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Perceptions around English-French Relations in Quebec and in the ROC

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Introduction

Not surprisingly the perceived state of relations between English and French speakers in Canada underlie tensions between Quebec and the rest of the country. Amongst several observations, this finding is confirmed in an April 2025 Leger survey for the Association for Canadian Studies which reveals that almost all Quebecers that see relations between Quebec and the rest of Canada as bad also view badly the relationship between English and French speakers across the country.

Quebecers feel that relations between (reconciliation) English and French speakers in Canada not as good as relations between indigenous and non-indigenous persons. In the rest of Canada, there is a greater concern over the State of relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous, especially on the Prairies.

Indeed Quebec francophones don't see much difference in the state of their relationships with English-speaking Quebecers and English speakers in Canada outside of Quebec as the perception is that relations are worse between English and French speakers in Quebec than they are between English and French speakers in Canada.

The survey reveals that young Quebecers are far less likely than others to see the relationship between English and French speakers in the province as good.

As PM Mark Carney has reframed the department of Canadian Heritage as "Culture and Identity" it will important to see what measures are introduced to make progress on reconciling divides across language lines.

These findings emerge from a survey conducted by Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies over the period April 17-19, 2025. with 1603 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 1603 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Quebecers feel that relations between English and French speakers in Canada are not as good as relations between indigenous and non-indigenous; rest of the country especially the Prairies sees it otherwise

Net Good (somewhat good and very good combined)	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Relations between English speakers and French speakers in Canada	59%	63%	56%	60%	63%	59%	59%
Relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians	52%	61%	58%	52%	35%	47%	53%

Net Bad (somewhat bad and very bad combined)	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Relations between English speakers and French speakers in Canada	27%	21%	34%	25%	24%	27%	23%
Relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians	32%	23%	28%	31%	52%	35%	31%

Most Canadians believe that relations between English and French speakers are good and noticeably better than relations between English and French speaking Quebecers; Quebecers don't see much difference

Net Good (very good and somewhat good combined)	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
English speakers and French speakers in Canada	59%	63%	56%	60%	63%	59%	59%
English and French speakers in Quebec	49%	45%	57%	48%	50%	42%	43%

Quebecers view the state of relations between English speakers and French speakers in Quebec and Canada similarly while outside of Quebec relations between English and French speaking Quebecers are seen as worse than those between English and French speakers in Canada

Net Bad (very bad and somewhat bad combined)	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
English speakers and French speakers in Canada	27%	21%	34%	25%	24%	27%	23%
English and French speakers in Quebec	32%	30%	34%	33%	29%	34%	28%

Nearly six in ten Canadians view relations between English and French speakers as good

Relations between English speakers and French speakers in Canada	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
NET GOOD	59%	63%	56%	60%	63%	59%	59%
Very good	10%	13%	9%	12%	9%	8%	9%
Somewhat good	49%	51%	48%	47%	54%	52%	50%
NET BAD	27%	21%	34%	25%	24%	27%	23%
Somewhat bad	22%	17%	26%	21%	22%	23%	20%
Very bad	5%	4%	8%	4%	2%	5%	3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	14%	16%	10%	16%	13%	14%	18%

Federal Liberal voters are more likely to believe that relations between English and French speakers in Canada are good while Bloq voters are least likely to think so. By contrast, a majority of Bloq voters believe relations between English and French

Relations are Good (Very and somewhat good)	Vote Intentions in federal elections			
	PLC	NDP	BQ	CPC
English speakers and French speakers in Canada	70%	59%	46%	57%
English speakers and French speakers in Quebec	57%	36%	57%	46%

Amongst francophones who feel that relations between Quebecers and other Canadians are bad almost all feel that relations between English and French speakers are bad

English speakers and French speakers in Canada		Relations between Quebecers and other Canadians -			
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad
French	Net Good	75.9%	75.5%	26.6%	
	Very good	34.5%	5.2%		
	Somewhat good	41.4%	70.3%	26.6%	
	Net Bad	13.7%	21.5%	70.3%	100%
	Somewhat bad	10.3%	19.8%	62.5%	31.3%
	Very bad	3.4%	1.7%	7.8%	68.8%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	10.3%	2.9%	3.1%	
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
English	Net Good	96.9%	88%	41.5%	20%
	Very good	74.2%	9.3%	1.8%	
	Somewhat good	22.7%	78.7%	39.7%	20.0%
	Net Bad	3.1%	9.5%	53.2%	78.7%
	Somewhat bad	3.1%	8.7%	49.2%	34.7%
	Very bad		0.8%	4.0%	44.0%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer		2.6%	5.2%	1.3%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Amongst Francophones and anglophones in Canada some three quarters of those feeling the relationship between Quebecers and other Canadians is very bad see relations between English and French speaking Quebecers as bad

English speakers and French speakers in Quebec		Relations between Quebecers and other Canadians -			
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad
French	Net Good	86.2%	74.4%	27.7%	11.8%
	Very good	48.3%	5.2%		
	Somewhat good	37.9%	69.2%	27.7%	11.8%
	Net Bad	6.9%	22.1%	69.2%	76.4%
	Somewhat bad	6.9%	19.2%	60.0%	17.6%
	Very bad		2.9%	9.2%	58.8%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	6.9%	3.5%	3.1%	11.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
English	Net Good	90.7%	70.9%	27.1%	9.3%
	Very good	62.9%	4.8%	0.9%	1.3%
	Somewhat good	27.8%	66.1%	26.2%	8.0%
	Net Bad	4.1%	20.1%	61.8%	82.6%
	Somewhat bad	3.1%	18.3%	48.9%	33.3%
	Very bad	1.0%	1.8%	12.9%	49.3%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer	5.2%	9.0%	11.1%	8.0%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The View of Relations from Quebec

Quebec francophones and anglophones offer similar assessment of relations between English and French-speakers in Quebec

Quebec	Relations between English and French speakers in Quebec		
	Total	French	English
Good (very and somewhat combined)	57%	57%	58%
Bad (very and somewhat combined)	35%	34%	35%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	8%	9%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Francophones see close alignment in perceptions about relations between English and French in Canada and English and French in Quebec

Francophones		Relations between English speakers and French speakers in Canada -			
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad
Relations between English and French speakers in Quebec -	Net Good	90%	82.7%	28.2%	4.8%
	Very good	50.0%	7.7%		
	Somewhat good	40.0%	75.0%	28.2%	4.8%
	Net Bad	10%	12.8%	71.8%	85.7%
	Somewhat bad	10.0%	12.2%	62.4%	28.6%
	Very bad		0.6%	9.4%	57.1%
	I don't know / I prefer not to answer		4.5%		9.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Quebecers living in rural parts of the province tend to see relations between English and French speaking Quebecers as better than do Quebecers in urban/suburban areas despite the presumption of greater contact across language groups in the cities.

Quebec	Relations between English and French speakers in Quebec		
	Urban area	Suburban area	Rural area
Good (very and somewhat combined)	54.3%	54.6%	69.7%
Bad (very and somewhat combined)	37.7%	36.2%	25.0%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	7.9%	9.2%	5.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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