

Patterns of online hate in Canada

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Introduction

It is important to recognize that celebrating diversity also requires confronting the forces that threaten it. Online hate has become one of the most visible and damaging challenges to social harmony, inclusion, and mutual respect in Canada. The findings from this survey underline the urgent need to forcefully address hate online, particularly when it targets religious, racialized, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ communities.

The survey, conducted by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between June 5 and 7, 2026, asked Canadians how often they had seen hateful content on social media or other online platforms directed at different groups. The results show that online hate is widely observed across Canadian society.

The highest reported levels of hateful content were directed at Muslims, with 43% of Canadians saying they had often or sometimes seen such content online. Hateful content directed at Israelis was also widely reported, at 42%, followed by content targeting LGBTQ+ people at 38%, Arabs at 37%, Jews at 33%, Black persons at 31%, and Indigenous persons at 28%.

Younger Canadians were consistently more likely than older Canadians to report seeing hateful content online. Among those aged 18 to 34, nearly half reported seeing hateful content directed at Muslims, and substantial shares reported seeing hate targeting Arabs, Israelis, LGBTQ+ people, Black persons, Jews, and Indigenous persons. This suggests that younger people's greater exposure to online spaces may also increase their exposure to hate.

Regional differences are also evident. Alberta reported some of the highest levels of exposure to hateful content directed at Muslims, Israelis, LGBTQ+ people, Arabs, Indigenous persons, and Black persons. Ontario and Manitoba/Saskatchewan also reported relatively high levels of exposure to hateful content directed at Jews. In Quebec, reported exposure was generally lower than in several other regions, particularly for hate targeting Jews, Israelis, and Indigenous persons.

Introduction (continued)

The findings also show that visible minority respondents were more likely than white respondents to report seeing hateful content directed at several groups, including Jews, Arabs, Muslims, Black persons, and Indigenous persons. This points to differences in lived experience and online exposure, and suggests that racialized Canadians may be more attuned to or more directly exposed to hateful online environments.

A further pattern in the data is that exposure to hate against one group often overlaps with exposure to hate against others. Respondents who reported often seeing hate directed at Muslims, Arabs, Jews, Israelis, Black persons, LGBTQ+ people, or Indigenous persons were frequently also likely to report seeing hate directed at other communities. This reinforces the idea that online hate is not isolated to one group; it is part of a broader ecosystem of intolerance.

Overall, the survey points to a serious challenge for Canada's multicultural society. Online hate is not marginal or rare. It is seen by significant numbers of Canadians, particularly younger Canadians, and it cuts across multiple communities. On Canadian Multiculturalism Day, these findings serve as a reminder that the defense of diversity must include stronger action against hate online, more effective platform accountability, public education, and a renewed commitment to protecting all communities from targeted hostility.

Methodology

The findings arise 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.

Muslims and Israelis are the object of the most hate seen often and sometimes on social media and other online platforms while that is least likely the case for Black persons and Indigenous persons

I have often, sometimes, rarely or never seen hateful content on social media or other online platforms directed at...	Jews	Arabs	Muslims	Israelis	Black Persons	LGBTQ +	Indigenous persons
(NET) OFTEN + SOMETIMES	33%	37%	43%	42%	31%	38%	28%
Often	11%	13%	17%	17%	9%	14%	9%
Sometimes	22%	24%	26%	25%	22%	24%	19%
(NET) RARELY + NEVER	52%	48%	43%	43%	56%	49%	59%
Rarely	19%	18%	17%	15%	24%	21%	22%
Never	33%	30%	26%	28%	31%	28%	36%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	14%	15%	14%	16%	13%	13%	13%

Younger persons far more exposed to on line hate...Those under 55 are more likely to often and sometimes see hate on line directed at Arabs than at Jews while over 55% are more likely to see hate directed at Jews than Arabs

I have often or sometimes seen hateful content on social media or other online platforms directed at...	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
Jews	33%	39%	31%	32%
Arabs	37%	46%	38%	30%
Muslims	43%	49%	45%	38%
Israelis	42%	45%	42%	39%
Black Persons	31%	41%	32%	23%
LGBTQ+	38%	44%	42%	30%
Indigenous Persons	28%	34%	29%	24%
Average	36%	44%	37%	31%

Albertans and Atlantic Canadians most exposed to online hate while Quebecers see it least, there are important regional differences around which groups are the object of the most online hate with indigenous highest in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Muslims highest in Alberta and Israelis highest in BC and Atlantic

I have often or sometimes seen hateful content on social media or other online platforms directed at...	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Jews	32%	25%	38%	39%	36%	29%
Arabs	40%	36%	37%	33%	45%	32%
Muslims	44%	40%	44%	41%	52%	38%
Israelis	48%	33%	43%	40%	49%	45%
Black Persons	34%	28%	32%	29%	35%	27%
LGBTQ+	46%	34%	36%	33%	48%	39%
Indigenous Persons	30%	18%	24%	41%	40%	40%
Average	39%	30%	36%	37%	44%	36%

Persons identifying as visible minority or racialized are somewhat more likely to see hate on line

I have often or sometimes seen hateful content on social media or other online platforms directed at...	Born in Canada	Born Outside of Canada	White	Not White
Jews	34%	33%	32%	38%
Arabs	37%	37%	36%	43%
Muslims	43%	41%	42%	47%
Israelis	42%	42%	42%	43%
Black Persons	31%	30%	29%	37%
LGBTQ+	39%	31%	38%	36%
Indigenous Persons	29%	24%	28%	30%
Average	36%	34%	35%	39%

Those who often see hate on line directed at Jews are much more likely to often see hate directed at Israelis while those seeing hate directed at Arabs are much more likely to see hate directed at Muslims, a majority that see hate directed at Jews often see hate directed at Muslims while 37% of those who see hate often directed at Muslims often see hate directed at Jews

	I have often seen hateful content on social media or other online platforms directed at...						
I have often seen hateful content on social media or other online platforms directed at...	Jews	Arabs	Muslims	Israelis	Black Persons	LGBTQ+	Indigenous Persons
Jews	X	43%	37%	54%	40%	29%	32%
Arabs	49%	X	69%	44%	56%	46%	43%
Muslims	56%	90%	X	54%	62%	54%	50%
Israelis	81%	58%	54%	X	49%	45%	49%
Black Persons	31%	38%	32%	25%	X	46%	44%
LGBTQ+	35%	49%	44%	36%	72%	X	61%
Indigenous Persons	27%	32%	29%	27%	48%	42%	X