

BECOMING CANADIAN

Social Engagement and Attachment to Canada Among First and Second Generation Canadians - A new study conducted to launch the 8th Annual LaFontaine-Baldwin Symposium

AN ISPOS REID SURVEY



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BECOMING CANADIAN: A GENERATIONAL JOURNEY

Social Engagement and Attachment to Canada Among First and Second Generation Canadians

Toronto, ON - The Dominion Institute and Ipsos Reid have undertaken a unique national online survey that explores the levels of social engagement and attachment to Canada among English-speaking first and second generation Canadian immigrants,¹ and compares these findings to a nationally representative sample of the Canadian population.

Canadians were asked to self-identify their own ethnic or cultural identity and the level of importance of this identity to them. They were also asked about the number of friends they have that belong to the same racial or cultural background, as well as their participation in activities, groups or organizations in the past year. In addition, they were asked about their sense of belonging to Canada.

The Becoming Canadian Survey was commissioned by the Dominion Institute to launch its 8th annual LaFontaine-Baldwin Symposium on the future of democracy in Canada.

Co-hosted by the Dominion Institute and philosopher John Ralston Saul, the LaFontaine-Baldwin Lecture provides a noted public thinker each year with a national platform to lead a discussion of the key issues and trends effecting Canadian democratic values and institutions. Former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson will launch the two-day symposium this evening in Vancouver with a keynote address (Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, 900 West Georgia Street, 7pm-9pm). Ms. Clarkson will speak about the interconnected challenges and opportunities Canada's ambitious immigration policies creates for

¹ Definitions: "First generation Canadian immigrant" refers to those who are self identified as "first" or "second generation" and had immigrated to Canada; "second generation Canadian" refers to those self-identified as "first" or "second generation" and had been born in Canada.

strengthening shared democratic institutions and values. For more information on this year's Symposium including ticketing and media information visit www.lafontaine-baldwin.com.

The Dominion Institute is a national charitable organization dedicated to promoting greater knowledge and awareness of the country's history and shared citizenship). The Dominion Institute is headquartered in Toronto and functions with 14 full time staff and 2,200 active volunteers across Canada (www.dominion.ca). The annual LaFontaine-Baldwin Symposium is a joint effort of John Ralston Saul, The Institute for Canadian Citizenship and the Dominion Institute. The Symposium's purpose is to create an annual venue to stimulate debate about the historical antecedents and future shape of our democracy and honour two of Canada's great political reformers. Hosted in a different city each year, previous key note speakers at the Symposium include Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin in Halifax, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour in Québec City, George Erasmus in Vancouver and George Elliot Clarke in Calgary. Please note that this survey was commissioned by the Dominion Institute only which bears sole responsibility for the questionnaire design and for the interpretation of the survey results. For more info visit www.lafontaine-baldwin.com.

Methodology

The survey was conducted among a randomly selected sample of 2900 (weighted) adult Canadians, 18 years and older. The survey respondents were targeted and divided into three representative sub-populations: First Generation Canadian Immigrants (n=900); Second Generation Canadians (n=1000), and General Population (n=1000). The survey was conducted in English only.

The questions in this survey are similar to those found in the Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS) conducted in 2003 by Statistics Canada. Please see: <http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4508&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2>. While the two methodologies differ, cross comparisons can be made, wherever possible, on a general overall trend basis.

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With samples of these sizes, the results for each sub-population are considered accurate to within ± 3.1 (second generation Canadians and general population) to ± 3.3 (first generation Canadian immigrants) percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had these entire populations been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population.

Attribution

“The Becoming Canadian survey was commissioned by the Dominion Institute and conducted by Ipsos-Reid”. Referencing of the results in a slide or graphic: “Becoming Canadian Poll: Dominion Institute / Ipsos-Reid”. The website that can be given out for views and readers to access detailed information on the survey is “www.dominion.ca”.

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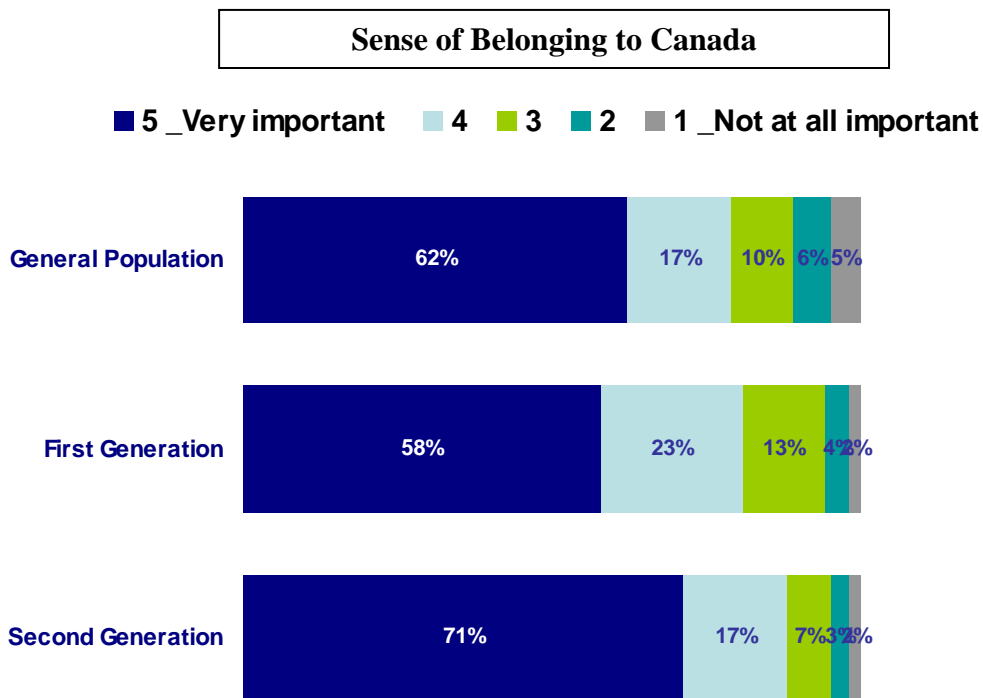
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Findings

