

**Leger**

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REPORT

# Bilingualism in Canada

*Survey of Canadians*

DATE 2024-06-19



# Methodology

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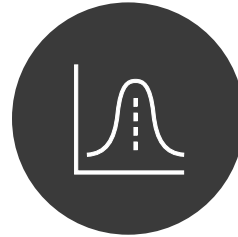
## Method

Online survey among respondents 18 years of age or older.  
(Canadian sample: n= 1,536).  
Respondents had the option of completing the survey in English or in French and were randomly recruited using LEO's online panel.



## When

June 14 to  
June 16, 2024



## Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size yields a margin of error no greater than  $\pm 2.5\%$ , (19 times out of 20) for the Canadian sample.



## Weighting

Results were weighted according to **age, gender, mother tongue, region, education and presence of children in the household** in order to ensure a representative sample of the Canadian population.

# Methodology

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## Significant differences

Data in bold **red** characters indicate a significantly lower proportion than that of other respondents. Conversely, data in bold **green** characters indicate a significantly higher proportion than that of other respondents.



## Rounded data

The numbers presented have been rounded up. However, the numbers before rounding were used to calculate the sums presented and might therefore not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.



## Questions

Have questions about the data presented in this report? Please contact Andrew Enns, Executive Vice-President, Central Canada at the following e-mail addresses:  
[aenns@leger360.com](mailto:aenns@leger360.com)

*A more detailed methodology is presented in the Appendix.*

# Methodology

Leger is the polling firm that has presented the most accurate election survey data, on average, over the last ten years in Canada. During the last federal election in 2021, Leger was once again **the most accurate firm in the country**. This accuracy is attributed to the quality of the LEO panel and rigorous application of methodological rules by Leger's 600 employees, including 200 professionals in Leger's eight offices across Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and in the United States (New York).

Poll aggregator 338Canada.com gave Leger the highest rating among all polling firms in Canada for the accuracy of its studies. See <https://338canada.com/pollster-ratings.htm>

## 2021 CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION



### LEGER SURVEY

Published in *Le Journal de Montréal*  
and *The National Post/Postmedia*  
September 18, 2021

### OFFICIAL RESULTS

2021 Canadian Federal Election\*

33%	32%	19%	7%	6%	2%
33.7%	32.6%	17.8%	7.7%	5.0%	2.3%

# Key Highlights (1/2)

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*From June 14 to June 16, 2024, we surveyed Canadians to find out their opinions and perceptions regarding bilingualism in Canada.*

## Some of the key highlights of our survey on bilingualism in Canada include...

- More than four Canadians out of ten (43%) think Canada's official bilingualism is positive, while one-third (34%) are indifferent, and 18% think it is negative. Quebecers (70%) are more likely to think bilingualism in Canada is a positive thing when compared to the rest of Canada (35%).
- Half of Canadians (52%) think it is important that Canada remains an officially bilingual country, while 42% think it is not important. The differences in opinion between Quebecers and respondents from the rest of Canada are significantly different. 83% of Quebecers believe it is important for Canada to remain bilingual, while only 43% of respondents from the rest of Canada share this view.
- One-third of Canadians (34%) think provinces other than New Brunswick (which is already bilingual) should become officially bilingual. This proportion is significantly higher in Quebec (60%).
- Over half of Quebecers (55%) believe that their province should be officially bilingual, while only 22% of respondents from other Canadian provinces feel the same way about their respective province. Additionally, 65% of Canadians outside Quebec believe that Quebec should be officially bilingual.

## Key Highlights (2/2)

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- Canadians are divided in terms of the rationale for bilingualism. More than four Canadians out of ten (43%) believe that Canada's official bilingualism exists only to satisfy a minority. This proportion is higher among respondents living outside of Quebec. On the other hand, 41% of Canadians think Canada's official bilingualism is at the heart of the Canadian identity (41%). This proportion is higher among Quebecers (60%).
- According to 40% of Canadians, the proportion of Francophones in Canada has decreased compared to 50 years ago. French Canadians (71%) and Quebecers (65%) are more likely to feel that way.
- Seven Quebecers out of ten (70%) think French is threatened in Canada (compared to only 19% among respondents living in other provinces), and 63% think French is threatened in the province of Quebec (compared to only 11% among respondents living in other provinces).
- On the contrary, 22% of respondents living in provinces other than Quebec think English is threatened in Canada (compared to only 5% among Quebecers). Almost 1 in 4 (38%) of non-Quebec respondents think English is threatened in the province of Quebec (compared to only 17% among Quebecers).

