

Religion and faith in Canada today: strong belief, ambivalence and rejection define our views

Largest group puts itself in the “mushy middle” on religion, ranks of those embracing faith are shrinking

March 26, 2015 – A comprehensive and in-depth new public opinion poll on Canadian views towards religious belief, faith and multi-faith issues from the Angus Reid Institute reveals a solid core of Canadians continues to embrace the Christian faith and other religious traditions.

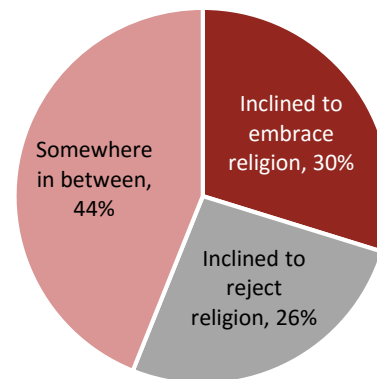
This study – presented in three broad sections, “Religious Pluralism and Polarization”, “Religion a la carte”, and “Topical Findings” – shows that atheists and agnostics are now part of a second significant, growing segment of people that reject religion.

A third and sizable segment of the population constitutes something of an “ambivalent middle” who say they neither embrace nor reject religion.

Key findings:

- Just over one quarter, (26%) of Canadians say they are inclined to **reject** religion. Located primarily in the “no religion” category, their numbers have been growing in recent decades.
- Nearly one-third – 30 per cent – report that they are inclined to **embrace** religion. Their numbers have been shrinking.

Religion: where would you locate yourself?



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from March 4-11 2015, among a representative randomized sample of 3041 Canadian adults who are members of the [Angus Reid Forum](#). For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 1.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The research was self-commissioned and primarily paid for by ARI, with a contribution from Dr. Reginald Bibby and the University of Lethbridge. Dr. Bibby also contributed significantly to the research and analysis of this study. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

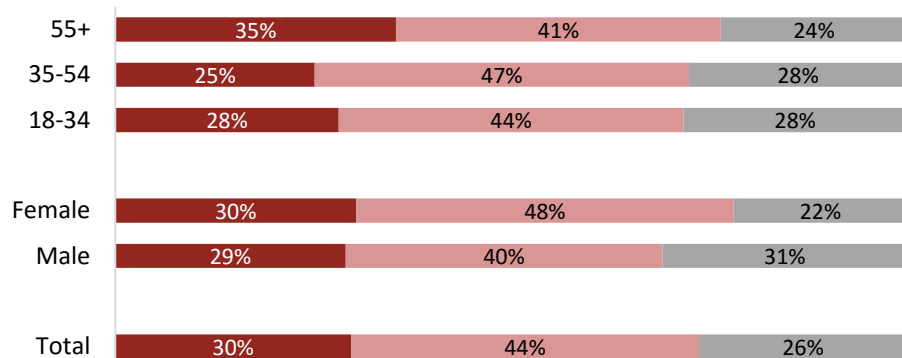
MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

- The remaining 44 per cent acknowledge that they are somewhere in between the two positions. They still hold many conventional beliefs and sometimes engage in religious practices, including occasional religious service attendance. They do not see themselves as particularly devout; but they also have not abandoned religion.
- People living in British Columbia and Quebec are slightly more likely than others to reject religion, while residents of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Atlantic region are somewhat more likely to embrace religion.

- Ambivalence toward religion is the most common posture across age groups, although Canadians who are 55 and older are slightly more inclined than others to say they embrace religion.

Religion: where would you locate yourself?



- Women differ from men only in being somewhat more likely to express ambivalence rather than rejection. That said, ambivalence is the top response for both women (48%) and men (40%).

Part One: Religious Pluralism and Polarization

Those Rejecting Religion:

Some one-in-four Canadians say they are not “into religion.” That number is consistent with current census data for people indicating they have “no religion”, and has increased significantly from one in twenty-five in the 1971 census of Canada.

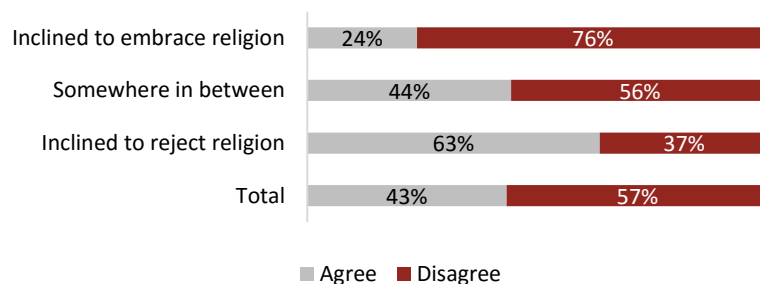
To reject religion is not necessarily to be hostile toward religion. Some people in this category would be better described as “bypassing faith”.

The survey has found that 63 per cent of the people who reject religion acknowledge that they tend to “feel a bit uncomfortable around people who are religiously devout.” For their part, 41 per cent of those who embrace faith express the same trepidation about being in the presence of individuals who have no use for religion.

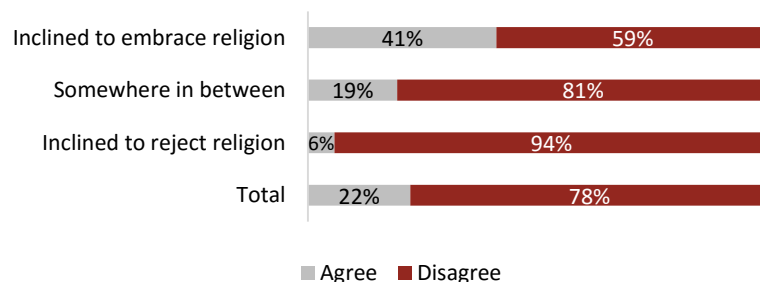
More than nine-in-ten of those who reject religion do not believe that it is necessary to either believe in God or be involved in a religious group “in order to be moral and have good values”. Some 68 per cent go so far as to maintain that “the growth in atheism is a good thing for life in Canada”.

Fully 80 per cent of Canadians who reject religion say they “prefer to live life without God or congregation,” as well as feel that “It’s important to live life in the here and now, because this is the only existence we will ever have”.

Generally speaking, I feel a bit uncomfortable around people who are religiously devout



Generally speaking, I feel a bit uncomfortable around people who have no use for religion



MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

They are also, at least at this point in their lives, not so-called “good candidates” for religious recruitment: 78 per cent indicate that they aren’t open to “more involvement with religious groups”. That said, 22 per cent of this group say they have not closed the door on organized religion.

Those Embracing Religion:

A marginally larger segment of the national population – 30 per cent – tells us that they are embracing religion. That’s down from the 45 per cent of Canadians who said they were religiously committed three decades ago, in 1985. (Bibby, 1985)

More than half (56%) of the people in this category report that they attend services at least once a month. Close to nine-in-ten (86%) indicate that they pray privately on a regular basis, and about five-in-ten say that they both say table grace (52%) and read the Bible or other sacred texts at least once a month (45%).

Some Characteristics of Canadians Who Are Embracing Religion, Compared with Other Canadians				
(once a month or more)	Embrace (%)	Ambivalent (%)	Reject (%)	Total (%)
Attend religious services	56	11	5	23
Pray privately/individually	86	42	14	48
Say table grace	52	16	8	25
Read the Bible, Quran, or other sacred text	45	9	6	19
Feel strengthened by your faith	79	30	12	40
Feel you experience God's presence	68	22	9	32

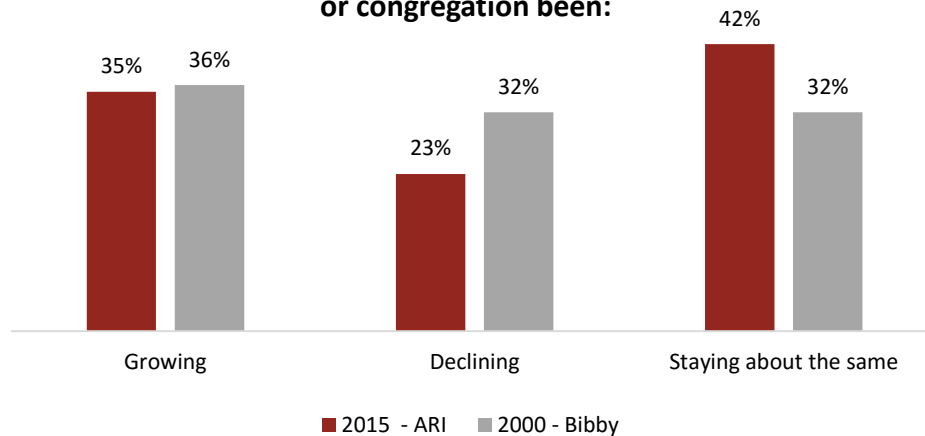
Eight-in-ten (79%) Canadians who embrace religion say that they feel strengthened by their faith. No less than 93 per cent believe that God cares about them personally and – beyond mere belief – close to 70 per cent claim that they routinely feel God’s presence.

Among Canadians who are religiously involved (attending religious services once a month or more), 35 per cent report that their congregations have been growing in recent years, while another 42 per cent inform us that their group numbers have been staying about the same. The remaining one-fifth – 23 per cent – say their congregations have been declining in size. Contrast this with figures from 2000, when 32 per cent of those who embrace faith indicated that their congregational numbers were dropping.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

(Among those attending services once a month or more)
In recent years has your religious group
or congregation been:



One of the keys to understanding the current state of organized religion in Canada is to look at immigration patterns. Historically, the life-blood of previously dominant United, Anglican, Presbyterian, and Lutheran denominations was immigration from Britain and Europe. But as immigration patterns have shifted, so too has growth in different religions. With greater immigration from Asian countries in particular, the greatest increases have been among Roman Catholics, evangelical Protestants, and other major world faith groups.

