

ACCORDING TO MANY CANADIANS (39%) SAME SEX MARRIAGE DEBATES HAVE GIVEN RISE TO INCREASED DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS GAYS AND LESBIANS



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Toronto, ON – A new Ipsos-Reid survey conducted for the Dominion Institute shows that many Canadians (39%) believe the recent debates over same sex marriage have increased discrimination towards Gays and Lesbians. In the alternate, one in ten Canadians (9%) think the same sex marriage debates have decreased discrimination towards Gays and Lesbians, while 48% believe the debates have had no effect in this respect.

- More than half of those living in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (58%) and Alberta (52%) believe the same sex marriage debates have increased discrimination towards Gays and Lesbians, 45% think so in Atlantic Canada, 38% in British Columbia, 37% in Ontario, and 28% in Quebec.
- Educated Canadians with a University degree education are the least likely to believe that the same sex marriage debates have increased discrimination towards Gays and Lesbians (30% vs. 42% among those with lower levels of education).

These findings are drawn from an Ipsos-Reid survey undertaken for the Dominion Institute on Canadians' attitudes about racism and discrimination, and was conducted from March 15th to March 17th, 2005. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1001 adult Canadians were interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within \pm 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to the 2001 Census data.



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