

Canadians view non-Christian religions with uncertainty, dislike

Last of three national surveys about values and religion in Canada shows English and French Canadians most favourable towards Christianity, least favourable towards Islam. Favourability of all religions is down since 2009.

[October 2, 2013] – Nearly seventy per cent of Quebecers hold an unfavourable opinion of Islam, but a favourable opinion of Christianity.

The results from the last of three comprehensive national surveys about religion, religious freedom and values by Angus Reid Global show 69 per cent of Quebecers hold an unfavourable view of the Muslim religion, while about as many (66%) view Christianity favourably.

More than half of the rest of Canadians (54%) view Islam unfavourably, while almost three quarters (73%) hold a favourable opinion of Christianity.

Outside Quebec, favourable opinions of other religions vary, with Buddhism (56%) and Judaism (51%) coming second and third to Christianity, followed by Hinduism (44%) and the Sikh faith (29%).

Quebecers have generally lower favourable opinions of those religions: Buddhism (56%) Hinduism (39%) Judaism (35%) Sikhism (18%).

“We put the same questions to Canadians across the country four years ago,” says Shachi Kurl, Vice President, Angus Reid Global. “Since 2009, favourable views towards all religions have dropped outside Quebec. In that province, favourable views towards Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism have climbed, but are still lower than in the rest of Canada. Only perceptions of Christianity remain unchanged.”

Outside Quebec, people living in Atlantic Canada have more favourable opinions towards religions, while people living in Saskatchewan and Manitoba are less favourable towards religions.

Demographics tell another story, with younger and university educated Canadian adults holding more favourable opinions of non-Judeo-Christian religions. The same trend emerges when Canadians were

KEY FINDINGS

- **69% of Quebecers have an unfavourable view of Islam. 54% of Canadians outside Quebec feel the same way.**
- **Two-thirds of Quebecers have a favourable opinion of Christianity, compared to 73% of the rest of Canada.**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From September 6th to 10th, 2013, Angus Reid Global conducted an online survey among 2,025 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. 1,011 were surveyed within Quebec and 1,014 across the rest of Canada. Both samples were weighted by demographic characteristics and voting behaviour, and overall regional weights were applied to adjust for the intentional over-sampling within Quebec. The margin of error – which measures sampling variability – is +/- 3%.

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asked whether it would be acceptable or unacceptable if their children married people from non-Judeo-Christian religions. Canadian adults aged 18-34 and those with a university education were most accepting of this scenario. Scenarios where children were to marry a Christian partner were the only ones to garner widespread acceptance across regional, age and educational lines.

“The Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees our ability to practice the religions of our choice in Canada,” says Kurl. “However, how much we choose to educate our neighbours about our faiths may be one factor in the deep disconnect between how we perceive different religions in this country.”

Full demographic and regional results are found in the tables at the end of this document.

For details on the results of the other surveys in this series, [click here](#).

Angus Reid Global is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations. Learn about our [electoral record](#) / Consult our [surveys](#) / Follow us on [Twitter](#)

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Would you say you have a generally favourable or unfavourable opinion of each of the following religions?

	Rest of Canada				Quebec			
	2009		2013		2009		2013	
	Favourable	Unfavourable	Favourable	Unfavourable	Favourable	Unfavourable	Favourable	Unfavourable
Christianity	74%	18%	73%	18%	67%	21%	66%	23%
Islam	31%	46%	24%	54%	17%	68%	16%	69%
Sikhism	35%	38%	29%	39%	15%	47%	18%	43%
Hinduism	45%	31%	44%	29%	32%	37%	39%	34%
Buddhism	59%	20%	56%	20%	53%	26%	56%	25%
Judaism	59%	21%	51%	22%	36%	44%	35%	41%

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Favourable Summary: Would you say you have a generally favourable or unfavourable opinion of each of the following religions?

	Total	Region					Age			Education		
	ROC	BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	Atlantic	18-34	35-54	55+	<=HS	College/ Post Sec	Univ+
Christianity	73%	66%	80%	72%	73%	78%	59%	72%	87%	79%	68%	69%
Islam	24%	17%	22%	14%	25%	37%	30%	22%	20%	21%	21%	32%
Hinduism	44%	36%	49%	32%	45%	49%	49%	40%	43%	36%	45%	55%
Sikhism	29%	28%	26%	21%	30%	32%	35%	25%	27%	22%	28%	42%
Buddhism	56%	53%	59%	45%	57%	55%	58%	52%	58%	45%	59%	71%
Judaism	51%	40%	53%	47%	55%	53%	47%	49%	57%	44%	53%	62%

Unfavourable Summary: Would you say you have a generally favourable or unfavourable opinion of each of the following religions?

	Total	Region					Age			Education		
	ROC	BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	Atlantic	18-34	35-54	55+	<=HS	College/ Post Sec	Univ+
Christianity	18%	22%	15%	21%	17%	13%	24%	20%	10%	12%	22%	23%
Islam	54%	59%	59%	54%	54%	41%	43%	54%	64%	51%	59%	54%
Hinduism	29%	31%	30%	42%	27%	23%	26%	30%	29%	31%	30%	23%
Sikhism	39%	39%	45%	45%	38%	28%	30%	39%	46%	41%	39%	33%
Buddhism	20%	17%	17%	29%	21%	19%	19%	21%	21%	23%	21%	15%
Judaism	22%	26%	20%	23%	22%	16%	22%	23%	21%	24%	22%	19%

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Favourable Summary: Would you say you have a generally favourable or unfavourable opinion of each of the following religions?

