

Charter Chatter

Two thirds of Quebec seniors and youth want end to debate concerning proposed Quebec Charter of Values

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July 7th 2014

Is there continued interest in pursuing the debate concerning the introduction of a Quebec charter of values?

The previous Marois government sought the adoption of a charter that, among other things, proposed it be prohibited for public servants to wear visible religious symbols in the workplace.

With the defeat of the Parti Québécois in the April 2014 election there has been considerably less discussion of this issue. To determine Quebecers' degree of interest in continuing the discussion of this issue the Association for Canadian Studies commissioned Leger Marketing to ask Quebecers whether they felt that the debate should be put behind us. The survey was conducted online between June 17 and June 19, 2014 with 1004 respondents and a margin of error for an equivalent telephone survey of 2.9%, 19 times out of 20.

In total, nearly 60% of respondents agree it's time to put the debate on the charter of values behind us.

Two age groups stand out with two-thirds in favour of moving past the charter debate, those aged 65 and up, and youth aged 18 to 24. Only 45% of those aged 35 to 44 want an end to values-related debate, whereas other age groups tend to support moving past the divisive debate.

Support for the Charter of Values – or at least its public discussion – is strongest amongst the 35 to 64 age group. Less than 40% of Quebec Francophones want to put 'the charter debate behind us'.

Among non-Francophones, total support to 'move past' the charter debate is above 70%, whereas 54% of Francophones feel the same.

Significantly, 70% of respondents from the central regions of Quebec think it's time to move on, whereas only 45% of respondents from the western regions of Quebec feel the same. Support to move on from the charter debate reached 58% in the Montreal region and 60% in the Quebec City region. Combined, 57% of respondents in the eastern, central and western regions of Quebec support moving on from the charter debate.

I strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement:

We should put the debate about the Charter of Values behind us.

	Total	Age						Francophone		Region					
		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Yes	No	Mtl RMR	Qc RMR	East	Centre	West	East/Centre/West
NET AGREE	58%	66%	63%	45%	52%	53%	67%	54%	71%	58%	60%	62%	70%	45%	57%
Strongly agree	34%	38%	37%	31%	30%	30%	41%	29%	54%	39%	29%	33%	36%	24%	30%
Somewhat agree	23%	28%	26%	15%	23%	23%	27%	25%	17%	19%	31%	28%	33%	21%	27%
NET DISAGREE	34%	21%	28%	38%	42%	42%	27%	38%	17%	35%	33%	35%	24%	38%	32%
Somewhat disagree	17%	14%	14%	18%	20%	19%	13%	19%	10%	17%	20%	15%	15%	16%	15%
Strongly disagree	17%	6%	14%	20%	22%	23%	13%	20%	7%	18%	13%	19%	8%	22%	17%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	9%	13%	9%	17%	6%	5%	6%	8%	12%	7%	8%	4%	7%	18%	11%