RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGIOUS SIGNS IN QUEBEC: WHO AND WHY?

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

MAY 2019

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INTRODUCTION

- In that which follows you'll find the most detailed survey done to date on Bill 21 and the issues that underlie support for the proposed legislation.
 -(organizations) commissioned the survey which was conducted by the firm Leger
- The results presented in this document were gathered through a Web survey of Quebecers conducted between May 3-May 7, 2019 among a representative sample of 1 212 Quebeckers, 18 years of age or older.

METHODOLOGY

Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to gender, age, region, language spoken at home, education and whether or not children are present in the household to ensure a sample representative of the entire population under review. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of 1000 respondents would have a margin of error of ±3.09%, 19 times out of 20

SUPPORT FOR BILL 21

IMPORTANT GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCE IN SUPPORT FOR RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGIOUS SIGNS FOR JUDGES, POLICE AND PRISON GUARDS

	Judges, Police officers and Prison Guards should be allowed to wear religious signs (hijabs, kippas, crucifixes									
	or turbans)	or turbans)								
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+			
NET AGREE	27%	46%	34%	29%	26%	17%	18%			
Strongly agree	12%	23%	14%	13%	12%	6%	8%			
Somewhat agree	15%	23%	20%	16%	14%	10%	10%			
NET DISAGREE	63%	36%	50%	59%	62%	78%	80%			
Somewhat disagree	17%	9%	20%	18%	20%	16%	17%			
Strongly disagree	46%	27%	31%	42%	41%	62%	63%			
NET DK+REFUSAL	10%	18%	16%	11%	12%	5%	2%			
I don't know	8%	14%	15%	9%	7%	5%	1%			
I prefer not to answer	2%	4%	1%	2%	4%	0%	1%			



IMPORTANT GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCE IN SUPPORT FOR RESTRICTIONS ON RELIGIOUS SIGNS FOR TEACHERS (18-24 COHORT MOST LIKELY TO OPPOSE **BILL 21**)

	Public school teachers should be allowed to wear religious signs (hijabs, kippas, crucifixes or turbans)							
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
NET AGREE	31%	49%	42%	34%	32%	20%	21%	
Strongly agree	13%	21%	17%	17%	14%	9%	7%	
Somewhat agree	18%	28%	25%	16%	19%	11%	14%	
NET DISAGREE	59%	33%	45%	56%	58%	71%	76%	
Somewhat disagree	16%	9%	20%	17%	20%	14%	16%	
Strongly disagree	42%	23%	26%	39%	38%	57%	59%	
NET DK+REFUSAL	10%	19%	12%	10%	10%	9%	3%	
I don't know	7%	15%	11%	7%	5%	8%	2%	
I prefer not to answer		4%	1%	3%	5%	1%	1%	



MOST QUEBECERS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT RESTRICTIONS OF RELIGIOUS SIGNS VIOLATE THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS (BUT THE 18-24 COHORT FEELS OTHERWISE)

Laws that restrict the wearing of religious signs for judges, police, government lawyers, prison guards and public school teachers (Quebec's Bill 21) violate provisions in the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
NET AGREE	36%	47%	39%	35%	38%	34%	30%
Strongly agree	16%	23%	15%	16%	20%	15%	11%
Somewhat agree	20%	25%	24%	19%	19%	19%	19%
NET DISAGREE	45%	33%	41%	40%	42%	52%	57%
Somewhat disagree	20%	13%	24%	18%	17%	19%	23%
Strongly disagree	26%	19%	17%	22%	24%	33%	34%
NET DK+REFUSAL	18%	20%	21%	24%	20%	14%	12%
I don't know	16%	16%	19%	21%	16%	14%	9%
I prefer not to answer	3%	4%	2%	4%	4%	0%	3%



SUPPORT FOR BILL 21 SHRINKS BY SOME 20 PERCENT IF IT WERE DEEMED THAT BILL 21 VIOLATED THE CHARTER (BILL WOULD NO LONGER ENJOY SUPPORT OF MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS)

If restrictions on the wearing of religious signs for judges, police, government lawyers, prison guards and public school teachers were deemed to violate the Quebec Charter of Rights I would not support them

