

CANADIAN OPINION ON THE CORONA VIRUS – PART 7: GOVERNING THE VIRUS: QUEBECERS AND OTHER CANADIANS DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY ON PERFORMANCE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN MANAGING THE CRISIS BUT SO DO FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE QUEBECERS

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES (ACS)

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INTRODUCTION

Although criticism of our political leaders in this time of crisis has been relatively muted and most Canadians surveyed have expressed high levels of satisfaction with the performance of federal and provincial politicians, Quebec has been the one place where the federal government has not received particularly high marks notably when contrasted with the very high approval ratings of the government of Quebec Premier Francois Legault . Quebec analysts have been correct in pointing to a consensus that transcends the province's language differences when rating the Legault government's performance during the crisis. Where these analysts seem less precise is in the view that there is a consensus that that the Trudeau government has performed badly during the crisis. The March 20-22 Leger poll in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies indicates that the Federal Government's handling of the crisis has yielded fairly good approval everywhere outside and within Quebec, the province's English-speaking population also gives him high marks (although the sample size is somewhat limited). Hence while the Legault government's performance is a source of unity among Quebecers, opinion is more divided across language lines in the province than some of its commentators would have us believe.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted by Leger in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies with some 1508 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, and was collected via an online panel between March 20 and 22, 2020.

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1,508 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.52\%$, 19 times out of 20. That 'margin' rises for survey sub groups.

QUEBECERS RECORD SUPPORT FOR LEGAULT GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN HANDLING THE CRISIS BUT LUKEWARM ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT; OTHER PROVINCES GIVE ROUGHLY SIMILAR RATINGS TO BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Satisfied with the measures put in place to fight the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic	BC	Alberta	Sask.	Manitoba	Ont.	Quebec	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia
Federal government	72.7%	67.1%	60.9%	77.8%	70.6%	43.9%	72.7%	89.7%
Provincial Government	71.2%	74.0%	73.9%	73.1%	74.8%	94.1%	81.3%	82.5%

BIG GAP FOR FRENCH QUEBEC IN RATING PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT RELATIVE TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE BUT IT NARROWS CONSIDERABLY AMONGST ENGLISH QUEBECERS

To this day, are you satisfied or not with the measures put in place to fight the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic by the following?	French Quebec		English Quebec	
	Federal	Provincial	Federal	Provincial
Very satisfied	84.5%	9.3%	54.8%	45.2%
Somewhat satisfied	12.5%	27.0%	35.5%	35.5%
Somewhat dissatisfied	1.1%	32.2%	3.2%	12.9%
Very dissatisfied	1.5%	29.6%	6.5%	6.5%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	.4%	1.9%		
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

QUEBEC'S REGIONS GIVE ESPECIALLY LOW RATINGS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE DURING THE CRISIS

Federal government -	MTL RMR	QC RMR	OTHER REGIONS	Total
Very satisfied	18.8%	17.1%	8.5%	14.4%
Somewhat satisfied	31.3%	40.0%	24.6%	29.5%
Somewhat dissatisfied	22.2%	22.9%	36.6%	28.0%
Very dissatisfied	25.0%	20.0%	26.8%	25.2%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	2.8%		3.5%	2.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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Governing the Virus: Quebecers and other Canadians differ significantly on performance of Federal government in managing the crisis but so do Francophone and anglophone Quebecers.

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