**Immigration Totals: 2001 – 2011
(In 1000s)**

	2001 - 2011	Median Age
Roman Catholic	478	43
No Religion	442	33
Muslim	388	29
Christian, other	162	32
Hindu	154	34
Christian Orthodox	108	42
Sikh	107	33
Buddhist	62	38
Pentecostal	41	36
Anglican	23	51
Jewish	21	45
Presbyterian	17	48
United Church	10	52
Lutheran	7	46

Source: Statistics Canada; National Household Survey, 2011.

Other findings:

- People born outside Canada are considerably more likely to attend religious services than people born in Canada (35% versus 21%).
- Young arrivals aged 18-34 and 35-54 (increasing numbers of whom are coming from Asian and African countries) are much more likely to actively attend services than their older counterparts (49% compared to 27%).
- Additional analyses shows a similar, though somewhat weaker pattern holds for the religious self-designations of younger arrivals from other countries: 42 per cent of those who are 18 to 34 say they are embracing religion, while 39 per cent are ambivalent, and 19 per cent are rejecting faith.
- Similarly, 38 per cent of 35 to 54-year-olds born elsewhere are embracing faith – also well above the level for their Canadian-born counterparts.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Those Who Are Ambivalent:

The largest of the three segments of Canadians – some 44 per cent of the population – neither embrace nor reject religion. They tell us that they see themselves as “somewhere in between”:

- They are the dominant grouping in every region, age, and gender category.
- Are not pro-atheist: the majority (73%) does not believe that the growth of atheism has been a good thing for Canada.
- Some 42 per cent say they are open to greater involvement with religious groups if they can find it to be worthwhile.
- Four-in-ten report that they pray privately on a regular, monthly to weekly basis, and three-in-ten say they regularly feel strengthened by their faith.
- 64 per cent said that they believe in a God who cares about them personally while 22 per cent feel they experience God’s presence on a regular basis.

Some Characteristics of Canadians Who Are Ambivalent About Religion, Compared with Other Canadians

	Ambivalent (%)	Embrace (%)	Reject (%)	Total (%)
Continue to identify with a religion	87	99	56	78
Attend religious services at least occasionally	74	93	36	70
Have attended a religious funeral in the past year	46	60	28	45
Have attended a religious wedding in the past year	19	37	17	24
Want a religious funeral	34	80	07	41

Regarding the religiously ambivalent, the survey also reveals:

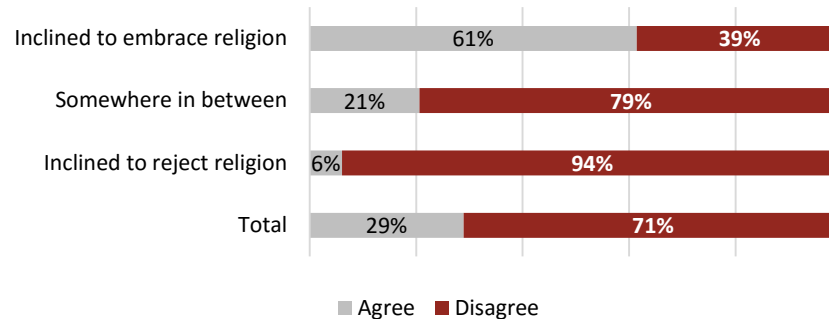
- 87 per cent continue to identify with a religious tradition.
- They comprise around half of Catholics, Mainline Protestants, and other major world faith adherents
- A full third say that when they die, they want to have a religious funeral.
- One-in-three say they “sometimes feel guilty for not being more involved.”

While only 21 per cent of Canadians in “the ambivalent middle” have a high level of confidence in religious leaders, a rather astonishing 78 per cent think that “Pope Francis is having a positive impact on the world”. It’s interesting to note that the Pope receives “a thumbs up” as well from 63 per cent of those who reject religion.

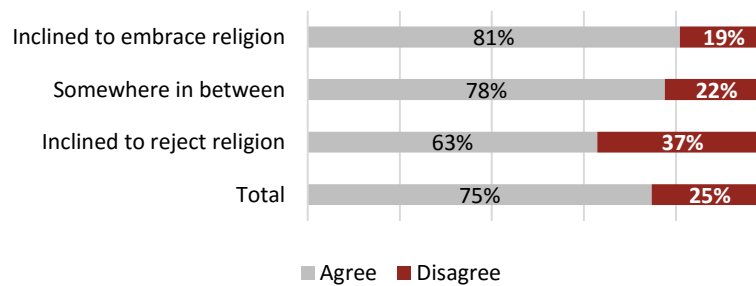
MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

I have a high level of confidence in religious leaders



I think Pope Francis is having a positive impact on the world



Beyond the Three Religious Inclinations:

The Angus Reid Institute survey also explored a number of items relating to attitudes, social and personal well-being through the lens of religious identification.

Moral and Social Attitudes:

There are some similarities and some striking differences in the moral and social attitudes of Canadians who embrace religion, reject it, and are somewhere in between.

- People who are pro-religious are more likely than others to say the Ten Commandments still apply today and less likely to agree that "what is right or wrong is a matter of personal opinion".

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

- Over half of those who reject religion endorse the contemporary applicability of the Ten Commandments. Conversely, 40 per cent of those embracing religion agree that morality comes down to personal opinion.
- With respect of sex, sexual orientation, and abortion, people who embrace faith are predictably more conservative in their views than others. The attitudinal differences between the non-religious and the ambivalent tend to be small. It is worth noting that even those who highly value religion solidly agree that a legal abortion should be a possibility in situations where a mother's health is seriously endangered.
- About four-in-ten people in each of the three categories agree that war is justified. They are fairly uniform in not seeing Christianity as more likely than other religions to encourage violence. But five-in-ten in each of the three groups feel that such a generalization is warranted in the case of Islam.
- Two illustrative social issue items dealt with euthanasia and with the status of women. The survey shows that Canadians who embrace religion are less likely than others to believe that a doctor would be justified in ending a patient's life. Individuals who reject religion are slightly less inclined than others to agree that women in Canada now encounter little discrimination.

Religious Inclinations and Social Issues				
	Total (%)	Embrace (%)	Reject (%)	Ambivalent (%)
Bases for Morality				
The Ten Commandments still apply today	73	91	53	73
What's right or wrong is a matter of personal opinion	51	40	55	57
Sex, Sexuality, and Abortion (Accept)				
People having sex when they are under 18	83	69	93	87
Same-sex couples marrying	84	69	91	91
Availability of a legal abortion if mother's health is seriously endangered	96	91	99	98
A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion for any reason	81	59	93	88
Violence				
War is justified when other ways of settling international disputes fail	43	43	43	42
Christianity is more likely than other religions to encourage violence	12	9	20	10
Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence	51	58	49	48
Social Issues				
Circumstances in which a doctor would be justified in ending a patient's life	80	61	92	86
Women in this country now encounter very little discrimination	44	47	38	45
Religion and Quality of Life				
The decline in religious involvement has been a bad thing for Canada	48	86	11	44
Religion's overall impact on the world is positive	51	80	15	52

Social Well-Being: Civility and Compassion

There are few differences by inclinations toward religion when it comes to broad social compassion attitudes – such as people having a right to adequate incomes to live on, or our needing to be concerned about people in the rest of the world. In the latter instance, it's worth noting that majorities in agreement are hard to come by.

Almost everyone maintains that they place a high level on honesty. But forgiveness is something particularly valued by Canadians who embrace faith, followed by the ambivalent middle and those who

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

reject religion. Concern for others is another trait that is highly valued by more people in the pro-religious sector than others.

Helping behaviour – in the form of donating money to a charity or volunteering one's time – tends to be more characteristic of people who value faith than others. Attempting to assist a stranger in need of help, however, is equally initiated by slightly over 50 per cent of individuals, regardless of their religious inclinations.

Personal Well-Being: Joys, Concerns, and Happiness

The Angus Reid Institute survey examined a number of personal characteristics that could be examined in relation to religious inclinations:

- Family and friends are enjoyed by the vast majority of people in all three sectors, led slightly by Canadians who value faith. One's enjoyment of work is not uniquely influenced by one's religious orientation.
- Concerns about issues such as health, money, and time are highly uniform across all three religious inclination categories. However, people who are religiously ambivalent are somewhat more likely than others to indicate that they feel they "should be getting more out of life."
- Relational and personal happiness levels differ little by religious inclinations.

Part Two: Beliefs and Practices: "Religion à la carte" Persists in Canada

Canadians may not be as inclined as they once were to adopt religion as a total package, complete with conventional beliefs, practices, and teachings. That said, the Angus Reid Institute poll reveals the majority of people across the country nonetheless continue to hold on to religious bits and pieces, picking and choosing from a wide range of items that are available in a lively spiritual and religious marketplace.

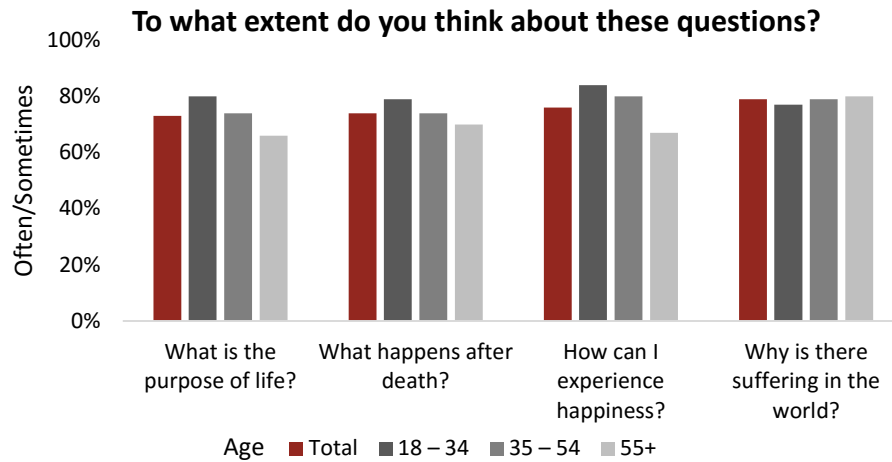
The Ultimate Questions

There has been little change dating back to at least the 1970s in the inclination of Canadians to raise deep questions about life's purpose, how can we experience happiness, why is there suffering in the world and what happens after we die.

