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Association for Canadian Studies

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Polling Research

Progress on Reconciliation, trust between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians and pride in Canada's History

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Introduction and Methodology

A majority of Canadians (55%) believe that the country is making good progress on reconciliation with indigenous peoples. Underlying views on the progress of reconciliation is the degree of trust between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians and the survey reveals that the majority of Canadians trust indigenous persons and the majority of indigenous respondents trust other Canadians. It might be observed that pride in the country's history is affected by perceptions around the historic treatment of indigenous persons. Hence the perceptions over the progress of reconciliation will undoubtedly affect such views. While a majority of Canadians say they're proud of the history of the country, there are important differences in the expressed degree of pride on the basis of age. In effect, the youngest cohort 18-24 is more likely to say that they're not proud of the country's history. But the survey validates that assumption by demonstrating that those who are not proud of the country's history are more likely to feel that the country is not making good progress on reconciliation with indigenous peoples. There is perhaps some irony in observing that on the basis of language background francophone youth (59%) are considerably more proud of the country's history than are anglophone youth (35%).

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The findings emerge from a survey conducted by Leger Marketing for the Association for Canadian Studies over the period June 20-22, 2025, with 1579 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 1579 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Progress on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

A majority of Canadians believe that Canada is making good progress on reconciliation with indigenous peoples though 18-24 is more divided as the degree of progress

Canada is making good progress on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Yes	55%	55%	54%	40%	49%	55%	49%	56%	67%
No	19%	21%	18%	33%	22%	20%	21%	17%	11%
I don't know	26%	24%	28%	27%	29%	25%	30%	27%	21%

Albertans are somewhat less likely to believe that Canada is making good progress on reconciliation though they're still twice as likely to feel progress has been made

Canada is making good progress on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	60%	62%	52%	54%	47%	52%
No	13%	14%	22%	19%	24%	17%
I don't know	27%	24%	25%	27%	29%	31%

A slim majority of the indigenous persons surveyed agree that Canada is making good progress on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples

Canada is making good progress on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples -	Not Indigenous	Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk / Inuit)
Yes	58.4%	51.2%
No	18.1%	32.6%
I don't know	23.5%	16.3%
Total	100%	100%

Trust of Indigenous Peoples

Seven in ten Indigenous respondents trust other Canadians and do so slightly more so than non-indigenous Canadians

	Trust Other Canadians (all respondents)	Not Indigenous	Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk / Inuit)
Can be trusted	63%	66%	70%
Cannot be trusted	10%	8%	9%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	28%	26%	21%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Some six in ten non-indigenous Canadians trust Canada's indigenous peoples

	Trust of Indigenous Peoples All Respondents	Not Indigenous	Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk / Inuit)
Can be trusted	57%	59%	81%
Cannot be trusted	16%	14%	7%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	28%	27%	12%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Proud of Canada's History

Those Canadians saying that they're proud of Canada's history are very much of the view that Canada is making good progress on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Amongst those who are not proud the larger plurality feel progress on reconciliation is not being

Canada is making good progress on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples	I am proud of Canada's history - Please answer Yes, No or I don't know to the following.	
	Yes	No
Yes	68.3%	39.3%
No	13.0%	42.9%
I don't know	18.8%	17.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Indigenous peoples surveyed are less likely than non-indigenous to say they're proud of Canada's history, still a majority of the latter say that they're proud

	I am proud of Canada's history	
	Not Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk / Inuit)	Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk / Inuit)
Yes	65.2%	58.1%
No	19.2%	30.2%
I don't know	15.6%	11.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Immigrants and non-immigrants have reasonably similar rates of pride in Canada's history

	I am proud of Canada's history	
	Born in Canada	Not Born in Canada
Yes	65.6%	62.4%
No	19.2%	20.8%
I don't know	15.2%	16.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Those who trust other Canadians are more likely to proud of Canada's history than those who aren't

I am proud of Canada's history -	Other Canadians – Please tell us if the following can be trusted, cannot be trusted or don't know / prefer not to answer.	
	Can be trusted	Cannot be trusted
Yes	69.7%	55.6%
No	18.7%	35.5%
I don't know	11.6%	8.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

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