

Quebecers Political Engagement: Knowledge, involvement and the perceived impact of politics on our lives

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Introduction and methodology

How engaged are Quebecers in politics and to what extent does language play a role in this regard? To answer these questions, the Association for Canadian Studies commissioned Leger Marketing to survey Canadians to determine how closely they follow Canadian politics, provincial and municipal politics, whether they've donated money to a political party, whether they feel that they are better informed about politics than most people, if they believe their vote matters, if they know the name of the Member of Parliament in the electoral district/riding in which they live and, finally, whether they think the decisions made by politicians have a significant impact on their daily lives. When it comes to the types of political participation selected for this study, the results point to noteworthy differences between Quebecers and other Canadians on the one hand and Quebec francophones and anglophones on the other. Quebec anglophones are more likely than francophones to think that their better informed about politics and that their vote matters.

The Leger survey was conducted during the week of September 25th, 2023 for the Association for Canadian Studies via web panel with 1502 Canadians. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1502 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20

Quebecers least likely to say that they follow federal politics

I closely follow...	Total	Atl	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Canadian politics	47%	47%	41%	49%	57%	52%	47%
Provincial politics	50%	42%	46%	47%	57%	55%	46%
Municipal politics	34%	27%	31%	40%	43%	39%	42%

Quebec francophones follow provincial politics more than do anglophones while anglophones follow federal politics more than francophones

I closely follow....

Quebec	Total	French	English	Men	Women	Born in Canada	Born Outside of Canada	VM	NVM
Canadian politics	41%	40%	45%	49%	33%	40.6%	43.2%	32.8%	43.2%
Provincial Politics	46%	48%	39%	52%	41%	46.6%	43.2%	29.8%	50.2%
Municipal Politics	31%	31%	32%	37.6%	25.0%	32.3%	21.1%	23.4%	46.3%

Rural Quebecers less likely to follow politics than others but display largest in following provincial over canadian

Quebec I closely follow...	Which of the following best describes the area in which you live:		
	Urban area	Suburban area	Rural area
Canadian Politics	39.4%	47.0%	32.5%
Provincial Politics	44.0%	51.3%	42.2%
Municipal Politics	33.6%	30.2%	30.1%

Albertans and British Columbians most likely to say that they've donated money to a political party

I have donated money to a political party. -	Total	Atl	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	17%	18%	10%	17%	16%	23%	21%
No	81%	79%	89%	81%	82%	74%	74%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%	5%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Quebec anglophones somewhat more likely than francophones to say they've donated to a political party

I have donated money to a political party....Please answer yes or no to the following.

Quebec	QC	French	English	Men	Women
Yes	10.5%	10%	13%	13.5%	7.4%
No	89%	89.5%	87%	85.3%	92.0%

Quebecers and Atlantic Canadians feel that they are less informed about Politics than other Canadians

I am better informed about politics than most people. - Please answer yes or no to the following.

	Total	Atl	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	34%	30%	28%	36%	34%	37%	37%
No	54%	62%	61%	52%	52%	47%	49%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	12%	8%	12%	12%	14%	16%	14%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Quebec Anglophones believe they're better informed than most about politics than do Quebec francophones

I am better informed about politics than most people. Please answer yes or no to the following.

Quebec	Total	French	English	Men	Women	Born in Canada	Born Outside of Canada
Yes	28%	27%	36%	38.2%	18.2%	28.2%	24.3%
No	60%	63%	49%	48.2%	72.2%	61.5%	54.1%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	12%	10%	15%	13.5%	9.7%	10.4%	21.6%
NET	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Quebecers are most likely to feel that their votes matter while British Columbians are least likely to feel that way

My vote matters Please answer yes or no to the following.	Atl	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	74%	82%	77%	79%	74%	69%
No	19%	11%	15%	17%	18%	20%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	8%	7%	8%	4%	8%	11%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Quebec francophones slightly less likely than anglophones to think that their vote matters

My Vote Matters							
Quebec	Total	French	English	Men	Women	Born in Canada	Born Outside of Canada
Yes	82%	81.9%	83.9%	81.1%	83.0%	84.5%	60.5%
No	11%	11.3%	10.7%	14.8%	8.5%	10.0%	23.7%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	7%	6.7%	5.4%	4.1%	8.5%	5.5%	15.8%
NET	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Albertans and prairie residents more likely to be able to name their member of parliament

I know the name of the Member of Parliament in the electoral district/riding in which I live. - Please answer yes or no to the following.

Column %	Total	Atl	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	57%	61%	56%	54%	62%	64%	56%
No	37%	34%	39%	39%	35%	31%	37%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	6%	5%	5%	7%	3%	4%	7%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Quebec francophones say that they are more likely than anglophones to know the name of their member of parliament

I know the name of the Member of Parliament in the electoral district/riding in which I live.

Quebec	Total	French	English	Men	Women	Born in Canada	Born Outside of Canada
Yes	56.0%	57.1%	50.0%	63.3%	49.4%	58.7%	34.2%
No	39.1%	40.1%	35.7%	31.4%	46.0%	37.4%	52.6%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	4.9%	2.8%	14.3%	5.3%	4.5%	3.9%	13.2%
NET	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Quebecers are least likely to believe that the decisions made by politicians have a significant impact on their lives

The decisions made by politicians have a significant impact on my daily life.

Column %	Total	Atl	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	70%	72%	60%	71%	85%	77%	72%
No	21%	18%	31%	19%	11%	14%	18%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	9%	10%	10%	10%	5%	9%	10%
NET	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Francophones more likely than anglophones to think that decisions made by politicians have a significant impact on their daily lives

The decisions made by politicians have a significant impact on my daily life.

Quebec	Total	French	English	Men	Women	Born in Canada	Born Outside of Canada
Yes	60%	60.5%	56.5%	62.7%	57.1%	59.0%	62.2%
No	30%	29%	36.5%	33.7%	28.0%	32.3%	18.9%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	10%	10.5%	7.0%	3.6%	14.9%	8.7%	18.9%
NET	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

When considering Quebecers political participation on the basis of age cohort the youngest cohort is less likely to feel that the decisions made by politicians have an impact on their daily lives and less likely to know the name of their MP

Quebec Please answer yes or no to the following.	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74
I have donated money to a political party	6.3%	9.3%	5.3%	7.7%	17.5%	8.5%
I am better informed about politics than most people	22.6%	24.1%	23.2%	23.1%	34.9%	29.6%
My vote matters	83.9%	75.9%	70.2%	81.1%	87.3%	90.1%
The decisions made by politicians have a significant impact on my daily life.	46.9%	56.6%	61.4%	63.5%	55.6%	62.0%
I know the name of the Member of Parliament in the electoral district/riding in which I live	34.4%	39.6%	52.6%	50.0%	63.5%	70.4%

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