More than nine-in-ten say that they have raised such questions, with some three-in-four Canadians indicating that they continue to be issues that they reflect on "sometimes" or "often".

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl



Supernatural Beliefs

Belief in **God or a higher power** has slipped somewhat since the 1970s when we compare the current survey results with the Bibby, Project Canada Survey Series (see table below). Still, more than 70 per cent of Canadians today express belief in a “Supreme Being”. See the table below for more of what Canadians do and don’t believe today:

	Do you believe...						
	1975 (%)	1985 (%)	2000 (%)	2015 (%)	Embrace (%)	Reject (%)	Ambivalent (%)
“Yes, definitely” or “Yes, I think so”							
God							
That God or a higher power exists	87	83	81	73	97	33	81
Atheism: “No, I definitely do not”	6	6	6	13	1	40	5
God or a higher power cares for you personally	73	n/a	n/a	61	93	19	64
That Jesus was the Divine Son of God	68	79	72	59	92	15	63
You have experienced God’s presence	48	44	46	47	81	14	44
Afterlife							
In life after death	65	65	68	66	87	35	70
In heaven	n/a	70	65	63	94	21	68
In hell	n/a	46	46	42	73	11	39
We can have contact spirit world	n/a	n/a	45	50	57	33	56
That we can communicate with the dead	40	21	31	43	45	27	50
That you yourself will be reincarnated	n/a	n/a	27	33	34	21	38
Angels							
In angels	n/a	61	63	62	90	26	64
Have been protected by guardian angel	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	79	27	58
Psychic Phenomena							
Some people have psychic powers	n/a	63	59	51	52	37	60
You personally have...precognition	n/a	55	58	49	49	42	54
Other							
Miraculous healing sometimes occurs	n/a	n/a	71	69	89	40	72
You yourself have spiritual needs	n/a	n/a	73	67	92	38	68
In astrology	40	35	34	35	34	24	43

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Some two-in-three (66%) Canadians acknowledge that they believe in life after death – virtually the same proportion as in the mid-70s. Belief in heaven (63%) is down slightly from earlier years, once more, it would seem, a reflection of greater religious and non-religious diversity.

What has remained steady are beliefs that we can communicate with the spirit world (50%) and with people who have died (43%) – with the latter belief on the rebound after dropping in the 1980s and 90s. Belief in the existence of hell has remained steady since at least the 1980s (42% in the current survey).

Since at least the 1980s, more than six-in-ten people have asserted their belief in angels (62% currently). What's more, close to the same proportion (56%) report that they feel they have had times in their lives when they have been protected by a guardian angel.

The survey has found that Canadians give credibility to a number of additional “non-scientific” ideas that we explored with them.

- Half of Canadians (51%) believe that some people have psychic powers. And the same number (49%) of adults across the country maintain that they personally have experienced an event before it happened (precognition).
- “Miraculous healing” that seems to defy rational, medical explanations is something that seven-in-ten (69%) Canadians say they believe takes place.
- And, dating back to at least the 1970s, a fairly consistent one-in-three (35%) Canadians have reported that they believe in astrology.

The Pervasiveness of *à la carte* Beliefs

What's intriguing is the documentation of the persistence of such a wide range of beliefs about the supernatural and supernatural phenomena. The survey findings show that people who are ambivalent about religion consistently seem to be open not only to religious beliefs, but to a range of other non-naturalist beliefs as well, such as psychic phenomena and astrology.

The survey findings suggest many Canadians may feel they cannot live by rationality alone – and that many either opt for a higher power, the gods, chance or luck in the course of understanding their life's path.

The Determinants of One's Life				
"To what extent do you see your life determined by..."				
% Indicating "A Great Deal" or "Quite a Bit"				
	ALL (%)	Embrace (%)	Reject (%)	Ambivalent (%)
Your own efforts	89	85	93	91
Your health	83	81	87	83
Other people	45	46	44	45
Chance	40	30	47	41
God	39	82	08	29
Luck	33	26	35	36

Part 3: Highlights of the Study's Topical Findings

The Angus Reid Institute study looked at a number of topical issues and how views on these align with religious identification and orientation. These topics are summarized below and include:

- How do Canadians identify – as spiritual or religious?
- Social attitudes such as the justification for war and the persistence of gender discrimination
- Matters of sexual morality
- Moral relativism
- Views of religion in Canada
- Attitudes towards various religious groups

Spiritual or Religious?

Spiritual: of, relating to, or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things.

Religious: relating to or believing in a religion...forming part of someone's thought about or worship of a divine being – [Oxford Dictionary online](#)

Canadians are more likely to self-identify as spiritual rather than religious by a margin approaching two-to-one.

A total of 63 per cent describe themselves using one of two spiritual options – 39 per cent chose "spiritual but not religious" (the most popular single option) and another 24 per cent opted for "spiritual and religious". Ten percent chose "religious but not spiritual", producing a total of 34 per cent for one of the two religious characterizations. A total of 27 per cent said they see themselves as "neither religious nor spiritual".

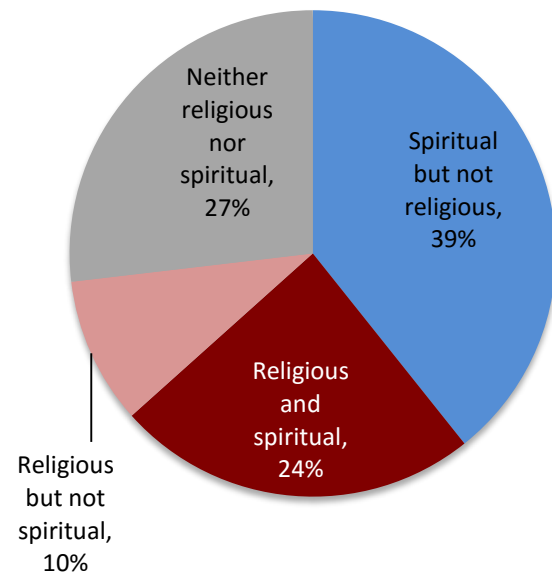
MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

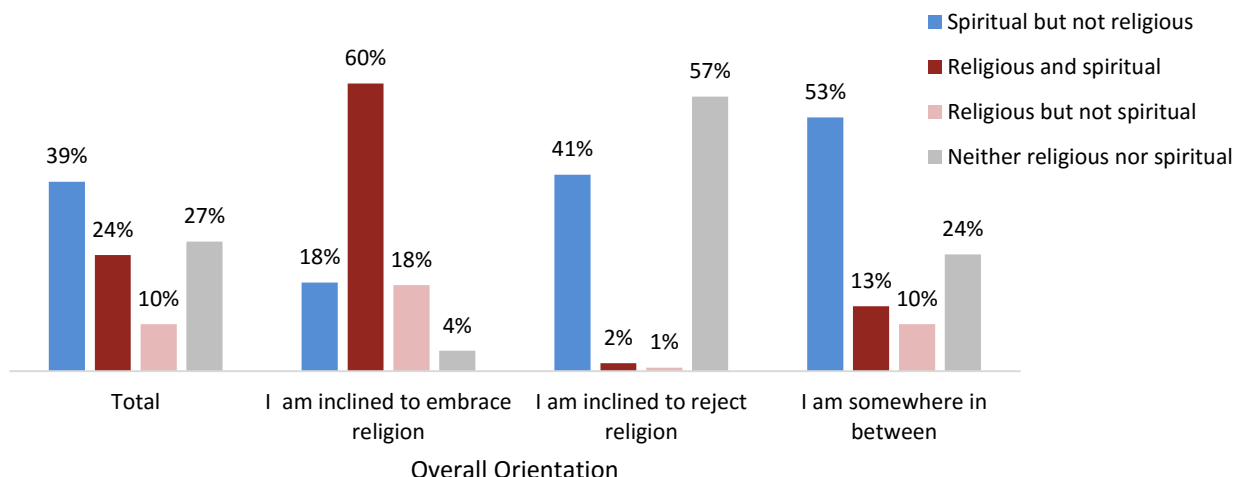
How does this line up against overall orientation towards religion? Certainly, there is alignment, but it is far from precise and underlines the observation that increasing secularization is occurring against a backdrop of persistent spirituality.

- Those inclined to *embrace religion* tend to see themselves as both spiritual and religious (60% chose this option)
- Those inclined to *reject religion* tended to opt for “neither” (57%), but fully four-in-ten (41%) instead see themselves as “spiritual but not religious”
- The ambivalent group tends to choose spiritual, but not religious (53%), though one-in-four say “neither” and one-in-ten selected each of the exclusive options.

Do you see yourself as:



Do you see yourself as:



Social Attitudes

This study also examined how Canadians' views on broad social issues align with religious identification and orientation. A number of social issues examined elicit a fairly divided opinion from Canadians overall, and also meet with quite different assessments across specific religious and socio-demographic segments.

