

# CANADIAN VIEWS ON GENOCIDE PREVENTION ON THE EVE OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

JANUARY, 2020

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Exclusive to  
Canadian Press

# INTRODUCTION

- In historic and contemporary debate about genocide prevention there is much discussion about what can be done to prevent such atrocities from being committed. Some contend that to insist on non engagement when there is knowledge about genocide can itself be seen as a form of silent complicity. The issue of whether to take action where we know a genocide is taking place raises questions about our moral responsibility as a society. The poll's reveal that nearly one-third of Canadians disagree with sending Canadian troops to where a genocide is occurring and another ten percent prefer not to answer raises key questions about how we see our role in helping those peoples that are dangerously vulnerable.

## METHODOLOGY

- The survey was commissioned by the Association for Canadian Studies and conducted by the firm Leger Marketing with a sample of 2295 Canadians nationally via web panel during the week of November 11th, 2019. It has a probabilistic margin of error of 2.5 percent 19 times out of 20.

## UNDERLYING FACTORS

- What underlies the views of the nearly one in three Canadians that disagree with sending Canadian troops to a place where genocide is occurring.
- The survey reveals that socio-demographic factors (age, gender, education and income) do not play a decisive role in shaping opinion. Rather it is identity based views that appear to drive opposition to sending troops to where a genocide is occurring. Such opposition is therefore connected to attitudes immigrants and religious minorities where those holding more negative views of such groups and/or distrusting them are less inclined to support intervention where genocide is taking place.

# QUEBECERS AND ALBERTANS MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT SENDING CANADIAN TROOPS WHERE A GENOCIDE WAS OCCURRING; MANITOBA/SASKATCHEWAN MOST LIKELY TO DISAGREE

	If there is a genocide occurring, we should send Canadian troops to that place -						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QC	Atl.
NET AGREE	60%	57%	65%	52%	58%	67%	55%
Strongly agree	20%	19%	21%	14%	17%	26%	19%
Somewhat agree	40%	38%	43%	37%	41%	41%	36%
NET DISAGREE	29%	29%	23%	37%	32%	24%	30%
Somewhat disagree	20%	22%	14%	21%	22%	19%	24%
Strongly disagree	9%	7%	9%	16%	10%	5%	6%
I prefer not to answer	11%	14%	13%	12%	10%	10%	15%

# GENERATION X MOST LIKELY TO DISAGREE WITH SENDING TROOPS TO WHERE A GENOCIDE IS OCCURRING

	If there is a genocide occurring, we should send Canadian troops to that place -					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
<b>NET AGREE</b>	62%	60%	61%	54%	60%	63%
Strongly agree	19%	19%	23%	22%	17%	18%
Somewhat agree	42%	41%	38%	32%	43%	45%
<b>NET DISAGREE</b>	18%	29%	28%	36%	28%	30%
Somewhat disagree	15%	19%	21%	25%	18%	21%
Strongly disagree	4%	10%	7%	10%	9%	9%
I prefer not to answer	20%	11%	11%	10%	12%	7%

# THOSE WHO DISAGREE MOST THAT NON-CHRISTIAN IMMIGRANTS ARE A THREAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT SENDING TROOPS TO PREVENT GENOCIDE

If there is a genocide occurring, we should send Canadian troops to that place - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements?	Our province is threatened by the influx of non-Christian immigrants – Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements?			
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Strongly agree	26.2%	13.0%	16.9%	28.1%
Somewhat agree	30.2%	49.0%	40.5%	43.2%
Somewhat disagree	20.5%	24.5%	29.5%	12.9%
Strongly disagree	19.1%	9.3%	7.1%	5.5%
I prefer not to answer	4.0%	4.3%	6.0%	10.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Disagree Total	39.6%	33.8%	36.6%	16.6%