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
NET AGREE	41%	47%	40%	40%	39%	42%	42%
Strongly agree	19%	23%	20%	18%	21%	18%	18%
Somewhat agree	22%	24%	20%	22%	18%	23%	24%
NET DISAGREE	40%	30%	36%	37%	39%	42%	47%
Somewhat disagree	20%	15%	24%	18%	19%	21%	23%
Strongly disagree	19%	16%	12%	19%	20%	21%	24%
NET DK+REFUSAL	19%	22%	24%	23%	22%	16%	11%
I don't know	15%	17%	22%	16%	16%	14%	8%
I prefer not to answer	4%	5%	2%	7%	5%	2%	3%



MOST QUEBECERS DO NOT FAVOR SUBMITTING BILL 21 TO THE COURTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT VIOLATES THE CHARTER BUT 4 IN 10 WOULD FAVOR DOING SO

Laws that restrict the wearing of religious signs for judges, police, government lawyers, prison guards and public school teachers (Quebec's Bill 21) should be submitted to the Courts to determine whether they violate the Charter

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
NET AGREE	40%	50%	41%	44%	44%	34%	34%
Strongly agree	16%	20%	15%	18%	21%	8%	15%
Somewhat agree	24%	30%	26%	26%	23%	26%	18%
NET DISAGREE	46%	31%	43%	37%	41%	57%	59%
Somewhat disagree	21%	15%	26%	16%	20%	21%	23%
Strongly disagree	26%	16%	16%	21%	21%	37%	36%
NET DK+REFUSAL	14%	18%	17%	18%	16%	9%	8%
I don't know	11%	13%	15%	13%	11%	9%	6%
I prefer not to answer	3%	5%	2%	5%	4%	0%	1%



THE MORE YOU FEEL IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER THE MORE YOU WANT THE LAW TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COURTS WHILE THE LESS YOU FEEL IT IS A VIOLATION THE LEAST YOU WANTED IT SUBMITTED TO THE COURTS

		Laws that restrictions the wearing of religious signs for judges, police, government lawyers, prison guards and public school teachers (Quebec's Bill 21) violate provisions in the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms/					
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree		
Laws that restrictions the wearing of religious signs for judges,	Strongly agree	63.8%	18.5%	9.7%	15.1%		
police, government lawyers, prison guards	Somewhat agree	15.3%	57.0%	34.0%	11.4%		
and public school teachers (Quebec's Bill 21) should be submitted to the Courts	Somewhat disagree	3.2%	15.3%	43.8%	14.7%		
to determine whether they violate the Charter	Strongly disagree	17.6%	9.2%	12.5%	58.9%		
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

QUEBECERS OPINION ON RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS SIGNS

MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS HOLD POSITIVE VIEWS OF CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS AND CATHOLICISM BUT MOST HOLD NEGATIVE VIEWS OF MINORITY RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS, AND OF ISLAM AND JUDAISM

Net Positive View amongst Quebecers of	Total
Crucifixes Definition: a representation of a cross with a figure of Jesus Christ on it	59%
Crosses Definition: an upright post with a transverse bar, as used in antiquity for crucifixion	55%
Hijabs Definition: a head covering that does not hide one's face that is worn in public by some Muslim women	28%
Kippas Definition: a skullcap worn in public by Orthodox Jewish men or during prayer by other Jewish men	37%

Net Positive View amongst Quebecers of	Total
Catholicism	60%
Catholics	66%
Protestantism	46%
Protestants	55%
Muslims	37%
Islam	28%
Judaism	42%
Jews	55%

NEGATIVE VIEWS ON HIJABS OFFER KEY INSIGHT INTO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF BILL 21

	Public school teachers should be allowed to wear religious signs (hijabs, kippas, crucifixes or turbans)						
Net Positive View amongst Quebecers of	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Difference between supporters and opponents		
Hijabs Definition: a head covering that does	72.5%	52.1%	29.2%	12.0%	60.5%		
not hide one's face that is worn in public by some Muslim women							
Kippas Definition: a skullcap worn in public by Orthodox Jewish men or during prayer by other Jewish men	74.3%	65.9%	44.8%	29.2%	45.1%		
Crosses Definition: an upright post with a transverse bar, as used in antiquity for crucifixion	74.7%	69.2%	54.5%	51.9%	22.8%		
Crucifixes Definition: a representation of a cross with a figure of Jesus Christ on it	68.4%	67.3%	52.0%	55.2%	13.2%		



NEGATIVE VIEWS OF ISLAM ARE A KEY DRIVER IN DISTINGUISHING SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF BILL 21; VIEWS ON CATHOLICISM PLAY MINOR ROLE IN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO