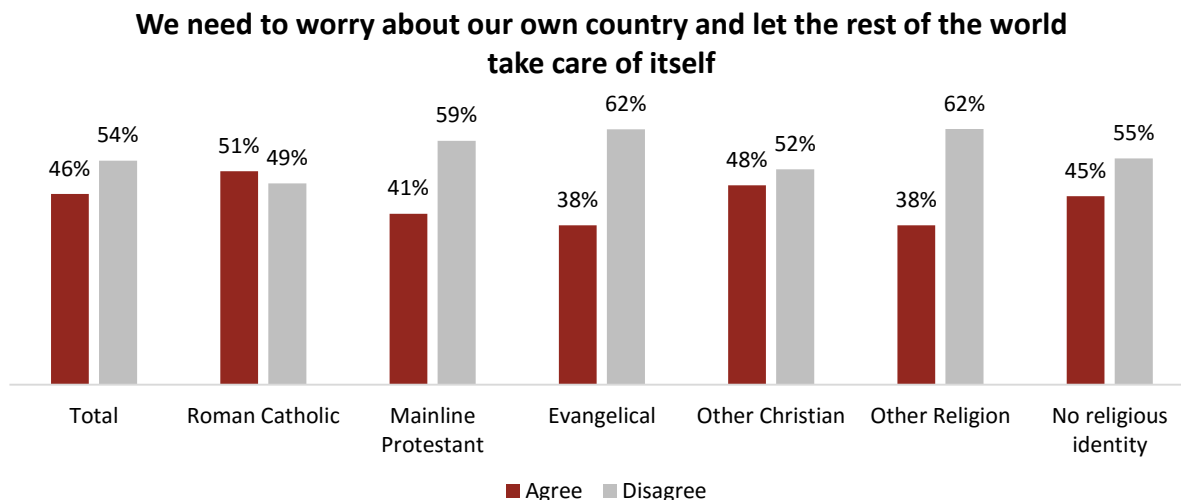
"War is justified when other ways of settling international disputes fail":

Canadians disagree with this sentiment by a margin of 57 per cent to 43 per cent. Views do not vary markedly across religious descriptors. But, demographically, there is a large gender gap with men tilting towards agreement with this war justification statement. (Tracking data from 10 and 20 years ago showed consistent levels of agreement, but the "Cold War" 1985 reading found much lower levels of agreement with this statement.)

"We need to worry about our own country and let the rest of the world take care of itself":

This statement elicited a similar overall divided response with 54 per cent of Canadians surveyed disagreeing and 46 per cent agreeing.

Looking at the results by religious orientation shows this is an area of common ground for those who embrace and those who reject religion -- in contrast to the more isolationist perspective of the more ambivalent middle. And looking at religious identification shows evangelical Protestants and those who identify with "other" religions take the more internationalist perspective. There is also a major generation gap with young Canadians evenly split in contrast to the decidedly internationalist perspective of those over 55. (Tracking data for this items shows much higher levels of agreement -- that is, a more isolationist perspective -- in 2005).



MEDIA CONTACT:

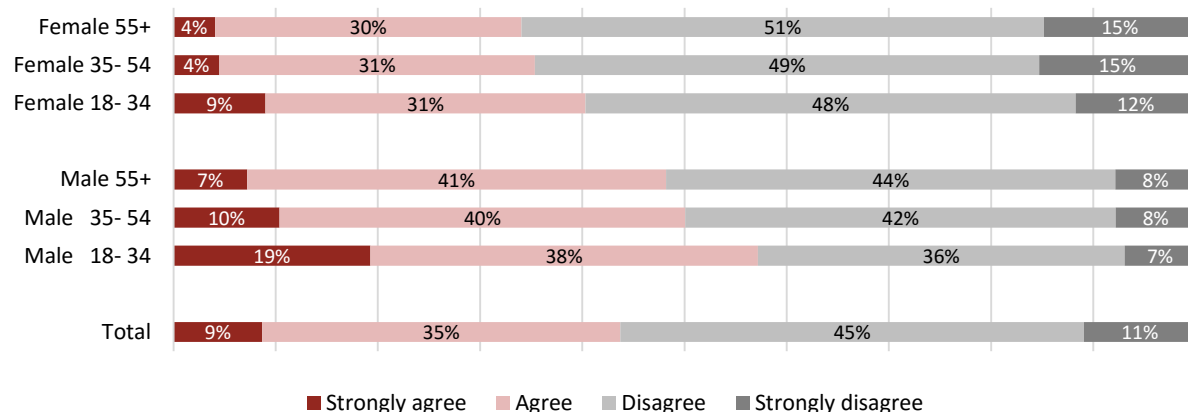
Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

“Women in this country now encounter very little discrimination”:

On this item on gender equality, 44 per cent agree and 56 per cent disagree. The results show significant differences among socio-demographic and religious groupings. Of course, the gender gap is major: women disagree by a large margin of 64 to 36 per cent, while men are evenly split. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, younger Canadians are also split on this whereas those middle-aged and older are less convinced gender discrimination is a thing of the past.

By religious identification, this statement gets the same split response from both Evangelical Protestants and RC's – and a divergence of views among RC's within and outside Quebec. The latter, along with Mainstream Protestants, those who identify with “other” religions, and “no religion” tend to disagree with this assertion that gender discrimination is a thing of the past. Tracking data (*Project Canada Survey Series*) shows Canadians are more concerned today than 10 years ago that problems of gender discrimination persist.

Women in this country now encounter very little discrimination



Sexual Morality

This study also looked at sexual “morality”, again with a view to exploring how these issues align with religious identification and orientation. The question specifically asked those surveyed to indicate whether they “approve and accept”, “disapprove but accept” or “disapprove and do not accept” different so-called “sexual morality” scenarios.

On same-sex couples marrying:

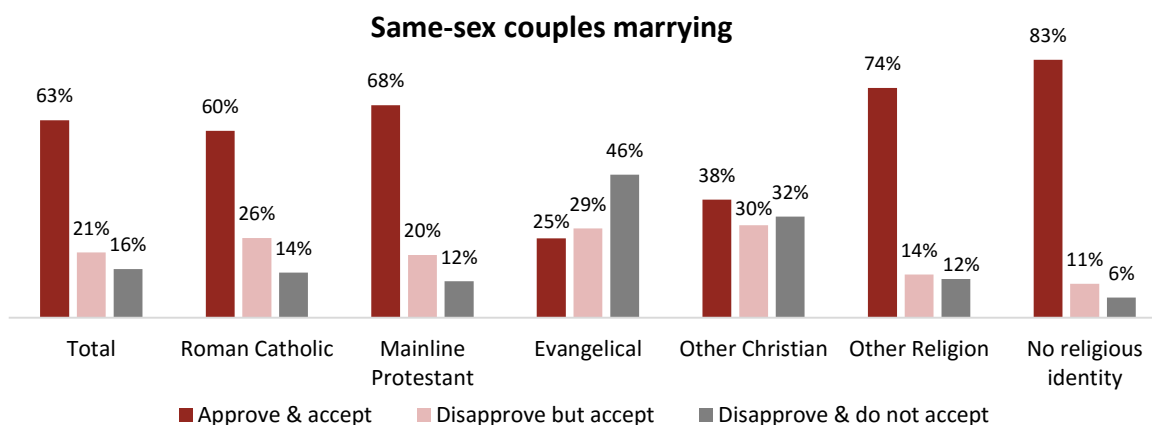
- A total of 63 per cent of Canadians overall “approve of and accept” this, 21 per cent “disapprove of but accept” and 16 per cent “disapprove and do not accept”. Socio-demographically speaking, the majority of Canadians from all walks of life “approve and accept” – with the one exception of men over 55 where this dips below the majority mark.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Views do vary markedly by religion with much lower levels of approval noted among: Evangelical Protestants (the plurality disapprove and do not accept in both cases) as well as “other Christians”, regular attenders, and those inclined to embrace religion.

Tracking data (*Project Canada Survey Series*) for these items shows the proportion of Canadians who “approve and accept” of these same-sex rights has increased by 15 points and 20 points respectively since 2005.



Similar patterns are in evidence for the two scenarios concerning women’s access to legal abortions:

- A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion if her health is seriously endangered: Fully 85 per cent “approve and accept”.
- A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion for any reason: 51 per cent “approve and accept”, 29 per cent “disapprove but accept”, and 19 per cent “disapprove and do not accept.”

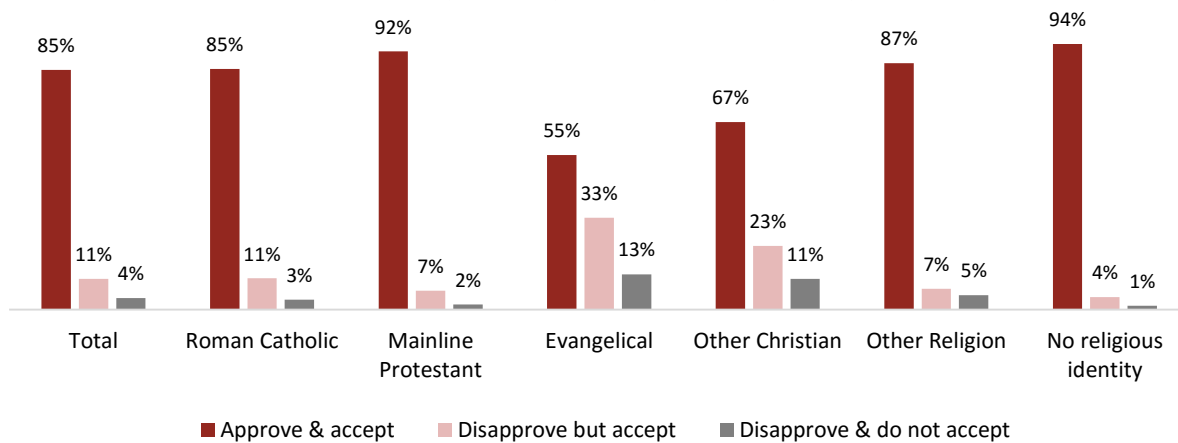
Access to abortion when the life of the mother is in danger is condoned by Canadians from all walks of life – including across the various religious segments.

The picture is different when it comes to abortion for any reason; here, we see some population groups withdraw their approval (if not their acceptance), including: prairie dwellers, older Canadians- especially older men, and those with less formal education.

