Travaillons ensemble

Anglophones and Francophones Share Strong Affinity for Their Respective Communities

MONTREAL, June 25, 2021 – While English-speaking Quebecers express a greater sense of attachment to Canada and French-speaking Quebecers say they are more attached to Quebec, both possess similar levels of attachment to their respective language communities and to their cities, towns, or regions.

Results from a survey conducted by Léger Marketing for the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) and the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) in May reveal that attachment to one's language community is equally important to Quebec's English and French speakers. Beyond that, differences persist in the degree to which French and English speakers feel attached to Quebec and to Canada.

"Over the past two decades that I have been surveying on this there has been little or no change in the sense of belonging of Quebec's majority and minority communities to Quebec and Canada," says ACS President Jack Jedwab, who oversaw the survey. "But the addition to the survey of linguistic community and municipal or regional attachments helps us to better understand the connection between English speakers to Quebec. This attachment is clearly less pronounced compared with their connection to the community as well as their respective municipalities and regions."

The poll, which measures the degree of importance that Quebec's majority and minority language groups give to key markers of identity, indicates that the vast majority of both English and French Quebecers say they are very attached or somewhat attached to their linguistic community. For Anglophones, 59 per cent respond that they are very attached while 30.1 per cent say they are somewhat attached to Quebec's English-speaking minority community. For Francophones, 58.5 per cent respond that they are very attached and 34.7 per cent say they are somewhat attached to the French-speaking community.

The vast majority of anglophone Quebecers (84%) say they are very attached (41%) or somewhat attached (43%) to their city, town, or region. An even greater majority of francophone Quebecers (86%) say they are very attached (40.4%) or somewhat attached (45.6%) to their city, town, or region.

Some 80 per cent of English-speaking Quebecers report they are very attached to Canada and only one-third (33.1%) say they are very attached to Quebec. Less than one-third (27.1%) of French speakers say they are very attached to Canada while two-thirds (66.8%) say they are very attached to Quebec. Two out of three Quebecers (66.7%) whose mother tongue is neither French nor English are very attached to Canada and only one-third (34%) say they are very attached to Quebec.

The poll sampled 1,501 Quebecers, 18 years of age or older, including 573 Quebecers with languages other than French. 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.

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