	(hijabs, kippas, crucifixes or turbans)							
Net Positive View amongst Quebecers of					Difference between supporters			
	Strongly	Somewhat	Somewhat	Strongly	and			
	agree	agree	disagree	disagree	opponents			
Islam	72.7%	45.9%	24.5%	12.4%	60.3%			
Muslims	79.3%	60.8%	33.7%	20.9%	58.4%			
Judaism	78.5%	69.7%	47.4%	38.2%	40.3%			
Jews	85.0%	77.8%	64.3%	52.9%	32.1%			
Protestantism	62.0%	58.1%	45.9%	40.9%	21.1%			
Protestants	71.4%	70.2%	50.6%	50.7%	20.4%			
Black Persons	92.3%	85.1%	82.1%	77.4%	14.9%			
Catholics	70.3%	72.0%	61.8%	58.4%	11.9%			
Catholicism	62.6%	65.6%	53.8%	50.9%	11.7%			

SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION TOWARDS RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS BOTH IN QUEBEC AND IN ALL OF CANADA IS MOTIVATED BY THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS

		Public school teachers	Public school teachers should have the right to wear religious symbols (hijab, kippas, le crucifixes or turbans)						
	Islam	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree						
Canada	Total Positive	72.7	45.9	24.5	12.4	60.3%			
Quebec	Total positive	63.9	49.4	26.4	13.7	50.2%			

		Public school teachers	r religious symbo ns)	ls (hijab, kippas, le					
	Catholicism	Strongly Agree	Difference between for and against						
Canada	Total Positive	70.2	72	61.9	58.4	11.8			
Quebec	Total positive	78.1	78.1 73.4 63.6 57.2 20						



MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS AGREE THAT CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROTECTING FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

	Historical	Historically the Catholic Church is played an important role in protecting French language									
		and culture across Canada									
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+				
NET AGREE	58%	51%	53%	61%	49%	55%	74%				
Strongly agree	19%	19%	13%	18%	14%	19%	26%				
Somewhat agree	40%	32%	40%	43%	34%	36%	48%				
NET DISAGREE	23%	29%	21%	15%	31%	30%	18%				
Somewhat disagree	17%	20%	14%	12%	24%	23%	13%				
Strongly disagree	6%	9%	7%	3%	6%	6%	5%				
NET DK+REFUSAL	18%	20%	26%	24%	21%	16%	8%				
I don't know	16%	15%	23%	23%	19%	16%	5%				
I prefer not to answer	2%	5%	3%	1%	2%	0%	2%				



ONE IN THREE QUEBEC BELIEVE THAT ISLAM AND MUSLIMS SEEK TO CONVERT OTHERS TO THEIR FAITH

	Islam is a proselytizing religion and it's important for devout Muslims to convince all to join their religious group	Judaism is a proselytizing religion and it's important for devout Jews to convince all to join their religious group	Christianity is a proselytizing religion and it's important for devout Christians to convince all to join their religious group
NET AGREE	32%	13%	16%
Strongly agree	13%	3%	4%
Somewhat agree	19%	10%	12%
NET DISAGREE	52%	67%	68%
Somewhat disagree	19%	33%	34%
Strongly disagree	33%	34%	34%
NET DK+REFUSAL	16%	21%	16%
I don't know	13%	18%	13%
I prefer not to answer	3%	3%	3%



MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS DISAGREE THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WEARING RELIGIOUS SIGNS ARE IMPOSING THEIR VALUES

	Civil servan	Civil servants that wear religious signs in public service are imposing their values on me								
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+			
NET AGREE	32%	20%	21%	27%	33%	41%	43%			
Strongly agree	13%	9%	10%	8%	10%	20%	17%			
Somewhat agree	20%	11%	11%	20%	23%	22%	27%			
NET DISAGREE	56%	68%	66%	59%	53%	49%	48%			
Somewhat disagree	31%	34%	33%	33%	26%	33%	29%			
Strongly disagree	25%	34%	33%	26%	27%	16%	20%			
NET DK+REFUSAL	12%	12%	13%	14%	14%	10%	8%			
I don't know	8%	6%	8%	11%	11%	6%	6%			
I prefer not to answer	4%	6%	5%	3%	3%	4%	2%			



NEARLY TWO IN THREE QUEBECERS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WEARING RELIGIOUS SIGNS ARE TRYING TO CONVINCE OTHERS TO JOIN THEIR RELIGION

