

‘Patriatic’ Canadians: Majority of Canadians take pride in patriation, but for many inside and outside of Quebec, 1982 is a faded memory

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Introduction

- Dawson Professor Frederic Bastien's book "La Bataille de Londres" reveals behind-the-scenes dealings involving Supreme Court justices at the time of the 1982 patriation of the Canadian constitution and prompts reminders of the betrayal of Quebec during the process and at the ratification. More than thirty years later, the issue of patriation remains fodder for illustrating the divide between Quebec and the rest of Canada. Yet a recent survey reveals that a modest majority of Canadians take pride in patriation, this proves to be equally the case for nearly half of Quebecers; hence the divide around the issue is not as considerable as some observers assume. Furthermore, this issue does not seem to resonate very much with many young Quebecers.

Methodology

- The findings were collected from a survey of 2200 Canadians conducted by the firm Leger Marketing during the week of November 5th, 2012 and commissioned by the Association for Canadian Studies. Done via web panel, the probabilistic margin of error is 2.9 percent 19 times out of 20.

Sixty percent of Canadians see the 1982 Patriation as a source of personal and collective pride

Important source of personal or collective pride in Canada - The 1982 Patriation of the Constitution										
	Tot	Fr	Eng	Other	Maritimes	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	
Weighted total :	2207	481	1271	449	164	525	851	145	227	294
Total:	2207	878	1151	176	242	656	843	143	152	171
TOTAL YES	61%	48%	67%	61%	63%	50%	64%	61%	67%	70%
Very important	23%	15%	26%	24%	22%	14%	27%	28%	22%	27%
Somewhat important	38%	34%	41%	37%	40%	36%	37%	33%	46%	43%
TOTAL NO	25%	39%	21%	23%	18%	36%	22%	30%	24%	17%
Not very important	18%	25%	15%	18%	16%	23%	17%	18%	17%	13%
Not important at all	7%	14%	6%	5%	3%	13%	5%	12%	7%	4%
I don't know	12%	11%	12%	13%	14%	13%	13%	6%	9%	11%
I prefer not to answer	1%	2%	1%	3%	5%	2%	1%	3%	0%	1%

Francophones outside of Quebec take greatest pride in patriation

	Importance of the 1982 Patriation of the Constitution as a source of personal or collective pride in Canada									
	Do you consider yourself to be									
	Total	French outside of QC	ROC	QC	Canadian only	Canadian first also province	Equally Canadian /province	Province first Canada	Province only	None of the above
TOTAL	61%	73%	65%	50%	67%	68%	64%	49%	40%	41%
YES										
Very important	23%	31%	26%	14%	28%	25%	21%	13%	18%	19%
Somewhat important	38%	43%	39%	36%	39%	43%	43%	36%	22%	23%
TOTAL	25%	21%	22%	36%	21%	20%	21%	37%	51%	41%
NO										
Not very important	18%	17%	16%	23%	16%	15%	18%	23%	24%	25%
Not important at all	7%	5%	6%	13%	6%	5%	3%	14%	28%	16%
I don't know	12%	5%	12%	13%	11%	11%	14%	12%	5%	15%
I prefer not to answer	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	2%	4%	3%

Canadians aged 25-34 lowest on patriatism and knowledge related to events of 1982

Importance as a source of personal or collective pride in Canada -The 1982 Patriation of the Constitution

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
TOTAL YES	62%	53%	57%	59%	61%	63%
Very important	23%	19%	23%	23%	31%	17%
Somewhat important	39%	34%	34%	36%	30%	46%
TOTAL NO	19%	28%	24%	21%	21%	24%
Not very important	13%	21%	18%	18%	16%	16%
Not important at all	6%	7%	6%	3%	5%	9%
I don't know	15%	19%	16%	18%	16%	12%
I prefer not to answer	4%	0%	3%	1%	2%	0%

Youngest Quebecers: nearly as many don't know as express lack of pride in patriation

	Importance as a source of personal or collective pride in Canada- The 1982 Patriation of the Constitution					
Quebec	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all	I don't know	I prefer not to answer
Between 18 and 24	11.6%	30.2%	23.3%	7.0%	27.9%	
Between 25 and 29	12.5%	46.9%	15.6%	6.3%	18.8%	
Between 30 and 34	13.0%	30.4%	17.4%	13.0%	21.7%	4.3%
Between 35 and 39	4.9%	44.3%	24.6%	3.3%	19.7%	3.3%
Between 40 and 44	17.1%	25.7%	20.0%	20.0%	17.1%	
Between 45 and 49	6.7%	46.7%	26.7%	11.7%	6.7%	1.7%
Between 50 and 54	15.9%	30.2%	22.2%	20.6%	9.5%	1.6%
Between 55 and 59	22.5%	27.5%	17.5%	20.0%	10.0%	2.5%
Between 60 and 64	18.9%	32.1%	26.4%	17.0%	3.8%	1.9%
65 years of age or older	16.2%	35.9%	22.2%	12.8%	9.4%	3.4%