

Canadian Race Relations Foundation and Association for Canadian Studies release analysis of the perception of Human Rights violations by Canadians to mark 59th anniversary of UN Universal Human Rights Declaration

December 10th, 2007

Highlights

- Nearly one in four Canadians feel their rights are violated at least sometimes while living in Canada
- On a provincial basis Manitobans and Quebecers are most likely to feel that their rights have been violated at least sometimes while living in Canada. Albertans and British Columbians are least inclined to feel that way
- The three most common areas identified by Canadians who say their rights have been violated while living in Canada were discrimination based on race, ethnicity or skin colour; discrimination based on gender; and discrimination based on freedom of expression.
- Some one in five persons identifying with ethnic and racial minorities who say their rights were violated are most likely (one in five) to say it occurred with either employers/potential employers.

Introduction

On December 4th Statistics Canada released data from the 2006 Census on immigration and citizenship. It revealed that some 6,186,950 Canadians were foreign-born. This accounts for nearly one in five (19.8%) persons which is the highest proportion in the country in 75 years. Between 2001 and 2006, Canada's foreign-born population increased by 13.6% which was four times higher than the growth rate of 3.3% for the Canadian-born population over the same period. Recent immigrants born in Asia (including the Middle East) made up the largest proportion (58.3%) of newcomers to Canada. This was virtually unchanged from 59.4% in 2001. Overall persons identifying as visible minorities now constitute the majority of Canada's foreign-born population. The Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver census metropolitan areas (CMAs) were home

to 68.9% of the recent immigrants in 2006. In contrast, slightly more than one-quarter (27.1%) of Canada's total population lived in these three CMAs.

In analyzing the data observers expressed concern about the impact of these demographic changes on race relations in Canada. In light of this the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the Association for Canadian Studies are today releasing an analysis on perceptions of human rights violations by Canadians. Today's release coincides with the 59th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

On December 10 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed, "This Universal Declaration Of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction."

For its part, the government of Canada has been given responsibility at the federal level for "the promotion of a greater understanding of human rights, fundamental freedoms and values" in Canada that enable Canadians to live in an inclusive society.

The Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF), which was founded as part of the Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement, undertakes research, conducts education and training workshops, hosts or engages in conferences and challenges racism and hate in Canada among other activities. Its national mandate includes providing leadership in the struggle against racism and supporting and promoting the development of effective policies and programs for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. The Foundation aims to help bring about a more harmonious Canada that acknowledges its racist past.

The Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) is an organization which initiates and supports activities in the areas of research, teaching, communications, and the training of students in the field of Canadian Studies, especially in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives.

The ACS supports the study of Canada by encouraging interdisciplinary exchanges that complement and connect the efforts of scholars in diverse fields as well as leaders in the public and private sectors. The ACS is committed to raising public awareness of significant research and public policy issues, and to providing opportunities for advancing debate and action through collaborative activities and publications.

Methodology

This study was conducted for the two weeks between March 15th and March 25th 2007, by the firm Decima for the Department of Canadian Heritage. A total of 2052 surveys were completed. The margin of error for a random sample of this size is $\pm 2.16\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

Within the regional quotas assigned for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, CMA (Census Metropolitan Area) quotas are instilled to maintain an adequate number of completed interviews in Canada's three largest markets; Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. The data is weighted in tabulation to replicate actual population distribution by age and sex within region according to the 2001 Census data.

