



Just How Welcoming is Canada?

Attachment, Immigration, Diversity
and Discrimination: A report on the
State of Canadian Public Opinion

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Introduction

- The Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the Association for Canadian Studies have generated a number of reports that aim at “Capturing the Pulse of the nation” on issues of racism and discrimination.
- This report focuses on perceptions of immigrants and selected communities, attachment to selected markers of identity, issues around diversity, racism and hate speech.
- This year a particular focus of the report is on the factors that underlie negative sentiment towards immigrants and concerns over the numbers of immigrants.
- Finally a companion report looks at the issue of Canadian opinion regarding restrictions on religious signs in the public domain.



Methodology

- Leger Marketing consulted 1519 Canadians across the country for the Canadian Institute for Identities and Migration during the week of November 12, 2018 with a probabilistic margin of error of 3.5 points 19 times out of 20.
- The sample included some 403 Quebecers with 86 surveyed in English and 317 in French.



ATTACHMENT



Attachment to Canada tops attachment to all other identity markers except in Quebec

- ▶ 89% of Canadians are very or somewhat attached to Canada, over all the other categories asked
 - 84% attached to their province
 - 80% to their city or town
 - 82% to their language
 - 67% to their ethnicity
 - Only 39% to their religion

- ▶ Quebec is the only province where this isn't so.
 - 86% attached to their province
 - 83% to their city or town
 - 85% to their language
 - 81% to Canada
 - 33% to their religion



Attachment to Canada tops attachment to all other identity markers except in Quebec

Very and Somewhat attached to the following	Total	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man / Sask	Alberta	BC
Canada	89%	94%	81%	93%	89%	91%	87%
Province	84%	84%	86%	83%	80%	80%	86%
City or Town	80%	84%	83%	79%	79%	72%	81%
Language	82%	79%	85%	83%	77%	82%	77%
Ethnicity	67%	72%	66%	67%	68%	72%	62%
Religion	39%	35%	33%	42%	45%	40%	39%



Immigration and Diversity



Positive opinion of Muslims rises somewhat over the past year; opinion of immigrants remains stable

Net Positive OPINION OF Selected Groups 2013-2018

Aboriginals	2013	60%
	2017 (march)	73%
	2018 (november)	64%
Muslims	2013	50%
	2017 (march)	55%
	2018 (november)	61%
Jews	2013	70%
	2017 (march)	74%
	2018 (november)	73%
Immigrants	2013	75%
	2017 (march)	72%
	2018 (november)	73%



Francophones somewhat more likely to hold negative views about immigrants

View of Immigrants				
	Total	French	English	Other
NET POSITIVE	73%	69%	72%	81%
Very positive	27%	18%	27%	37%
Somewhat positive	46%	52%	45%	44%
NET NEGATIVE	17%	22%	19%	11%
Somewhat negative	13%	18%	14%	8%
Very negative	4%	4%	4%	3%
I don't know	7%	6%	8%	5%
I prefer not to answer	2%	2%	2%	2%



Over four in ten Canadians say they are worried about the numbers of immigrants; approximately one in seven are very worried; slight majority of Quebecers worried about the number of immigrants

- ▶ 43% of Canadians either “somewhat worried” or “very worried” about the number of immigrants already in Canada
- ▶ This goes up to 51% for those in Quebec.
- ▶ A total of 1 in 4 of those surveyed in Manitoba and Saskatchewan reported being “very worried” about the number of immigrants.



Over four in ten Canadians say they are worried about the numbers of immigrants; approximately one in seven are very worried; slight majority of Quebecers worried about the number of immigrants

...the numbers of immigrants in Canada

	Total	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man / Sask	Alberta	BC
NET WORRIED	43%	38%	51%	40%	43%	45%	40%
Very worried	14%	8%	16%	13%	24%	16%	12%
Somewhat worried	29%	30%	34%	27%	19%	29%	27%
NET NOT WORRIED	55%	61%	49%	58%	54%	52%	57%
Not very worried	33%	31%	34%	37%	29%	22%	33%
Not worried at all	22%	31%	14%	21%	24%	30%	24%
I prefer not to answer	2%	0%	1%	2%	3%	3%	3%