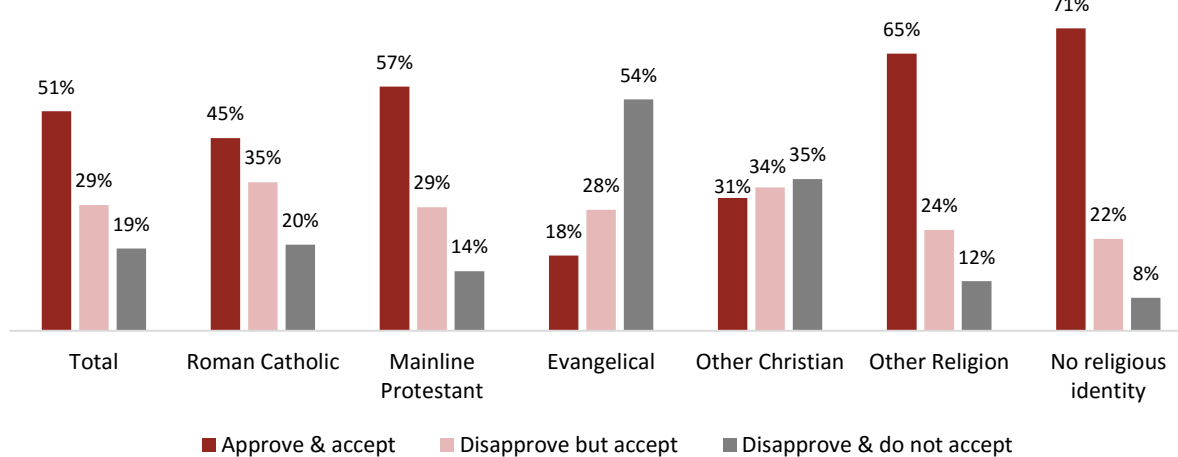
And, the same religious groups are much less likely to “approve and accept”, especially Evangelical Protestants, a majority of whom (54%) “disapprove and do not accept” abortion for any reason. Among Canadian Catholics (those who indicate that best describes their religion), the number who “approve and accept” dips below the majority mark (45%), with 35 per cent saying they “disapprove but accept” and only 20 per cent saying they “disapprove and do not accept”. This latter figure is a full plurality of 42 per

cent among regular Church-attending Catholics – who have very different views than those self-identified Catholics who do not attend Church.

A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion if her own health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy



A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion for any reason



Two **other issues of sexual morality** were examined in the poll:

- Unmarried adults having children: 70 per cent of Canadians “approve and accept” this, including a majority from all major socio-demographic groups. As on the other items, we see the most resistance voiced by Evangelical Protestants, other Christians, regular attenders and those who embrace religion.
- People having sex when they are under 18: This causes more consternation among Canadians: 36 per cent indicated they “approve and accept” of minors having sex while the plurality of 47 per cent “disapprove but accept” and 17 per cent “disapprove and do not accept”. Socio-demographically we see considerably higher acceptance among Quebecers, men, young people and therefore younger men in particular. Rejection of under-age sexual activity is highest among those same religious segments offering more conservative views on the other sexual morality issues. Meanwhile, those inclined to reject religion and those with no religious identity tend to be more comfortable with under age sex.

Moral Relativism

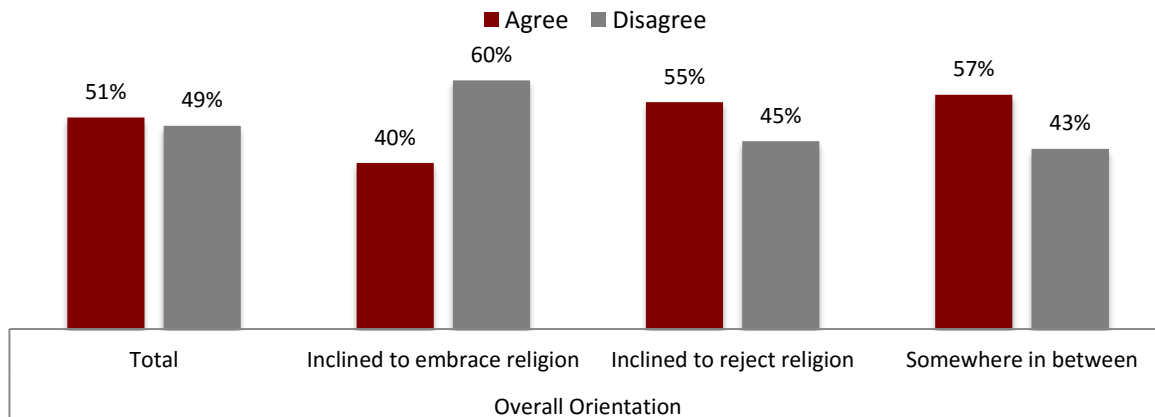
An overall question aimed at gauging Canadians' broad views on personal morality asked survey participants to agree or disagree with this statement: "What's right or wrong is a matter of personal opinion".

Here, we get an even split across Canadians as a whole on a near perfect curve: 51 per cent agree (18% strongly, 34% generally) and 49 per cent disagree (32% generally, 17% strongly).

Much bigger differences are noted by personal religiosity. Those Canadians with no religious identification and non-attenders and those who reject religion tend to agree with the moral relativism statement. Those who identify Roman Catholic also tend to hold to this view (57% overall, 63% among Quebec Catholics versus 52% in ROC). Evangelical Protestants and other Christians take a strong majority view against the moral relativism position as do those broadly inclined to embrace religion.

At the same time, and as noted earlier in this report, there is across-the-board solid agreement that "it is not necessary to believe in God in order to be moral and have good values" (82% of Canadians agree) and "it is not necessary to go to church in order to be moral and have good values" (89% agree, including all the religious segments we have been examining).

Agree or disagree with the following statement: What's right or wrong is a matter of personal opinion

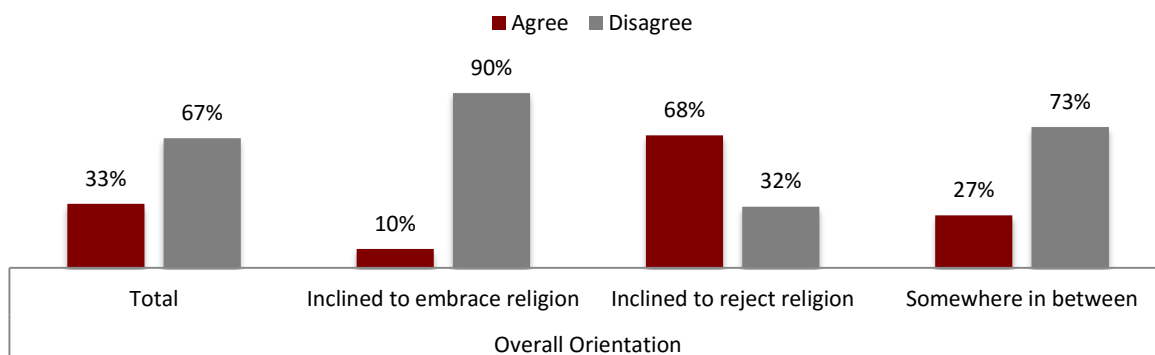


Views of Religion in Canada

The study included some key measures gauging Canadians' overall views on the role of religion in Canada today.

Those surveyed were asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement with the statement: "I think the growth in atheism is a good thing for life in Canada". Here, we see two-in-three (67%) Canadians disagreeing while one-in-three (33%) agree. This majority disagreement that atheism is beneficial for the country is in evidence across the board except among those Canadians who are inclined to reject religion.

Agree or disagree with the following statement: I think the growth in atheism is a good thing for life in Canada



MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

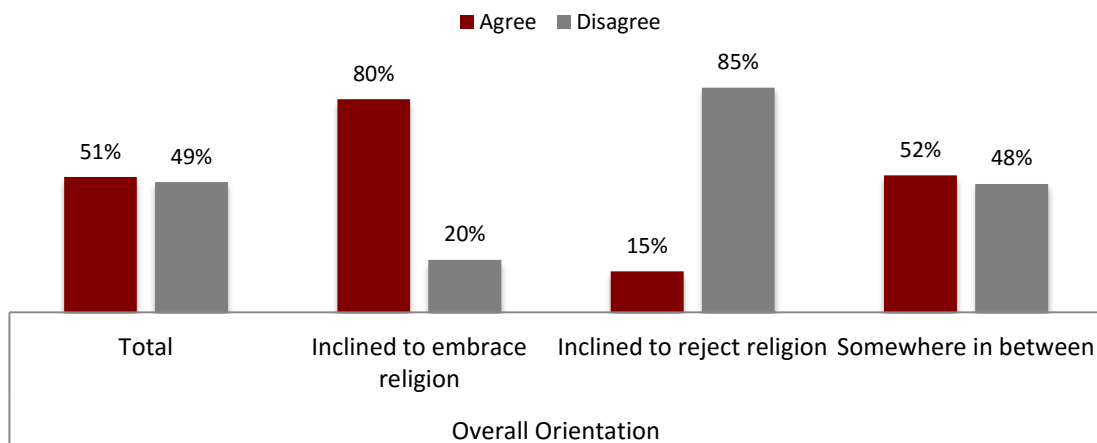
But Canadians do not go so far as to say "I think the decline in religious involvement has been a bad thing for Canada". Here we see an even split with 48 per cent agreeing and 52 per cent disagreeing.

And what about religion's overall impact? We asked Canadians to agree or disagree with this statement:

"I think that religion's overall impact on the world is positive".

Again, we see a split opinion on this very fundamental question with 51 per cent agreeing and 49 per cent disagreeing. Much like the preceding items, the detailed survey results show huge differences of opinion by religious orientation. Those who embrace religion are quite convinced it has a positive impact on the world, whereas those who reject it are equally strongly convinced the opposite is true. Demographically, we again see a significant generation gap with most (56%) younger Canadians disagreeing that religion has had a positive impact while the same number (57%) of their older counterparts agree with this characterization.