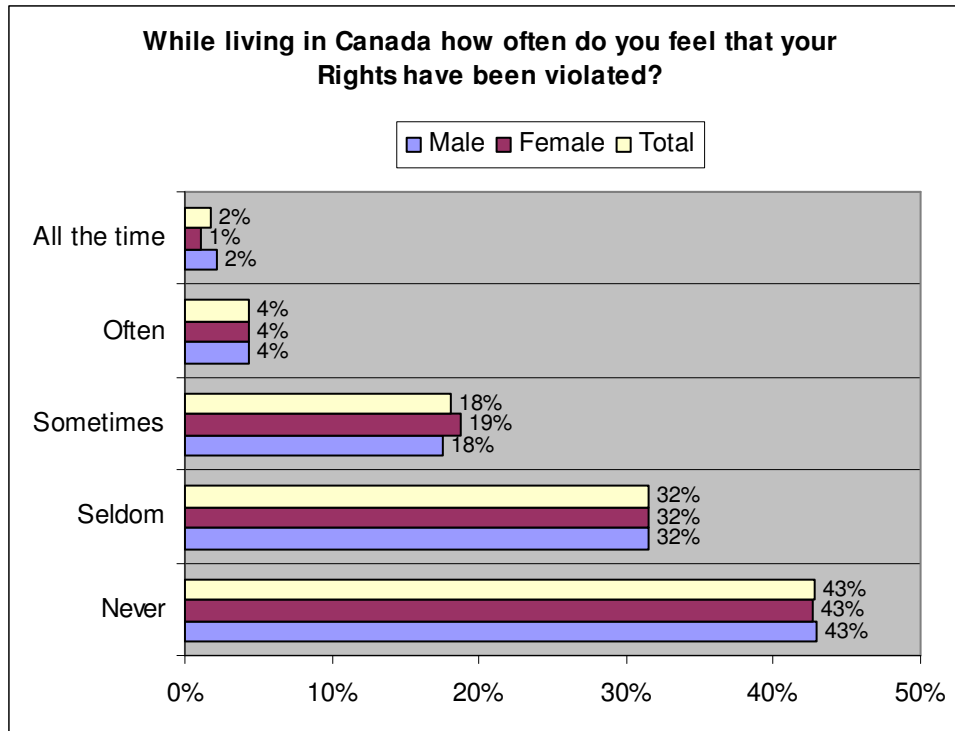
Region	Interviews	Error interval
Atlantic	200	+/- 6.9%
Quebec	500	+/- 4.4%
Ontario	650	+/- 3.8%
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	200	+/- 6.9%
Alberta	200	+/- 6.9%
British Columbia	250	+/- 6.2%
Total Canada	2,000	+/- 2.2%

Detailed Results

While living in Canada how often do you feel that your Rights have been violated?

Nearly one in four Canadians feel their rights are violated at least sometimes while living in Canada. As illustrated below on the basis of gender there are no considerable differences between those who feel their rights are violated in Canada.

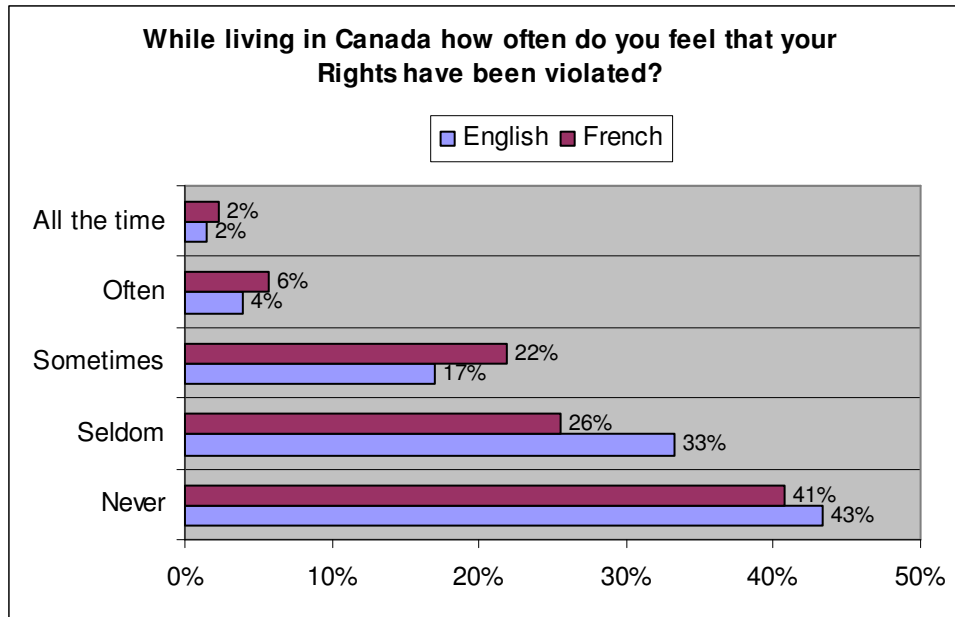
	Male	Female	Total
Never	43%	43%	43%
Seldom	32%	32%	32%
Sometimes	18%	19%	18%
Often	4%	4%	4%
All the time	2%	1%	2%



On the basis of language 22.5% of Anglophone respondents say their rights have been violated at least sometimes while living in Canada compared to 30% of francophone respondents.

