

CANADIAN OPINION ON THE CORONA VIRUS – N°4: CHINESE CANADIANS AND THE CORONAVIRUS

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES (ACS)

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INTRODUCTION

- In response to the Coronavirus/Covid 19 several exceptional measures were introduced by the government of Canada. These measures were a testimony to the increasing seriousness of the virus. Public attitudes and behaviors are an important aspect in managing the national crisis arising from the virus. To examine opinion the Association for Canadian Studies commissioned a detailed survey of the people's views over the week of March 9th which aimed at providing a baseline to monitor evolving views arising from the crisis. Socio-demographic differences are an important characteristic that explain varying reaction and action undertaken. That which follows will contrast immigrant and non-immigrant attitude and behaviour relative to the Corona/Covid 19 virus.

METHODOLOGY

- The survey was commissioned by the Association for Canadian Studies and conducted by the firm Leger Marketing with a sample of 2001 Canadians nationally via web panel during the period March 9-12,2020. The sample for the custom tabulation you will see below is: Total Canada, 2001 respondents; Caucasian (white), 1575 respondents; and Chinese, 92 respondents.

CHINESE CANADIANS (75%) ARE FAR MORE CONCERNED THAN THOSE WHO ARE NOT VISIBLE MINORITIES (57%) ABOUT A WIDE OUTBREAK OF THE VIRUS

| That there will be a widespread outbreak of the Coronavirus/Covid 19 in your city - | Very worried | Somewhat worried | Not very worried | Not worried at all | I prefer not to answer | Total |
|---|--------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Caucasian (white) | 16.9% | 39.5% | 32.0% | 10.9% | .7% | 100.0% |
| Chinese | 26.1% | 48.9% | 22.8% | 2.2% | | 100.0% |
| Total | 18.9% | 39.4% | 30.6% | 10.5% | .6% | 100.0% |

CHINESE CANADIANS (73%) ARE MORE CONCERNED THAN THOSE WHO ARE NOT VISIBLE MINORITIES (56%) THAT THEY OR SOMEONE IN THE FAMILY WILL GET SICK FROM THE VIRUS

| That you or someone in your family will get sick from the Coronavirus/Covid 19 - | Very worried | Somewhat worried | Not very worried | Not worried at all | I prefer not to answer | Total |
|--|--------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Caucasian (white) | 18.9% | 37.1% | 31.7% | 11.9% | .4% | 100.0% |
| Chinese | 26.1% | 46.7% | 22.8% | 3.3% | 1.1% | 100.0% |
| Total | 20.3% | 37.5% | 30.4% | 11.3% | .6% | 100.0% |

CHINESE CANADIANS (45%) ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO SECURE A PROTECTIVE MASK THAN CAUCASIANS (8%)

| Because of the Coronavirus/Covid 19, I have bought a protective mask - | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | I prefer not to answer | Total |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Caucasian (white) | 3.2% | 4.8% | 18.1% | 72.0% | 1.9% | 100.0% |
| Chinese | 12.2% | 33.3% | 15.6% | 36.7% | 2.2% | 100.0% |
| Total | 4.6% | 7.2% | 18.3% | 67.7% | 2.3% | 100.0% |

CHINESE CANADIANS (47%) ARE MORE LIKELY THAN THOSE WHO ARE NOT VISIBLE MINORITIES (24%) TO STOCK UP ON SUPPLIES

| Because of the Coronavirus/ Covid 19, I am stocking up on supplies (e.g water or food) - | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | I prefer not to answer | Total |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| Caucasian (white) | 5.0% | 19.3% | 33.2% | 41.3% | 1.2% | 100.0% |
| Chinese | 11.8% | 35.5% | 37.6% | 15.1% | | 100.0% |
| Total | 5.8% | 21.1% | 32.7% | 39.2% | 1.3% | 100.0% |

CHINESE CANADIANS (56%) ARE MORE LIKELY TO REPORT CHANGES IN THEIR DAY TO DAY LIVES THAN THOSE WHO ARE NOT VISIBLE MINORITIES (38.5%)

| Change in day to day life because of the virus | Yes | No | I prefer not to answer | Total |
|--|-------|-------|------------------------|--------|
| Caucasian (white) | 38.5% | 61.4% | .1% | 100.0% |
| Chinese | 56.0% | 44.0% | | 100.0% |
| Total | 41.4% | 58.4% | .2% | 100.0% |

CHINESE CANADIANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SELF-ISOLATE AND/OR AVOID PUBLIC PLACES

| What changes did the Coronavirus/Covid 19 outbreak made you do in your day to day life? | Wash my hands frequently & thoroughly | Avoid crowded places/ social gatherings | Stay at home more / go out less | I don't frequent public places as much (ex: restaurant, shopping mall, gym, etc.) | I only go out when it is required | Wear mask/gloves | More / better hygiene practices | Use of disinfectant (wipes, alcohol, etc.) |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Caucasian (white) | 47.9% | 6.9% | 5.9% | 3.3% | .8% | .8% | 1.8% | .8% |
| Chinese | 36.7% | 6.1% | 14.3% | 8.2% | 2.0% | 6.1% | 6.1% | 4.1% |
| Total | 46.7% | 6.6% | 7.0% | 3.3% | 1.1% | 1.5% | 2.9% | .9% |

OVER ONE IN THREE CHINESE CANADIANS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

| Have you been a victim of discrimination? | Often | Sometimes | Rarely | Never | I prefer not to answer | Total |
|---|-------|-----------|--------|-------|------------------------|--------|
| Caucasian (white) | 3.5% | 15.2% | 26.6% | 53.7% | 1.0% | 100.0% |
| Chinese | 8.7% | 27.2% | 41.3% | 21.7% | 1.1% | 100.0% |
| Total | 4.8% | 18.1% | 28.8% | 47.2% | 1.2% | 100.0% |

40% OF CHINESE CANADIANS WORRIED ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN ASIANS AND NON-ASIANS COMPARED WITH 22% OF NOT VISIBLE MINORITIES

| Relations Between Asians and non-Asians | Very worried | Somewhat worried | Not very worried | Not worried at all | I prefer not to answer | Total |
|---|--------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Caucasian (white) | 3.6% | 18.6% | 50.3% | 23.9% | 3.6% | 100.0% |
| Chinese | 5.5% | 34.1% | 47.3% | 11.0% | 2.2% | 100.0% |
| Total | 4.5% | 20.2% | 48.8% | 22.9% | 3.5% | 100.0% |

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