Just under three in ten Canadians express concern about degree of ethnic and religious diversity; Francophones most likely to express such concern

	...the degree of ethnic and religious diversity in your province			
	Total	French	English	Other
NET WORRIED	31%	44%	29%	24%
Very worried	8%	13%	9%	4%
Somewhat worried	23%	31%	21%	20%
NET NOT WORRIED	66%	55%	68%	73%
Not very worried	40%	40%	40%	38%
Not worried at all	27%	16%	28%	34%
I prefer not to answer	3%	1%	2%	3%



Nearly two-thirds of Canadians have positive views of Canadian Multicultural Policy

	Views on Canadian Multicultural Policy			
	Total	French	English	Other
NET POSITIVE	64%	54%	64%	74%
Very positive	22%	10%	20%	40%
Somewhat positive	41%	43%	44%	34%
NET NEGATIVE	22%	30%	22%	15%
Somewhat negative	16%	21%	15%	12%
Very negative	6%	9%	6%	4%
I don't know	12%	13%	12%	9%
I prefer not to answer	2%	3%	2%	2%



One third of Canadians agree that society is threatened by the influx of non-Christian immigrants; Over four in ten Francophones express such concern

Our society is threatened by the influx of non-Christian immigrants to Canada

	Total	French	English	Other
NET AGREE	33%	41%	33%	26%
Strongly agree	10%	14%	10%	7%
Somewhat agree	23%	28%	23%	19%
NET DISAGREE	54%	49%	54%	60%
Somewhat disagree	25%	30%	25%	24%
Strongly disagree	29%	19%	29%	36%
I don't know	11%	9%	11%	12%
I prefer not to answer	2%	1%	2%	2%



Francophones report less contact than non-Francophones with Jews and Indigenous Peoples

Contact by mother tongue NET OFTEN+OCCASIONALLY with	French	English	Other
Black People	69%	80%	74%
Jews	27%	61%	54%
Muslims	40%	60%	60%
Indigenous Peoples	35%	65%	40%
LGBTQ+	45%	62%	45%



Francophones most likely to report that most friends share their cultural background

Most of my friends share the same cultural background as me				
	Total	French	English	Other
NET AGREE	57%	70%	59%	40%
Strongly agree	17%	23%	17%	14%
Somewhat agree	40%	48%	42%	27%
NET DISAGREE	37%	24%	35%	53%
Somewhat disagree	26%	20%	25%	35%
Strongly disagree	10%	4%	10%	19%
I don't know	5%	5%	5%	5%
I prefer not to answer	2%	1%	2%	1%



WHAT UNDERLIES CONCERNS OVER NUMBERS AND NEGATIVE VIEW OF IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA?



Concern over degree of diversity and threat of non-Christian immigrants biggest drivers of concern over number of immigrants

	the numbers of immigrants in Canada		
	Very worried	Not worried at all	Difference
...the degree of ethnic and religious diversity in your province	80	4	76
Our society is threatened by the influx of non-Christian immigrants to Canada	74	10	64
Immigrants should be encouraged to give up their customs and traditions and become more like the majority	79	16	63
Positive view of Muslims	40	88	48
worried at all about... - ...personally losing your language and culture	66	18	48



View of immigrants and multicultural policy least likely to drive concerns about numbers of immigrants

	the numbers of immigrants in Canada		
	Very worried	Not worried at all	Difference
Agree there is an irreconcilable conflict between Western societies and the Islamic faith in the world	75	31	44
Positive view of Canadian multicultural policy	41	79	38
Positive view of immigrants	51	87	36



Negative view of immigrants possibly driven by views of Muslims and multiculturalism

	Views of immigrants in Canada		
	Very Positive	Very Negative	Difference
Positive view of Muslims	82	10	72
Positive view of Canadian multicultural policy	80	18	62
Concern over number of immigrants	22	80	58
...the degree of ethnic and religious diversity in your province	19	72	53
worried at all about... - ...personally losing your language and culture	24	61	37



Views on conflict between west and Islam and assimilation less likely to drive negative views towards immigrants

