

**Faith and Religion in Canada Today
And How These Relate to Life, Personal Morality and Social Attitudes**

A Partnership Project of the Angus Reid Institute and Faith in Canada 150 (Cardus)

Final Survey Questionnaire (March 28)

Today's survey asks people for their views on a number of different topics -- including life today, some public issues facing Canada, and people's personal beliefs.

Part One: How you live your life and relate to your community and Canadian society

First, a few questions about your own life. As always, there are no right or wrong answers -- we're just looking for your honest responses.

Q1. Different things are important to different people. Please review the list below and select up to three that are MOST IMPORTANT to you.

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A comfortable life

Family life

Self-reliance

Honesty

Concern for others

Intellectual inquiry

Success in what you do

Being outside in nature

Good times with friends

Q2. How happy would you say you are in these areas of life:

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

Your friends

Your family life

Your life in the community

Not happy at all

Not too happy

Quite happy

Very happy

Extremely happy

Q3. And how happy are you with your job? (Please select "not working" if that's the case)

Extremely happy
Very happy
Quite happy
Not too happy
Not happy at all
Not working

Q4. Taking all things together, would you say you are:

Extremely happy
Very happy
Quite happy
Not too happy
Not happy at all

Q5. Let's think for a moment about your community and the different ways people could be involved in it – such as youth programs, or ethnic associations, church groups, arts groups, those kinds of things. How would you describe your own involvement in community groups and activities? Would you say you are:

Very involved
Quite involved
Only a little/only for special events
Not really involved at all

Q6. Are you personally involved in doing volunteer work?

Yes, currently a regular volunteer
Volunteer for a special event
Have done in the past, not currently
No, not involved in volunteer work

Q7. People have different approaches – and of course, different amounts of money – when it comes to giving donations to charity. What's your own general approach to charitable donations (please note, we are not referring to financial support for members of your family)? Generally speaking, would you say you:

Don't really make donations to charity
Donate to a specific cause or two each year
Try to donate to whatever charities you can

Q8. Everyone has their own idea about how to respond to people “panhandling” or asking for money on the street. What is your own typical response to this (let’s focus just on the money aspect, not whether you greet or talk to them)? Do you:

Have a policy of not giving money to these people
 Decide in the moment – you might or might not give them some money
 Give them some money if you have it on you

Q9. Some people follow politics and current events in the news, and others don’t so much. How closely do you yourself follow:

Canadian politics and current affairs
 World news and events

Not at all
 Not very closely
 Fairly closely
 Very closely

Q10. Overall, would you say you are optimistic or pessimistic about each of the following?

Your own future
 The future of Canada
 The future of the next generation

Very Pessimistic
 Moderately Pessimistic
 Moderately Optimistic
 Very Optimistic

Now, a few questions about some different public issues facing Canada and our society.

Q11. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree, strongly or moderately, with each of the following statements.

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

There should be more public support for the poor, the disadvantaged, and those in economic trouble

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

I feel sorry for people in jail, even if they are criminals

Canada should accept fewer immigrants and refugees

I would feel uncomfortable if my son or daughter were planning to marry someone from a different cultural or religious background

Canadian society should work towards greater acceptance of people who are LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer)

Overall, Canada's policies should emphasize environmental protection over economic growth

Strongly Disagree

Moderately Disagree

Moderately Agree

Strongly Agree

Part Two: Morality and the Moral Code

Below are a number of different words and terms which will mean different things for different people.

Q12. Please review this list and select all the words that have a definite positive meaning for you personally? You can select as many or as few as you wish – whichever ones have positive meaning for you.

Q13. Now, please review the words remaining on this list and select all those that have a negative meaning for you personally. You can select as many or as few as you wish – whichever ones have negative meaning for you.

[RANDOMIZE LIST]

Religion

Mercy

Born-again

Resurrection

Theology

Salvation

Mystical

Karma

Meditation

Forgiveness

Evangelism

Morality [Anchor]

Q14. What about the word and the concept of sin? Which of these two broad statements is CLOSER to your own personal view (even if neither is exactly how you feel)?

[ROTATE]

People are fundamentally sinners and in need of salvation

People are essentially good and sin has been invented to control people

We have some questions now that we hope will give us a better understanding of people's views of morality.

