Alberta	32%	58%	10%
British Columbia	28%	59%	13%
Canada	28%	63%	9%

3.0 Methodology

This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1501 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal and Winnipeg call centres between October 3 and October 6, 2002. Up to ten call-backs 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 1501 respondents is of ± 2.5 , 19 times out of 20.