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REPORT

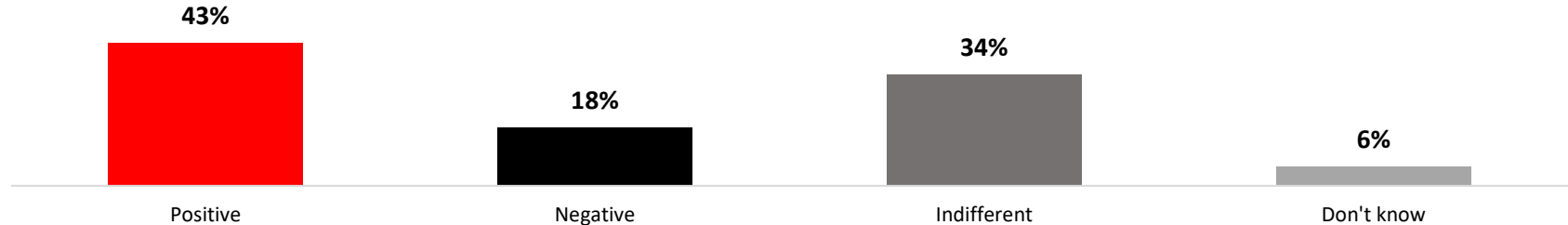
# Detailed Results



# Perception of Official Bilingualism in Canada

**Q1.** For you personally, is Canada's official bilingualism something positive, negative, or does it leave you indifferent?

Base: All respondents (n=1,536)



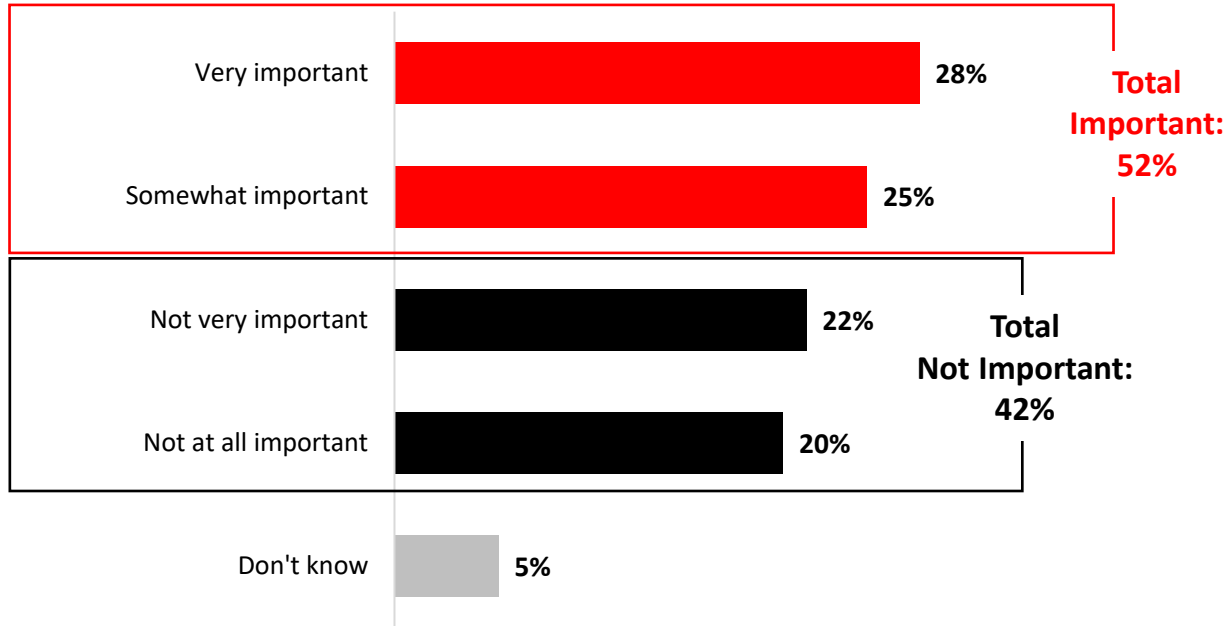
	Total Canada														Born in Canada		Mother Tongue		
		QC	ROC	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	French	English	Other
Unweighted n=	1,536	416	1,120	100	416	605	127	127	161	780	756	409	458	669	1,219	311	352	965	215
Positive	43%	70%	35%	37%	70%	39%	24%	23%	36%	44%	42%	50%	42%	39%	42%	48%	71%	33%	52%
Negative	18%	11%	20%	23%	11%	16%	17%	23%	26%	20%	15%	11%	14%	25%	19%	14%	9%	21%	14%
Indifferent	34%	17%	39%	31%	17%	36%	50%	51%	36%	32%	36%	31%	40%	31%	35%	30%	17%	40%	26%
Don't know	6%	2%	7%	9%	2%	9%	9%	3%	2%	4%	7%	8%	5%	5%	5%	9%	3%	6%	8%