Language

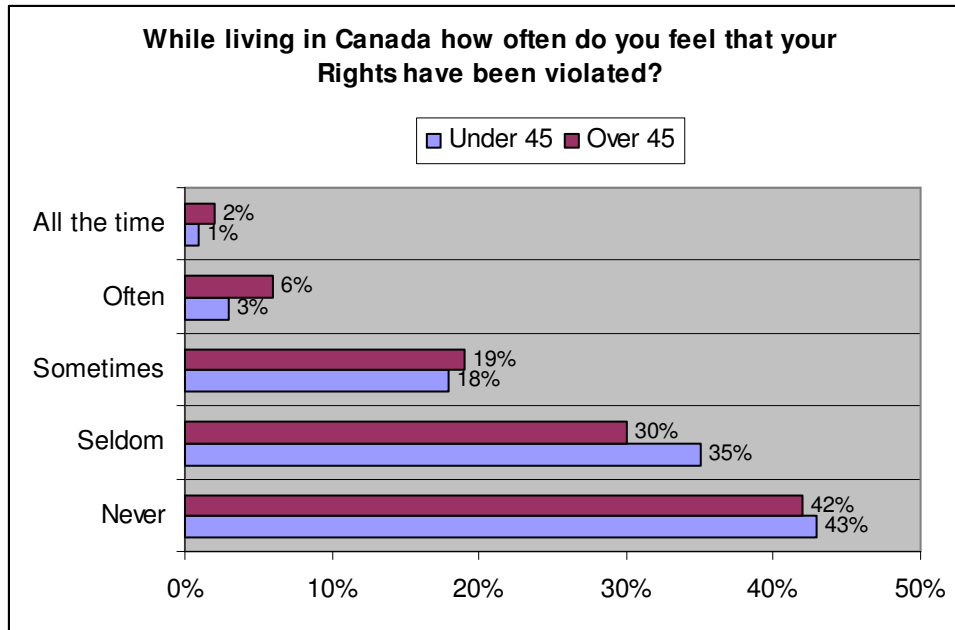
	English	French	Total
Never	43%	41%	43%
Seldom	33%	26%	32%
Sometimes	17%	22%	18%
Often	4%	6%	4%
All the time	1.5%	2.3%	1.7%
Don't know / No answer	1.0%	3.8%	1.6%



On the basis of age there are no meaningful differences in the extent to which Canadians feel their rights have been violated while living in the country.

Age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total
Never	42%	44%	44%	40%	44%	43%
Seldom	36%	34%	35%	30%	29%	32%
Sometimes	19%	17%	17%	20%	18%	18%
Often	3%	2%	3%	6%	6%	4%
All the time		2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Don't know / No answer	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%



