

CANADIAN PRESS / LEGER MARKETING

**Canadians
and Immigration**

Report



1.0 Study Findings

- More than half of Canadians believe that Canada accepts too many immigrants.

Question: *In your opinion, does Canada accept TOO MANY or NOT ENOUGH immigrants?*

n=1511	Too many	Not enough	Don't know/Refusal
Canada	54%	26%	20%

- The economic and cultural contribution of immigrants.

Question: *In your opinion, do immigrants make....?*

n=1511	... an economic contribution to Canada	...a cultural contribution to Canada
Canada	75%	84%

- Four Canadians out of ten think that the Canadian Government should be less open to political refugees.

Question: *Do you think that the Canadian Government should be MORE OPEN, LESS OPEN or JUST AS OPEN AS IT IS NOW with regard to political refugees?*

n=1511	More open	Less open	Just as open as it is now	Don't know/Refusal
Canada	24%	41%	29%	6%

- Canadians are more open to immigrants from Western Europe than from Arab countries.

Question: *Are you more favourable to the immigration of people from...?* (Percentages correspond to "yes" responses)

n=1511	TOTAL
... Western Europe	61%
... Eastern Europe	56%
... Latin America	53%
... Asia	50%
... Black Africa	50%
... North Africa	47%
... Arab countries	34%
None	17%

➤ A majority of grandparents of Canadians were born in a country other than Canada.

n=1511	Respondents born in a country other than Canada	Parents born in a country other than Canada	Grandparents born in a country other than Canada
Canada	14%	35%	56%

2.0 Results

2.1 More than Half of Canadians Believe that Canada Accepts too Many Immigrants

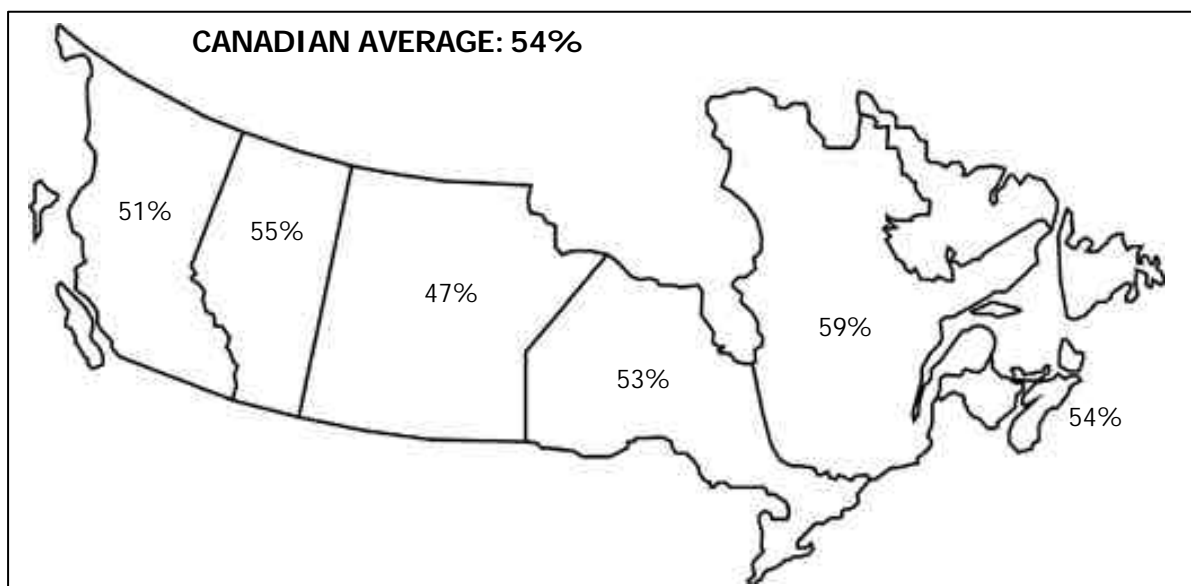
According to 53.9% of the Canadian population, Canada accepts too many immigrants. 26.1% of Canadians did not believe this to be the case and 20.0% did not share their opinion in this respect.

