FACTUM

76% of Canadians believe transgender, gender-diverse, and Two-Spirit people should be able to live openly without fear of harassment

Seven in ten Canadians support protections from discrimination, while six in ten say protecting transgender, gender-diverse, and Two-Spirit people from discrimination should be at least a medium priority for the federal government.

Toronto, Canada, November 19, 2026 — A new Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of the Sonor Foundation and Queer Momentum's Strategy Hub finds that most Canadians support equal treatment for transgender, gender-diverse, and Two-Spirit people. Roughly three quarters (76%) say these communities should be able to live openly without fear of harassment. Public support is highest for anti-discrimination protections in employment, housing, and businesses (70%). While views differ considerably on some specific policies, they are not uniformly fixed: 55% of Canadians describe themselves as undecided or open to hearing different perspectives.

Most Canadians have some level of awareness of transgender, gender-diverse, and Two-Spirit people and issues, and nearly half of the population personally know someone who is transgender, gender-diverse, or Two-Spirit

Nearly four in five Canadians (78%) say they have at least some knowledge of transgender, gender-diverse, and Two-Spirit people and issues. Almost half (45%) personally know someone who is transgender, gender-diverse, or Two-Spirit. Personal familiarity is associated with greater knowledge, stronger recognition of discrimination, and higher support for rights and legal protections.

Canadians express moderate comfort with having a transgender person as their neighbour (56%), working alongside a transgender colleague (54%), or having a transgender healthcare provider (48%), with 30%-37% indicating that they are "very comfortable." A consistent proportion of roughly one-quarter are neutral and 24% or fewer are uncomfortable in each case.

Canadians are widely supportive of fairness, equal treatment, and dignity for all

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Over three-quarters (76%) say that transgender, gender-diverse, and Two-Spirit people and communities should be able to live openly without fear of harassment. Seven in ten (70%) agree that transgender people should be protected from discrimination in employment, housing, and access to businesses, while two-thirds (66%) agree that equal legal protections should apply even when someone personally feels uncomfortable with transgender issues.

Support is strongest for protections from discrimination and limits on political interference, while specific policies produce more mixed views

Seven in ten Canadians (71%) agree that politicians should not override doctors on medical care, while 22% are neutral and 6% disagree. Six in ten (63%) agree that governments should not use override powers to target a minority, while 28% are neutral and 9% disagree.

Views are more mixed on some specific policies. Nearly six in ten (57%) support protecting a student's privacy when disclosure to parents could put the student at risk. Lower proportions support access to single-sex facilities based on gender identity (43%) or gender-inclusive government documents (40%). Roughly one-quarter are neutral on several of these measures, underscoring the extent of public uncertainty.

Political affiliation produces the clearest differences: Liberal and NDP voters generally express stronger support than Conservative voters, particularly on specific policy measures. Regional differences are less consistent, with no region emerging as uniformly more or less supportive across all measures.

Canadians are divided on the level of federal priority

Canadians are divided over the level of priority the federal government should assign to protecting transgender, gender-diverse and Two-Spirit people from discrimination. About one-third (32%) say it should be a top or high priority, 27% a medium priority, and 31% a low priority or not a priority. The proportion assigning it at least medium priority rises to 74% among Liberal voters, while 39% of Conservative voters also place it in this range.

For many Canadians, views remain open rather than firmly fixed

Only three in ten Canadians describe their views as firmly fixed, with twice as many firmly supportive (20%) as firmly opposed (10%). Overall, 55% are either undecided or say they are open to hearing different perspectives.

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The audience segmentation reinforces this finding: 49% of Canadians fall into the Mainstream Allies (23%) or Concerned Middle (26%) segments. These groups are less firmly supportive than Committed Advocates but more open to different perspectives than Social Conservatives, making them an important audience for efforts to build understanding and inclusion.

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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll fielded from July 28 to August 7, 2026, on behalf of the Sonor Foundation and Queer Momentum's Strategy Hub. The online survey was conducted in English and French and consisted of a representative sample of 2,000 Canadians aged 18+. Quotas and weighting were employed to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the Canadian population according to census parameters. The period between fieldwork and the release of findings allows for comprehensive data processing, validation, and quality assurance to ensure the results are accurate and reliable. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within ±2.7 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadians aged 18+ 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. In some cases, responses may not add up to 100% due to rounding or due to the question allowing for multiple responses to be selected.

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About Ipsos

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ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg IPS:FP

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