

QCGN Calls for More Study and Debate on Quebec's Proposal

Poll Show Unilateral Amendment to Constitution of Canada Worries Most Canadians and Some Quebecers

MONTREAL, May 28, 2021 – A strong majority of Canadians outside Quebec and a significant minority within this province are concerned about the proposed unilateral amendment to the Canadian Constitution affirming that Quebec is a nation and that its official language is French.

That is the finding of a national survey on amending the Constitution and recognizing the Quebec nation conducted by Léger Marketing for the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) and the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS). The results were collected via a web panel from May 21 to May 23, 2021.

The survey shows that fewer than one out of five Canadians outside Quebec believe a province should be able to amend the Canadian Constitution on its own. Support is lowest among Albertans, where fewer than 10 per cent agree.

In Quebec, opinions of Francophones and non-Francophones are widely divergent. Support for a unilateral amendment was much higher among Francophones, three-quarters of whom strongly agree (37.9 %) or somewhat agree (35.3 %). Among non-Francophones, only 3.5 per cent strongly agree while 18.6 per cent somewhat agree that a province should be able to amend the Constitution.

"Canadians and Quebecers are clearly divided on this issue and we need to take the time as a country and as a province to truly understand the implications of what the Quebec government is proposing," comments QCGN President Marlene Jennings. "This is a complex issue that needs to be studied and debated not only by our politicians in Quebec City and Ottawa, but also discussed with and understood by Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Only through knowledge and dialogue will we be able to achieve a mutual understanding of what is really at stake."

"Many Quebecers and other Canadians legitimately want to know what, if anything, such an amendment might mean for federal-provincial relations and minority-language rights," adds ACS President Jack Jedwab, who oversaw the poll.

Meanwhile more than half of all Canadians (57 %) – and nearly three-quarters of Quebecers (72 %) – say Quebec should sign the Constitution of Canada if the province is recognized as a nation and French as its official language. Here in Quebec, a clear majority of Francophones (77.9 %) and a slim majority of non-Francophones (54.5 %) say Quebec should sign on to the Constitution should such an amendment be made.

The poll sampled 1,623 Canadians, 18 years of age or older, via web panel from May 21 to May 23, 2021. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this number of respondents would have a margin of error of ± 2.95 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. See full results [here](#).

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together English-language community organizations across Quebec. As a centre of evidence-based expertise and collective action it identifies, explores, and addresses strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of the English-speaking community of Quebec and encourages dialogue and collaboration among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions, and leaders.

For further information:

Rita Legault, Director of Communications | rita.legault@qcgn.ca

Telephone: 514-912-6555