

Canadian Views on Selected Religions and on Atheism

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Introduction; Summary

The survey results suggest that Canadian opinion toward major religious groups is generally positive but uneven, with Christianity receiving the highest net-positive rating overall at 57%, followed by atheism at 50%, Judaism at 40%, and Islam at 26%. One of the most striking findings is generational: Canadians aged 18–24 give Islam its highest rating, at 41%, and place atheism highest of all at 58%, while older Canadians remain considerably more positive toward Christianity and Judaism. This points to a younger cohort that is less anchored in traditional Christian identification and more open toward religious diversity, though Islam still trails Judaism and Christianity in most groups. Regionally, Quebec stands out for ranking atheism slightly above Christianity and for giving comparatively low ratings to Islam and Judaism, while Ontario, Manitoba/Saskatchewan, and British Columbia are more positive toward Judaism and Islam than Quebec. The results also show that education, language, immigration status, and identity shape perceptions in important ways. University-educated Canadians are more positive toward all four categories, suggesting that education is associated not simply with secularism but with broader tolerance across religious and non-religious identities. Francophones give the lowest positive ratings to Islam and Judaism while ranking atheism highest, reflecting Quebec's distinctive secular culture. By contrast, allophones and immigrants are more positive toward Christianity and Islam, and foreign-born Canadians are notably more positive toward Judaism than Canadian-born respondents. It is interesting to note that people who rate one religious or non-religious group positively often rate others positively as well, suggesting that favourable attitudes are less a zero-sum competition between faiths and more a general disposition toward pluralism. The major exception is that Islam remains the most weakly rated group, indicating that anti-Islamic sentiment or discomfort with Islam remains a significant challenge within the broader Canadian landscape of religious tolerance.

Methodology

- The findings arise from a survey of Canadians conducted by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between June 19 and 21, 2026. The survey was conducted with 1528 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 1528 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.
- The comparisons with opinion on Islam, Judaism and Christianity were done on March 1-3, 2025 by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies

Christianity viewed most favorably amongst Canadians and atheism least negatively as large percentage offer no opinion on it; Judaism trails behind with one third negative and half of Canadians report negative views of Islam

Opinion of....	Islam	Judaism	Christianity	Atheism
NET POSITIVE	26%	40%	57%	50%
Very positive	6%	9%	20%	19%
Somewhat positive	20%	31%	37%	31%
NET NEGATIVE	50%	32%	25%	21%
Somewhat negative	23%	20%	16%	12%
Very negative	28%	12%	9%	9%
I dont know	24%	28%	18%	29%

Islam viewed most negatively amongst three religions but Judaism takes the largest decline compared with March 2025 survey and Christianity remains stable

Opinion of....	Islam		Judaism		Christianity	
	March 2025	June 2026	March 2025	June 2026	March 2025	June 2026
NET POSITIVE	30%	26%	49%	40%	58%	57%
Very positive	8%	6%	16%	9%	26%	20%
Somewhat positive	22%	20%	33%	31%	32%	37%
NET NEGATIVE	49%	50%	25%	32%	27%	25%
Somewhat negative	24%	23%	17%	20%	18%	16%
Very negative	24%	28%	8%	12%	9%	9%
I dont know	21%	24%	26%	28%	15%	18%

Youngest Cohort of Canadians give highest positive rating to Islam and rank it only somewhat less than Judaism and Christianity while putting Atheism highest diverging considerably from over 45

Net Positive	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65+
Islam	26%	28%	24%	41%	23%	25%	22%	23%	26%
Judaism	40%	42%	37%	45%	29%	36%	37%	42%	47%
Christianity	57%	60%	54%	47%	44%	52%	58%	66%	65%
Atheism	50%	54%	46%	58%	50%	52%	44%	48%	50%

Quebec and BC rank Christianity and Atheism as similarly positive while Atlantic and Prairie Canadians put Atheism well back of Christianity

Net Positive	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Islam	19%	18%	30%	34%	22%	30%
Judaism	38%	27%	44%	52%	34%	46%
Christianity	55%	53%	59%	63%	57%	55%
Atheism	33%	55%	48%	46%	52%	56%

More educated give higher marks to each religion and to atheism and students give higher marks to Islam though still lowest overall

Net Positive	High School or less	College	University or better	Students
Islam	21%	25%	32%	35%
Judaism	32%	40%	47%	37%
Christianity	50%	57%	63%	51%
Atheism	45%	47%	58%	47%

Francophones rank Islam lowest positive, atheism highest and anglophones and allophones make Islam lowest net positive

Net Positive	Francophone	Anglophone	Allophone
Islam	16%	28%	29%
Judaism	25%	44%	40%
Christianity	48%	58%	67%
Atheism	54%	50%	40%

White and Visible Minorities give mostly similar positive ratings to Christianity, Vizmin rate Islam somewhat higher than do white identifiers but rate Islam and Judaism similarly

Net Positive	White	Not White	Born in Canada	Born outside of Canada
Islam	24%	32%	24%	35%
Judaism	42%	32%	38%	46%
Christianity	57%	56%	55%	64%
Atheism	52%	43%	50%	49%

With the exception of those with a very positive view of Christianity holding less positive views about Islam those with very positive views of one religion have generally positive views of others

	Very Positive			
Net Positive	Islam	Judaism	Christianity	Atheism
Islam	-	47%	27%	37%
Judaism	72%	-	63%	51%
Christianity	76%	89%	-	50%
Atheism	68%	64%	47%	-

Canadians who feel very negatively toward one religion or worldview often extend that negativity to others; hostility is not always narrowly targeted but may reflect a broader pattern where the overlap is especially high between negative views of Judaism, Islam and Christianity, while those viewing atheism very negatively are less hostile

	Very Negative			
Net Negative	Islam	Judaism	Christianity	Atheism
Islam	-	91%	76%	34%
Judaism	56%	-	75%	17%
Christianity	38%	58%	-	29%
Atheism	37%	42%	23%	-

Age is an important predictor of positive views about Jews while Eastern Canadians are somewhat less positive towards Jews and Arabs

NET POSITIVE	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	Atl.	QC	ON	MB /SK	AB	BC
Jews	60%	50%	58%	68%	55%	54%	59%	80%	65%	63%
Arabs	44%	45%	39%	48%	34%	39%	46%	50%	39%	55%

Negative views of Jews and Arabs are more prevalent in Quebec

			35-54	55+	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
NET NEGATIVE	Total	18-34	4	55+	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Jews	16%	19%	18%	12%	11%	24%	17%	9%	6%	14%
Arabs	33%	29%	39%	30%	34%	41%	30%	40%	36%	21%

Those with the most positive opinions about Judaism have most positive view of Jews while those with most negative opinion of Judaism are in the majority negative about Jews

Jewish Canadians	Judaism - How would you describe your opinion of the following?			
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Very positive	85.2%	19.0%	10.0%	8.9%
Somewhat positive	8.9%	70.3%	45.5%	23.2%
Somewhat negative	1.5%	3.8%	25.9%	19.5%
Very negative	1.5%	1.9%	5.3%	35.3%
I dont know	3.0%	4.9%	13.3%	13.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Similarly those with most positive views of Islam have mostly positive views of Arabs while those who are more negative hold far more negative views

Arab Canadians	Islam - How would you describe your opinion of the following?			
	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Very positive	67.4%	13.2%	4.3%	2.1%
Somewhat positive	27.2%	77.3%	35.1%	15.2%
Somewhat negative	3.3%	4.3%	44.6%	34.4%
Very negative	1.1%	0.7%	4.6%	34.6%
I dont know	1.1%	4.6%	11.3%	13.7%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%