	Public sch	Public school teachers who wear religious symbols are trying to convince you								
		to join their religion								
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+			
NET AGREE	25%	22%	19%	23%	22%	29%	29%			
Strongly	7%	9%	7%	2%	5%	8%	11%			
agree	7 76	370	7 /0	2/0	3/0	070	11/0			
Somewhat	18%	14%	13%	21%	17%	21%	18%			
agree	1870	1470	13/0	21/0	1770	21/0	10/0			
NET	63%	66%	67%	64%	65%	58%	58%			
DISAGREE	0370	0070	0770	0470	0370	3070	3870			
Somewhat	34%	25%	32%	35%	34%	37%	35%			
disagree	3470	2370	32/0	3370	3470	3770	33/0			
Strongly	29%	41%	35%	28%	31%	21%	23%			
disagree	23/0	71/0	3370	2070	31/0	21/0	25/0			
NET	420/	440/	4.40/	420/	420/	4.40/	420/			
DK+REFUSAL	13%	11%	14%	13%	13%	14%	13%			
I don't know	10%	8%	9%	11%	10%	13%	8%			
I prefer not	3%	4%	5%	2%	3%	1%	4%			
to answer	3/0	770	370	270	370	170	470			



OPINION ON EXTENDING THE BAN

MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS THINK ELECTED OFFICIALS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO WEAR RELIGIOUS SIGNS

	Elected officia	Elected officials at the federal, provincial or municipal level should be allowed to wear religious signs									
	(hijabs, kippas	hijabs, kippas, crucifixes or turbans)									
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+				
NET AGREE	32%	43%	38%	35%	32%	27%	21%				
Strongly	120/	220/	1 40/	150/	120/	100/	7%				
agree	13%	23%	14%	15%	13%	10%	7%				
Somewhat	19%	20%	24%	20%	18%	17%	13%				
agree	19%	20%	2470	20%	10%	1770	15%				
NET	59%	39%	46%	57%	56%	68%	76%				
DISAGREE	39%	3970	40%	3776	30%	06%	70%				
Somewhat	17%	14%	18%	19%	16%	16%	18%				
disagree	1770	14%	10%	19%	10%	10%	10%				
Strongly	42%	25%	28%	37%	39%	52%	59%				
disagree	4270	23/6	2670	37/0	3970	32/0	39/6				
NET	10%	18%	16%	8%	13%	5%	3%				
DK+REFUSAL	10%	10%	10%	070	15%	5%	5%				
I don't know	7%	11%	14%	6%	7%	5%	2%				
I prefer not	20/	70/	20/	30/	F0/	10/	40/				
to answer	3%	7%	2%	2%	5%	1%	1%				



OVER FOUR IN TEN QUEBECERS FAVOR BAN OF RELIGIOUS SIGNS IN PUBLIC SPACE (MAJORITY OVER 55 SUPPORT THE IDEA)

The Government should prevent people from wearing visible religious symbols (hijabs, kippas, turbans, Christian cross, etc.) in public spaces

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
NET AGREE	43%	30%	37%	38%	45%	49%	53%
Strongly agree	25%	15%	20%	24%	25%	26%	32%
Somewhat agree	18%	15%	17%	14%	20%	22%	21%
NET DISAGREE	47%	59%	49%	49%	45%	46%	42%
Somewhat disagree	24%	22%	26%	24%	27%	23%	23%
Strongly disagree	23%	37%	24%	25%	18%	23%	18%
NET DK+REFUSAL	10%	11%	14%	13%	11%	5%	5%
I don't know	7%	6%	11%	11%	7%	5%	4%
I prefer not to answer	2%	5%	3%	2%	4%	0%	1%



RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

MORE QUEBECERS THINK BILL 21 WILL NOT IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MAJORITY AND MINORITY

with restrictions on the wearing of religious signs for judges, police, government lawyers, prison guards and public school teachers (Quebec's Bill 21)	Relations between Muslims and non- Muslims will improve	Relations between Jews and non-Jews will improve
NET AGREE	38%	37%
Strongly agree	18%	14%
Somewhat agree	20%	22%
NET DISAGREE	44%	41%
Somewhat disagree	24%	24%
Strongly disagree	20%	17%
NET DK+REFUSAL	18%	22%
I don't know	16%	20%
I prefer not to answer	2%	3%

MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS BELIEVE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS HAVE DECLINED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Assessing relations over the past 5 years between the following would you say they have improved, stayed the same or declined?	The relations between Muslims and non-Muslims	The Relations between Jews and non-Jews	The relations between Religious and Secular persons
Improved	7%	6%	9%
Stayed the same	21%	49%	45%
Declined	53%	12%	25%
I don't know	18%	32%	19%
I prefer not to answer	1%	1%	1%



