

Comparing skepticism about the Holocaust in Quebec with the rest of Canada

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Introduction

Tonight (May 5, 2024) marks the beginning of Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day (May 6, 2024) It comes at a time where preserving the memory of the Holocaust is encountering unprecedented challenges arising from disinformation.

What might be described as skepticism about the Holocaust is somewhat higher in Quebec than it is in the rest of Canada as revealed in a Leger poll conducted for the Association for Canadian Studies over the period February 23-26, 2024 with a sample of 1590 Canadians (368 respondents in Quebec and 1222 respondents in the rest of Canada). That which follows compares such skepticism in Quebec with the rest of Canada in particular on the basis of age, gender, educational attainment and looks at the extent to which Holocaust skeptics in Quebec harbor anti-Jewish sentiment . On that last point it reveals that amongst the minority of Quebecers who feel that the Holocaust is exaggerated some 7 in 10 hold negative sentiment towards Jews.

- A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1590 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20

Holocaust skepticism is somewhat higher in Quebec than it is in the rest of Canada but Quebecers are far more likely to say they don't know. Men are more likely than women to be Holocaust skeptics while women are more likely to say they don't know

I think the Holocaust is exaggerated		Male	Female	Total
Quebec	Yes	10.0%	4.8%	7.4%
	No	73.9%	71.1%	72.5%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	16.1%	24.1%	20.2%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Rest of Canada	Yes	7.1%	2.5%	5.3%
	No	85.2%	84.2%	81.9%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	7.7%	13.2%	12.8%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

When asked whether the Holocaust is exaggerated nearly one-third of Quebecers under 35 say they don't know; Quebecers over 45 are more likely than those over 45 in the ROC to agree that the Holocaust is exaggerated

I think the Holocaust is exaggerated -		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-69	>= 70	Total
Quebec	Yes	8.8%	7.0%	6.7%	8.9%	7.5%	5.5%	7.7%	7.3%
	No	61.8%	61.4%	66.7%	66.1%	74.6%	87.3%	89.7%	72.3%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	29.4%	31.6%	26.7%	25.0%	17.9%	7.3%	2.6%	20.4%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Rest of Canada	Yes	17.5%	7.5%	4.5%	3.1%	1.9%		1.2%	4.8%
	No	70.8%	82.1%	81.7%	85.1%	88.2%	89.9%	93.8%	84.8%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	11.7%	10.4%	13.9%	11.9%	9.9%	10.1%	4.9%	10.5%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

In Quebec and elsewhere in Canada educational attainment is a predictor of holocaust skepticism with those with less education most likely to say they don't know when asked whether the Holocaust is exaggerated yet holding a university degree does not appear to have considerable impact on Holocaust skepticism in Quebec

	I think the Holocaust is exaggerated -	High school, general or vocational (8 to 12 years)	College (pre-university, technical training, certificate, accreditation or advanced diploma (13-15 years))	University Bachelor (including classical studies)	Total
QUEBEC	Yes	8.9%	6.3%	8.6%	7.4%
	No	59.4%	75.9%	79.3%	72.5%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	31.7%	17.7%	12.1%	20.2%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Rest of Canada	Yes	1.6%	6.1%	4.8%	4.8%
	No	82.0%	87.0%	85.6%	84.6%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	16.5%	6.9%	9.6%	10.5%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Amongst that minority of Quebecers who think the Holocaust is exaggerated some 7 in 10 hold negative opinions of Jews

Jews - Do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view of the following?		I think the Holocaust is exaggerated -	
		Yes	No
Quebec	Very positive	-----	10.2%
	Somewhat positive	25.9%	53.0%
	Somewhat negative	33.3%	21.1%
	Very negative	37.0%	5.3%
	I prefer not to answer	3.7%	10.5%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%
Rest of Canada	Very positive	15.5%	28.0%
	Somewhat positive	39.7%	48.8%
	Somewhat negative	20.7%	7.6%
	Very negative	17.2%	4.0%
	I prefer not to answer	6.9%	11.6%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%