

# DE GAULLE'S VIVE LE QUEBEC AND THE STATE OF THE NATION FIFTY YEARS LATER

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## DE GAULLE'S VIVE LE QUEBEC LIBRE

On 24 July 1967, during a state visit to Expo '67, General Charles de Gaulle, president of France proclaimed :“Vive le Québec libre.” from the balcony of Montréal's City Hall a sentence that had a profound impact on the future of Canada. By repeating the slogan of the Québec independence movement de Gaulle lent international credibility to the Québec independence movement.

He also provoked a diplomatic incident that resulted in the cancellation of the President's visit and was regarded as a singular important example of French interference in the domestic affairs of Canada

# FIFTY YEARS LATER: QUEBEC'S PLACE WITHIN CANADA

That which follows looks at the state of the constitutional issue a half century after De Gaulle's declaration. We look specifically at whether Quebecers attachment to Canada is in conflict with their attachment to province

Whether Quebecers can ever be satisfied with constitutional changes

Is Canada the best country in the world

Pride in the display in the Quebec and Canadian flag

Pride in singing the national anthem

Importance of recognizing Quebec's uniqueness and desire for recognition of Quebec as a nation in the Constitution

Differences between francophones and non-francophones

# METHODOLOGY

Some 1700 persons surveyed via web panel in the Leger poll for the Association for Canadian Studies between June 16 and June 20, 2017 with a probabilistic margin of error for the nation sample of 3.9 percent 19 times out of 20 (and the Quebec sample of 660 has a probabilistic margin of error of 3.9 percent 19 times out of 20).

# FOR MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS ATTACHMENT TO CANADA DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH ATTACHMENT TO QUEBEC

		Total Quebec
My attachment to Canada is in conflict with my attachment to my home province	Strongly agree	11.4%
	Somewhat agree	20.1%
	Somewhat disagree	29.9%
	Strongly disagree	28.1%
	Don't know	10.4%
Total		100.0%

# FEW QUEBECERS AGREE THAT THERE ARE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES THAT WILL EVER SATISFY THE MAJORITY

		Total Quebec
There are no constitutional changes that can ever satisfy the majority of Quebecers	Strongly agree	24.7%
	Somewhat agree	39.7%
	Somewhat disagree	18.7%
	Strongly disagree	4.2%
	Don't know	12.7%
Total		100.0%

# NEARLY THREE IN FOUR QUEBECERS AGREE THAT CANADA IS THE BEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

		<b>Total Quebec</b>
<b>Canada is the best country in the world</b>	Strongly agree	28.8%
	Somewhat agree	42.2%
	Somewhat disagree	17.8%
	Strongly disagree	3.7%
	Don't know	7.3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

# QUEBECERS ALMOST EQUALLY PROUD OF DISPLAY OF MAPLE LEAF AND FLEUR DE LYS

Quebecers...I am proud when I see the display of...	the Quebec flag in public	the Canadian flag in public
<b>Strongly agree</b>	35.5%	29.0%
<b>Somewhat agree</b>	36.5%	36.0%
<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	14.0%	18.4%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	6.2%	6.2%
<b>Don't know</b>	7.8%	10.4%
<b>Total</b>	100.0%	100%



# MOST QUEBECERS FEEL PRIDE IN CANADA WHEN THEY SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

		Total Quebec
Singing the national anthem gives me a sense of pride in Canada	Strongly agree	22.9%
	Somewhat agree	33.3%
	Somewhat disagree	18.9%
	Strongly disagree	15.2%
	Don't know	9.7%
Total		100.0%

# QUEBECERS DIVIDED AROUND PERSONAL IMPORTANCE OF SIGNING THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

		Total Quebec
It is personally important to me that Quebec signs the Canadian Constitution	Strongly agree	18.4%
	Somewhat agree	29.8%
	Somewhat disagree	16.9%
	Strongly disagree	9.4%
	Don't know	25.6%
Total		100.0%

# MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS AGREE IT'S IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE QUEBEC DISTINCTION IN CONSTITUTION

		Total Quebec
It is important to modify the Canadian constitution in such a way that enables recognition of the unique characteristic of Quebec	Strongly agree	28.5%
	Somewhat agree	30.5%
	Somewhat disagree	14.9%
	Strongly disagree	9.4%
	Don't know	16.6%
Total		100.0%

# QUEBECERS DIVIDED ON WHETHER RECOGNITION AS NATION WOULD LEAD TO GREATER ATTACHMENT TO CANADA

		Total Quebec
I would feel more attached to Canada if Quebec were recognized as a nation in the Canadian Constitution	Strongly agree	17.6%
	Somewhat agree	28.5%
	Somewhat disagree	21.3%
	Strongly disagree	17.6%
	Don't know	14.9%
Total		100.0%

# MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS AGREE THAT CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE IS DIVISIVE

		Total Quebec
The debate about Quebec's place in the Constitution will inevitably lead to more conflict	Strongly agree	18.2%
	Somewhat agree	44.9%
	Somewhat disagree	17.7%
	Strongly disagree	2.7%
	Don't know	16.5%
Total		100.0%

# QUEBEC AS A NATION SOME TWO THIRDS AGREE THAT NO CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WILL EVER SATISFY THE MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS

		I would feel more attached to Canada if Quebec were recognized as a nation in the Canadian Constitution			
		<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
There are no constitutional changes that can ever satisfy the majority of Quebecers	<b>Strongly agree</b>	34.7%	18.4%	21.8%	40.3%
	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	31.9%	43.0%	50.6%	30.6%
	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	19.4%	27.2%	19.5%	8.3%
	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	6.9%	2.6%	3.4%	9.7%
	<b>Don't know</b>	6.9%	8.8%	4.6%	11.1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# OF THOSE QUEBECERS FOR WHOM ITS MOST IMPORTANT THAT QUEBEC SIGN THE CONSTITUTION OVER SEVEN IN TEN AGREE THAT NO CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WILL EVER SATISFY THE MAJORITY OF QUEBECERS

		It is personally important to me that Quebec signs the Canadian Constitution			
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
There are no constitutional changes that can ever satisfy the majority of Quebecers	Strongly agree	40.5%	23.5%	17.6%	28.9%
	Somewhat agree	31.1%	49.6%	44.1%	36.8%
	Somewhat disagree	17.6%	18.5%	29.4%	18.4%
	Strongly disagree	6.8%	1.7%	4.4%	13.2%
	Don't know	4.1%	6.7%	4.4%	2.6%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# CONSENSUS THAT NO CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE WILL EVER BE SATISFACTORY AND DEBATE WILL PRODUCE CONFLICT

Strongly and Somewhat Agree combined in percentage Quebec	Canada is the best country in the world	Singing the national anthem gives me a sense of pride in Canada	It is important to modify the Canadian constitution in such a way that enables recognition of the unique characteristic of Quebec	There are no constitutional changes that can ever satisfy the majority of Quebecers	I would feel more attached to Canada if Quebec were recognized as a nation in the Canadian Constitution	The debate about Quebec's place in the Constitution will inevitably lead to more conflict
Francophone	68%	48%	64%	64%	50%	62%
Non-Francophone	82%	85%	33%	60%	28%	63%



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17

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