



A C S • A E C

Association for Canadian Studies

Association d'études canadiennes

Polling Research

Muslims and Jews seen as the main target for Hate and prejudice in Canada Today

Jack Jedwab

March 2026



Introduction & Methodology

A majority of Canadians believe that several of the country's most vulnerable populations regularly encounter prejudice and hate in Canada today. These findings emerge from a survey conducted by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies to mark International day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Muslims (70%) and immigrants/refugees (68%) were most frequently identified, followed by Indigenous peoples, Black persons, Jews, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals. While Muslims and immigrants/refugees rank somewhat higher, the weighted results suggest that the gaps between groups are not especially large, pointing to a broadly shared perception that discrimination affects multiple communities in Canada.

When asked to rank groups most likely to face prejudice and discrimination, Muslims were placed first, immigrants/refugees second, and Jews third, while Indigenous peoples and Black persons were ranked lowest among those listed. The data also reveal important differences across linguistic and demographic groups, as well as a strong perceived link between prejudice against Muslims and immigrants/refugees. Overall, the results underscore persistent concerns about racism and discrimination in Canada.

The findings are based on surveys conducted via web panel by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between March 6 to 8, 2026 with 1579 Canadians. While no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample of 1579 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20

Most Canadians believe that Muslims and Immigrants/refugees are most likely to regularly experience prejudice/hate in Canada today

In Canada today, how likely do you think people from each of the following groups are to regularly experience prejudice / hate? (Very and Somewhat combined)	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
Jews	59%	61%	58%	38%	44%	57%	59%	69%	73%
Muslims	70%	68%	72%	62%	60%	72%	65%	73%	80%
Indigenous peoples	60%	57%	63%	50%	55%	63%	61%	60%	67%
Black persons	59%	56%	62%	63%	50%	56%	59%	61%	64%
Immigrants / refugees	68%	63%	72%	57%	65%	73%	66%	67%	73%
2SLGBTQI+ people	62%	60%	64%	50%	51%	61%	60%	63%	75%

Francophones more likely to view Muslims as targets of prejudice than other groups and see indigenous as least likely while anglophones see immigrants/refugees as likely as Muslims to encounter prejudice and hate and allophones are most likely to see immigrants/refugees as the principal targets

In Canada today, how likely do you think people from each of the following groups are to regularly experience prejudice / hate? (Very and Somewhat combined)	French	English	Other Languages
Jews	57%	60%	57%
Muslims	75%	70%	58%
Indigenous peoples	51%	63%	58%
Black persons	59%	59%	57%
Immigrants / refugees	65%	69%	65%
2SLGBTQI+ people	65%	62%	51%

When asked to rank in order which of the groups were most likely to regularly experience discrimination and prejudice Muslims, immigrants/refugees second and Jews third. Men see the primary victims differently as do persons over 65

In Canada today, some groups may be more likely than others to experience prejudice / hate. Please rank the following groups from most likely (1) to least likely (6) to experience discrimination or prejudice in Canada Most Likely in percentage	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
Jews	17%	20%	13%	16%	14%	11%	18%	17%	22%
Muslims	26%	23%	28%	21%	19%	30%	25%	31%	27%
Indigenous peoples	12%	12%	13%	12%	14%	15%	11%	12%	11%
Black persons	11%	12%	11%	18%	13%	9%	12%	11%	8%
Immigrants / refugees	19%	16%	22%	18%	27%	22%	19%	17%	13%
2SLGBTQI+ people	15%	16%	14%	15%	13%	13%	14%	13%	19%

Canadians make a strong connection between prejudice directed at immigrants/refugees and prejudice directed at Muslims as over nine in ten who believe that immigrants/refugees are very likely to regularly encounter prejudice and hate believe Muslims are likely to do so

Muslims - In Canada today, how likely do you think people from each of the following groups are to regularly experience prejudice / hate?	Immigrants / refugees - In Canada today, how likely do you think people from each of the following groups are to regularly experience prejudice / hate?			
	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely
Very likely	75.8%	26.1%	11.7%	3.3%
Somewhat likely	18.5%	62.6%	32.8%	11.1%
Not very likely	1.7%	6.2%	48.2%	20.0%
Not at all likely	2.1%	2.0%	4.9%	63.3%
I don't know	1.9%	3.0%	2.4%	2.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Canadians make a strong connection between prejudice directed at Muslims and prejudice directed at immigrants/refugees as over nine in ten who believe that Muslims are very likely to regularly encounter prejudice and hate believe immigrants and refugees are likely to do so

Immigrants / refugees - In Canada today, how likely do you think people from each of the following groups are to regularly experience prejudice / hate?	Muslims - In Canada today, how likely do you think people from each of the following groups are to regularly experience prejudice / hate?			
	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely
Very likely	60.3%	13.1%	3.7%	9.8%
Somewhat likely	32.4%	69.0%	21.8%	14.1%
Not very likely	5.5%	13.6%	63.3%	13.0%
Not at all likely	0.6%	1.7%	9.6%	62.0%
I don't know	1.3%	2.7%	1.6%	1.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Contact

acs-metropolis.ca/acs

general@acs-aec.ca

850-1980 Sherbrook Street West, Montreal,

QC, H3H 1E8