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Polling Research

Twenty four Years after 9-11: What do Canadians think about the threat of terrorism?

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Introduction: Twenty four years after 9-11 Canadians remain concerned about security and the fight against terrorism

September 11, 2025 marks 24 years since the terrorist attacks in the United States that took the lives of nearly 3000 people. Those barbarous acts had important ramifications and were the catalyst for 21st century domestic and foreign policies addressing the threat of terrorism. What are the views of Canadians and Americans around the threat of terrorism and the key questions and issues to which it has given rise?

To provide insights into this, the Association for Canadian Studies asked Leger Marketing to survey Canadians and Americans on selected relevant issues arising from the terrorist attacks. Here are some of the key takeaways from the survey of Canadians:

- **The vast majority of Canadians say that they have a good knowledge of the events of September 11th**
- **Most Canadians believe the threat of terrorism in Canada is currently increasing**
- **Nine in ten Canadians agree that acts of terrorism can never be justified though one in five Canadians under 25 disagree**
- **More than two-thirds of Canadians think that Canada should cooperate more closely with the United States in efforts to prevent terrorism**

Leger conducted the survey via web panel for the Association for Canadian Studies between August 29 and 31, 2025 with 1627 Canadians and 1114 Americans. While no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1627 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20 and a sample of 1114 respondents yields a margin of error of $\pm 3.9\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The vast majority of Canadians say that they have a good knowledge of the events of September 11th though one in five under 35 say they don't

I have a good knowledge of the events of September 11, 2001.	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
Yes	84%	85%	83%	68%	71%	91%	90%	90%	89%
No	11%	9%	12%	23%	20%	5%	8%	7%	8%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	5%	5%	4%	8%	9%	4%	2%	3%	4%

Most Canadians believe the threat of terrorism in Canada is currently increasing with Quebecers least likely to think so

Acts of terrorism are currently increasing in Canada	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	46%	42%	50%	41%	42%	43%	46%	44%	54%	53%	35%	51%	43%	47%	47%
No	32%	39%	25%	35%	30%	37%	31%	32%	27%	25%	41%	28%	22%	28%	35%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	23%	20%	25%	24%	27%	20%	23%	24%	19%	22%	23%	21%	35%	26%	18%

Nine in ten Canadians agree that acts of terrorism can never be justified though one in five Canadians under 25 disagree

Acts of terrorism can never be justified	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
NET AGREE	89%	87%	90%	79%	86%	84%	91%	93%	93%	93%	85%	90%	87%	90%	89%
Strongly agree	67%	64%	70%	45%	58%	62%	65%	79%	78%	69%	64%	67%	67%	69%	68%
Somewhat agree	22%	24%	20%	34%	28%	23%	26%	14%	15%	24%	22%	22%	19%	20%	21%
NET DISAGREE	11%	13%	10%	21%	14%	16%	9%	7%	7%	7%	15%	10%	13%	10%	11%
Somewhat disagree	8%	9%	7%	14%	12%	11%	7%	5%	5%	6%	10%	7%	12%	8%	8%
Strongly disagree	3%	3%	3%	7%	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%	4%	3%	1%	2%	2%

More than two-thirds of Canadians think that Canada should cooperate more closely with the United States in efforts to prevent terrorism

Canada should cooperate more closely with the United States in efforts to prevent terrorism.	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/S K	AB	BC
NET AGREE	68%	74%	63%	68%	65%	65%	66%	71%	73%	64%	70%	67%	73%	72%	65%
Strongly agree	22%	29%	16%	15%	25%	23%	24%	22%	23%	13%	25%	24%	24%	28%	14%
Somewhat agree	46%	45%	47%	53%	41%	43%	42%	48%	50%	51%	46%	43%	49%	44%	51%
NET DISAGREE	32%	26%	37%	32%	35%	35%	34%	29%	27%	36%	30%	33%	27%	28%	35%
Somewhat disagree	23%	18%	28%	22%	27%	23%	23%	23%	21%	22%	21%	24%	16%	20%	29%
Strongly disagree	9%	8%	9%	11%	8%	11%	12%	6%	6%	14%	8%	9%	12%	8%	6%

United States Views on Terrorism

A majority of americans believe that acts of terrorism are increasing in the US

		NE	MW	South	West	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65 +
Total												
Yes	58%	55%	58%	60%	59%	54%	62%	52%	53%	55%	56%	73%
No	17%	20%	17%	15%	18%	21%	13%	11%	20%	23%	19%	13%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	25%	25%	25%	26%	23%	25%	25%	37%	27%	22%	25%	14%

Over seven in ten americans say that acts of terrorism can never be justified though americans under 40 are somewhat less certain

Acts of terrorism can never be justified.	Total	NE	MW	South	West	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65 +
Yes	71%	77%	69%	72%	68%	71%	71%	66%	56%	70%	77%	82%
No	15%	10%	15%	14%	20%	14%	15%	19%	17%	16%	11%	13%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	14%	13%	16%	14%	12%	14%	14%	15%	27%	14%	13%	4%

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