

Canadians divided in their opinion over whether the country is divided in the aftermath of the federal election

Jack Jedwab

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

May 2025

Introduction

Canadians are divided over whether the results of the 2025 federal election have contributed to more division in the country. The finding arises from a survey of Canadians conducted by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between May 1 and 3, 2025. When asked, some 34% of Canadians agreed that the federal election results will contribute to more unity between Canadians, 37% disagreed and 29% didn't know. Albertans and Prairie residents were most likely to believe that the elections results would be bad for unity. Canadians were also asked whether respectively the threat of Alberta and Quebec separation should be taken seriously and which of the two had legitimate reasons for separation. In an interesting twist, Canadians feel the threat of separation by Alberta merits more serious attention than they do in the case of Quebec. Quebecers feel otherwise as they are less likely than others to regard the threat of Albertan separation as more serious than Quebec.

Canadians are also somewhat more likely to believe that Albertans have more legitimate reasons than Quebec for wanting to separate from Canada. That too is a view with which Quebecers very much disagree.

The survey was conducted over the period May 1-3, 2025 with 1626 respondents in Canada. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1626 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Canadians are divided over whether the federal election outcome will contribute to greater unity though a majority of Albertans and a plurality on the Prairies feel otherwise

The federal election results will contribute to more unity between Canadians %	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	34%	28%	35%	38%	25%	24%	36%
No	37%	34%	38%	33%	39%	52%	35%
I don't know	29%	38%	28%	29%	36%	23%	29%

A majority of Liberal voters and a plurality of NDP voters feel that the federal election results will contribute to greater unity between Canadians while Conservative and Bloc voters feel otherwise

The federal election results will contribute to more unity between Canadians -.	To begin with...Who did you vote for in the Canadian federal election that ended last Monday?			
	PLC	NDP	BQ	PCC
Yes	56.3%	41.4%	21.1%	16.9%
No	14.7%	29.9%	55.6%	62.7%
I don't know	29.0%	28.7%	23.3%	20.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

A majority of Canadians think the threat of Albertan separation needs to be taken very seriously with Albertans most likely to feel that way

The threat of Alberta separation should be taken very seriously -	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	52%	50%	46%	54%	54%	63%	51%
No	27%	27%	27%	25%	29%	27%	29%
I don't know	21%	23%	27%	21%	17%	10%	20%

Conservative voters most likely to think the threat of Albertan separation needs to be taken very seriously, Bloc Quebecois voters least likely to think so

The threat of Alberta separation should be taken very seriously	To begin with...Who did you vote for in the Canadian federal election that ended last Monday?			
	PLC	NDP	BQ	PCC
Yes	47.7%	47.1%	31.5%	63.5%
No	34.1%	28.7%	33.7%	21.8%
I don't know	18.2%	24.1%	34.8%	14.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

A plurality of Canadians think that the threat of Quebec separation should be taken very seriously with Quebecers most likely to think so; however with the exception of Quebecers, Canadians feel the threat of separation by Alberta merits more serious attention

The threat of Quebec separation should be taken very seriously	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	42%	32%	47%	45%	38%	31%	38%
No	37%	37%	38%	33%	39%	51%	37%
I don't know	21%	31%	15%	22%	22%	18%	25%

A majority of Bloc Quebecois voters think the threat of Quebec separation should be taken very seriously while Conservatives are least likely to think so

The threat of Quebec separation should be taken very seriously	To begin with...Who did you vote for in the Canadian federal election that ended last Monday?			
	PLC	NDP	BQ	PCC
Yes	45.0%	43.7%	50.6%	35.8%
No	36.1%	33.3%	39.3%	45.6%
I don't know	18.9%	23.0%	10.1%	18.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Some one-third of Canadians think that there are legitimate reasons for Albertans and Quebecers to respectively want to separate from Canada; but while Quebecers are much more likely to think their reasons are more legitimate than Albertans, the latter think that their reasons are much more legitimate than Quebecers

	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
There are legitimate reasons for why some Albertans want to separate from Canada	35%	28%	34%	32%	37%	52%	32%
There are legitimate reasons for why some Quebecers want to separate from Canada	33%	20%	51%	30%	23%	32%	25%

Bloc Quebecois voters are much more likely to think Quebec has legitimate reasons for separation than does Alberta while the latter think their reasons for separation are more valid those motivating Quebecers

	To begin with...Who did you vote for in the Canadian federal election that ended last Monday?			
	PLC	NDP	BQ	PCC
There are legitimate reasons for why some Albertans want to separate from Canada	19%	18%	33%	58%
There are legitimate reasons for why some Quebecers want to separate from Canada	27%	34%	79%	34%