

Holidays and MacDonald Questionnaire

QH1. First, we have some questions about holidays and observances here in Canada.

Recently, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the creation of a new public holiday called the “National Day for Truth and Reconciliation” to remember Indigenous children who were sent to Canada’s Residential Schools.

How closely would you say you have been following the news about this issue?

Seeing a lot of media coverage and discussing it with friends and family
Seeing some coverage and having the odd conversation
Just scanning the headlines
Haven’t seen or heard anything about it

QH2. And would you say you support or oppose creating a “National Day for Truth and Reconciliation”, which would be a statutory holiday like Thanksgiving Day or Labour Day, where government offices and major national companies and organizations such as banks are closed for the day.

Strongly Support
Support
Oppose
Strongly Oppose
Not sure/Can’t say

QH3 Some people say another option the government could pursue is a “Day of Remembrance” for Truth and Reconciliation. This would not be a statutory holiday with government and office closures but rather a day where Canadians were encouraged to reflect on the history of Residential Schools. Would you support or oppose this?

Strongly Support
Support
Oppose
Strongly Oppose
Not sure/Can’t say

[Standalone screen]

Now a few questions about a recent event in Victoria, B.C.

QV4. As you may know, a statue of Canada’s first Prime Minister - John A. MacDonald - was recently removed from the grounds of Victoria, B.C.’s city hall. The city says it removed the statue as a gesture of reconciliation to local First Nations because MacDonald oversaw the establishment of the first Residential Schools in the country.

How closely would you say you have been following the news about this issue?

Seeing a lot of media coverage and discussing it with friends and family
Seeing some coverage and having the odd conversation

Just scanning the headlines
Haven't seen or heard anything about it

QV5 And based on whatever you have read, seen or heard about this issue, do you support or oppose the removal of the statue of John A. MacDonald from city hall in Victoria.

Strongly Support
Support
Oppose
Strongly Oppose
Not sure/Can't say

QV6. Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps says the city will be keeping the statue and intends to display it publicly again in the future. The city has not set a timeline for when the statue might be returned to public display, nor has it provided any description of what a future display might look like. If you were in charge of this decision, what would you do with the statue?

Put it back in the original spot at City Hall
Relocate it to another public place in the city
Put it in a museum with information about its history
Not display it publicly again

QV7 Some people have said that MacDonald's name and image of should be removed from all public buildings such as schools and government offices because of his involvement with the Residential School system

Others say that MacDonald's name and image should remain in public view because his role in the foundation of Canada outweighs the involvement he had in the creation of Residential Schools

Which of these perspectives is closest to how you feel?

[Rotate options]

The name and image of John A. MacDonald should **be removed** from public view

The name and image of John A. MacDonald should **remain** in public view

[Anchor]Not sure/Can't say

QV8. Conversations about how Canada commemorates residential schools and the historical figures responsible for creating and running them have become more common in recent years.

Today, some people say Canada has spent enough time apologizing for residential schools, and it's time to move on to address the social and economic issues confronting many Indigenous people today.

Other people say the harm from residential schools is ongoing, and that more must be done to address their legacy before Canada can move on.

Which of these perspectives is closer to your own? Fundamentally, do you think:

[Rotate options]

The harm from residential schools continues and cannot be ignored
Canada spends too much time apologizing for residential schools – it's time to move on
[Anchor] Not sure/Can't say