

Canadians and their Tolerance towards Homosexuality



Report



507, place d'Armes, bureau 700,
Montréal, Québec H2Y 2W8
Téléphone : 514-982-2464
Télécopieur : 514-987-1960
Courriel : www.legermarketing.com

1. Study Highlights

- Canadians are divided on the issue of same-sex marriages.

Question: *Are you in favour or not of same-sex marriages?*

N=1511	In favour	Not in favour	Don't know/Refusal
Canada	43%	47%	9%

- Canadians are divided when it comes to same-sex couples adopting children.

Question: *Are you in favour or not with same-sex couples adopting children?*

N=1511	In favour	Not in favour	Don't know/Refusal
Canada	46%	47%	8%

- Canadians feel that homosexuals should have the same rights as heterosexuals.

Question: *Do you think homosexuals should have the same rights as heterosexuals?*

N=1511	Yes	No	Don't know/Refusal
Canada	74%	20%	6%

- Being homophobic is as bad as being racist or anti-Semitic.

Question: *Personally, do you think being homophobic is...?*

N=1511	...worse than being racist or anti-Semitic	...as bad as being racist or anti-Semitic	...not as bad as being racist or anti-Semitic	Don't know / Refusal
Canada	5%	58%	24%	14%

- Canadians agree that homophobic insults or name calling should be as severely reprimanded as racist or anti-Semitic insults.

Question: *Would you be TOTALLY IN FAVOUR, SOMEWHAT IN FAVOUR, SOMEWHAT OPPOSED or TOTALLY OPPOSED to insults or homophobic name calling being as severely reprimanded as racist or anti-Semitic insults?*

N=1511	In favour	Opposed	Don't know/Refusal
Canada	58%	28%	14%

2. Results

2.1 Canadians are divided on the issue of same-sex marriage

Though 43% of Canadians say they are in favour of same-sex marriages, 47% say they are not.

Quebec (51%) has the strongest proportion of Canadians in favour of same-sex marriages. Conversely, 56% of Albertans are against it.

Moreover, there are proportionately more men (51%), allophones (60%), respondents 55 years of age and older (58%) and retirees (63%) who declare being against same-sex marriage.

Question: *Are you in favour or not of same-sex marriages?*

N=1511	In favour	Not in favour	Don't know/Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	42%	48%	11%
Quebec	51%	40%	9%
Ontario	40%	49%	11%
Prairies	38%	50%	12%
Alberta	36%	56%	8%
British Columbia	47%	43%	10%
Canada	43%	47%	9%

2.2 Canadians are divided when it comes to same-sex couples adopting children

Though approximately half (46%) of Canadians say they are in favour of same-sex couples adopting children, the other half (47%) are not.

This time the strongest proportion of Canadians in favour of same-sex couples adopting children can be found in British Columbia (55%).

Once again, there are proportionately more men (51%), allophones (60%), respondents 55 years of age and older (59%) and retirees (60%) who declare being against same-sex couples adopting children.

Question: *Are you in favour or not with same-sex couples adopting children?*

N=1511	In favour	Not in favour	Don't know/Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	45%	48%	7%
Quebec	45%	47%	7%
Ontario	44%	47%	10%
Prairies	44%	49%	6%
Alberta	41%	57%	2%
British Columbia	55%	37%	8%
Canada	46%	47%	8%

2.3 Close to 3 out of 4 Canadians feel homosexuals should have the same rights as heterosexuals

Three-quarters of Canadians (74%) feel that homosexuals should have the same rights as heterosexuals. This opinion is mainly shared among people of 44 years old or less (82%), respondents with a gross annual household income of \$80,000 and over, professionals (81%), students (86%) and also respondents with a university degree (82%).

Only 6% of Canadians have no opinion on the subject.

Question: *Do you think homosexuals should have the same rights as heterosexuals?*

N=1511	Yes	No	Don't know/Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	76%	17%	8%
Quebec	77%	18%	6%
Ontario	71%	23%	6%
Prairies	81%	14%	6%
Alberta	70%	23%	7%
British Columbia	78%	18%	5%
Canada	74%	20%	6%

2.4 Being homophobic is as bad as being racist or anti-Semitic

58% of Canadians agree that being homophobic is as bad as being racist or anti-Semitic. However, 24% believe that racism and anti-Semitism are worse than homophobia and 5% are of the opposite view.

There are more young people (69%), Canadians with gross annual household income of \$80,000 and over (69%), professionals (71%), students (71%) and those with a college (64%) or university (69%) education who share this opinion.

Question: *Personally, do you think being homophobic is...*

N=1511	...worse than being racist or anti-Semitic	...as bad as being racist or anti-Semitic	...not as bad as being racist or anti-Semitic	Don't know/Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	4%	53%	28%	15%
Quebec	3%	58%	26%	12%
Ontario	6%	59%	23%	12%
Prairies	4%	59%	20%	16%
Alberta	4%	47%	27%	22%
British Columbia	5%	65%	18%	12%
Canada	5%	58%	24%	14%

2.5 Canadians agree that homophobic insults or name calling should be as severely reprimanded as racist or anti-Semitic insults.

More than half (58%) of Canadians are in favour of reprimanding homophobic insults or name calling as severely as racist or anti-Semitic insults.

Respondents in Quebec are more in favour of reprimanding homophobic insults in the same way as racist or anti-Semitic insults, whereas Ontarians are more opposed to this idea (33%).

However, 14% of Canadians have no opinion on the subject.

Question: *Would you be TOTALLY IN FAVOUR, SOMEWHAT IN FAVOUR, SOMEWHAT OPPOSED or TOTALLY OPPOSED to insults or homophobic name calling being as severely reprimanded as racist or anti-Semitic insults?*

N=1511	In favour	Opposed	Don't know/Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	52%	32%	15%
Quebec	75%	15%	10%
Ontario	52%	33%	15%
Prairies	52%	33%	14%
Alberta	54%	29%	17%
British Columbia	51%	27%	21%
Canada	58%	28%	14%

3. Methodology

This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1511 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal and Winnipeg call centres between April 6 and April 11, 2004. 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 1511 respondents is of ± 2.6 , 19 times out of 20.