	Very Positive	Very Negative	Difference
Our society is threatened by the influx of non-Christian immigrants to Canada	22	59	37
Immigrants should be encouraged to give up their customs and traditions and become more like the majority	26	57	31
Agree there is an irreconcilable conflict between Western societies and the Islamic faith in the world	43	58	15



Canadians far more likely to believe historic treatment of Aboriginals was negative but far less likely to believe that was the case for Immigrants, Jews and Black People

NET Negative	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	French	English	Other
Canada's historic treatment of Jews	32%	26%	26%	41%	29%	34%	29%
Of aboriginals	61%	56%	58%	68%	69%	61%	54%
Of Black People	33%	33%	27%	37%	31%	34%	31%
Of immigrants	30%	32%	26%	33%	27%	33%	27%



Canadians divided over feeling responsible when a member of their community commits a racist act

- ▶ In general, only about 1 in 2 people surveyed agreed with the statement “I feel some responsibility when someone from the same (religious, language or ethnic) community as I commits a racist act.”
- ▶ However, only 13% of those surveyed claimed to “strongly agree” with this statement, while ¼ claimed to “strongly disagree”
- ▶ Agreement with this statement was noticeably lower in the Atlantic Provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and Alberta



Racism and Hate Speech



We're most likely to hear racist comments about Muslims and immigrants from friends and family members

	NET OFTEN+OCCASIONALLY ...heard racist comments about from friends or family members						
	Total	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man / Sask	Alberta	British Columbia
Immigrants	40%	37%	51%	38%	50%	33%	34%
Black people	31%	28%	43%	29%	29%	21%	24%
Jews	21%	18%	31%	18%	27%	15%	17%
Muslims	42%	33%	58%	37%	49%	42%	31%



Canadians between the age of 18 and 24 most likely to have seen racist comments in social media

...seen racist comments in social media							
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
NET OFTEN+OCCASIONALLY	60%	81%	68%	65%	59%	55%	42%
Often	25%	41%	35%	27%	22%	16%	17%
Occasionally	35%	40%	33%	39%	37%	39%	25%
NET RARELY+NEVER	35%	18%	28%	32%	34%	40%	49%
Rarely	22%	12%	18%	22%	21%	25%	28%
Never	13%	6%	9%	10%	13%	15%	21%
I don't know	4%	1%	3%	2%	4%	5%	9%
I prefer not to answer	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%	0%	0%



Three in four Canadians agree that Government should prevent people from engaging in hate speech in public

...seen racist comments in social media							
	Total	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man / Sask	Alberta	BC
NET OFTEN+OCCASIONALLY	60%	55%	60%	61%	64%	60%	56%
Often	25%	24%	28%	22%	31%	27%	22%
Occasionally	35%	30%	32%	39%	33%	32%	35%
NET RARELY+NEVER	35%	41%	34%	35%	33%	31%	39%
Rarely	22%	22%	21%	24%	18%	22%	20%
Never	13%	20%	12%	12%	15%	10%	18%
I don't know	4%	2%	6%	3%	2%	7%	3%
I prefer not to answer	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	2%



Majority of Canadians disagree that banning hate speech is a threat to free speech

	Government should prevent people from engaging in hate speech against certain groups in public						
	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man / Sask	Alberta	BC
NET AGREE	73%	74%	74%	74%	63%	65%	80%
Strongly agree	41%	45%	43%	42%	37%	31%	40%
Somewhat agree	33%	29%	32%	32%	26%	34%	40%
NET DISAGREE	18%	11%	18%	18%	27%	23%	11%
Somewhat disagree	12%	6%	14%	11%	17%	18%	7%
Strongly disagree	6%	5%	5%	7%	10%	5%	4%
I don't know	7%	15%	5%	5%	7%	8%	7%
I prefer not to answer	2%	0%	3%	2%	3%	4%	1%