57.3% of women, 61.9% of Francophones, 58.8% of Quebecers, 60.1% of those with an income under \$40,000, 61.5% of manual workers, 64.8% of the unemployed and 66.6% of those with lower levels of schooling were more likely to be opposed to immigration.

Question: *In your opinion, does Canada accept TOO MANY or NOT ENOUGH immigrants?*

n=1511	Too many	Not enough	Don't know/Refusal
Atlantic provinces	54%	23%	23%
Quebec	59%	29%	12%
Ontario	53%	27%	21%
Prairies	47%	30%	23%
Alberta	55%	19%	26%
British Columbia	51%	24%	25%
Canada	54%	26%	20%

Proportion of Canadians who believe that Canada accepts too many immigrants



2.2 The Economic and Cultural Contribution of Immigrants

Regardless of the fact that a majority of Canadians think that the Government of Canada should accept less immigrants, 83.6% of them believe that immigrants make a cultural contribution to the country and 75.0% feel that immigrants make an economic contribution.

85.2% of Anglophones versus 79.8% of Francophones recognized the cultural contribution of immigrants while 77.1% of Anglophones versus 66.9% of Francophones recognized their economic contribution. It was also noted that 81.3% of men were convinced that immigrants make an economic contribution, an opinion shared by 69.1% of women.

Question: *In your opinion, do immigrants make... ?*

n=1511	... an economic contribution to Canada	...a cultural contribution to Canada
Mother tongue: French	67%	80%
Mother tongue: English	77%	85%
Mother tongue: Other	79%	82%
Canada	75%	84%

2.3 Four Canadians out of Ten Believe that the Government of Canada Should be Less Open to Political Refugees

41.1% of Canadians think that the Government of Canada should be less open with regard to political refugees, while 24.0% would like Canada to be more open and 29.4% find that the current level of openness should remain as it is.

Question: *Do you think that the Canadian Government should be MORE OPEN, LESS OPEN or JUST AS OPEN AS IT IS NOW with regard to political refugees?*

n=1511	More open	Less open	Just as open as it is now	Don't know/Refusal
Atlantic provinces	28%	39%	29%	4%
Quebec	16%	47%	35%	2%
Ontario	24%	43%	27%	7%
Prairies	31%	32%	30%	7%
Alberta	27%	41%	24%	9%
British Columbia	32%	33%	31%	5%
Canada	24%	41%	29%	6%

2.4 Canadians are Much More Open to Immigrants from Western Europe than from Arab Countries

A proportion of 61.1% of Canadians mentioned being favourable to immigrants from Western Europe while this rate falls to 34.4% when it comes to immigrants from Arab countries. The other groups of immigrants were favoured in the following order: Eastern Europe (56.2%), Latin America (52.9%), Asia (49.9%), Black Africa (49.8%) and North Africa (47.2%).

Quebeckers are less open to immigration but more open when it comes to the origin of immigrants. Although Quebeckers, more than residents of other provinces, felt that Canada accepts too many immigrants, they are much more open when it comes to the origin of immigrants. This can be seen in the table below.

Question: *Are you more favourable to the immigration of people from... ?* (Percentages correspond to "yes" responses)

	TOTAL	Atlantic provinces	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	Alberta	British Columbia
... Western Europe	61%	47%	77%	55%	57%	67%	56%
... Eastern Europe	56%	43%	71%	52%	49%	60%	51%
... Latin America	53%	36%	72%	45%	49%	57%	50%
... Asia	50%	36%	67%	44%	48%	51%	45%
... Black Africa	50%	35%	67%	43%	52%	56%	42%
... North Africa	47%	35%	64%	40%	47%	50%	44%
... Arab countries	34%	28%	43%	32%	32%	30%	34%
None	17%	19%	10%	21%	23%	14%	18%