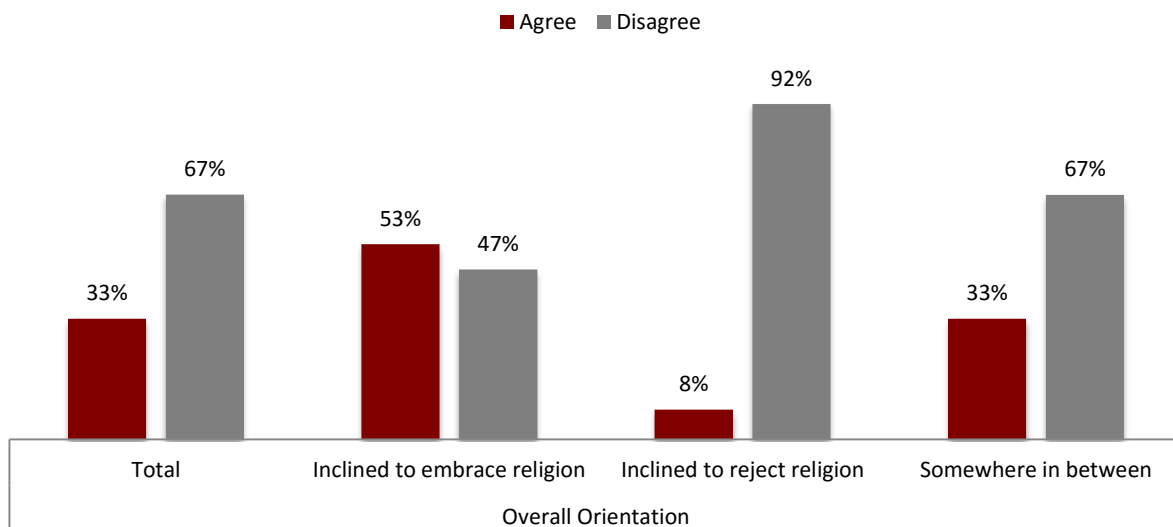
**Agree or disagree with the following statement: I think that
religion's overall impact on the world is positive**



MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

**Agree or disagree with the following statement: I sometimes feel guilty
for not being more involved in religion**



Attitudes towards various religious groups:

This Angus Reid Institute study assessed people's overall views of some of the largest and most important faith groups. This exploration simply involved asking Canadians how they feel – positive, neutral or negative – about each of 10 different religious groups. The results paint a fascinating portrait of Canadians' overall orientation towards various forms of the religious "other".

Overall Attitudes

Three religious groups emerged with substantially positive images among the broad Canadian public:

- Roman Catholics – 49 per cent feel positive towards RC's, 38 per cent neutral and 13 per cent negative. (For comparison purposes, we'll assign each group an image score calculated simply by subtracting the proportion who feel negative from the proportion who feel positive – the higher the score, the more positive net rating for that group. The image score for Roman Catholics is 49 minus 13: +36.)
- Protestants – 44 per cent positive, 48 per cent neutral, 8 per cent negative. (Image score: also +36)
- Buddhists inspire almost as positive feelings among Canadians as a whole (despite having far fewer official adherents in this country): 44 per cent of those surveyed said they feel positive about Buddhists while 47 per cent said neutral and 9 per cent negative. (Image score: +35)

Followers of two other faiths also emerge with overall positive ratings:

- Jews – 39 per cent positive, 49 per cent neutral, 12 per cent negative. (Image score: +27)
- Hindus – 27 per cent positive, 57 per cent neutral, 16 per cent negative. (Image score: +11)

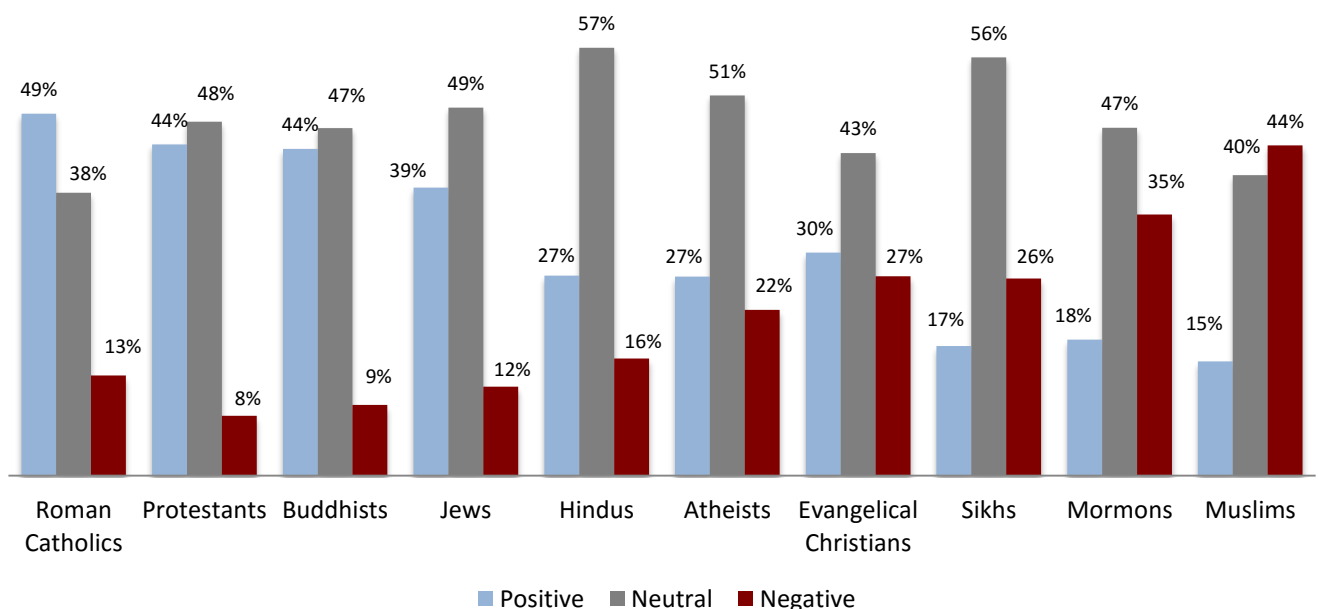
The results show Evangelical Christians and atheists are more polarizing with Canadians roughly as likely to express a negative as a positive feeling about each of these groups (though definitely not the same respondents in each case).

- Atheists – 27 per cent positive, 51 per cent neutral and 22 per cent negative. (Image score: +5)
- Evangelical Christians – 30 per cent positive, 43 per cent neutral and 27 per cent negative. (Image score: +3)

The remaining three groups emerged from this exercise with a net negative overall public image:

- Sikhs – 17 per cent positive, 56 per cent neutral, 26 per cent negative. (Image score: -9)
- Mormons – 18 per cent positive, 47 per cent neutral, 35 per cent negative. (Image score: -17)
- Muslims – 15 per cent positive, 40 per cent neutral, 44 per cent negative. (Image score: -29)

How positive, neutral, or negative do you tend to feel toward the following groups?



MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

The Groups' Self-ratings

Of course, a major part of the relative rankings reflects the reality that Canada by population is a majority Christian country – and people tend to feel more positive about “their own kind” than about the “other”. And in this case as well, religious groups are rated considerably more positively by their own members than by people of other religious backgrounds.

For example, among those surveyed Canadians who said Roman Catholic (RC) best describes their religion, a full 70 per cent reported a positive view of Catholics and only 4 per cent a negative view for an image score of +66.

As we saw above, Catholics' overall image score among all Canadians was +36. If we remove them from the sample and just look at the views of non-RC's, we get a much more modest image score of +17.

(Catholics' self-rating is an area of close agreement for Quebec and other Canadian Catholics. In contrast, Quebec RC's give lower image scores to most of the other religious groups assessed and a +10 rating to atheists compared to the -6 among ROC RC's)

Likewise, in the case of Evangelical Protestants, their own image score is +70, in contrast to the +3 observed across the Canadian population as a whole.

For Mainline Protestants, their own rating of “Protestants” is +68.

The same phenomenon is noted for atheists. Those inclined to reject religion give atheists an image score of +47. Overall, it was +5. With “rejecters” removed, the atheist score becomes -19.

We don't have sufficient sub-sample sizes to look at self-ratings of the other, non-Christian religious groups assessed. We'd certainly expect higher self-ratings among these other groups as well – but they are not sufficiently numerical to influence the overall numbers to the extent noted for the larger (in Canada) groups.

Views of each other

How do the religious groups see each other? Catholics' ratings tend to reflect the overall totals (except their self-rating, of course), with slightly higher scores for Hindus and Mormons (still negative for the latter) and Evangelical Protestants (+16). Catholics express a less positive view of Jews (+25) than their Mainline (+46) or Evangelical Protestant (+49) counterparts.

Evangelical Protestants give Catholics a higher rating than vice versa (+34), but offer substantially more negative ratings for all non-Christian religious groups assessed with the one important exception of Jews (+49). Evangelicals are the only group to have a net negative view of Buddhists (-10) and give by far the most negative views of atheists (-50).

Mainline Protestants tend to give more positive ratings to the other religious groups than Catholics or Evangelical Protestants (except in the case of that latter group, Mainline Protestants express some negativity towards Evangelicals.)

As noted above, this survey does not afford adequate sub-sample sizes for other, non-Christian religious adherents and so these have, somewhat inelegantly, been grouped together under “Other Religions”. This diverse group of non-Christians tends to assign more positive ratings to non-Christian religions and consistently more negative ratings to the Christian groups assessed – Roman Catholics (0), Protestants (+10) and Evangelical Protestants (-22).

Finally, in the case of those indicating they have no religious identity or that they are inclined to reject religion, the research also finds relatively lower ratings for the Christian groups- roughly average for the non-Christian groups (except more negative in the case of Jews) and much more positive views of atheists, as noted above.

Socio-demographic differences:

- Regionally, the two coasts offer a lot of contrast. BC residents give consistently lower ratings to the Christian groups assessed, and save their highest for Buddhists. Atlantic Canadians give relatively high marks to the Christian groups and (along with prairie dwellers) are much more wary of atheists. Quebec is exceptional for the relatively lower ratings assigned to Muslims, Sikhs and Jews.
- There are also some big age differences. Older Canadians give the main Christian groups relatively higher ratings (scores around 50 for RC's and Protestants compared to the roughly 20 points among younger Canadians). Older Canadians are more wary of atheists (-9 versus +16). Those over 55 also gave relatively more positive (or less negative) ratings of Jews and Mormons.
- And across educational strata, we see consistent overall attitudes towards the main Christian groups assessed – except for Evangelicals who receive lower ratings from university-educated Canadians. This more educated group tends to feel more positively about the non-Christian groups assessed and towards atheists as well.

