

Two-in-three Canadians view Pope Francis favourably

About as many Britons as Canadians view the Pope favourably, more Americans positive about Francis

February 5, 2015 – From being nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize to participating in Google Hangouts, Pope Francis has earned the favourable opinion of two-thirds (67%) of Canadians. [This represents a six-point increase from March of last year \(59%\).](#)

These findings are the result of an Angus Reid Institute online survey of Canadian adults, and follows a similar study recently conducted by the [Pew Research Center](#) gauging opinions of the pope in 43 countries, excluding Canada.

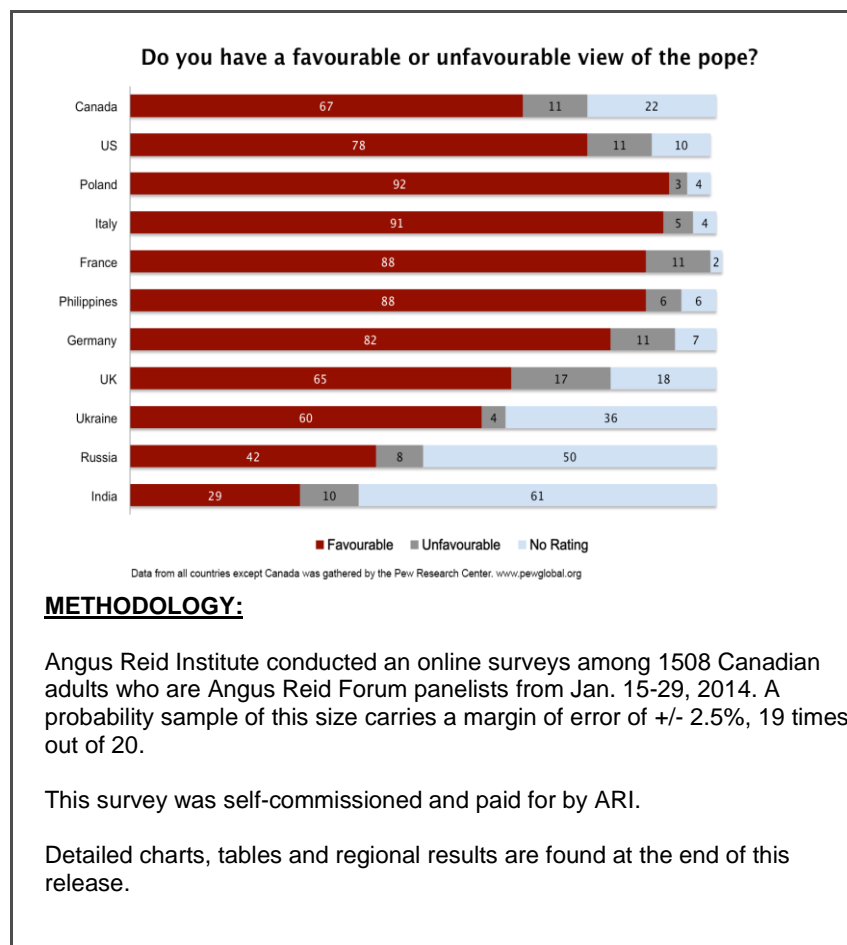
Key Findings:

Just over one-quarter (27%) of Canadians have a “very favourable” opinion of Pope Francis.

Two-in-five (40%) hold a “somewhat favourable” view of the pope.

Catholics (94%), older Canadians (78%), and those living in Ontario and Atlantic Canada (71%) are most positive about Francis. Opinions towards him were least favourable in Alberta (59%), although the majority in that province are indeed positive towards the pope. Just over half (56%) of Canadians aged 18-34 view Francis favourably.

Canadians view Pope Francis slightly more favourably than respondents in the UK (65%) and less favourably than respondents in the US (78%) polled by Pew.



MEDIA CONTACT:

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The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. It has the status of a registered charity in Canada. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research organization established to enhance and encourage better understanding of issues and trends affecting economic, social, governance, philanthropy, public administration, domestic, and foreign policy in Canada and its world.

Is your overall opinion of Pope Francis...								
	Total (1508)	Region						
		BC (196)	AB (162)	SK (47)	MB (53)	ON (565)	PQ (371)	ATL (114)
Very favorable	27%	27%	23%	33%	27%	29%	20%	40%
Somewhat favorable	40%	34%	36%	31%	39%	42%	45%	31%
Somewhat unfavorable	6%	7%	9%	4%	8%	5%	6%	10%
Very unfavorable	5%	7%	6%	5%	5%	4%	6%	3%
Never heard of him/don't know	22%	24%	26%	27%	21%	20%	24%	17%

*Regional sample sizes are unweighted numbers

Is your overall opinion of Pope Francis...						
	Total (1508)	Gender		Age		
		Men	Women	18 - 34	35 - 54	55+
Very favorable	27%	26%	27%	18%	25%	36%
Somewhat favorable	40%	40%	40%	38%	39%	42%
Somewhat unfavorable	6%	8%	5%	8%	5%	5%
Very unfavorable	5%	7%	3%	5%	7%	4%
Never heard of him/don't know	22%	19%	25%	30%	24%	13%

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Is your overall opinion of Pope Francis...										
	Total (1508)	Region								
		PRC	PP	PE	NPRC	NPP	ATH	AGN	NRI	Other
Very favorable	27%	70%	21%	14%	36%	24%	12%	30%	15%	26%
Somewhat favorable	40%	24%	38%	41%	44%	40%	45%	40%	39%	32%
Somewhat unfavorable	6%	2%	10%	8%	3%	9%	12%	2%	5%	9%
Very unfavorable	5%	-	11%	22%	1%	3%	10%	3%	6%	6%
Never heard of him/don't know	22%	4%	20%	14%	15%	25%	22%	25%	34%	27%

PRC = Practicing Roman Catholic
PP = Practicing Protestant
PE=Practicing Evangelical
NPRC = Non-Practicing Roman Catholic
NPP = Non-Practicing Protestant
ATH = Atheist
AGN = Agnostic
NRI = No religious identity
Other = Other religious identity