Eight in ten Canadians agree that hate speech is a form of violence

	Banning hate speech is a threat to free speech						
	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man / Sask	Alberta	BC
NET AGREE	40%	39%	38%	41%	37%	36%	43%
Strongly agree	15%	10%	18%	15%	13%	11%	17%
Somewhat agree	25%	29%	20%	26%	24%	25%	26%
NET DISAGREE	52%	48%	57%	50%	53%	52%	49%
Somewhat disagree	25%	18%	31%	23%	26%	26%	25%
Strongly disagree	27%	30%	26%	27%	27%	26%	24%
I don't know	7%	13%	4%	7%	7%	7%	7%
I prefer not to answer	2%	0%	1%	2%	2%	5%	1%



Majority agree with punitive measures for racist statements from public speakers and executives

NET AGREE	Canada	English	French	Other
A business executive should be fired from their job if they've said to some friends that black people are genetically inferior to whites.	71%	73%	69%	74%
A speaker who says the Holocaust did not occur should not be allowed to publicly address university students.	67%	71%	66%	67%
A speaker who says Muslim immigrants should be banned from entering the country shouldn't be allowed to publicly address university students.	54%	55%	53%	58%



Canadians somewhat more likely to think that hate groups are getting more attention than actually being a more serious threat

In recent years, do you think hate groups have become a more serious threat, or is there just more attention being paid to these groups than before?							
	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man / Sask	Alberta	BC
More serious threat	41%	37%	43%	41%	40%	35%	43%
More attention being paid	45%	47%	48%	43%	45%	48%	41%
I don't know	13%	16%	8%	15%	13%	16%	15%
I prefer not to answer	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%



Case Study

Companion report

What Drives Support for Prohibiting Religious Signs: Secularist sentiment is not a significant factor in support by Quebecers or other Canadians for such prohibitions



Introduction

- Quebecers continue to support banning religious signs for people in positions of authority and for public school teachers.
- But few studies look at the underlying reasons behind such support
- We often accept the argument that it was a function of rejection or detachment from religion. But no data supports this explanation.
- Data backs the correlation that support for religious symbol ban is far more affected by concerns about diversity and attitudes toward Islam and Muslims.
- That is not to say that there are no Quebecers and other Canadians genuinely motivated by a preoccupation with organized religion but that is not the reason why most Quebecers support such bans



Methodology

- Leger Marketing consulted 1519 Canadians across the country for the Canadian Institute for Identities and Migration during the week of November 12, 2018 with a probabilistic margin of error of 3.5 points 19 times out of 20.
- The sample included some 403 Quebecers with 86 surveyed in English and 317 in French.



Quebecers least likely to allow religious signs for people in positions of authority

Judges, correctional officers and police officers should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs

	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
NET AGREE	46%	44%	48%	66%	55%	51%	37%	37%	40%
NET DISAGREE	44%	49%	40%	25%	32%	39%	54%	50%	56%
I don't know	8%	6%	10%	8%	11%	8%	7%	10%	4%



Quebecers least likely to allow religious signs for public school teachers

Judges, correctional officers and police officers should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs								
	English	French	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man / Sask	Alberta	BC
NET AGREE	53%	18%	60%	24%	51%	45%	47%	62%
NET DISAGREE	36%	78%	26%	71%	37%	47%	39%	31%
I don't know	9%	4%	14%	4%	10%	7%	7%	6%
I prefer not to answer	2%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	6%	1%



Quebecers most likely to support a law banning persons in positions of authority including teachers from wearing religious symbols

I would support a law banning judges, teachers, police officers and correctional officers from wearing religious symbols even if it meant firing such individuals from their jobs

	English	French	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man / Sask	Alberta	BC
NET AGREE	30%	63%	24%	58%	28%	39%	29%	35%
NET DISAGREE	57%	31%	61%	34%	59%	47%	58%	54%
I don't know	10%	7%	15%	6%	11%	11%	6%	8%
I prefer not to answer	3%	0%	0%	2%	2%	3%	6%	3%



WHAT UNDERLIES THESE OPINIONS?



