

Making the connection: Antisemitism and Antizionism in Canada

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Methodology

- The finding arises from a survey of Canadians conducted by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between June 5 and 7, 2026. The survey was conducted with 1518 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 1518 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Introduction: Highlights

- Last week's declaration by Prime Minister Mark Carney to create a Ministerial Advisory Council on Rights, Equality and Inclusion places renewed attention on the need to address racism, hate and inclusion in Canada, with the government indicating that confronting antisemitism will be a first priority. Against that backdrop, the Association for Canadian Studies commissioned the firm Leger to see how Canadians understand antisemitism, anti-Zionism, and the ways attitudes toward Israel may be affecting Jewish Canadians.
- Some one in three Canadians agree that antisemitic or anti-Jewish attitudes are becoming more acceptable in Canada.
- The survey reveals that 22% of Canadians agree that Israel's military actions in Gaza justify negative attitudes toward Jewish people in Canada, and 17% say they have become more negative toward Jewish people since the October 7, 2023 terrorist attack in Israel. These attitudes are more pronounced among younger Canadians, men, immigrants and visible minorities. Some one in ten Canadians agree that Jews in Canada are responsible for the action of the Israeli government with one in six under 35 holding that view.
- The survey also finds that 39% of Canadians agree that saying Israel should cease to exist as a state is antisemitic, while 28% disagree and 33% are unsure. A similar proportion, 39%, agree that the Prime Minister should publicly condemn calls for Israel to cease to exist as a state. That said, amongst those who strongly agree that it is antisemitic to say that Israel should cease to exist as a state, some two-thirds believe that the Prime Minister of Canada should publicly condemn calls for Israel to cease to exist as a state
- Taken together, the findings suggest that while most Canadians do not endorse collective blame toward Jewish Canadians, there remains a significant minority that does, alongside a large segment of the public that is uncertain about the boundaries between criticism of Israel, anti-Zionism and antisemitism. To that end, the ACS-Leger survey offers valuable insights on where public education, policy attention and community engagement may be most needed when it comes to combatting antisemitism

Some one in three Canadians agree that antisemitic or anti-Jewish attitudes are becoming more acceptable in Canada with men, university students and younger Canadians more likely to agree

Antisemitic or anti-Jewish attitudes are becoming more acceptable in Canada.	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	HS or less	Coll.	Uni.
(NET) AGREE	31%	38%	25%	35%	30%	30%	32%	26%	37%
Strongly agree	7%	9%	5%	8%	8%	5%	7%	4%	10%
Somewhat agree	24%	29%	20%	26%	22%	25%	25%	22%	27%
(NET) DISAGREE	42%	41%	43%	31%	46%	47%	34%	49%	42%
Somewhat disagree	22%	24%	20%	16%	24%	24%	18%	23%	24%
Strongly disagree	20%	18%	23%	15%	22%	23%	16%	26%	18%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	26%	21%	32%	34%	24%	24%	34%	25%	21%

Language is an important predictor with one in six francophones in Canada are of the view that antisemitic or anti-Jewish attitudes are becoming more acceptable in Canada

Antisemitic or anti-Jewish attitudes are becoming more acceptable in Canada.	Total	French	English	Other	Yes	No	White	Not White
(NET) AGREE	31%	16%	35%	36%	30%	39%	31%	33%
Strongly agree	7%	4%	8%	6%	7%	7%	7%	7%
Somewhat agree	24%	12%	27%	30%	23%	32%	24%	26%
(NET) DISAGREE	42%	53%	40%	42%	44%	37%	43%	39%
Somewhat disagree	22%	24%	21%	25%	21%	26%	22%	22%
Strongly disagree	20%	28%	19%	17%	22%	11%	21%	17%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	26%	32%	25%	22%	27%	24%	26%	28%

Canadians under 55 are less inclined to agree that it is antisemitic to say that Israel should cease to exist as a state

