

Three Quarters (74%) Believe Canadian Society Less Tolerant of Others Since 9/11 Terrorist Attacks

Six in Ten (60%) Agree that Muslims in Canada are Discriminated Against More than Before

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Toronto, ON - The terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, appear to have left a lasting impression on Canadians when it comes to their views of certain ethnicities and faiths, according to a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television.

Three quarters (74%) of Canadians 'agree' (22% strongly/52% somewhat) that 'our society has become less tolerant of others since the 9/11 terrorist attacks'. Just one quarter (26%) of Canadians 'disagree' (4% strongly/22% somewhat) with this premise. Furthermore, six in ten (60%) 'agree' (16% strongly/44% somewhat) that they think 'Muslims in Canada are discriminated against more than before', while four in ten (40%) 'disagree' (12% strongly/27% somewhat) that they are.

The data also reveal some interesting personal views and admissions held by many Canadians. Six in ten (59%) 'agree' (19% strongly/39% somewhat) that the 9/11 attacks have given them 'a negative impression of certain ethnicities and religious faiths', with men (67%) being much more likely than women (51%) to admit that this is the case. Canadians aged 55+ (66%) are more likely to agree than those aged 35 to 54 (60%) or 18 to 34 (47%). Conversely, four in ten (41%) 'disagree' (17% strongly/25% somewhat) that the attacks have given them a negative impression of certain ethnicities and religious faiths.



While most (81%) 'agree' (43% strongly/38% somewhat) that 'Muslims living in Canada should receive the same treatment as any other Canadian', two in ten (19%) Canadians 'disagree' (5% strongly/14% somewhat) with this notion. Those who do not have a high-school education (28%) and Albertans (31%) are by far the most likely to disagree with this sentiment, believing that Muslims should be treated differently.

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television between August 26 and 30, 2011. For this survey, a national sample of 1,012 adults from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics and political composition 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. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100 per cent response rate would have an estimated margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points 19 times out of 20 of what the results would have been had the entire population of Canada been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to, coverage error and measurement error.

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