

**As Canada Celebrates its Birthday, Eight out of Ten Canadians confess
that “eh” is in their vocabulary**

*But no, we don't live in igloos – in fact most Canadians
have never even been in one*

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Ipsos Reid

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Toronto, ON – For some Canadians, worrying about our national identity – and whether we have one – is a practice almost as old as the country itself. But when it comes to how we're seen by others outside the country, Canada has never suffered from a shortage of clichés. Among other things, Canadians are sometimes stereotyped as obsessive hockey fans who live in igloos, commune with beavers and bears on a regular basis, and can't get through a sentence without saying “eh.” For Canada's 148th birthday, a new Historica Canada poll conducted by Ipsos Reid put some of those Canadian clichés to the test. The findings? Well, the rest of the world might be surprised by some – and not by others. A Canadian compromise, eh?

To begin, eight of ten Canadians acknowledge that “eh” is part of their vocabulary, but one in four (26%) Canadians confess that they say it every day. Half of Canadians (49%) say they use it occasionally and one in ten (6%) say it only when talking to Americans, eh? The other 19% claim it never crosses their lips.

The stereotype of living in igloos seems to be the least truthful stereotype, which likely comes as no surprise to Canadians – only 16% of Canadians say they have been inside an igloo.

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Other supposed traditions are more accurate: most have been in a canoe (73%) or on a snowmobile (65%) – but, only 12% have had the chance to go out dogsledding.

Hockey is our national winter sport, and it's easy to see why. Six in ten (58%) say they are hockey fans with 18% calling hockey the greatest sport on earth and 40% saying they are a casual fan. But that leaves 43% just as happy to change the channel from Hockey Night in Canada. Three in ten (30%) say they are not much of a fan, and one in ten (13%) are “sick to death of hearing about hockey all the time”.

When it comes to Canadian symbols, the beaver ranks up with the maple leaf, and a majority of Canadians (64%) have seen a beaver in the wild. Of course, beavers aren't the only wildlife associated with Canada. The data reveals that most Canadians have also seen a moose (60%), a loon (59%) or a bear (55%) in the wild. Meanwhile 16% of Canadians have never seen *any* of these animals.

For a patriotic snack, it's hard to top Canadian bacon. In fact, Canadians named back bacon (35%) as Canada's national food, beating poutine for the top spot (30%). Atlantic or Pacific salmon (17%) came a distant third followed by beavertails (8%), tourtiere (6%), and doughnuts (4%).

In the spirit of Canada Day, respondents were asked which musician they are proudest to call Canadian. Four in ten (38%) chose Celine Dion from a list which also included The Tragically Hip (14%), Nickelback (11%), Blue Rodeo (9%), Drake (6%), Justin Bieber (2%), or some other musician or group (20%).

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If you're going for a Canadian look, make sure you've got the right outfit. When asked to identify the "most Canadian" article of clothing, one half said the toque (50%), placing it firmly in the top spot. Two in ten (18%) said plaid shirt or parka (17%), while just 5% said longjohns and 10% said none of these is the most Canadian.

When it comes to the actual celebration of Canada Day, seven in ten (71%) Canadians are going to mark the occasion. Plans include watching a fireworks show (40%), gathering with friends (32%), attending an official celebration (18%), even by covering everything in maple syrup (3%) or doing something else (12%). However, 29% of Canadians will not be celebrating with the rest of the nation. Why not, eh?

Which Canadians are Saying What... Or Eh?...

When looking deeper into the responses of Canadians on truly Canadian questions, we find that:

- Younger Canadians between the ages of 18-34 (31%) are more likely to say "eh" everyday than those between the ages of 35-54 (27%), and those 55 and older (22%).
- Six in ten Canadians (58%) between the ages of 18-34 believe that poutine should be Canada's national food, but this drops to 28% among 35 to 54 year olds and 9% among those aged 55+.
- One may be surprised that poutine or tourtiere were not the most supported food by Quebecers, since both foods originated in Quebec. While 30% of Canadians say poutine should be our national food, only 24% of Quebecers agree. However, tourtiere

did receive a much higher amount of support from Quebecers (19%) than all of Canada (6%).

- Albertans are the largest supporter of Canadian bacon (56%), but not too far behind is Saskatchewan and Manitoba (46%). Behind them are Ontario (41%), Atlantic and BC tied at (31%), and lastly Quebec (16%).
- More men have reported to see a beaver (71%), Moose (63%), loon (62%), and bear (60%) than women. Only 58% of women have seen a beaver, 57% a moose, 55% a loon, and 50% a bear.
- Half (49%) of Canadians 55 and older stated that of all Canadian music artists tested, they are most proud to call Celine Dion Canadian. Only 36% of Canadians between the ages of 35 and 54 said Celine Dion, and only 26% of Canadians 18 to 35 did so as well.
- Where Celine Dion is the most supported musical artist across most of the nation (38%), Quebec was by far her greatest supporter with 63% of Quebecers saying she was a source of pride. The second highest was Atlantic Canada and British Columbia tied at 31%, and behind them is Ontario (30%), Alberta (29%), and Saskatchewan and Manitoba (25%) .
- Canadians between the ages of 18-34 are more likely than Canadians 35 and older to celebrate Canada Day by attending an official celebration (25%), a fireworks show (55%), by gathering with friends (44%), or covering everything in maple syrup (6%).

How Canadians plan to celebrate Canada Day:	Age: 18-34	Age: 35-54	Age: 55+
Official celebration	25%	19%	13%
Fireworks show	55%	40%	29%
Gather with friends	44%	29%	25%
Cover everything in maple syrup	6%	3%	1%
Other	11%	13%	12%
None	18%	29%	38%

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between June 12th and June 15th, 2015, on behalf of Historica Canada. For this survey, a sample of 1,005 Canadians from Ipsos' online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then 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 online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadian adults 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.

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