# Importance of Official Bilingualism in Canada (1/2)

**Q2.** Is it important to you that Canada remains an officially bilingual country?

Base: All respondents (n=1,536)



# Importance of Official Bilingualism in Canada (2/2)

**Q2.** Is it important to you that Canada remains an officially bilingual country?

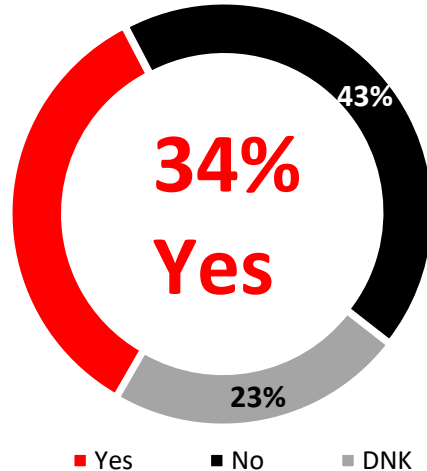
Base: All respondents

																	Born in Canada		Mother Tongue		
	Total Canada	QC	ROC	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	French	English	Other		
Unweighted n=	1,536	416	1,120	100	416	605	127	127	161	780	756	409	458	669	1,219	311	352	965	215		
<b>Total Important</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>43%</b>	47%	<b>83%</b>	50%	<b>35%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>36%</b>	52%	53%	54%	51%	52%	51%	57%	<b>84%</b>	<b>42%</b>	55%		
Very important	<b>28%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>19%</b>	25%	<b>56%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>14%</b>	28%	27%	25%	27%	30%	<b>29%</b>	23%	<b>58%</b>	<b>19%</b>	27%		
Somewhat important	<b>25%</b>	27%	24%	22%	27%	<b>28%</b>	<b>16%</b>	22%	21%	25%	25%	29%	24%	23%	<b>22%</b>	<b>35%</b>	26%	24%	28%		
<b>Total Not Important</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>51%</b>	49%	<b>14%</b>	43%	<b>57%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>62%</b>	43%	41%	37%	44%	44%	<b>44%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>52%</b>	40%		
Not very important	<b>22%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>25%</b>	26%	<b>11%</b>	20%	<b>37%</b>	30%	28%	20%	23%	24%	22%	20%	22%	19%	<b>10%</b>	<b>25%</b>	21%		
Not at all important	<b>20%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>26%</b>	23%	<b>3%</b>	22%	20%	<b>31%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>14%</b>	22%	<b>24%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>26%</b>	19%		
Don't know	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6%</b>	4%	<b>3%</b>	<b>8%</b>	8%	6%	3%	5%	6%	<b>9%</b>	5%	<b>4%</b>	5%	8%	<b>3%</b>	6%	5%		

# Opinion on Official Bilingualism in Other Provinces

**Q3A.** Currently, New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in Canada. Should other provinces also become officially bilingual?

Base: All respondents (n=1,536)

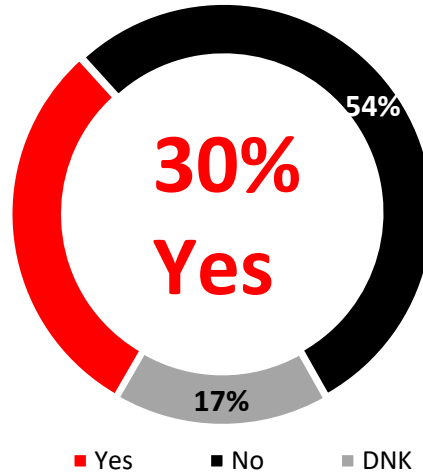


	Total Canada	QC	ROC	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Born in Canada	Mother Tongue			
															Yes	No	French	English	Other
Unweighted n=	1,536	416	1,120	100	416	605	127	127	161	780	756	409	458	669	1,219	311	352	965	215
Yes	34%	60%	26%	30%	60%	30%	19%	18%	24%	34%	34%	35%	35%	32%	34%	35%	60%	26%	36%
No	43%	22%	49%	44%	22%	45%	45%	61%	57%	46%	41%	35%	44%	48%	44%	39%	22%	50%	41%
Don't know	23%	17%	24%	27%	17%	25%	36%	21%	19%	20%	25%	30%	21%	19%	22%	25%	18%	24%	23%