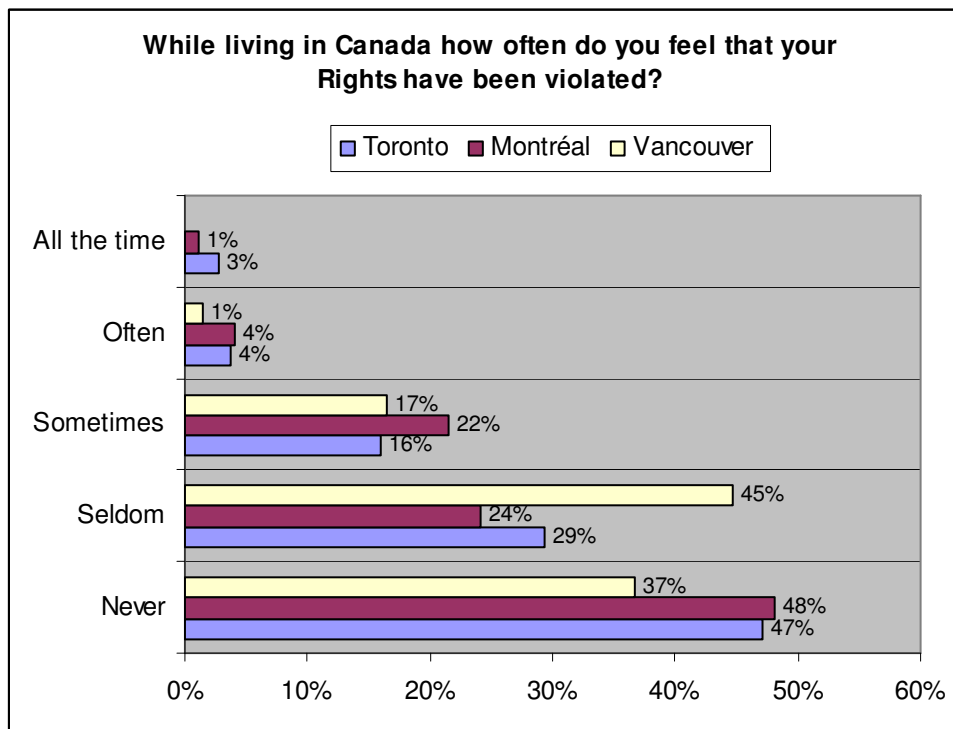
On a provincial basis Manitobans, people in Saskatchewan and Quebecers are most likely to feel that their rights have been violated at least sometimes while living in Canada. Albertans and British Columbians are least inclined to feel that way. This is the case of 19% of Atlantic respondents and 17% of Ontario respondents.

Region

	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	BC	Total
Never	38.0%	43.1%	46.5%	37.0%	34.8%	41.2%	39.5%	42.8%
Seldom	32.9%	25.1%	29.9%	31.5%	34.8%	38.7%	40.6%	31.4%
Sometimes	19.0%	20.9%	16.7%	24.7%	21.2%	16.6%	15.1%	18.1%
Often	7.0%	5.3%	4.0%	5.5%	4.5%	2.0%	3.3%	4.3%
All the time	1.3%	2.4%	1.8%	1.4%	3.0%	.5%	1.1%	1.7%
Don't know / No answer	1.9%	3.2%	1.2%	.0%	1.5%	1.0%	.4%	1.6%

On a city basis respondents from Vancouver are most likely to feel that their rights are violated seldom while living in Canada. This is the case for 29% of respondents from Toronto and 24% of respondents from Montreal.

	Toronto 320	Montréal 241	Vancouver 139
Never	47.2%	48.1%	36.7%
Seldom	29.4%	24.1%	44.6%
Sometimes	15.9%	21.6%	16.5%
Often	3.8%	4.1%	1.4%
All the time	2.8%	1.2%	
Don't know / No answer	.9%	.8%	.7%



Which Rights do you feel have been violated?