Other research in Canada and the US

Angus Reid has conducted similar explorations on this subject. Specifically, in 2009 and [2013, Canadians were asked if they held overall favourable or unfavourable views of the world's main religions](#) – as opposed to this current study's focus on the religions' adherents.

While not directly comparable, that earlier research placed the main religions in the same overall order: Christianity with the most favourable ratings, followed by Buddhism, Judaism and Hinduism, while Sikhism and Islam emerged with net unfavourable images.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Pew Research assessed the American landscape last year. Again, the questioning approach was different so the results are not directly comparable. But we can look at the overall ranking patterns and see some interesting contrasts between the two countries.

Most striking is the relatively higher regard Americans extend to Jews, Evangelical Protestants and Mormons, and the relatively lower regard extended to atheists. Indeed, in the US, atheists ranked second lowest to Muslims, and much lower than Evangelicals (in contrast to their essentially equal ranking here) and lower than Mormons (who atheists outranked in our Canadian study). In both countries, Islam and its followers are assessed most negatively by the broader public.

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. The Angus Reid Institute is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research organization established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.*

Where would you tend to locate yourself?								
(unweighted totals)	Total (3041)	Region						
		BC (404)	AB (300)	SK (201)	MB (200)	ON (1011)	PQ (720)	ATL (205)
I am inclined to embrace religion	30%	24%	32%	38%	37%	31%	25%	38%
I am inclined to reject religion	26%	37%	25%	20%	24%	25%	28%	18%
I am somewhere in between	44%	39%	43%	42%	38%	44%	48%	44%

Where would you tend to locate yourself?						
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Gender		Age		
		Men (1486)	Women (1555)	18 – 34 (878)	35 – 54 (1064)	55+ (1098)
I am inclined to embrace religion	30%	29%	30%	28%	25%	35%
I am inclined to reject religion	26%	31%	22%	28%	28%	24%
I am somewhere in between	44%	40%	48%	44%	47%	41%

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with these statements: Summary of Agree					
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Total Disagree (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Generally speaking, I feel a bit uncomfortable around people who are religiously devout	43%	57%	24%	63%	44%
Generally speaking, I feel a bit uncomfortable around people who have no use for religion	22%	78%	41%	6%	19%
It is not necessary to believe in God in order to be moral & have good values	82%	18%	68%	91%	86%
I think the growth in atheism is a good thing for life in Canada	33%	67%	10%	68%	27%
I think the decline in religious involvement has been a bad thing for Canada	48%	52%	86%	11%	44%
I prefer to live life without God or congregation	37%	63%	9%	79%	31%
It's important to live in the here and now, because this is the only existence we will ever have	62%	38%	37%	81%	67%
I'd be open to more involvement with religious groups if I found it worthwhile	39%	61%	49%	22%	42%
I sometimes feel guilty for not being more involved in religion	33%	67%	53%	8%	33%
I have a high level of confidence in religious leaders	29%	71%	61%	6%	21%
I think Pope Francis is having a positive impact on the world	75%	25%	81%	63%	78%

About how often do you:
Summary of 'once a month or more'

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Attend religious services	23%	56%	5%	11%
Feel strengthened by your faith	40%	79%	12%	30%
Read the Bible, Quran, or other sacred text	19%	45%	6%	9%
Pray privately/individually	48%	86%	14%	42%
Feel you experience God's presence	32%	68%	9%	22%
Say table grace/give thanks for food	25%	52%	8%	16%

About how often do you: Summary of 'once a month or more'			
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Born in Canada (2710)	Born outside of Canada (331)
Attend religious services	23%	21%	35%
Feel strengthened by your faith	40%	38%	50%
Read the Bible, Quran, or other sacred text	19%	18%	29%
Pray privately/individually	48%	47%	56%
Feel you experience God's presence	32%	31%	44%
Say table grace/give thanks for food	25%	23%	37%

Religious identification by overall orientation				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
That God or a higher power exists	73%	97%	33%	81%
You have experienced God's presence	47%	81%	14%	44%
God or a higher power cares about you personally	61%	93%	19%	64%

What is the MAIN THING your religious involvement adds to your life?

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Attend religious services once a month or more (weighted totals)	Total (687)	Inclined to embrace religion (507)	Ambivalent (144)
Personal enrichment	28%	27%	36%
The people	14%	9%	26%
God & spirituality	52%	58%	33%
Other (please indicate)	6%	6%	5%

In recent years has your religious group or congregation been:		
Attend religious services once a month or more	2015 ARI	2000 – Bibby*
Growing	35%	36%
Declining	23%	32%
Staying about the same	42%	32%

*Reginald W. Bibby, Project Canada Survey Series

Which one of the following best describes your religion?				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Roman Catholic	38%	44%	21%	44%
Mainline Protestant	19%	20%	9%	24%
Evangelical	8%	18%	2%	4%
Other Christian	7%	10%	3%	6%
Other Religion	9%	7%	9%	9%
No religious identity	21%	1%	56%	13%

In the past year I have attended...

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
A religious wedding	24%	37%	17%	19%
A religious funeral	45%	60%	28%	46%

When you die, do you want to have:				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
A religious funeral	41%	80%	7%	34%
A non-religious service of celebration	37%	10%	59%	42%
No service	22%	10%	34%	24%

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with these statements: Summary of Agree				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
The Ten Commandments still apply today	73%	91%	53%	73%
What's right or wrong is a matter of personal opinion	51%	40%	55%	57%

What is your personal response to the following? People having sex when they are under 18				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Approve & accept	36%	18%	53%	37%
Disapprove but accept	47%	50%	40%	50%
Disapprove & do not accept	17%	32%	7%	13%
Unmarried adults having children				

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Approve & accept	70%	44%	87%	76%
Disapprove but accept	26%	45%	12%	21%
Disapprove & do not accept	5%	10%	1%	3%

What is your personal response to the following? Same-sex couples marrying				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Approve & accept	63%	41%	78%	70%
Disapprove but accept	21%	29%	13%	21%
Disapprove & do not accept	16%	31%	9%	9%
Same-sex couples adopting children				
Approve & accept	60%	40%	72%	65%
Disapprove but accept	23%	28%	16%	24%
Disapprove & do not accept	17%	32%	11%	11%

What is your personal response to the following? A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion if her own health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Approve & accept	85%	69%	95%	90%
Disapprove but accept	11%	22%	4%	8%
Disapprove & do not accept	4%	9%	1%	2%
A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion for any reason				
Approve & accept	51%	28%	72%	55%
Disapprove but accept	29%	31%	20%	34%
Disapprove & do not accept	19%	41%	7%	12%

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

War is justified when other ways of settling international disputes fail				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Agree	43%	43%	43%	42%
Disagree	57%	57%	57%	58%

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with these statements: Summary of Agree				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Christianity is more likely than other religions to encourage violence	12%	9%	20%	10%
Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence	51%	58%	49%	48%

There are some circumstances in which a doctor would be justified in ending a patient's life				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Agree	80%	61%	92%	86%
Disagree	20%	39%	8%	14%
Women in this country now encounter very little discrimination				
Agree	44%	47%	38%	45%
Disagree	56%	53%	62%	55%

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

People who are poor have a right to an income adequate to live on				
Agree	86%	89%	85%	85%
Disagree	14%	11%	15%	15%

How important are the following to you? Summary of important				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Honesty	98%	98%	98%	99%
Forgiveness	95%	97%	90%	97%
Concern for others	95%	95%	95%	96%

In the past month I have...				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Donated money to a charity	53%	64%	50%	48%
Volunteered time to an organization	34%	45%	27%	31%
Helped a stranger who needed help	55%	57%	57%	52%

How much enjoyment do you receive from these areas of life? Summary of a great deal/Quite a bit				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Your family life generally	87%	91%	83%	86%
Your friends	81%	85%	78%	80%

How much enjoyment do you receive from these areas of life? Your Job				
Respondents with a job	Total (2108)	Inclined to embrace religion (594)	Inclined to reject religion (568)	Ambivalent (946)

(weighted totals)				
A great deal/Quite a bit	57%	62%	51%	57%
Some/Little or none	43%	38%	49%	43%

How often do these problems bother you? Summary of a great deal/Quite a bit				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Lack of money	48%	44%	45%	52%
Your health	48%	47%	43%	52%
Never seem to have enough time	44%	43%	42%	45%
Feeling you should be getting more out of life	44%	38%	41%	49%

Taking all things together, would you say you are:				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Very happy	22%	29%	20%	19%
Pretty happy	65%	62%	65%	69%
Not too happy	11%	9%	13%	11%
Not happy at all	1%	1%	2%	1%

Generally speaking, how would you describe your marriage or relationship?				
In a relationship (weighted totals)	Total (2161)	Inclined to embrace religion (655)	Inclined to reject religion (563)	Ambivalent (943)
Very happy	45%	50%	42%	43%
Pretty happy	46%	42%	49%	48%
Not too happy	8%	7%	9%	9%

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

PART 2 TABLES

To what extent do you think about these questions? Summary of Often/Sometimes				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Age		
		18 – 34 (878)	35 – 54 (1064)	55+ (1098)
What is the purpose of life?	73%	80%	74%	66%
What happens after death?	74%	79%	74%	70%
How can I experience happiness?	76%	84%	80%	67%
Why is there suffering in the world?	79%	77%	79%	80%

Summary of believe				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
That Jesus was the Divine Son of God	59%	92%	15%	63%
In life after death	66%	87%	35%	70%
In heaven	63%	94%	21%	68%
In hell	42%	73%	11%	39%
We can have contact with the spirit world	50%	57%	33%	56%
That you yourself will be reincarnated	33%	34%	21%	38%
That you have been protected from harm by a guardian angel	56%	79%	27%	58%
In angels	62%	90%	26%	64%
Some people have psychic powers enabling them to predict events	51%	52%	37%	60%

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

You personally have experienced an event before it happened (precognition)	49%	49%	42%	54%
Miraculous healing sometimes occurs	69%	89%	40%	72%
In astrology	35%	34%	24%	43%
You yourself have spiritual needs	67%	92%	38%	68%