For the purposes of this survey, let's define morality broadly as:

principles or values concerning right and wrong – and, at a more personal level, what is good and bad behavior.

What would you emphasize in educating the next generation? Please choose the one statement that is *closer* to your own point of view (even if you don't agree with it entirely).

[ROTATE 15 AND 16, AND THE STATEMENTS IN EACH – ONE PAGE]

Q15. Would you say:

Answers to moral questions will be different for different cultures and people

There are universal rights and wrongs that apply to the whole human race

Q16) Would you say:

What is right and wrong depends on the circumstances

Things are almost always either right or wrong

We have a few more of these trade-off questions asking you to choose which one option comes *closer* to your own personal point of view (even if you don't agree with it entirely). Please answer with your own honest opinion – we're just interested in finding out people's different perspectives on life.

[RANDOMIZE TRADE-OFFS AND ROTATE STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH]

Q17. What is the best way to live life? Should we be MORE focused on:

Achieving our own dreams and happiness

Being concerned about helping others

Q18. What is closer to your own view:

Someone's personal history (say, a really tough and abusive childhood) should be taken into account if they end up in trouble with the law

One's childhood is no excuse – we shouldn't let people dodge responsibility for their own actions

Q19. Science is getting close to the point where people will be able to make some choices about their baby's characteristics – from simple things like physical features to more complex things such as whether it might be susceptible to genetic diseases or born with a disability. Overall, do you consider this to be:

Good progress that offers a lot of benefit

A scary prospect that will have bad consequences

Q20. When it comes to issues like abortion and doctor-assisted death, where do you personally place the highest priority:

People's freedom to choose

The value of preserving life

Q21. It is most important for children to learn:

Independence

Obedience

Q22. It is most important for children to learn:

Respect for tradition

Being open to new ideas and experiences

Q23. What is closer to your own view:

Rich people should enjoy spending their money however they want to

Rich people have a responsibility to share the wealth with those less fortunate

Q24. Our society:

Is too sexually open today

Was too sexually repressed before

Part Three: Personal Religiosity and Faith

Changing the subject now... our last series of questions are about people's own personal faith and beliefs.

Q25 Thinking back to when you were a child – up to the age of 12 or so – how often, if at all, did you:

Pray to God or some higher power

Attend religious services at a church or other house of worship

Talk about faith or religion in your family

Never

Only rarely

A few times a year

Once or twice a month

Once a week or so

A few times a week

Everyday

Q26 What about when you were a teenager and young adult – say from roughly age 13 to 25? How often, if at all, did you: (If you're under 25 now, please just answer for when you were a teenager/younger teen)

Pray to God or some higher power

Attend religious services at a church or other house of worship

Talk about faith or religion in your family

Never

Only rarely

A few times a year

Once or twice a month

Once a week or so

A few times a week

Everyday

Q27. And, what about now? How often, if at all, do you:

Pray to God or some higher power

Attend religious services (other than weddings or funerals)

Talk about faith or religion with family

Talk about faith or religion with friends

Never

Only rarely

A few times a year

Once or twice a month

Once a week or so

A few times a week

Everyday

Q28. Do you believe:

That God or a higher power exists
In life after death
God is active in this world

No, I definitely do not believe
No, I don't think so
Yes, I think so
Yes, I definitely do believe

Q29. And do you believe:

In heaven
In hell

No, I definitely do not believe
No, I don't think so
Yes, I think so
Yes, I definitely do believe

[ASK IF RESPONDED TOP 3 BOX FOR "IN LIFE AFTER DEATH" AT Q28 ABOVE. SKIP THOSE WHO SAID "NO, DEFINITELY DO NOT BELIEVE" TO THAT ITEM.]

Q30. And do you believe that there are consequences in the next life for one's actions in this life?

Yes, I definitely do believe
Yes, I think so
No, I don't think so
No, I definitely do not believe

Q31. About how often do you:

Read the Bible, Quran, or other sacred text

Feel you experience God's presence

Reflect on your own existence and the meaning of your life

Never

Only rarely

A few times a year

Once or twice a month

Once a week or so

A few times a week

Everyday

[ASK OF THOSE WHO ANSWERED BOTTOM TWO BOX, "DEFINITELY DO NOT BELIEVE" OR "DON'T THINK SO" TO "THAT GOD OR A HIGHER POWER EXISTS" AT Q28. ALL OTHERS, SKIP THIS QUESTION.]