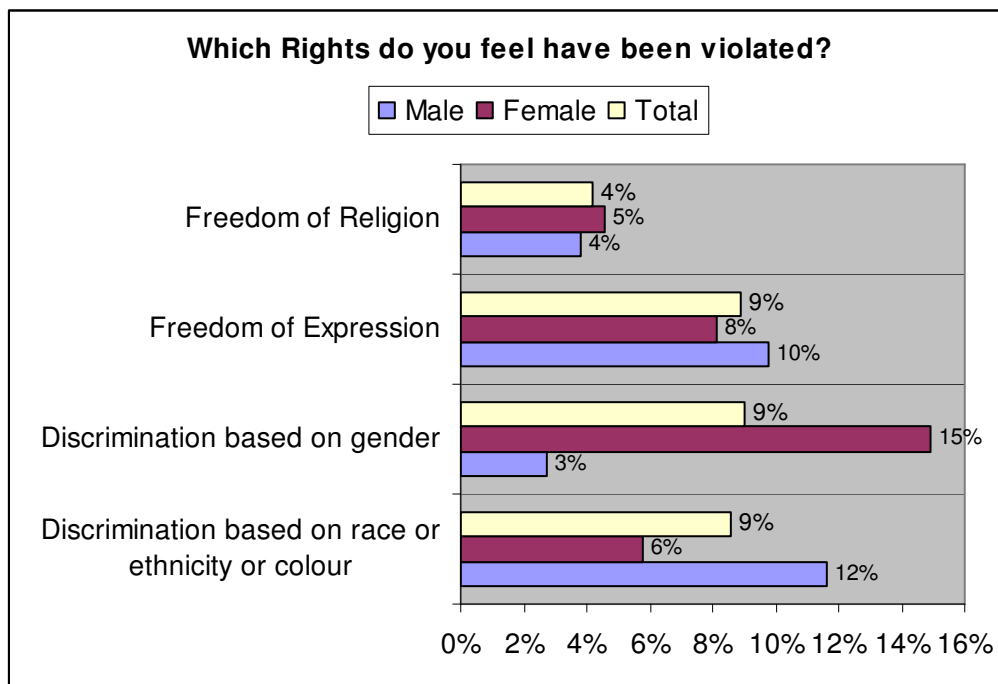
When asked, “Which rights do you feel have been violated” the three most common responses were discrimination based on race, ethnicity or skin colour; discrimination based on gender; and discrimination based on freedom of expression.

On the basis of gender male respondents were twice more likely to feel their rights have been violated based on their race, ethnicity, or colour (12%) than female respondents (6%). On the other hand female respondents were more likely to feel their rights have

been violated based on gender (15%) than male respondents (3%).

Gender

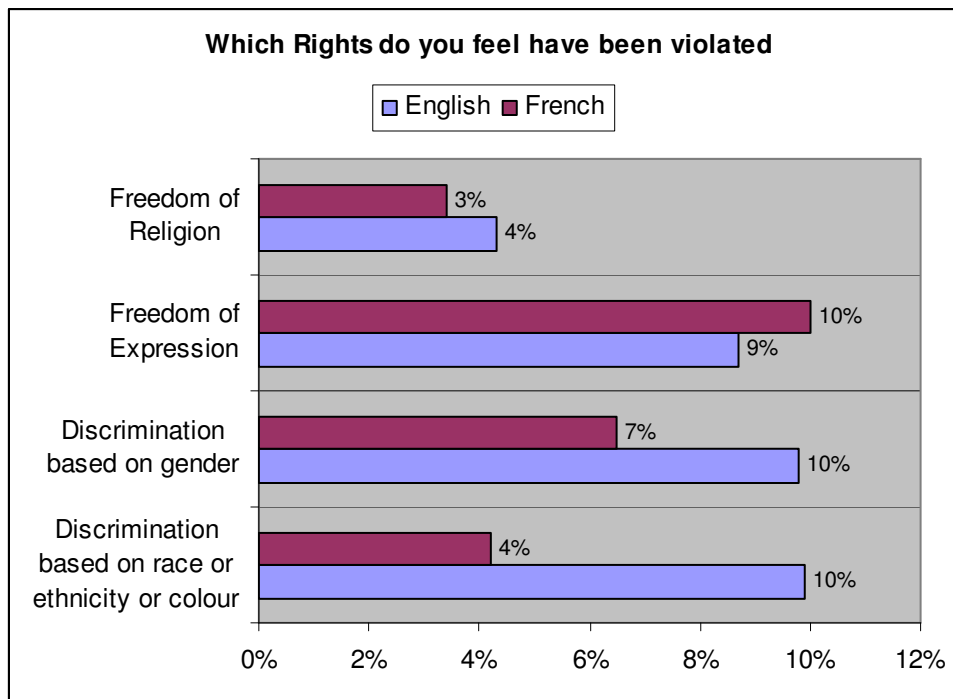
	Male	Female	Total
Discrimination based on race or ethnicity or colour	12%	6%	9%
Discrimination based on gender	3%	15%	9%
Freedom of Expression	10%	8%	9%
Freedom of Religion	4%	5%	4%
Other	8%	4%	6%
Don't Know / No answer	30%	30%	29%



