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**Canada's complex views on immigrant Integration
and the rising concerns about security in
newcomer admission**

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September 2025



Introduction

As reflected in several public opinion surveys, the persistent pushback over the numbers of immigrants coming to Canada is often associated with concerns over the state of the economy, housing availability and the pressure migrants presumably exert on availability and access to services. There is also continued debate about whether immigrants are negatively impacting cohesion and to that end whether integration of newcomers is not achieving its desired end-however defined. Conversations regarding immigrant integration can be somewhat vague. In effect, Canadians are divided when asked whether immigrants should give up their customs and traditions and become more like the majority (an issue that even divides immigrants). Yet ironically, the vast majority of Canadians agree that it is important to pass on our customs and traditions to future generations. Concern with the numbers of immigrants is thickening according to a recent survey conducted by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies. The survey reveals that underlying the reticence over both numbers and newcomer integration are security concerns the extent of which needs further study.

The study concludes with a comparison between Canada and the United States on the issue of immigrant integration which paradoxically suggests that Americans are far less concerned than Canadians about immigrants giving up their customs and traditions and adopting those of the majority. So much for Canada describing itself as the mosaic and the US as the Melting Pot.

Methodology

The findings are based on surveys conducted via web panel by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between August 29 and 31, 2025 with 1627 Canadians. While no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample of 1627 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20

Majority of Canadians don't think Canada needs new immigrants and there is a noticeable gap between immigrants and non-immigrants

Canada needs new immigrants	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	immigr	Non-Immigr
NET AGREE	40%	44%	39%	37%	40%	35%	52%	52%	37%
Strongly agree	11%	16%	10%	10%	10%	11%	13%	14%	10%
Somewhat agree	29%	28%	29%	27%	30%	24%	39%	38%	27%
NET DISAGREE	60%	56%	61%	63%	60%	65%	48%	48%	63%
Somewhat disagree	29%	24%	30%	31%	25%	27%	25%	28%	29%
Strongly disagree	31%	33%	30%	32%	35%	38%	23%	20%	34%

Most Canadians do not think Canada needs new immigrants with three in ten most averse

Canada needs new immigrants	Total	18 and 24	25 and 34	35 and 44	45 and 54	55 and 64	65+
NET AGREE	40%	46%	35%	39%	36%	38%	46%
Strongly agree	11%	17%	12%	9%	9%	9%	11%
Somewhat agree	29%	29%	23%	30%	27%	29%	34%
NET DISAGREE	60%	54%	65%	61%	64%	62%	54%
Somewhat disagree	29%	36%	25%	27%	25%	26%	33%
Strongly disagree	31%	18%	40%	34%	39%	35%	21%

Canadians divided over whether immigrants should give up customs and traditions and become more like the majority. Quebecers most favorable to immigrants abandoning customs and traditions

Immigrants to Canada should give up their customs and traditions and adopt those of the majority	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
NET AGREE	51%	49%	60%	48%	46%	55%	47%
Strongly agree	22%	21%	27%	20%	23%	20%	22%
Somewhat agree	29%	28%	33%	28%	23%	35%	26%
NET DISAGREE	49%	51%	40%	52%	54%	45%	53%
Somewhat disagree	33%	33%	30%	36%	38%	29%	31%
Strongly disagree	15%	18%	10%	16%	16%	17%	22%

Canadians divided over whether immigrants should give up customs and traditions and become more like the majority

Immigrants to Canada should give up their customs and traditions and adopt those of the majority	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
NET AGREE	51%	59%	44%	40%	48%	47%	57%	52%	58%
Strongly agree	22%	27%	17%	13%	23%	21%	26%	26%	21%
Somewhat agree	29%	32%	27%	27%	25%	26%	31%	27%	37%
NET DISAGREE	49%	41%	56%	60%	52%	53%	43%	48%	42%
Somewhat disagree	33%	29%	37%	41%	31%	36%	29%	34%	31%
Strongly disagree	15%	12%	19%	19%	21%	17%	15%	14%	11%

While most want immigrants to give up their customs and traditions the vast majority also agree that it is important to pass on customs and traditions to future generations

It is important to pass on our customs and traditions to future generations. -	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	85%	91%	88%	87%	76%	76%	84%
No	8%	5%	8%	7%	8%	10%	9%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	7%	4%	4%	6%	16%	13%	7%

Youngest cohort least likely to agree that it is important to pass on customs and traditions to future generations

It is important to pass on our customs and traditions to future generations. -	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	85%	84%	87%	73%	79%	86%	85%	88%	93%
No	8%	9%	6%	18%	9%	9%	8%	7%	3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	7%	7%	7%	9%	13%	5%	7%	5%	4%

Even those who most strongly agree that immigrants should give up customs and traditions agree overwhelmingly that it is important to pass on customs and traditions to future generations

It is important to pass on our customs and traditions to future generations.	Immigrants to Canada should give up their customs and traditions and adopt those of the majority			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Yes	84.6%	87.8%	86.9%	77.7%
No	11.7%	4.6%	6.2%	12.4%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	3.6%	7.5%	6.9%	10.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those most unfavorable to welcoming immigrants are most likely to feel that they should give up customs and traditions

Immigrants to Canada should give up their customs and traditions and adopt those of the majority:	Canada needs new immigrants			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	19%	11%	14%	41%
Somewhat agree	21%	28%	37%	27%
Somewhat disagree	25%	43%	38%	21%
Strongly disagree	35%	19%	11%	11%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Whether one agrees or disagrees that Canada needs new immigrants most believe that it is important to pass on one's customs and traditions to the next generation

It is important to pass on our customs and traditions to future generations. -	Canada needs new immigrants			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Yes	87%	80%	87%	87%
No	8%	11%	6%	7%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	5%	9%	7%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100.0%	100%

Those who strongly disagree that Canada needs new immigrants are far more likely than those who agree to believe that acts of terrorism are increasing

Acts of terrorism are currently increasing in Canada	Canada needs new immigrants. - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following:			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Yes	37%	32%	45%	63%
No	46%	43%	30%	17%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	17%	25%	25%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Those who strongly agree that immigrants should give up their customs and traditions are by far most inclined to think that acts of terrorism are on the rise

Acts of terrorism are currently increasing in Canada	Immigrants to Canada should give up their customs and traditions and adopt those of the majority			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Yes	65%	50%	34%	35%
No	22%	27%	38%	41%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	13%	23%	28%	24%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

is America more the mosaic and Canada more the melting pot?

Majority of Americans don't agree that Immigrants to the United States should give up their customs and traditions and adopt those of the majority.

Immigrants to the United States should give up their customs and traditions and adopt those of the majority.	Total	NE	MW	South	West	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65 +
Yes	23%	26%	19%	23%	23%	28%	18%	17%	22%	18%	23%	31%
No	58%	54%	60%	57%	62%	56%	61%	68%	50%	67%	57%	52%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	19%	19%	21%	20%	15%	16%	22%	14%	27%	15%	20%	17%

Americans appear far less likely than Canadians to think that Immigrants should give up their customs and traditions and become more like the majority

Immigrants to the United States should give up their customs and traditions and adopt those of the majority.	USA	Canada
Yes/Net Agree	29%	51%
No/Net Disagree	71%	49%
<p>With adjustment for 19% that in the US sample said I don't know / I prefer not to answer in the US which are weighted proportionately to yes and no</p>		

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