# Opinion on Official Bilingualism in Home Province

## Q3B. Should your province become officially bilingual?

Base: Respondents who live in a province other than New Brunswick (n=1,508)

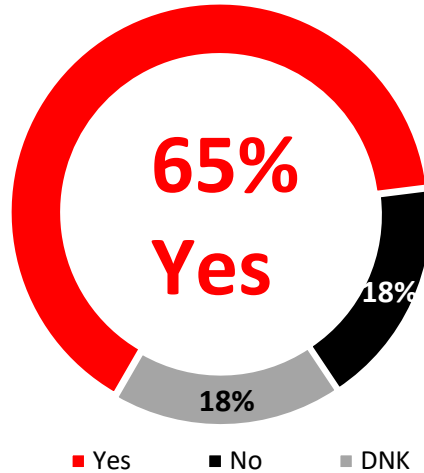


	Total Canada	QC	ROC	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Born in Canada	Yes	No	Mother Tongue	French	English	Other
Unweighted n=	1,508	416	1,092	72	416	605	127	127	161	765	743	404	447	657	1,193	309	345	945	214		
Yes	30%	55%	22%	14%	55%	27%	19%	16%	19%	31%	29%	31%	31%	29%	29%	32%	49%	23%	34%		
No	54%	37%	59%	68%	37%	53%	60%	68%	65%	55%	52%	47%	53%	58%	55%	49%	43%	58%	49%		
Don't know	17%	8%	19%	19%	8%	21%	21%	16%	17%	13%	20%	22%	16%	13%	16%	20%	8%	18%	17%		

# Opinion on Official Bilingualism in Quebec

**Q4.** Currently, French is the official language of Quebec. Should Quebec become officially bilingual?

Base: Respondents who live in a province other than Quebec (n=1,120)

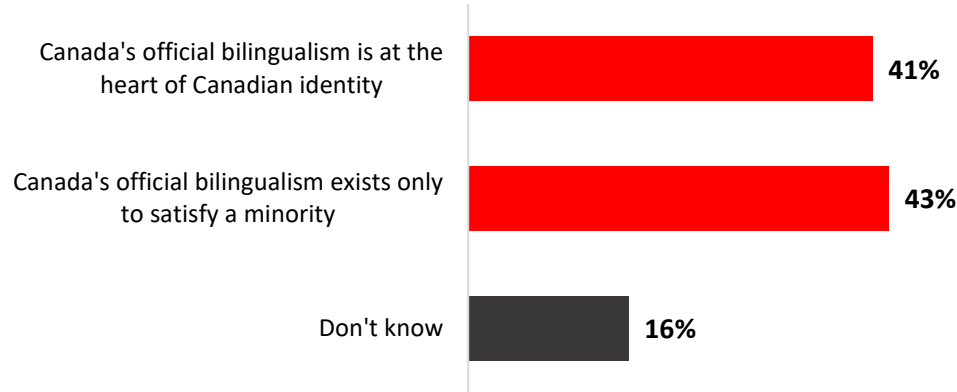


	Total Canada	ATL	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Born in Canada		Mother Tongue		
												Yes	No	French	English	Other
Unweighted n=	1,120	100	605	127	127	161	576	544	285	337	498	855	260	44	896	176
Yes	<b>65%</b>	63%	65%	57%	67%	66%	65%	65%	<b>56%</b>	62%	<b>73%</b>	65%	64%	<b>81%</b>	64%	65%
No	<b>18%</b>	19%	17%	16%	18%	19%	19%	16%	<b>23%</b>	19%	<b>13%</b>	17%	19%	14%	17%	21%
Don't know	<b>18%</b>	18%	18%	<b>27%</b>	15%	15%	16%	20%	21%	19%	15%	18%	17%	<b>5%</b>	18%	15%

# Opinion on Canada's Official Bilingualism

**Q5.** Which of the following statements best reflects your personal opinion?

Base: All respondents (n=1,536)



	Total Canada	QC	ROC	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	Born in Canada	Mother Tongue	French	English	Other
Unweighted n=	1,536	416	1,120	100	416	605	127	127	161	780	756	409	458	669	1,219	311	352	965	215		
Canada's official bilingualism is at the heart of Canadian identity	41%	60%	35%	32%	60%	37%	33%	31%	35%	40%	42%	46%	43%	36%	40%	45%	61%	34%	46%		
Canada's official bilingualism exists only to satisfy a minority	43%	23%	49%	41%	23%	46%	46%	53%	58%	50%	35%	34%	39%	52%	44%	37%	23%	50%	37%		
Don't know	16%	16%	16%	27%	16%	17%	21%	17%	7%	10%	23%	20%	19%	12%	16%	17%	16%	16%	17%		

# Perception of the Proportion of Francophones in Canada

**Q6.** Compared to 50 years ago, would you say the proportion of Francophones in Canada has increased, remained stable, or decreased?