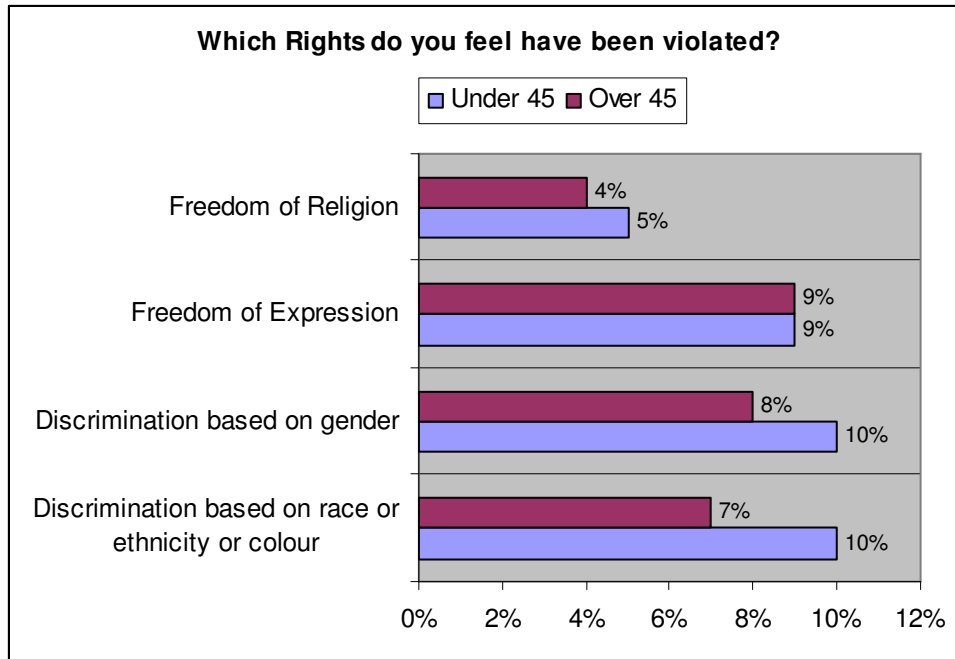
On the basis of language, Anglophone respondents were more likely to feel discriminated against based on their race, ethnicity, or skin colour (10%) than francophone respondents (4%). Anglophone respondents were also more likely to feel discriminated against based on gender (10%) than francophone respondents for whom freedom of expression is more commonly identified as the basis for discrimination.

Language

	English	French	Total
Discrimination based on race or ethnicity or colour	10%	4%	9%
Discrimination based on gender	10%	7%	9%
Freedom of Expression	9%	10%	9%
Freedom of Religion	4%	3%	4%



On the basis of age 10% Canadians under the age of 45 feel their rights have been violated based on their gender and their race, ethnicity, or colour. While 8% of Canadians over 45 feel their rights have been violated based on their gender and 7% based on their race ethnicity or colour.



Age

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total
Discrimination based on race or ethnicity or colour	7%	14%	9%	8%	6%	9%
Discrimination based on gender	5%	15%	9%	8%	8%	9%
Freedom of Expression	11%	8%	7%	10%	9%	9%
Freedom of Religion	5%	6%	4%	5%	3%	4%

On a regional basis some 13% of Ontarians, 9% of Prairie residents and 8% of British Colombians felt that their rights have been violated based on their race, ethnicity, or colour. Respondents from Alberta (6.1%), Quebec (5.2%) and the Atlantic provinces (2.1%) are least likely to feel this way.

Atlantic and Alberta respondents are the most likely to feel their right to freedom of expression has been violated, while respondents from British Columbia are the least likely to feel this way. This is the case of 10% of respondents from Ontario, 9% of Quebec respondents and 7% of Prairie respondents.

