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### Six in Ten (60%) Canadians See Racism as a Serious Problem, Unchanged from Last Year

#### One-Quarter (24%) Report an Increase in Racism over Past Few Years

**Toronto, ON, September 3, 2021** — A recent Ipsos poll carried out on behalf of Global News has found that a majority (60%) of Canadians believe to some degree that racism is a serious problem facing the country. Though unchanged from the same time last year, this proportion is still considerable jump from Canadians' perceptions of racism pre-pandemic. Increased awareness of anti-Asian hate crimes during the pandemic, continued mistreatment against Indigenous Canadians, domestic terrorism against Muslim Canadians, and discrimination against Black Canadians have certainly contributed to the idea that Canada is not making much progress in tackling racism.

In order to add more nuance to the findings, the poll also asked respondents select with which ethnic or cultural background(s) they self-identify. Not surprisingly, perceptions of racism in Canada differ between those who identify as being only 'white' and those who do not.

#### *Canadians of All Backgrounds Still See Racism as a Serious Problem*

When asked how serious of a problem they consider racism to be in Canada today, six in ten (60%) believe in some way that racism is a serious problem. This includes 4% who say that racism is 'the most serious problem facing Canada,' another two in ten (19%) who say that it is 'one of the most serious problems,' and nearly four in ten (27%) who say that it is a 'fairly serious problem.' This proportion remains unchanged from July 2020, but is nonetheless a double-digit increase from the end of 2019 (43%, +17).

There is no difference between those self-identifying as only 'white' and those who do not when it comes to thinking that racism is a serious problem in general (60% among those self-identifying as only 'white' v. 64% among those who do not). However, within this aggregated measure, Canadians who self-identify in a way other than exclusively 'white' tend to see the issue as slightly more pressing. Those who identify in a way other than only 'white' are more likely to say racism is 'one of the most serious problems' facing the country (27% v. 17%), whereas those identifying as only 'white' are more likely to choose a more moderate stance, saying that it is a 'fairly serious problem' (40% v. 31%).

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### Views on Racism in Canada<sup>1</sup>

	September 2021	July 2020	December 2019	May 2019
<b>Serious problem (net)</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>46%</b>
<i>Most serious problem facing Canada</i>	4%	3%	3%	3%
<i>One of the most serious problems</i>	19%	20%	9%	12%
<i>A fairly serious problem</i>	37%	36%	31%	32%
<b>Not serious problem (net)</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<i>A minor problem compared to other issues</i>	25%	26%	37%	37%
<i>Not really a problem in Canada today</i>	8%	7%	12%	12%
<b>Unsure</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>

One in three (33%) think that racism is not a serious problem, with a 25% saying that it is ‘a minor problem compared to other issues’ and 8% saying that it is ‘not really a problem in Canada today.’ Though a relatively small proportion, men are more likely than women to say that racism is ‘not really a problem in Canada today’ (11% among men v. 5% among women). Furthermore, those in Quebec are more likely to say that it is not really a problem (13%).

The remaining 7% of respondents are unsure as to whether racism is a serious problem in Canada. Among 18-34 year-olds, this proportion climbs to 12% (v. 5% of 35-54 year-olds and 4% among 55+ year-olds).

### *More Canadians Believe Racism Has Increased Over Past Five Years*

When asked whether racism has increased in their community over the past five years, a quarter (24%) of Canadians say there has been an increase, a four-point increase from May 2019 (20%). Among those who self-identify to some extent as not exclusively ‘white,’ this proportion climbs to 33% (compared to 21% among those self-identifying as only ‘white.’ Furthermore, those living in British Columbia are more likely to say that there has been an increase in racism over the past five years (37%).

Whatever level of racism they perceive there to be in the country already, half (51%) of Canadians believe that there has been neither an increase nor decrease (-6 from May 2019), with those identifying as exclusively ‘white’ more likely to believe so (55%, v. 44% among those not identifying as exclusively ‘white’). One in ten (10%) think that there has been a decrease over the last five years (-1), with the remaining 15% say they don’t know (+3).

<sup>1</sup> Previous Ipsos polling can be found here: [July 2020](#), [December 2019](#), and [May 2019](#).



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Canadians aged 18-34 years are more likely to say that there has been a decrease in racism in their community over the past five years (18%, vs. 6% among 35-54; 6% among 55+). Diving a little deeper into this age group, those aged 18-24 years are also more likely to say they don't know (15%). These figures about how young Canadians perceive racism in their immediate surroundings possibly speaks to not only the kind of company young Canadians may be keeping, but also to their being too young to meaningfully evaluate of how racism may have changed over the past five years.

The latest figures point to the idea that Canadians are not making much progress when it comes to addressing racism; however, this is not a recent trend. Previous Ipsos polling using the exact same question shows that 17% in 1992 believed that there has been an increase in racism and that 19% in 2017 believed that there has been an increase.

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### About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between August 27 and 30, 2021 on behalf of Global News. A sample of n = 1,501 was interviewed online, via the Ipsos I-Say panel and non-panel sources, and respondents earn a nominal incentive for their participation. Quotas and weighting were employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos polls which include non-probability sampling is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within  $\pm 2.9$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadians been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error. Ipsos abides by the disclosure standards established by the CRIC, found here:

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<https://ipsosintelligence.ca/canadiancontext/>

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