When all's said and done, to what extent do you see your life as determined by:
Summary of A great deal/Quite a bit

(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Gender		Age		
		Men (1486)	Women (1555)	18 – 34 (878)	35 – 54 (1064)	55+ (1098)
Your own efforts	89%	89%	90%	88%	89%	90%
Your health	83%	84%	83%	80%	82%	88%
Other people	45%	48%	42%	52%	43%	40%
Luck	33%	36%	30%	41%	32%	27%
God	39%	36%	43%	36%	36%	45%
Chance	40%	43%	37%	49%	39%	33%

When all's said and done, to what extent do you see your life as determined by:
Summary of A great deal/Quite a bit

(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Your own efforts	89%	85%	93%	91%
Your health	83%	81%	87%	83%
Other people	45%	46%	44%	45%
Luck	33%	26%	35%	36%
God	39%	82%	8%	29%
Chance	40%	31%	48%	41%

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

PART 3 TABLES

Do you see yourself as:						
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Gender		Age		
		Men (1486)	Women (1555)	18 – 34 (878)	35 – 54 (1064)	55+ (1098)
Spiritual but not religious	39%	35%	43%	38%	42%	38%
Religious and spiritual	24%	20%	28%	23%	21%	28%
Religious but not spiritual	10%	12%	8%	9%	9%	11%
Neither religious nor spiritual	27%	33%	21%	30%	28%	23%

Do you see yourself as:				
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Inclined to embrace religion (906)	Inclined to reject religion (799)	Ambivalent (1336)
Spiritual but not religious	39%	18%	41%	53%
Religious and spiritual	24%	60%	2%	13%
Religious but not spiritual	10%	18%	1%	10%
Neither religious nor spiritual	27%	4%	57%	24%

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

War is justified when other ways of settling international disputes fail						
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Gender		Age		
		Men (1486)	Women (1555)	18 – 34 (878)	35 – 54 (1064)	55+ (1098)
Agree	43%	54%	32%	41%	44%	43%
Disagree	57%	46%	68%	59%	56%	57%
We need to worry about our own country and let the rest of the world take care of itself						
Agree	46%	48%	44%	51%	49%	38%
Disagree	54%	52%	56%	49%	51%	62%
Women in this country now encounter very little discrimination						
Agree	44%	52%	36%	49%	42%	41%
Disagree	56%	48%	64%	51%	58%	59%
There are some circumstances in which a doctor would be justified in ending a patient's life						
Agree	80%	82%	78%	78%	83%	78%
Disagree	20%	18%	22%	22%	17%	22%
People who are poor have a right to an income adequate to live on						
Agree	86%	83%	89%	83%	85%	89%
Disagree	14%	17%	11%	17%	15%	11%
Tracking over Time Summary of Agree						
	2015 – ARI	2005 – Bibby*	1995 – Bibby*	1985 – Bibby*		
War is justified when other ways of settling international disputes fail	43%	38%	40%	20%		

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

We need to worry about our own country and let the rest of the world take care of itself	46%	74%		
There are some circumstances in which a doctor would be justified in ending a patient's life	80%	71%	76%	
Women in this country now encounter very little discrimination	44%	53%		
People who are poor have a right to an income adequate to live on	86%	88%	85%	89%

*Reginald W. Bibby, Project Canada Survey Series

War is justified when other ways of settling international disputes fail							
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Religion					
		Roman Catholic (1152)	Mainline Protestant (567)	Evangelical (230)	Other Christian (199)	Other Religion (259)	No religious identity (633)
Agree	43%	43%	46%	46%	44%	33%	41%
Disagree	57%	57%	54%	54%	56%	67%	59%
We need to worry about our own country and let the rest of the world take care of itself							
Agree	46%	51%	41%	38%	48%	38%	45%
Disagree	54%	49%	59%	62%	52%	62%	55%
Women in this country now encounter very little discrimination							
Agree	44%	51%	40%	49%	48%	29%	37%
Disagree	56%	49%	60%	51%	52%	71%	63%
There are some circumstances in which a doctor would be justified in ending a patient's life							
Agree	80%	79%	89%	43%	61%	85%	91%
Disagree	20%	21%	11%	57%	39%	15%	9%
People who are poor have a right to an income adequate to live on							
Agree	86%	88%	84%	85%	81%	91%	84%
Disagree	14%	12%	16%	15%	19%	9%	16%

What is your personal response to the following? Same-sex couples marrying						
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Gender		Age		
		Men (1486)	Women (1555)	18 – 34 (878)	35 – 54 (1064)	55+ (1098)
Approve & accept	63%	56%	71%	72%	65%	55%
Disapprove but accept	21%	25%	17%	16%	19%	27%
Disapprove & do not accept	16%	19%	12%	12%	16%	19%
Same-sex couples adopting children						
Approve & accept	60%	52%	67%	71%	60%	49%
Disapprove but accept	23%	26%	20%	16%	22%	29%
Disapprove & do not accept	17%	23%	12%	13%	17%	21%

What is your personal response to the following? Same-sex couples marrying							
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Religion					
		Roman Catholic (1152)	Mainline Protestant (567)	Evangelical (230)	Other Christian (199)	Other Religion (259)	No religious identity (633)
Approve & accept	63%	60%	68%	25%	38%	74%	83%
Disapprove but accept	21%	26%	20%	29%	30%	14%	11%
Disapprove & do not accept	16%	14%	12%	46%	32%	12%	6%
Same-sex couples adopting children							
Approve & accept	60%	54%	64%	28%	39%	70%	79%
Disapprove but accept	23%	30%	22%	27%	27%	16%	12%
Disapprove & do not accept	17%	16%	14%	45%	34%	14%	9%

What is your personal response to the following? A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion if her own health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy						
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Gender		Age		
		Men (1486)	Women (1555)	18 – 34 (878)	35 – 54 (1064)	55+ (1098)
Approve & accept	85%	85%	85%	82%	86%	86%
Disapprove but accept	11%	11%	11%	13%	9%	11%
Disapprove & do not accept	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	2%
A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion for any reason						
Approve & accept	51%	50%	53%	56%	54%	45%
Disapprove but accept	29%	31%	28%	24%	28%	35%
Disapprove & do not accept	19%	19%	19%	19%	18%	20%

What is your personal response to the following? A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion if her own health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy							
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Religion					
		Roman Catholic (1152)	Mainline Protestant (567)	Evangelical (230)	Other Christian (199)	Other Religion (259)	No religious identity (633)
Approve & accept	85%	85%	92%	55%	67%	87%	94%
Disapprove but accept	11%	11%	7%	33%	23%	7%	4%
Disapprove & do not accept	4%	3%	2%	13%	11%	5%	1%
A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion for any reason							
Approve & accept	51%	45%	57%	18%	31%	65%	71%
Disapprove but accept	29%	35%	29%	28%	34%	24%	22%
Disapprove & do not accept	19%	20%	14%	54%	35%	12%	8%

What is your personal response to the following? Unmarried adults having children						
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Gender		Age		
		Men (1486)	Women (1555)	18 – 34 (878)	35 – 54 (1064)	55+ (1098)
Approve & accept	70%	68%	71%	72%	76%	62%
Disapprove but accept	26%	27%	24%	22%	20%	34%
Disapprove & do not accept	5%	5%	4%	6%	4%	4%
People having sex when they are under 18						
Approve & accept	36%	40%	31%	50%	39%	21%
Disapprove but accept	47%	45%	50%	38%	45%	58%
Disapprove & do not accept	17%	14%	20%	12%	16%	22%

What is your personal response to the following? Unmarried adults having children							
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Religion					
		Roman Catholic (1152)	Mainline Protestant (567)	Evangelical (230)	Other Christian (199)	Other Religion (259)	No religious identity (633)
Approve & accept	70%	76%	64%	28%	48%	69%	86%
Disapprove but accept	26%	22%	31%	58%	40%	23%	12%
Disapprove & do not accept	5%	2%	4%	14%	13%	9%	2%
People having sex when they are under 18							
Approve & accept	36%	36%	26%	10%	30%	41%	52%
Disapprove but accept	47%	47%	58%	49%	48%	45%	40%
Disapprove & do not accept	17%	17%	17%	41%	22%	14%	8%

Tracking over Time Summary of Approve & Accept				
	2015 - ARI	2005 – Bibby*	2000 – Bibby*	1985 – Bibby*
Same sex couples marrying	63%	48%		
Same sex couples adopting children	60%	40%		
A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion if her own health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy	85%		94%	92%
A woman being able to obtain a legal abortion for any reason	51%		43%	37%
Unmarried adults having children	70%	57%		
People having sex when they are under 18	36%	26%		

*Reginald W. Bibby, Project Canada Survey Series

How positive, neutral, or negative do you tend to feel toward the following groups?			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Roman Catholics	49%	38%	13%
Protestants	44%	48%	8%
Muslims	15%	40%	44%
Hindus	27%	57%	16%
Sikhs	17%	56%	26%
Jews	39%	49%	12%
Buddhists	44%	47%	9%
Mormons	18%	47%	35%
Evangelical Christians	30%	43%	27%

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Senior Vice President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Atheists	27%	51%	22%
----------	-----	-----	-----

How positive, neutral, or negative do you tend to feel toward the following groups? Image Score = Positive Views-Negative Views							
(weighted totals)	Total (3041)	Religion					
		Roman Catholic (1152)	Mainline Protestant (567)	Evangelical (230)	Other Christian (199)	Other Religion (259)	No religious identity (633)
Roman Catholics	35	66	44	34	21	0	-9
Protestants	36	38	68	63	42	10	5
Muslims	-29	-35	-17	-41	-43	-8	-28
Hindus	11	18	17	-21	-4	18	8
Sikhs	-9	-11	1	-26	-16	-2	-9
Jews	27	25	46	49	25	23	6
Buddhists	34	37	39	-10	15	58	38
Mormons	-17	-8	-2	-37	-25	-18	-35
Evangelical Christians	3	16	4	69	24	-22	-40
Atheists	4	2	-6	-50	-26	18	43