It is antisemitic to say that Israel should cease to exist as a state	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	HS or less	Coll.	Uni.
(NET) AGREE	39%	48%	31%	34%	33%	47%	32%	41%	44%
Strongly agree	18%	21%	15%	12%	14%	25%	13%	19%	22%
Somewhat agree	21%	26%	16%	22%	19%	22%	19%	22%	21%
(NET) DISAGREE	28%	29%	28%	28%	31%	26%	29%	27%	29%
Somewhat disagree	14%	16%	12%	13%	15%	14%	14%	14%	15%
Strongly disagree	14%	12%	16%	15%	16%	12%	15%	13%	14%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	33%	23%	41%	37%	36%	27%	39%	32%	27%

Across various identity markers, most Canadians agree that it is antisemitic to say that Israel should cease to exist to state

It is antisemitic to say that Israel should cease to exist as a state	Total	French	English	Other	Born in Canada	Born outside of Canada	White	Not White
(NET) AGREE	39%	40%	39%	36%	39%	41%	40%	36%
Strongly agree	18%	18%	18%	17%	18%	18%	18%	17%
Somewhat agree	21%	22%	21%	19%	21%	23%	22%	19%
(NET) DISAGREE	28%	25%	29%	30%	28%	31%	28%	30%
Somewhat disagree	14%	14%	14%	18%	13%	21%	13%	17%
Strongly disagree	14%	11%	15%	11%	15%	10%	14%	12%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	33%	35%	32%	34%	33%	28%	32%	34%

Over one in five Canadians agree that Israel's military actions in Gaza justify negative attitudes toward Jewish people in Canada. Figures are higher for males and younger Canadians

Israel's military actions in Gaza justify negative attitudes toward Jewish people in Canada%	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	HS or less	Coll.	Uni.
(NET) AGREE	22%	29%	16%	26%	24%	19%	24%	20%	25%
Strongly agree	7%	10%	4%	8%	8%	5%	8%	5%	7%
Somewhat agree	16%	19%	12%	18%	16%	15%	15%	15%	17%
(NET) DISAGREE	49%	48%	50%	37%	46%	58%	41%	50%	55%
Somewhat disagree	16%	20%	12%	15%	13%	19%	14%	16%	20%
Strongly disagree	33%	28%	38%	23%	33%	39%	28%	35%	36%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	29%	23%	34%	37%	30%	22%	35%	30%	20%

Canadians agree that Israel's military actions in Gaza justify negative attitudes toward Jewish people in Canada. Figures are higher for persons whose first language is neither French nor

English and amongst immigrants

Israel's military actions in Gaza justify negative attitudes toward Jewish people in Canada	Total	French	English	Other	Born in Canada	Born outside of Canada	White	Not White
(NET) AGREE	22%	16%	23%	32%	21%	32%	20%	29%
Strongly agree	7%	4%	7%	11%	7%	7%	6%	8%
Somewhat agree	16%	12%	16%	21%	14%	25%	14%	21%
(NET) DISAGREE	49%	54%	48%	43%	51%	42%	52%	39%
Somewhat disagree	16%	18%	16%	13%	16%	18%	16%	18%
Strongly disagree	33%	36%	32%	30%	35%	24%	36%	21%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	29%	30%	29%	25%	29%	26%	27%	31%

One in six Canadians say that since October 7, 2023, they have become more negative toward Jewish people with one in four under 35 that concur and University students highest to affirm on the educational attainment scale

Since the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack in Israel, I have become more negative toward Jewish people.	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	HS or less	Coll.	Uni.
(NET) AGREE	17%	25%	10%	24%	18%	13%	18%	13%	22%
Strongly agree	4%	6%	2%	8%	4%	2%	6%	2%	5%
Somewhat agree	13%	19%	7%	16%	13%	11%	12%	11%	16%
(NET) DISAGREE	62%	55%	68%	50%	62%	69%	57%	66%	62%
Somewhat disagree	18%	18%	18%	14%	17%	21%	16%	17%	21%
Strongly disagree	44%	37%	50%	35%	44%	49%	41%	49%	41%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	21%	19%	23%	27%	21%	18%	26%	21%	16%