Base: All respondents (n=1,536)

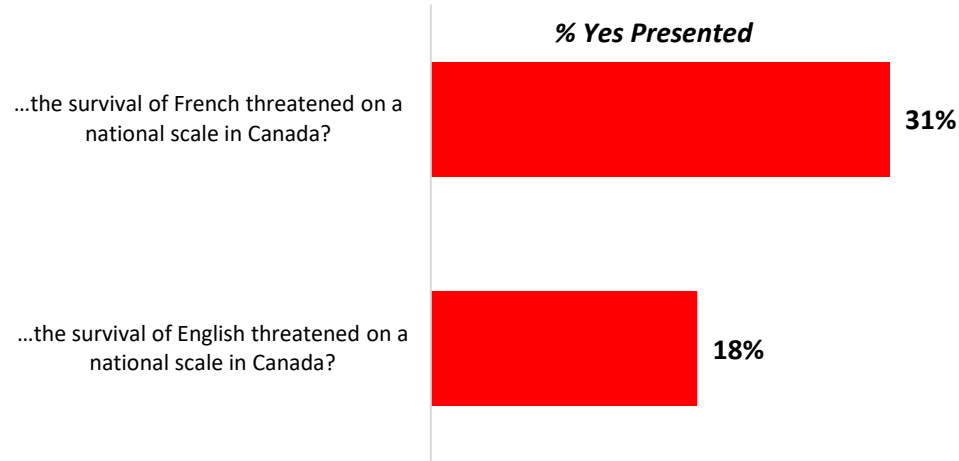


	Total Canada	Born in Canada													Mother Tongue				
		QC	ROC	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	French	English	Other
Unweighted n=	1,536	416	1,120	100	416	605	127	127	161	780	756	409	458	669	1,219	311	352	965	215
Increased	10%	9%	10%	14%	9%	11%	8%	13%	6%	11%	9%	12%	10%	9%	9%	16%	6%	11%	11%
Remained stable	25%	16%	28%	41%	16%	27%	29%	25%	28%	27%	23%	26%	27%	24%	24%	29%	16%	27%	31%
Decreased	40%	65%	32%	26%	65%	30%	33%	33%	40%	43%	37%	36%	38%	44%	43%	25%	71%	34%	24%
Don't know	25%	10%	29%	19%	10%	31%	31%	29%	27%	19%	31%	26%	25%	24%	24%	29%	8%	27%	34%

# Threats to the Survival of Official Languages in Canada

## Q7. In your opinion, is...

Base: All respondents (n=1,536)



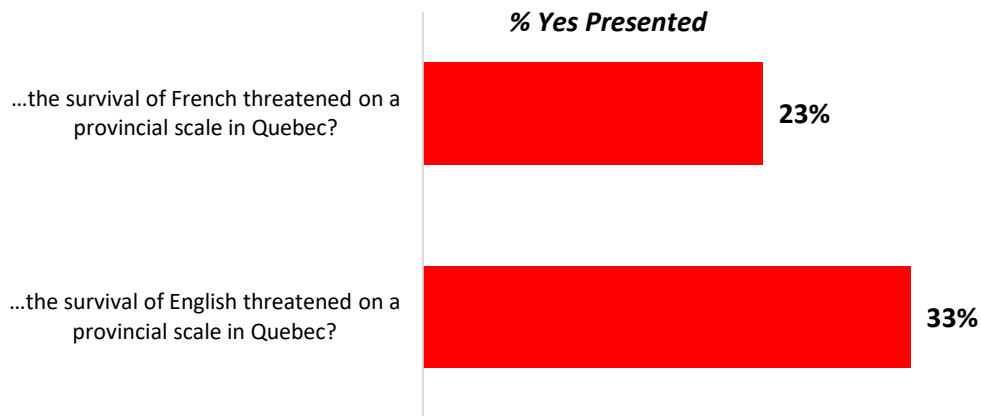
	Total Canada	QC	ROC	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Born in Canada	No	Mother Tongue	French	English	Other
Unweighted n=	1,536	416	1,120	100	416	605	127	127	161	780	756	409	458	669	1,219	311		352	965	215
...the survival of <b>French</b> threatened on a national scale in Canada?	<b>31%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>21%</b>	24%	<b>10%</b>	<b>20%</b>	32%	30%	31%	29%	33%	32%	<b>26%</b>		<b>82%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>21%</b>
...the survival of <b>English</b> threatened on a national scale in Canada?	<b>18%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>22%</b>	25%	<b>5%</b>	<b>21%</b>	25%	19%	23%	19%	17%	16%	18%	19%	18%	19%		<b>3%</b>	<b>23%</b>	18%