The Idea that heightened secularism explains desire for prohibiting religious symbols is **NOT** supported by data analysis



Degree of Religious Attachment not as important as suggested by Quebec observers

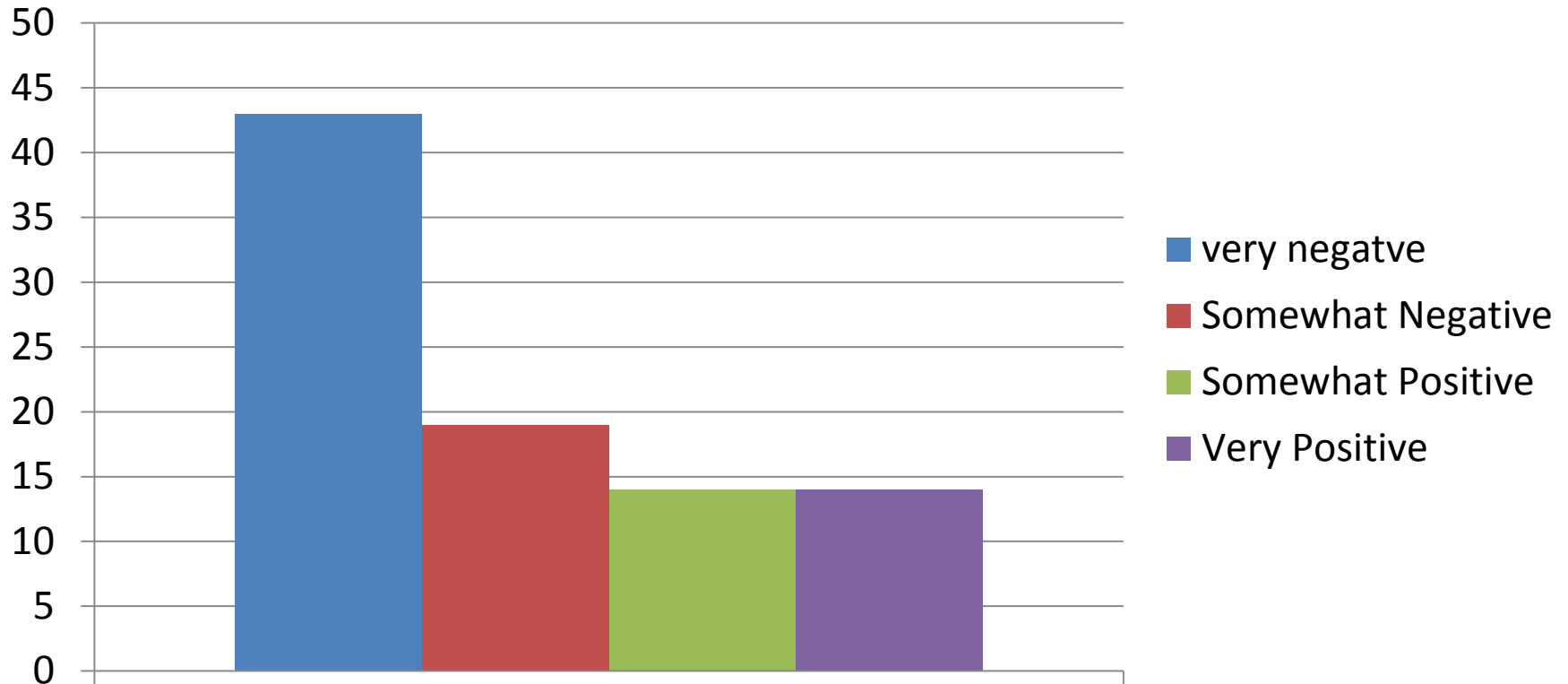
	Religious Group			
French	Very attached	Somewhat attached	Not very attached	Not attached at all
I would support a law banning judges, teachers, police officers and correctional officers from wearing religious symbols even if it meant firing such individuals from their jobs	54.7%	75%	64.3%	60.5%
Public school teachers should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs	19.6%	18.9%	21.8%	28.1%
Judges, correctional officers and police officers should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs	23.8%	7.8%	18.4%	18.7%



Those with more negative sentiment towards Muslims the more you support legislation banning religious signs

		Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative opinion of the following? - Muslims			
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very Negative
I would support a law banning judges, teachers, police officers and correctional officers from wearing religious symbols even if it meant firing such individuals from their jobs	Strongly agree	14.3%	14.5%	19.1%	43.0%
	Somewhat agree	11.0%	21.1%	26.3%	20.7%
	Somewhat disagree	22.0%	27.9%	25.9%	9.9%
	Strongly disagree	43.5%	29.3%	21.9%	18.2%
	I don' know	7.7%	5.6%	5.8%	5.8%
	I prefer not to answer	1.5%	1.7%	1.1%	2.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those with more negative sentiment towards Muslims the more you support legislation banning religious signs



I would support a law banning judges, teachers, police officers and correctional officers from wearing religious symbols even if it meant firing such individuals from their jobs



The less contact you have with Muslims the more you favor banning religious signs

		...had contact with Muslims			
		Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Judges, correctional officers and police officers should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs	Strongly agree	31.1%	22.3%	9.5%	9.8%
	Somewhat agree	29.4%	30.8%	28.2%	13.5%
	Somewhat disagree	18.0%	19.2%	26.0%	19.7%
	Strongly disagree	15.7%	18.0%	28.5%	44.6%
	I don' know	5.8%	8.1%	6.0%	10.4%
	I prefer not to answer		1.6%	1.8%	2.1%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