Region

	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	BC	Total
Discrimination based on race or ethnicity or colour	2.1%	5.2%	13.0%	8.7%	9.3%	6.1%	7.9%	8.5%
Discrimination based on gender	6.3%	6.3%	12.5%	10.9%	7.0%	8.8%	7.9%	9.2%
Freedom of Expression	11.5%	9.2%	9.5%	6.5%	7.0%	11.4%	4.2%	8.8%
Freedom of Religion	3.1%	3.3%	4.2%	4.3%	2.3%	6.1%	4.8%	4.1%
Don't Know / No answer	34.4%	36.5%	21.3%	28.3%	30.2%	33.3%	30.3%	29.1%

Looking at Canada's three largest cities, some 12% of Toronto respondents feel their rights are violated based on their race, ethnicity, or colour. This is the case of 10% of Vancouver respondents and 8% of Montreal respondents.

	Toronto 164	Montréal 122	Vancouver 89
Discrimination based on race or ethnicity or colour	12.2%	8.2%	10.1%
Discrimination based on gender	14.0%	7.4%	5.6%
Freedom of Expression	12.2%	10.7%	5.6%
Freedom of Religion	4.9%	3.3%	6.7%
Don't Know / No answer	20.7%	31.1%	36.0%

Minorities

Do you identify yourself with a minority group or groups in Canada

When asked, “Do you identify yourself as a minority group or groups in Canada,” 74% of respondents did not identify with a minority group in Canada. Of those who did identify as such most described themselves as belonging to ethnic or racial minorities. About one-third of all those who identified as belonging to a minority group said that they were of racial or ethnic background.

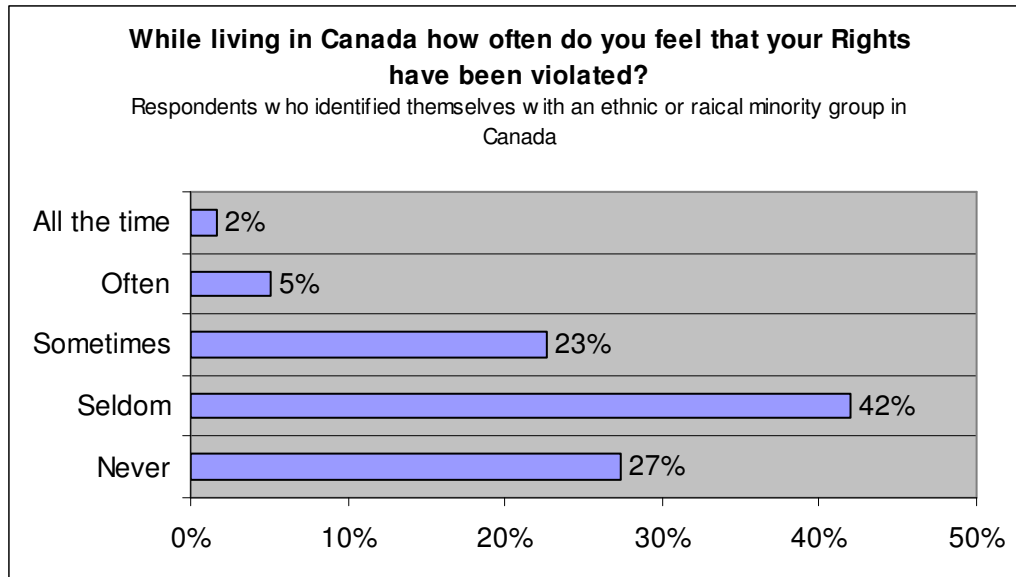
Again looking at Canada’s three largest cities respondents from Toronto were far more likely to describe themselves as belonging to an ethnic or racial minority group (18%) than respondents from Vancouver (11%) and Montreal (1%).

Do you identify yourself with a minority group or groups in Canada?	Toronto 319	Montréal 241	Vancouver 140
Ethnic or racial background	18,2%	,8%	11,4%
Religious	4,1%	3,3%	2,1%
Doesn't identify with a minority group	63,6%	75,9%	66,4%

While living in Canada how often do you feel that your Rights have been violated?

