

Facing Facts by



Issue no. 3: The Debate over Quebec's History Program

Architects of Quebec's new history curriculum are out of touch with the majority of Quebecers when it comes to their desire to know about the history of Quebec's minorities.

Recently, there has been considerable debate over Quebec's proposed high school history course, which directs no meaningful attention to the role of minorities in Quebec's history. The Education Minister promised to review the curriculum once these debates surfaced, however school boards have decided to go forward.

In an effort to determine the importance Quebecers attach to learning about diversity in secondary history classrooms, the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) and the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) commissioned the firm Leger Marketing to poll the population on this matter. The survey polled some 1000 Quebecers via web panel between June 21 and June 24, 2016 with a probabilistic margin of error of 3.9 percent 19 times out of 20.

As demonstrated in the results, the proposed curriculum is not in line with the views that the majority of Quebecers hold.

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Eight in ten Quebecers agree that it's important to learn about the role of minorities in Quebec history

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
NET AGREE	79%	67%	82%	83%	74%	78%	86%
NET DISAGREE	14%	17%	13%	9%	20%	17%	9%
NET DNK/Refusal	7%	16%	5%	9%	6%	4%	5%

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Majority of Quebecers agree that English Quebecers made positive contributions to Quebec history, but conviction is much greater amongst non-francophones than francophones

	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	French	Other
NET AGREE	64%	71%	58%	61%	69%	57%	61%	63%	72%	57%	90%
NET DISAGREE	20%	21%	20%	21%	15%	24%	20%	24%	17%	24%	5%
NET DNK/Refusal	15%	9%	22%	18%	16%	19%	18%	13%	11%	18%	5%

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Most Quebecers not proud of the treatment of minorities in Quebec history

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	French	Other
NET AGREE	36%	30%	31%	36%	35%	35%	47%	40%	24%
NET DISAGREE	43%	46%	43%	45%	39%	44%	44%	38%	63%
NET DNK/Refusal	21%	24%	26%	19%	26%	21%	9%	23%	13%

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Most Quebecers proud of Quebec history, but there is an important gap between francophones and non-francophones

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	French	Other
NET AGREE	76%	61%	73%	72%	76%	81%	87%	83%	53%
NET DISAGREE	15%	27%	14%	17%	18%	14%	7%	10%	34%
NET DNK/Refusal	8%	12%	12%	11%	6%	5%	6%	7%	13%

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Vast majority of Quebecers agree that our high schools should ensure young Quebecers possess good knowledge of the history of Quebec minorities

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
NET AGREE	78%	65%	75%	78%	74%	79%	90%
NET DISAGREE	15%	18%	15%	12%	21%	17%	5%
NET DNK/Refusal	8%	16%	11%	10%	5%	3%	5%

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Most Quebecers agree on the need for a shared history

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
NET AGREE	73%	63%	72%	69%	69%	74%	86%
NET DISAGREE	14%	18%	15%	17%	15%	15%	8%
NET DNK/Refusal	13%	19%	13%	15%	15%	11%	7%

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Non-francophones estimate much greater knowledge of history of minorities and immigrants than francophones

I have a good knowledge of the history of											
	Total	Man	Woman	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	French	Other
English-speaking Quebec	42%	50%	34%	35%	40%	34%	38%	43%	56%	35%	65%
Aboriginal Peoples in Quebec	44%	47%	40%	54%	35%	45%	40%	36%	54%	42%	50%
immigrants to Quebec	42%	47%	36%	39%	46%	37%	37%	40%	49%	37%	59%