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Polling Research

Youngest Canadians are by far the most exposed to anti-Semitic and Islamophobic remarks from colleagues and acquaintances

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Introduction and Methodology

Anti-Semitic and Islamophobic remarks appear to be increasingly acceptable as many young Canadians hear them from colleagues and acquaintances in their entourage. This is a key finding revealed in an analysis from a Leger survey conducted in June 2025. Younger Americans are also more likely to hear anti-Semitic and Islamophobic remarks from colleagues and acquaintances though to a somewhat lesser degree than do their Canadian counterparts

The analysis arises from surveys conducted by Leger Marketing over the period June 6-8, 2025 with 1537 respondents in Canada and 1011 in the United States. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1537 respondents in Canada would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20 while the American sample of 1011 would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.9\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Canadians slightly more likely than Americans to say that since October 2023 they've heard anti-Semitic and Islamophobic comments from colleagues or acquaintances

	<p>Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard antisemitic and islamophobic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances?</p>	
	United States	Canada
Anti-Semitic	18%	20%
Islamophobic	20%	24%

Canadians aged 18-24 were by far more likely than others in Canada and in comparison with American counterparts to say that since October 2023 they've heard antisemitic and islamophobic comments whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances

Canada	Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard antisemitic and islamophobic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances?					
	18 and 24	25 and 34	35 and 44	45 and 54	55 and 64	65 and over
Anti-Semitic	39%	25%	23%	16%	13%	14%
Islamophobic	46%	34%	26%	18%	18%	14%

United States	Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard antisemitic and islamophobic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances?				
	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	>= 65
Anti-Semitic	24%	22%	17%	13%	17%
Islamophobic	29%	29%	19%	15%	12%

Residents in the Prairies in Canada and the Western part of the United States were more likely to say that have you heard antisemitic and islamophobic comments whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances

	Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard antisemitic and islamophobic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances?									
	Canada						United States			
	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Anti-Semitic	20%	18%	23.5%	21%	19%	17%	20%	11%	18%	23%
Islamophobic	23%	26%	24.5%	26%	22%	20%	19%	12%	20%	29%

Amongst those Canadians saying they here anti-semitic comments only most believe the mainstream media is more favorable to Palestinians while those hearing only Islamophobic comments are more likely to feel the mainstream media is more favorable towards Israel

Do you feel the mainstream media reporting of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in the Middle East is generally more favourable toward...	Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard antisemitic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances?	
	Anti-Semitic comments only	Islamophobic comments only
Israel	25.1%	35.8%
Palestinians	35.5%	27.0%
Been generally balanced	19.1%	18.2%
I don't know	20.4%	19.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Amongst those Canadians saying they've only heard anti-semitic comments there is relative balance in the extent to which they assess the government's support for Israel. Amongst those saying they've only heard Islamophobic comments most feel that the largest plurality think Canada is not sufficiently supportive of Palestinian people

Do you think Canada is not supportive enough of Israel, its support is about right, or it is too supportive of Israel?	Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard antisemitic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances?
	Anti-Semitic
Not supportive enough	25%
About right	27%
Too supportive	28%
No opinion	20%
Total	100%

Do you think Canada is not supportive enough of the Palestinian people, its support is about right, or it is too supportive of the Palestinian people?	Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard antisemitic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances?
	Islamophobic
Not supportive enough	34%
About right	31%
Too supportive	16%
No opinion	19%
Total	100%

Some 57% of those Canadians who have heard Islamophobic comments also heard anti-Semitic comments while 69% of those who heard anti-Semitic comments also heard Islamophobic comments from colleagues and acquaintances

Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard antisemitic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances	Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard Islamophobic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances?	
	Yes	No
Yes	57.2%	8.8%
No	39.0%	88.0%
I don't know	3.9%	3.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard Islamophobic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances?	Since the start of the Hamas-Israel conflict back in October 2023, have you heard antisemitic comments around you, whether publicly or from colleagues or acquaintances?	
	Yes	No
Yes	69.2%	14.2%
No	27.8%	82.9%
I don't know	3.0%	2.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

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