When asked “While living in Canada how often do you feel that your rights have been violated,” among those who identified with an ethnic or racial minority group, 31% felt their rights were violated at least sometimes.

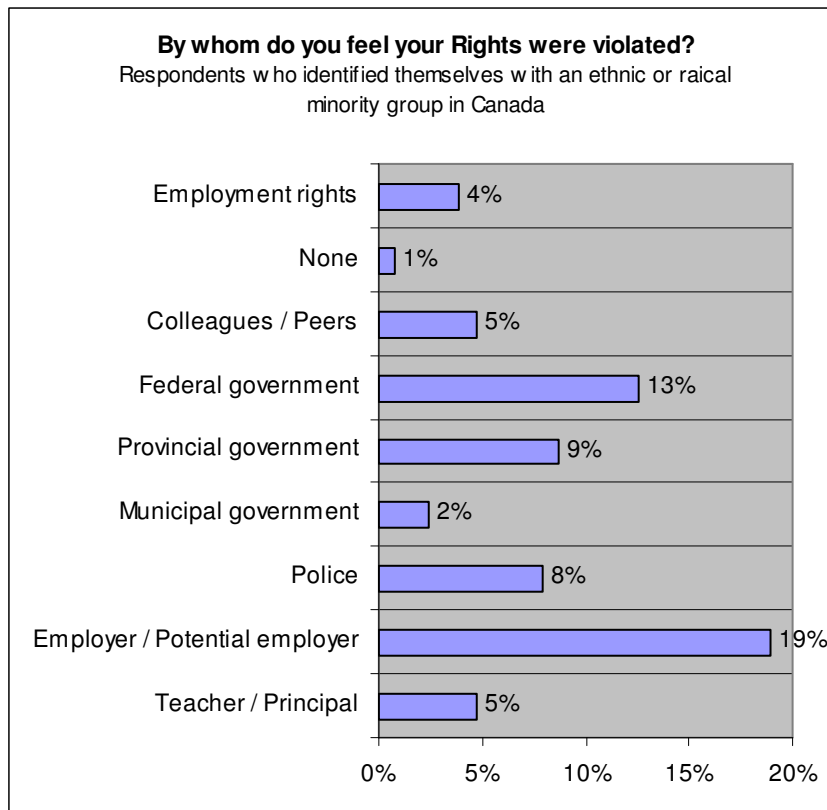
While living in Canada how often do you feel that your Rights have been violated?	Ethnic or racial background -176
Never	27%
Seldom	42%
Sometimes	23%
Often	5%
All the time	2%
Don't know / No answer	1%



By whom do you feel your Rights were violated?

When asked “By whom they feel that their rights were violated” those who identified with ethnic or racial minorities were most likely to say it was by employers/potential employer (19%) in contrast with the overall sample, 10.4% of whom said that their rights were violated by employers. Those identifying with ethnic and racial groups were also more likely to say that police (8%) and school personnel (5%) were more likely to have violated their rights than did the population on the whole.

By whom do you feel your Rights were violated?	Total	Ethnic or racial background -127
Teacher / Principal	1.1	5%
Employer / Potential employer	10.4	19%
Police	4.8	8%
Municipal government	4.8	2%
Provincial government	11.6	9%
Federal government	17.5	13%
Colleagues / Peers	3.1	5%
None	1.3	1%
Employment rights	2.3	4%



Twenty-two percent of ethnic or visible minorities that feel their rights are violated sometimes are far more likely to refer to an employer/ potential employer as the responsible party. Those who report that seldom were their rights violated are more likely to identify the federal government as the responsible party.

By whom do you feel your Rights were violated?	While living in Canada how often do you feel that your Rights have been violated?		
	Seldom-51	Sometimes-31	Total-99
Employer / Potential employer	11.8%	22.6%	15.2%
Police	11.8%	12.9%	12.1%
Provincial government	9.8%	12.9%	13.1%
Federal government	13.7%	12.9%	17.2%
Colleagues / Peers	9.8%	3.2%	6.1%
Employment rights	5.9%	3.2%	4.0%
Human Rights	2.0%		1.0%