	Total	Area		Language Spoken At Home		Age			Education		
	Quebec	Montreal	Other PQ	French	Other	18-34	35-54	55+	<=HS	College/Post Sec	Univ+
Christianity	66%	64%	68%	65%	73%	56%	65%	76%	65%	64%	72%
Islam	16%	21%	12%	14%	31%	22%	16%	12%	12%	16%	25%
Hinduism	39%	40%	38%	37%	49%	38%	41%	36%	30%	43%	51%
Sikhism	18%	22%	14%	15%	36%	18%	19%	16%	13%	18%	26%
Buddhism	56%	58%	55%	56%	60%	58%	56%	55%	45%	61%	71%
Judaism	35%	38%	33%	32%	53%	32%	36%	37%	26%	35%	54%

Unfavourable Summary: Would you say you have a generally favourable or unfavourable opinion of each of the following religions?

	Total	Area		Language Spoken At Home		Age			Education		
	Quebec	Montreal	Other PQ	French	Other	18-34	35-54	55+	<=HS	College/Post Sec	Univ+
Christianity	23%	24%	22%	24%	17%	29%	25%	17%	22%	26%	22%
Islam	69%	66%	72%	73%	48%	59%	71%	75%	69%	72%	66%
Hinduism	34%	35%	34%	36%	27%	31%	34%	38%	38%	33%	29%
Sikhism	43%	42%	44%	45%	32%	33%	44%	51%	46%	43%	39%
Buddhism	25%	24%	26%	26%	20%	22%	27%	27%	30%	24%	17%
Judaism	41%	42%	41%	44%	26%	42%	41%	42%	44%	44%	32%

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Would it be acceptable or unacceptable to you if one of your children were to marry a person who was a follower of any of these religions?

	Rest of Canada				Quebec			
	2009		2013		2009		2013	
	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Christianity	86%	3%	79%	3%	73%	3%	67%	6%
Islam	46%	24%	30%	32%	16%	45%	16%	48%
Sikhism	46%	22%	33%	24%	17%	36%	19%	28%
Hinduism	52%	18%	39%	19%	27%	26%	30%	19%
Buddhism	59%	13%	49%	13%	36%	20%	45%	14%
Judaism	66%	10%	52%	13%	29%	24%	32%	21%

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Acceptable Summary: Would it be acceptable or unacceptable to you if one of your children were to marry a person who was a follower of any of these religions?

	Total	Region					Age			Education		
	ROC	BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	Atlantic	18-34	35-54	55+	<=HS	College/Post Sec	Univ+
Christianity	73%	66%	80%	72%	73%	78%	59%	72%	87%	79%	68%	69%
Islam	24%	17%	22%	14%	25%	37%	30%	22%	20%	21%	21%	32%
Hinduism	44%	36%	49%	32%	45%	49%	49%	40%	43%	36%	45%	55%
Sikhism	29%	28%	26%	21%	30%	32%	35%	25%	27%	22%	28%	42%
Buddhism	56%	53%	59%	45%	57%	55%	58%	52%	58%	45%	59%	71%
Judaism	51%	40%	53%	47%	55%	53%	47%	49%	57%	44%	53%	62%

Unacceptable Summary: Would it be acceptable or unacceptable to you if one of your children were to marry a person who was a follower of any of these religions?

	Total	Region					Age			Education		
	ROC	BC	AB	SK/MN	ON	Atlantic	18-34	35-54	55+	<=HS	College/Post Sec	Univ+
Christianity	3%	1%	6%	3%	4%	1%	5%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Islam	32%	31%	34%	39%	34%	20%	19%	31%	46%	35%	31%	30%
Hinduism	19%	23%	15%	33%	19%	9%	14%	20%	23%	23%	16%	17%
Sikhism	24%	25%	25%	35%	25%	12%	17%	24%	32%	29%	20%	23%
Buddhism	13%	12%	12%	27%	13%	6%	11%	14%	14%	16%	11%	11%
Judaism	13%	13%	13%	23%	13%	6%	12%	13%	14%	18%	8%	10%

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Acceptable Summary: Would it be acceptable or unacceptable to you if one of your children were to marry a person who was a follower of any of these religions?

	Total	Area		Language Spoken At Home		Age			Education		
	Quebec	Montreal	Other PQ	French	Other	18-34	35-54	55+	<=HS	College/Post Sec	Univ+
Christianity	67%	69%	65%	66%	72%	62%	64%	74%	61%	66%	79%
Islam	16%	18%	15%	14%	30%	28%	14%	9%	12%	16%	27%
Hinduism	30%	32%	29%	28%	42%	38%	28%	26%	23%	31%	43%
Sikhism	19%	20%	18%	16%	34%	30%	17%	12%	13%	19%	29%
Buddhism	45%	46%	44%	45%	48%	53%	45%	39%	35%	50%	57%
Judaism	32%	35%	30%	29%	51%	41%	28%	31%	24%	30%	53%

Unacceptable Summary: Would it be acceptable or unacceptable to you if one of your children were to marry a person who was a follower of any of these religions?

	Total	Area		Language Spoken At Home		Age			Education		
	Quebec	Montreal	Other PQ	French	Other	18-34	35-54	55+	<=HS	College/Post Sec	Univ+
Christianity	6%	7%	5%	6%	3%	6%	7%	4%	6%	6%	3%
Islam	48%	47%	48%	52%	25%	37%	50%	53%	50%	49%	43%
Hinduism	19%	21%	18%	20%	13%	19%	19%	20%	21%	16%	19%
Sikhism	28%	31%	26%	30%	16%	23%	29%	32%	31%	28%	24%
Buddhism	14%	16%	13%	15%	11%	13%	15%	14%	17%	12%	14%
Judaism	21%	22%	19%	23%	8%	21%	19%	22%	23%	22%	15%

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