

Public Faith Index

There are the 17 variables included in the Public Faith Index categorizing Canadian views on the role and value of faith in public life. Canadians were asked each question, among three broad themes regarding their view of faith and its place in Canadian society. Responses were allocated a positive or negative score, based on how each relates to the subject at hand. Some questions are offered with degrees of intensity – agree vs strongly agree – and those were accounted for as well in comprising each person's score.

Contribution to life in Canada - 7 items

1. **Q4.** How would you describe the overall contribution religious and faith communities are making to Canada and Canadian society today?

What kind of contribution would you say religious and faith communities are making in the following areas of Canadian life and society?

2. **Q7.** Healthcare – hospitals, clinics, homes for the elderly, etc.
3. **Q7.** Education – schools and colleges
4. **Q7.** Social services -- helping people in need
5. **Q7.** Social justice causes – peace, overseas development, poverty etc.
6. **Q9.** Agree or disagree: Religious and faith communities strengthen Canadian values such as equality and human rights
7. **Q9.** Agree or disagree: Having a religious or faith-focused upbringing helps shape good citizenship characteristics

Role and Relevance -- 4 items

1. **Q5.** What would you consider ideal when it comes to the overall participation and influence of religious and faith communities in Canadian public life today?
2. **Q6.** Let's think for a moment about some of the various social issues and challenges facing Canada today. This could be issues of medical ethics, for example, or how we approach challenges such as poverty and homelessness. To what extent do you think religious communities and faith groups are relevant to addressing these types of social issues and challenges today?
3. **Q9.** Agree or disagree: Reducing the presence of religion in our public life is a sign of progress in our society
4. **Q9.** Agree or disagree: It doesn't make sense to continue giving organized religions tax-free charitable status in Canada

Freedom and Respect - One's own and Everyone else's - 6 items

1. **Q8.** The Canadian Charter of Rights recognizes "freedom of religion". Very briefly, this means there is no official national religion and people have the right to choose a religion – or no religion – and to practise it without government interference. In your view, does having "freedom of religion" make Canada a better or worse country?
2. **Q9.** Agree or disagree: The Canadian government respects my own religious tradition or faith community
3. **Q9.** Agree or disagree: I'm public about my religion and faith and don't mind other people knowing I'm a believer
4. **Q9.** Agree or disagree: I'm uncomfortable with people wearing religious garments and symbols in the workplace

5. **Q9.** Agree or disagree: I think it's a definite plus to have people from different religious backgrounds and beliefs living here in my community
6. **Q10.** Overall, do you feel Canadian society today tends to make room for or shuts out your own personal values and faith?

Variables were standardized to a 10-point scale, with the following scores being applied to each question.

Q4.

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 10 | Very good |
| 8 | More good than bad |
| 6 | A mix of good and bad |
| 4 | More bad than good |
| 2 | Very bad |

Q5.

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 10 | A major influence on Canadian public life |
| 7.5 | Some influence |
| 5 | Not much |
| 2.5 | No influence at all – religion doesn't belong in public life |

Q6.

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 10 | More relevant than ever |
| 7.5 | As relevant as ever |
| 2.5 | Becoming less relevant |
| 0 | No longer relevant at all |

Q7.

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 10 | Very positive |
| 8 | Positive |
| 6 | A mix of good and bad |
| 4 | Negative |
| 2 | Very negative |
| 0 | Not aware of any contribution |

Q8.

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 10 | Better |
| 1 | Worse |
| 5 | No real impact either way |
| 0 | Can't say/No idea |

Q9.

- | | |
|-----|---------------------|
| 10 | Agree strongly |
| 7.5 | Agree moderately |
| 5 | Disagree moderately |
| 2.5 | Disagree strongly |

Q10.

- 10 Better
- 1 Worse
- 5 No real impact either way
- 0 Can't say/No idea