# THOSE WHO DISTRUST IMMIGRANTS ARE LEAST LIKELY TO SUPPORT SENDING CANADIAN TROOPS TO PREVENT GENOCIDE

If there is a genocide occurring, we should send Canadian troops to that place - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements?	Immigrants - To what extent do you trust the followings?			
	Trust a lot	Somewhat trust	Don't trust a lot	Don't trust at all
Strongly agree	36.9%	20.2%	17.1%	18.9%
Somewhat agree	37.4%	45.7%	35.4%	31.5%
Somewhat disagree	13.6%	20.8%	27.3%	18.1%
Strongly disagree	5.6%	6.8%	12.2%	20.5%
I prefer not to answer	6.5%	6.6%	8.0%	11.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Disagree Total	19.2%	27.6%	39.5%	38.6%



# LEAST TRUSTING OF MUSLIMS ARE LESS LIKELY TO SUPPORT SENDING TROOPS TO WHERE GENOCIDE IS OCCURRING

		Muslims - To what extent do you trust the followings?			
		Trust a lot	Somewhat trust	Don't trust a lot	Don't trust at all
If there is a genocide occurring, we should send Canadian troops to that place - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements?	Strongly agree	37.8%	19.7%	18.3%	20.4%
	Somewhat agree	34.3%	46.2%	39.1%	31.7%
	Somewhat disagree	16.4%	19.0%	29.1%	20.0%
	Strongly disagree	5.0%	7.7%	7.6%	18.3%
	I prefer not to answer	6.5%	7.6%	5.9%	9.6%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Disagree total		21.4%	26.7%	36.7%	38.3%

# LEAST TRUSTING OF JEWS ARE LESS LIKELY TO SUPPORT SENDING TROOPS TO WHERE GENOCIDE IS OCCURRING

		Jews - To what extent do you trust the followings?			
		Trust a lot	Somewhat trust	Don't trust a lot	Don't trust at all
If there is a genocide occurring, we should send Canadian troops to that place - Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements?	Strongly agree	36.2%	19.4%	15.8%	16.8%
	Somewhat agree	37.9%	44.5%	38.5%	27.7%
	Somewhat disagree	15.8%	20.8%	26.0%	23.8%
	Strongly disagree	4.0%	8.2%	10.6%	20.8%
	I prefer not to answer	6.0%	7.1%	9.2%	10.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Disagree total		19.8%	29.0%	36.6%	44.6%



A PREVIOUS ACS-LEGER SURVEY (JUNE 7 TO 11, 2019)  
REVEALS THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF CANADIANS DO  
HAVE A GOOD IDEA OF WHAT A GENOCIDE IS.

# MASS KILLING IS WHAT OFTEN COMES TO MIND WHEN CANADIANS HEAR THE WORD GENOCIDE: (Q. IN ONE SENTENCE PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD GENOCIDE)

I prefer not to answer	23%
Extermination/elimination/eradication of a specific race/religious/ethnic group	5%
Atrocious / awful / horrible	5%
Killing / murder / assassination of people	4%
Deliberate/organized killing/eradication of a race / deliberate killing of a race/ethnic group	4%
Mass killing/murder	4%
Mass killing/murder of people/a population/a group of people	4%
Mass killing/murder of a race/a particular ethnical/religious group	4%
Extermination/elimination/eradication of a population/group of people	4%
The Holocaust / Hitler / Germany / concentration camps / Nazi regime	4%
Destroying a group/race / human destruction / intentional action to destroy (a group of people, people's culture, et.)	4%
Death	3%
Killing people of a certain race/religion / killing people based on their race/religion/ideology	3%
It is bad / It is sad / I am against it	3%
Mass death	2%
Killing a lot of people / killing a large group of people	2%
State-sponsoring mass murder / government targeting eradication of specific groups/ethnic groups	2%
Deliberate/organised killing/eradication of a group/large group of people	2%
Killing a certain group of people	2%
The Rwandan genocide / Rwanda	2%
What happened to the First nations / missing/murdered indigenous women	2%

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75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz.***

Created on January, 2020.



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