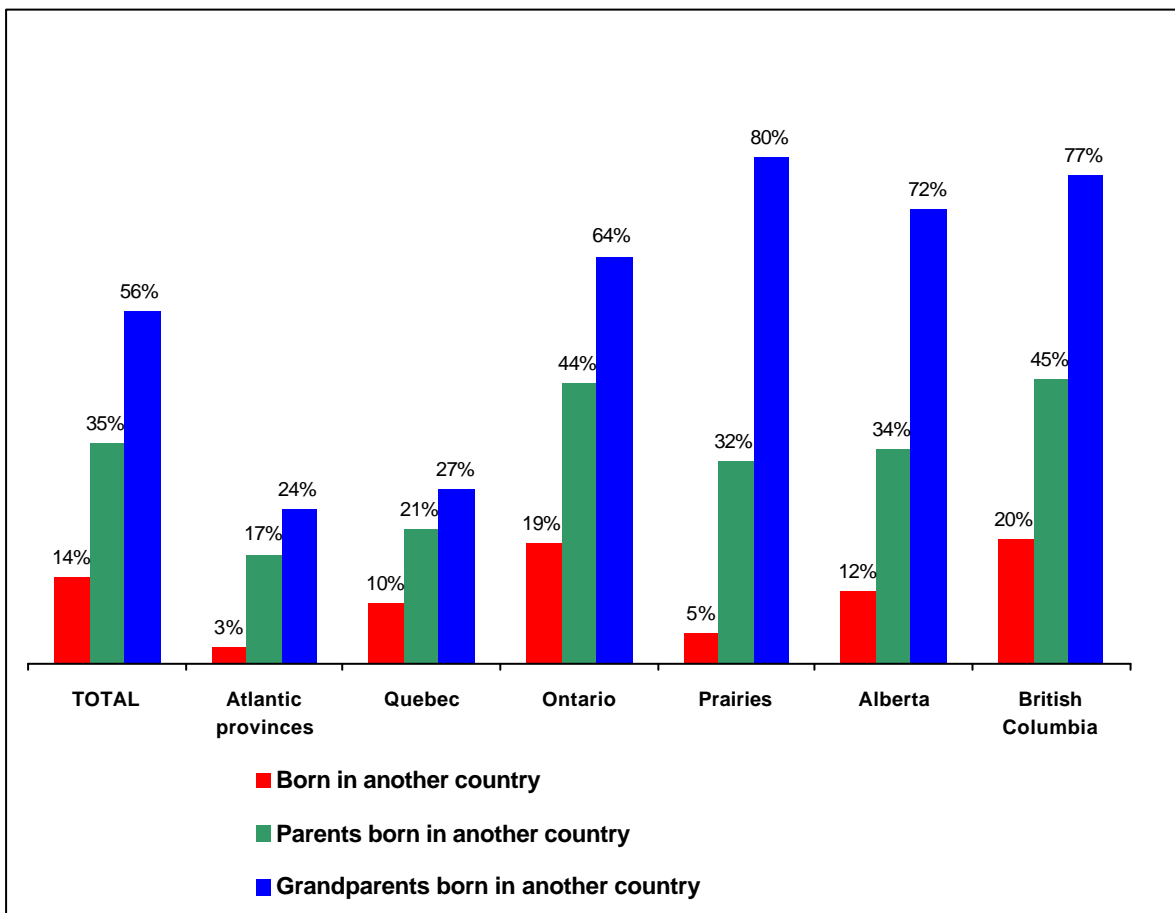
Note: The significant differences that are **greater** are in bold and the significant differences that are *inferior* are in italics.

2.5 A Majority of Grandparents of Canadians Were Born in a Country Other than Canada

55.7% of Canadians have at least one grandparent who was born in a country other than Canada and 34.7% have at least one parent who was born elsewhere. In addition, 13.7% of the current Canadian population mentioned being born outside of the country.

We find the lowest number of people who have at least one grandparent born in another country in the Atlantic provinces (24.3%) and Quebec (27.4%). However, 79.8% of Prairie residents have at least one grandparent born elsewhere.

16.1% of Francophones have at least one grandparent who was born in another country versus 62.6% of Anglophones. When it comes to the parents of Francophones, 12.9% of them were born outside of Canada while 32.2% of parents of Anglophones were born elsewhere.



3.0 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 February 5 and February 9, 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 1511 respondents is of $\pm 2.6\%$, 19 times out of 20.