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How worried are Canadians about the threat of Separation from Alberta and Quebec

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Introduction & Methodology

Recent court decisions in Alberta have reinforced Indigenous claims that governments have a duty to consult on issues related to provincial sovereignty and separation, adding a significant new dimension to the debate that is also expected to feature in the October Quebec election campaign. Against this backdrop, the latest Leger survey conducted for the Association for Canadian Studies suggests that concern over the threat of separation has somewhat diminished compared to earlier polling, although comparisons should be made cautiously because the wording of the questions differed. The survey nevertheless indicates that Canadians continue to regard the prospect of Alberta separation as a more immediate concern than Quebec separation, with over one in four worried about the prospect of Alberta separation and less than one in five in the case of Quebec. Concern remains especially pronounced in Alberta itself and the fear is somewhat higher among Indigenous respondents, while Quebecers are more inclined than other Canadians to view the threat of Quebec separation with more concern.

The finding arises from a survey of Canadians conducted by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between May 15 and 17, 2026. The survey was conducted over the period 1511 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 1511 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20. The comparative survey was conducted one year earlier over the period May 1-3, 2025 with 1626 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 1626 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Canadians are more worried about the threat of separation from Alberta than they are from Quebec and that is especially the case for Albertans whereas Quebecers are somewhat more worried about the threat from their province

	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
I am worried about the threat of Alberta separation	26%	13%	22%	26%	21%	39%	29%
I am worried about the threat of Quebec separation	18%	11%	28%	16%	8%	16%	16%
Difference	8	2	-6	10	13	23	13

Canadians under 35 are more worried about the threat of separation from Alberta

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
I am worried about the threat of Alberta separation	26%	30%	30%	25%	23%	20%	26%
I am worried about the threat of Quebec separation	18%	23%	19%	16%	17%	14%	19%
Difference	8	7	11	9	6	6	7

Indigenous persons are much more worried about the threat of separation from Alberta than they are from Quebec

I am worried about the threat of....	Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk / Inuit) - Which of the following best describes you?	
	Not Indigenous	Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk / Inuit)
Alberta separation -	26%	42%
Quebec separation	19%	29%
Difference	7%	13%

Those worried about Quebec separation are far more concerned about Alberta separation than are those worried about Alberta separation worried about Quebec separation

I am worried about the threat of Quebec separation	I am worried about the threat of Alberta separation -		
	Yes	No	I don't know
Yes	55%	6%	7%
No	40%	93%	15%
I don't know	5%	1%	78%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

I am worried about the threat of Alberta separation	I am worried about the threat of Quebec separation -		
	Yes	No	I don't know
Yes	75%	15%	13%
No	21%	83%	5%
I don't know	4%	2%	82%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Quebec francophones are far less worried about Quebec separation than are anglophones

Quebec	I am worried about the threat of Quebec separation			
	Yes	No	I don't know	Total
French	24%	71%	5%	100%
English	41%	55%	4%	100%
Other	45%	50%	5%	100%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100%

The Threat of Alberta and Quebec Separation May 2025

A majority of Canadians think the threat of Albertan separation needs to be taken very seriously with Albertans most likely to feel that way

The threat of Alberta separation should be taken very seriously -	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	52%	50%	46%	54%	54%	63%	51%
No	27%	27%	27%	25%	29%	27%	29%
I don't know	21%	23%	27%	21%	17%	10%	20%

A plurality of Canadians think that the threat of Quebec separation should be taken very seriously with Quebecers most likely to think so; however with the exception of Quebecers, Canadians feel the threat of separation by Alberta merits more serious attention

	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
The threat of Quebec separation should be taken very seriously	42%	32%	47%	45%	38%	31%	38%
The threat of Alberta separation should be taken very seriously -	52%	50%	46%	54%	54%	63%	51%

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