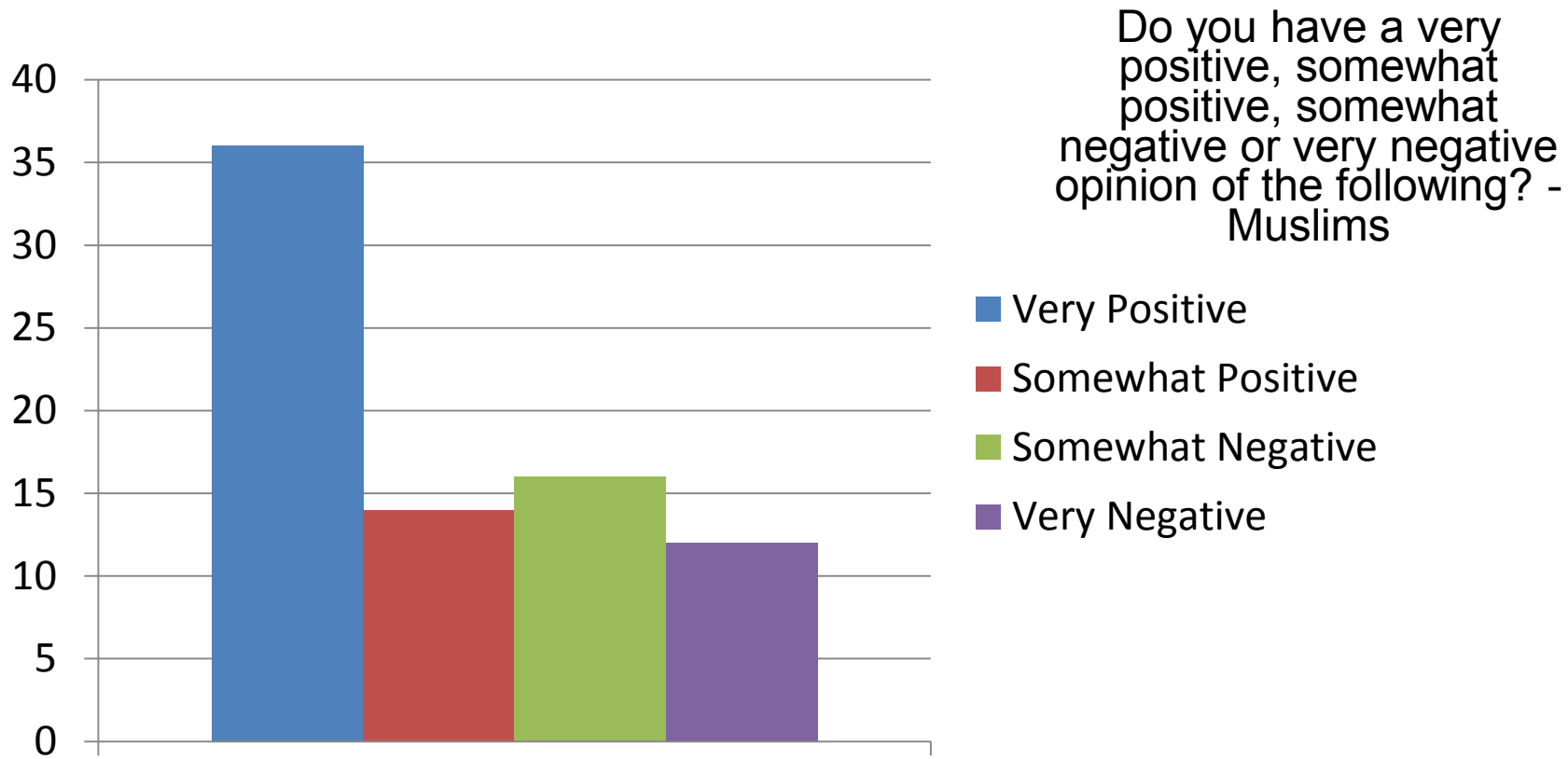


The more one has negative feelings towards Muslims the more they favor banning religious signs

		Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative opinion of the following? - Muslims			
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Judges, correctional officers and police officers should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs	Strongly agree	36.3%	14.5%	16.6%	12.5%
	Somewhat agree	31.8%	33.0%	23.5%	10.8%
	Somewhat disagree	13.4%	23.9%	26.4%	18.3%
	Strongly disagree	11.9%	20.6%	28.9%	57.5%
	I don' know	5.7%	7.0%	3.6%	0.8%
	I prefer not to answer	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%	
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0



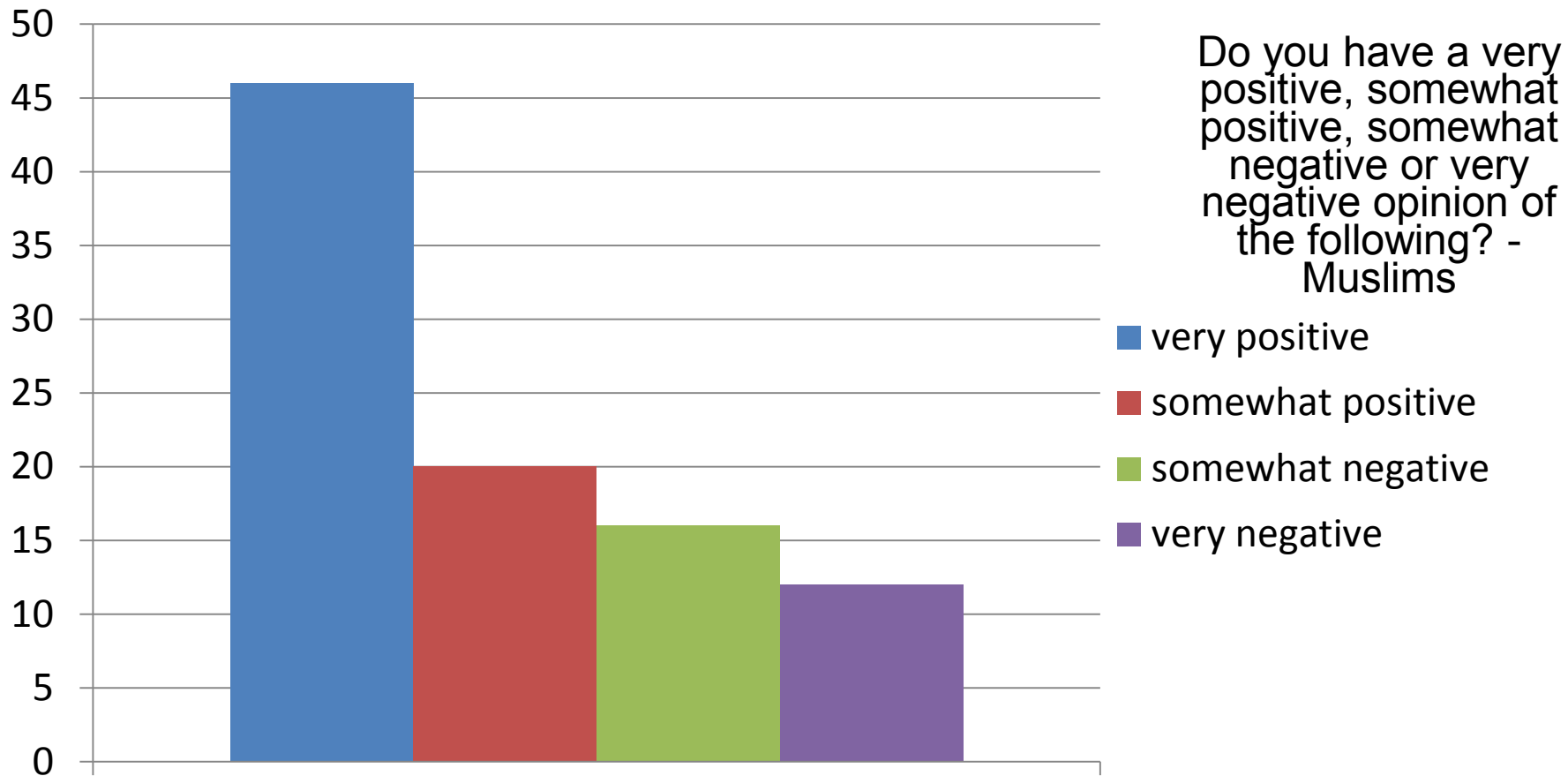
The more one has negative feelings towards Muslims the more they favor banning religious signs