Since October 7, 2023, some one in four immigrants and persons identifying as visible minorities have become more negative toward Jewish people

Since the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack in Israel, I have become more negative toward Jewish people	Total	French	English	Other	Born in Canada	Born outside of Canada	White	Not White
(NET) AGREE	17%	17%	16%	23%	16%	24%	14%	26%
Strongly agree	4%	5%	3%	8%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Somewhat agree	13%	12%	13%	15%	12%	20%	11%	21%
(NET) DISAGREE	62%	57%	64%	57%	64%	50%	66%	50%
Somewhat disagree	18%	25%	15%	24%	17%	25%	17%	20%
Strongly disagree	44%	32%	48%	33%	48%	26%	48%	30%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	21%	26%	20%	20%	20%	25%	20%	24%

One in ten Canadians agree that Jews in Canada are responsible for the action of the Israeli government with one in six under 35 and one in eight amongst university degree holders (one in five don't know or prefer not to respond)

Jewish people in Canada are responsible for the actions of the Israeli government	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	HS or less	Coll.	Uni.
(NET) AGREE	9%	14%	5%	16%	11%	4%	9%	7%	13%
Strongly agree	3%	3%	2%	4%	4%	1%	3%	1%	4%
Somewhat agree	7%	10%	3%	12%	7%	3%	7%	5%	9%
(NET) DISAGREE	71%	70%	72%	57%	70%	80%	66%	73%	74%
Somewhat disagree	14%	18%	11%	14%	13%	16%	16%	12%	17%
Strongly disagree	56%	52%	60%	43%	57%	64%	50%	61%	57%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	20%	17%	23%	28%	19%	16%	25%	20%	14%

Some one in six immigrants agree that Jewish people in Canada are responsible for the actions of the Israeli government

Jewish people in Canada are responsible for the actions of the Israeli government	Total	French	English	Other	Born in Canada	Born outside of Canada	White	Not White
(NET) AGREE	9%	7%	10%	10%	8%	15%	8%	15%
Strongly agree	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%
Somewhat agree	7%	5%	7%	7%	6%	13%	5%	12%
(NET) DISAGREE	71%	72%	71%	69%	73%	62%	75%	59%
Somewhat disagree	14%	22%	12%	17%	14%	18%	13%	19%
Strongly disagree	56%	50%	59%	52%	59%	44%	62%	40%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	20%	21%	19%	21%	19%	22%	17%	25%

Most agree that the Prime Minister of Canada should publicly condemn calls for Israel to cease to exist as a state but one-quarter disagree and many don't know or refuse to respond. Support is highest amongst men, university students and person over 65

The Prime Minister of Canada should publicly condemn calls for Israel to cease to exist as a state.	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	HS or less	Coll.	Uni.
(NET) AGREE	39%	46%	32%	35%	37%	42%	35%	37%	44%
Strongly agree	19%	24%	15%	16%	17%	22%	18%	18%	22%
Somewhat agree	20%	23%	17%	19%	21%	20%	18%	19%	23%
(NET) DISAGREE	24%	27%	22%	26%	25%	23%	23%	25%	26%
Somewhat disagree	12%	14%	10%	11%	10%	14%	9%	13%	13%
Strongly disagree	12%	13%	12%	15%	15%	9%	14%	11%	12%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	37%	27%	46%	39%	38%	34%	42%	38%	30%

Amongst those who strongly agree that It is antisemitic to say that Israel should cease to exist as a state, some two-thirds believe that the Prime Minister of Canada should publicly condemn calls for Israel to cease to exist as a state

The Prime Minister of Canada should publicly condemn calls for Israel to cease to exist as a state. -	It is antisemitic to say that Israel should cease to exist as a state. - Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.				
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know / I prefer not to answer
Strongly agree	63%	18%	5%	14%	4%
Somewhat agree	17%	42%	31%	7%	8%
Somewhat disagree	4%	13%	40%	12%	4%
Strongly disagree	5%	9%	8%	53%	3%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	10%	18%	16%	14%	81%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%