# Threats to the Survival of Official Languages in Quebec

## Q8. In your opinion, is...

Base: All respondents (n=1,536)

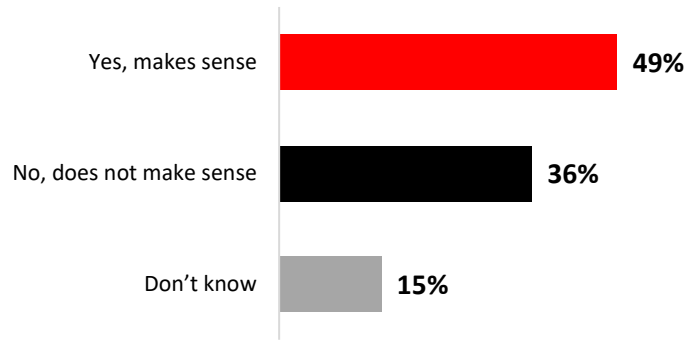


	Total Canada														Born in Canada		Mother Tongue		
		QC	ROC	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	French	English	Other
Unweighted n=	1,536	416	1,120	100	416	605	127	127	161	780	756	409	458	669	1,219	311	352	965	215
...the survival of <b>French</b> threatened on a provincial scale in Quebec?	<b>23%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	24%	22%	21%	25%	23%	<b>25%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>15%</b>
...the survival of <b>English</b> threatened on a provincial scale in Quebec?	<b>33%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>38%</b>	36%	<b>17%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>46%</b>	42%	35%	<b>37%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>44%</b>	33%	36%	<b>11%</b>	<b>40%</b>	33%

# Relevance of Official Bilingualism in the Context of Immigration

**Q9.** The Government of Canada’s current immigration plan is to welcome 465,000 immigrants to Canada this year and 500,000 in 2025. In 2023, Canada admitted over 470,000 immigrants. Most of these newcomers to Canada do not speak either English or French. With that in mind, do you feel it still makes sense for Canada to have two official languages?

Base: All respondents (n=1,536)



	Total Canada														Born in Canada		Mother Tongue		
		QC	ROC	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	French	English	Other
Unweighted n=	1,536	416	1,120	100	416	605	127	127	161	780	756	409	458	669	1,219	311	352	965	215
Yes, makes sense	49%	70%	42%	48%	70%	44%	42%	36%	39%	49%	48%	50%	49%	48%	49%	47%	49%	48%	50%
No, does not make sense	36%	23%	41%	31%	23%	37%	38%	53%	46%	39%	34%	32%	36%	40%	36%	38%	39%	34%	32%
Don't know	15%	7%	17%	22%	7%	18%	19%	12%	15%	12%	18%	18%	15%	12%	14%	15%	12%	18%	18%

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REPORT

# Detailed Methodology



# Weighted and Unweighted Sample (1/2)

The table below presents the Canadian geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
<b>Province</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,536</b>
British Columbia	161	214
Alberta	127	168
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	127	99
Ontario	605	355
Quebec	416	355
Atlantic	100	104

# Weighted and Unweighted Sample (2/2)

The following tables present the demographic distribution of respondents according to gender, age and language (mother tongue) for Canada.

The table below presents the Canadian geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
<b>Gender</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,536</b>
Male	780	747
Female	756	789
<b>Age</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,536</b>
18 to 34	409	411
35 to 54	458	492
55+	669	633
<b>Language (Mother tongue)</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,536</b>
English	965	1,005
French	352	304
Other	215	222

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- **Leger Opinion (LEO)**  
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- **Leger Communities**  
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- **Leger Digital**  
Digital strategy and user experience
- **International Research**  
Worldwide Independent Network (WIN)

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