Strongly Agree that **Judges, correctional officers and police officers** should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs”



The more one has negative feelings towards Muslims the more they favor banning religious signs



Strongly Agree that “**Public school teachers** should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs”



The more negative sentiment you feel towards Jews the more you favor the ban in religious signs for persons in positions of authority

		Jews		
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative
Judges, correctional officers and police officers should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs	Strongly agree	28.7%	13.7%	22.2%
	Somewhat agree	28.9%	31.0%	19.8%
	Somewhat disagree	18.4%	24.0%	22.2%
	Strongly disagree	18.6%	24.8%	32.5%
	I don' know	4.9%	5.8%	3.2%
	I prefer not to answer	0.6%	0.8%	
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



The more negative sentiment you feel towards Jews the more you favor the ban in religious signs for public school teachers

		Jews		
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative
Public school teachers should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs	Strongly agree	37.0%	16.8%	21.4%
	Somewhat agree	28.6%	34.8%	28.6%
	Somewhat disagree	14.4%	19.8%	17.5%
	Strongly disagree	14.6%	22.4%	31.0%
	I don' know	4.7%	5.3%	1.6%
	I prefer not to answer	0.6%	1.0%	
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



The more negative sentiment you feel towards immigrants the more you favor the ban in religious signs for persons in positions of authority

		Immigrants			
		Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Judges, correctional officers and police officers should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs	Strongly agree	32.1%	14.7%	11.2%	23.7%
	Somewhat agree	30.0%	30.8%	22.0%	10.2%
	Somewhat disagree	17.3%	23.6%	22.4%	18.6%
	Strongly disagree	14.4%	24.1%	36.6%	42.4%
	I don' know	5.5%	5.9%	6.3%	5.1%
	I prefer not to answer	0.7%	0.9%	1.5%	
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



The more you feel immigrants should assimilate the more you favor the ban in religious signs for persons in positions of authority

		Immigrants should be encouraged to give up their customs and traditions and become more like the majority			
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Judges, correctional officers and police officers should be allowed to wear religious signs (keepas, hijabs and crosses) on their jobs	Strongly agree	18.2%	11.2%	15.5%	39.5%
	Somewhat agree	13.6%	27.4%	32.0%	33.0%
	Somewhat disagree	12.1%	24.5%	28.8%	12.3%
	Strongly disagree	54.0%	32.2%	16.9%	10.2%
	I don' know	2.0%	3.2%	6.6%	4.0%
	I prefer not to answer		1.6%	0.2%	0.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



Thank you
to the
Association
of Canadian
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