Sense of belonging to Canada among first generation Canadian immigrants similar to the overall Canadian population

This survey asked Canadians how strong their sense of belonging was to Canada. Second generation Canadians expressed a stronger sense of belonging to Canada (88% overall) than first generation Canadian immigrants (81%), and the general population (79%). 7-in-ten second generation Canadians expressed a “very strong” sense of belonging to Canada compared to 58% first generation immigrants.

Figure 1:



Question: Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not strong at all and 5 is very strong, how strong is your sense of belonging to Canada?

“Canadian” reported as identity (or part of) higher among second generation Canadians

Second generation Canadians are also much more likely to self-identify as “Canadian” or “hyphenated” Canadian (e.g. Chinese-Canadian, German-Canadian) than first generation Canadian immigrants (22%). This difference is much more pronounced when second generation Canadians report themselves as Canadian only (17% vs. 3% first generation immigrants).

Figure 2:

	Identify as “Canadian” only %	Identify as a “hyphenated” Canadian %	Other Identifications %
First Generation Immigrants	3	19	76
Second Generation Canadian	17	38	43

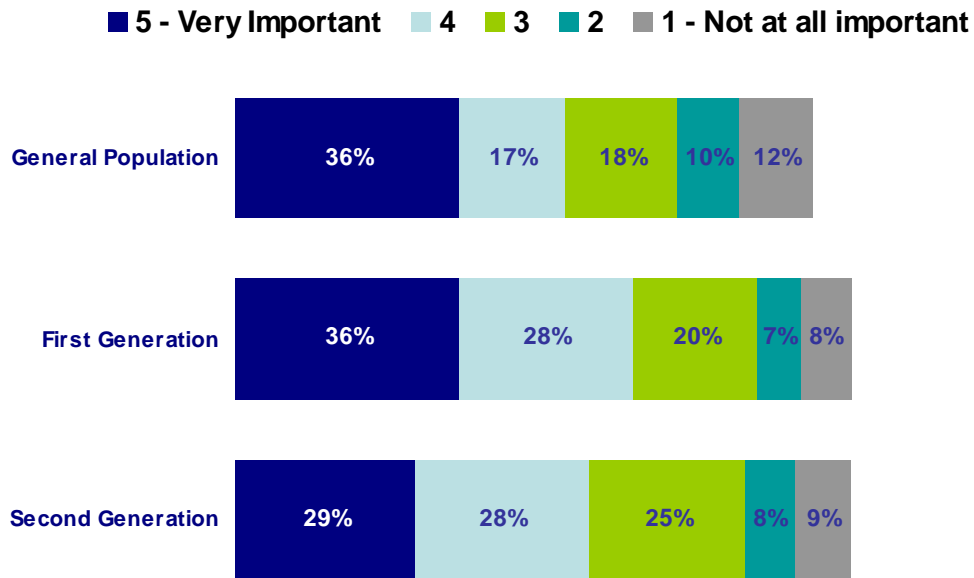
Question: I would now like you to think about your own identity, in ethnic or cultural terms. This identity may be the same as that of your parents, grandparents or ancestors, or it may be different. What is your ethnic or cultural identity? (Please describe in space provided below)

Importance of ethnic or cultural identity decreases slightly from first to second generation

Overall, first generation Canadian immigrants are the most likely to say that their ethnic or cultural identity is important to them (64% vs. 57% second generation and 54% among Canadians in general). Second generation Canadians are the least likely to say it is “very important” (29%) vs. first generation and general population (both 36%). Figure 3.

Figure 3:

Importance of Ethnic or Cultural Identity



Question: Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not important at all and 5 is very important, how important is your [enter identity response from question #1] identity to you?

Second generation Canadians report having more friends of a similar racial or cultural background

When asked about how many friends were of the same racial or cultural background, 42% of second generation Canadians reported that “all” or “most of them” were of the same background, while 32% of first generation reported the same. The general population overall reported 58%.

Question: As far as you are aware, how many of your friends are of the same racial or cultural background as you?

Participation in groups and organizations similar among all English-speaking Canadians

Overall, the survey shows that there is little inter-generational difference among English-speaking Canadians in their participation in groups or organizations: first generation Canadian immigrants (45%); second generation (43%). Their participation levels are similar to that of the general population (41%).

Question: Are you a member of, or have you taken part in the activities of, any groups or organizations at anytime in the past 12 months? For example, a sports team, a hobby club, a community organization, or an ethnic association? (Not including marketing-based commercial “clubs” such as airline points, clubs, shopping memberships, etc).