

Evolving concerns over intergroup relations in Canada: the Good and the Bad

Jack Jedwab

President and CEO, Metropolis Institute and the Association for Canadian
Studies

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Introduction

Over the course of the 21st century, Canadians have seen shifts in degrees of concern around intergroup relations with particular preoccupation regarding majority-minority relations whether it involved indigenous racial or religious minorities. Canadians see relations between religious minorities as a source of much concern and especially relations between Muslims and Jews. Unlike the domestically situated challenges defining indigenous-non indigenous relations and race relations, the perceived tensions between Muslims and Jews are far more affected by global conflict (s). Similar concerns relative to intergroup conflicts are surely being observed in other democratically diverse countries.

These findings emerge from a survey conducted by Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies over the period January 17-19, 2025. with 1578 respondents in Canada over the period January 17 and 19, 2025. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1578 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Relations between Muslims and Jews, Muslims and non-Muslims and Indigenous and non-indigenous are seen by Canadians as most problematic; relations between white and non-white and Jews and non-Jews seen as least problematic

NET BAD (Would you say the relationships between the following groups are very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad)	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/S K	AB	BC
Muslim and Jewish Canadians	43%	41%	48%	43%	39%	38%	43%
Muslim and non-Muslim Canadians	38%	37%	44%	38%	31%	38%	34%
Indigenous and non-Indigenous	35%	42%	35%	34%	39%	37%	33%
White and non-White	19%	20%	17%	22%	18%	16%	16%
Jewish and non-Jewish Canadians	18%	19%	23%	20%	13%	8%	10%

A narrow majority of Canadians believe that relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous are good though 35-44 see it otherwise

Indigenous and non Indigenous -	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
NET GOOD	51%	53%	49%	51%	48%	41%	55%	53%	56%
Very good	6%	8%	4%	9%	9%	5%	7%	6%	3%
Somewhat good	45%	45%	45%	42%	39%	35%	48%	47%	53%
NET BAD	35%	36%	35%	33%	37%	44%	32%	36%	30%
Somewhat bad	29%	28%	31%	26%	33%	37%	25%	29%	27%
Very bad	6%	8%	3%	7%	4%	7%	7%	6%	3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	14%	11%	17%	15%	14%	15%	13%	12%	14%

Quebecers are most likely to regard relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous as good while Atlantic Canadians are most likely to see them as bad

Indigenous and non Indigenous -	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
NET GOOD	47%	54%	51%	51%	49%	51%
Very good	10%	7%	6%	8%	4%	4%
Somewhat good	38%	47%	45%	43%	45%	46%
NET BAD	42%	35%	34%	39%	37%	33%
Somewhat bad	39%	31%	28%	29%	30%	28%
Very bad	4%	4%	6%	10%	6%	5%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	10%	12%	15%	10%	14%	17%

Seven in ten Canadians view relations between white and non-white as good though women are somewhat less likely than men to feel that way

White and Non-White	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
NET GOOD	70%	73%	67%	63%	64%	66%	73%	70%	78%
Very good	12%	15%	10%	13%	11%	14%	11%	13%	13%
Somewhat good	58%	58%	57%	50%	53%	53%	62%	57%	65%
NET BAD	19%	17%	21%	20%	19%	22%	18%	21%	16%
Somewhat bad	16%	14%	18%	17%	16%	19%	13%	17%	13%
Very bad	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	5%	4%	3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	11%	10%	12%	17%	17%	11%	9%	9%	6%

Albertans, British Columbians and Quebecers are more likely than Atlantic Canadians and Ontarians to see relations as good

White and Non-White	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
NET GOOD	66%	74%	65%	71%	76%	74%
Very good	16%	13%	12%	9%	18%	8%
Somewhat good	50%	61%	53%	63%	57%	66%
NET BAD	20%	17%	22%	18%	16%	16%
Somewhat bad	17%	15%	18%	13%	15%	10%
Very bad	3%	2%	4%	6%	1%	6%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	14%	8%	13%	10%	8%	11%

Six in ten Canadians see relations between Jews and non-Jews as good

Jewish and non-Jewish Canadians	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
NET GOOD	60%	65%	56%	55%	57%	66%
Very good	12%	15%	10%	12%	13%	11%
Somewhat good	48%	51%	46%	43%	44%	55%
NET BAD	18%	18%	18%	18%	19%	17%
Somewhat bad	15%	14%	15%	15%	14%	15%
Very bad	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	22%	17%	27%	27%	24%	17%

Prairies and Western Canadians are more likely to see relations between Jewish and non-Jewish Canadians as good than are Eastern Canadians

Jewish and non-Jewish Canadians	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
NET GOOD	50%	55%	57%	69%	73%	68%
Very good	12%	12%	11%	10%	19%	11%
Somewhat good	39%	44%	46%	59%	54%	57%
NET BAD	19%	23%	20%	13%	8%	10%
Somewhat bad	17%	20%	17%	9%	7%	7%
Very bad	2%	3%	4%	4%	1%	3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	31%	22%	22%	18%	19%	22%

Canadians divided in their views around whether they see relations between Muslims as good or bad

Muslim and non-Muslim Canadians	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
NET GOOD	41%	43%	39%	45%	38%	40%
Very good	5%	6%	5%	9%	6%	3%
Somewhat good	35%	36%	34%	36%	33%	37%
NET BAD	38%	40%	36%	33%	41%	40%
Somewhat bad	28%	28%	28%	24%	30%	29%
Very bad	10%	12%	9%	9%	11%	10%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	21%	17%	25%	22%	21%	21%

Quebecers are most likely to see relations between Muslims and non-Muslims as bad while others parts of the country are more likely to see such relations as good than they do bad

Muslim and non-Muslim Canadians	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
NET GOOD	41%	40%	35%	43%	49%	40%	42%
Very good	5%	5%	4%	6%	6%	8%	5%
Somewhat good	35%	35%	32%	37%	43%	32%	37%
NET BAD	38%	37%	44%	38%	31%	38%	34%
Somewhat bad	28%	28%	34%	26%	22%	32%	22%
Very bad	10%	9%	10%	12%	9%	6%	12%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	21%	23%	21%	20%	20%	22%	24%

There is an important generational divide in the degree to which Canadians view relations between Muslim and Jewish Canadians as bad with those under 35 much less inclined to feel as such than those over the age of 35

Muslim and Jewish Canadians	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
NET GOOD	25%	27%	24%	30%	23%	23%
Very good	4%	5%	3%	7%	4%	3%
Somewhat good	21%	21%	21%	24%	20%	20%
NET BAD	43%	48%	39%	34%	43%	49%
Somewhat bad	27%	29%	25%	21%	26%	32%
Very bad	16%	18%	14%	13%	16%	18%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	32%	26%	37%	35%	34%	28%

Quebecers are more likely than others to feel that relations between Muslim and Jewish Canadians are bad with nearly one in two holding this view

Muslim and Jewish Canadians	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/S K	AB	BC
NET GOOD	25%	23%	22%	27%	25%	23%	27%
Very good	4%	5%	3%	4%	7%	6%	2%
Somewhat good	21%	18%	19%	23%	19%	17%	25%
NET BAD	43%	41%	48%	43%	39%	38%	43%
Somewhat bad	27%	27%	30%	26%	22%	30%	24%
Very bad	16%	14%	18%	17%	17%	8%	18%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	32%	36%	29%	30%	35%	39%	30%