Q32. You have indicated that you do not believe that God or a higher power exists -- or that you don't think so. Just to confirm, how would you describe yourself when it comes to the whole area of personal faith or spirituality? Would you say:

You do not have any feelings of faith or spirituality

Have some/at some times

You do have feelings of faith or spirituality in your life

Now, a few hypothetical questions about your own preferences for marking major life events.

Q33. Suppose you were about to become a new parent. How important would it be to you that that child of yours:

Gets formally welcomed into a faith community or religion (for example, Christian baptism)

Is educated about faith and/or religion

Grows up believing in God or a higher power

Grows up holding similar spiritual and/or religious beliefs to your own

Not important at all

Not that important

Quite important

Very important

Q34. And, once that child grows up and is ready to marry, would your own personal preference be that they:

Get married in a religious ceremony in a church or other place of worship

Get married in a civil ceremony by a justice of the peace

You don't have a preference one way or the other

Q35. When you die, do you want to have:

A religious funeral

A non-religious service of celebration

No service

[THOSE RESPONDING THEY "DO NOT HAVE ANY FEELINGS OF FAITH OR SPIRITUALITY" AT Q32 SKIP Q36.]

Q36. This whole area of personal faith and spiritual or religious beliefs is very individual and personal, and is a lot more important for some people than for others. How would you describe the importance of your own *personal faith and/or religious beliefs* in terms of:

Your own personal identity – that is, how you see yourself

Your own daily life and activities – that is, what you do day-to-day

How you deal with major challenges and problems in your life

How you think about public issues and the problems facing society

Not important at all

Not that important

Quite important

Very important

Q37. Do you ever think of yourself as part of a religious tradition? For example, do you consider yourself to be:

[Please select what best applies to you.]

Christian

Jewish

Muslim

Other non-Christian

No, none of these

[If "No, none of these" at Q37), ASK:

Q38) Would you say you are:

Agnostic

Atheist

Nothing in particular

Something else

Q39. Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with these statements.

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

I sometimes feel guilty for not being more involved in a faith or religion

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

Generally speaking, I feel a bit uncomfortable around people who criticize religion

I wish I had a closer relationship with God

All of the great religions of the world are equally good and true

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

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

Strongly Disagree

Moderately Disagree

Moderately Agree

Strongly Agree

[ASK FOR SELF-IDENTIFIED "CHRISTIANS" AT Q37]

I have forgiveness through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

Strongly Disagree
Moderately Disagree
Moderately Agree
Strongly Agree

Q40. More specifically now, which one of the following best describes your religion?

Roman Catholic
United Church
Anglican
Lutheran
Presbyterian
Baptist
Pentecostal
Other evangelical Christian
Other Christian
Muslim
Hindu
Jewish
Sikh
Buddhist
No religious identity
Other (please specify)

Q41. Some people say Canadians variously (1) embrace faith and religion, (2) reject faith and religion, or (3) are somewhere in between the two extremes.

Where would you tend to locate yourself?

I am inclined to embrace my faith and/or religion
I am inclined to reject any faith and/or religion
I am somewhere in between

Socio-demographics

And, just some final questions to help us analyze the survey results.

Profiled variables:

Region

Gender

Age

Education

HH Income

Ethnicity

Vote 2015

Plus:

Q42. As a child, did you receive any formal religious education outside of the home – for example, Sunday school or similar lessons and activities for children at a church, mosque or temple?

Yes, this was part of my upbringing

Only a bit of this/Just here and there

No, did not have religious education outside the home

Q43. And during your K-12 education, did you attend a separate religious school or did you go to a regular (secular) public school?

Attended public school throughout

Attended a religious school for a couple/few years

Attended a religious school for lots/most of your K-12

Attended a religious school throughout your K-12

Q44. In politics, people talk about being on "the right" and "the left". Overall, where would you put yourself on that political spectrum?

[SLIDER]

Very left

Leaning left

In the middle

Leaning right

Very right

Q45. Were you born in Canada or in another country?

In Canada

In another country

Q46. Would you say you are a member of a visible minority (in terms of your ethnicity/heritage/race)?

Yes

No