LIVING WITH DIVERSITY

NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF QUEBECERS ENJOY LIVING IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY AND SIMILAR SHARE BELIEVE QUEBEC IS TOLERANT OF RELIGIOUS MINORITY CUSTOMS; SOME ONE IN FOUR THINK THAT RELIGIOUS MINORITIES SHOULD GIVE UP THEIR CUSTOMS

	Religious minorities should be encouraged to give up their customs and traditions	I enjoy living in a society with a diversity of cultural and religious groups	Our society is tolerant and accepting of religious minority customs and traditions	
NET AGREE	26%	64%	66%	
Strongly agree	10%	21%	14%	
Somewhat agree	15%	43%	52%	
NET DISAGREE	64%	26%	26%	
Somewhat disagree	38%	18%	21%	
Strongly disagree	26%	8%	5%	
NET DK+REFUSAL	11%	10%	8%	
I don't know	8%	7%	5%	
I prefer not to answer	2%	3%	3%	



NEARLY HALF OF QUEBECERS AGREE THAT THEIR WAY OF LIFE IS THREATENED BY THE PRESENCE OF IMMIGRANTS FROM RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

	Our way of minorities	Our way of life is threatened by the presence of immigrants from religious minorities								
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+			
NET AGREE	47%	34%	41%	47%	48%	59%	48%			
Strongly agree	19%	16%	18%	18%	20%	22%	18%			
Somewhat agree	28%	19%	22%	29%	27%	37%	30%			
NET DISAGREE	45%	52%	46%	43%	45%	35%	49%			
Somewhat disagree	25%	24%	21%	21%	26%	22%	33%			
Strongly disagree	20%	28%	25%	21%	19%	13%	16%			
NET DK+REFUSAL	8%	14%	13%	10%	7%	7%	3%			
I don't know	7%	10%	12%	7%	5%	5%	2%			
I prefer not to answer	2%	4%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%			



MAJORITY OF QUEBEC BELIEVE THAT HATRED DIRECTED AT RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IS ON THE RISE

		There is a rise of hatred directed at religious minorities in my province								
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+			
NET AGREE	59%	56%	66%	62%	59%	57%	56%			
Strongly agree	17%	27%	25%	18%	15%	11%	13%			
Somewhat	42%	29%	41%	44%	43%	46%	43%			
agree										
NET DISAGREE	28%	28%	19%	24%	24%	36%	35%			
Somewhat disagree	21%	19%	14%	18%	21%	28%	26%			
Strongly disagree	7%	10%	4%	6%	3%	8%	9%			
NET DK+REFUSAL	13%	16%	15%	14%	17%	8%	9%			
I don't know	11%	13%	13%	12%	13%	8%	7%			
I prefer not to answer	2%	4%	2%	2%	4%	0%	1%			

MORE CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WEARING RELIGIOUS SIGNS RESULTS IN DECLINING SUPPORT FOR BAN

	Public school teachers should be allowed to wear religious signs (hijabs, kippas, crucifixes or turbans)								
Speak with someone who wears a minority religious sign (kippa, hijab or turban)	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree					
Often and Occasionally	72.8%	54.7%	27.1%	29.5%					
Often	37.1%	14.7%	5.9%	5.0%					
Occasionally	35.7%	40.0%	21.2%	24.5%					
Rarely	22.9%	29.5%	44.7%	40.0%					
Never	4.3%	12.6%	27.1%	30.5%					
l don't know	37.1%	14.7%	5.9%	5.0%					
I prefer not to answer	35.7%	40.0%	21.2%	24.5%					



MORE CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WEARING RELIGIOUS SIGNS RESULTS IN DECLINING SUPPORT FOR BAN

	Public school teachers should be allowed to wear religious signs (hijabs, kippas, crucifixes or turbans)			
Have contact with Muslims	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Often and Occasionally	82.6%	63.2	41.2	44.1
Often	47.8%	23.2%	11.8%	13.2%
Occasionally	34.8%	40.0%	29.4%	30.9%
Rarely	10.1%	20.0%	41.2%	33.6%
Never	5.8%	12.6%	15.3%	20.5%
I don't know	1.4%	3.2%	2.4%	1.8%
I prefer not to answer		1.1%		



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Created in May 2019.



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