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## NEWS RELEASE

### *Canadians Overwhelmingly Support Limits to Reasonable Accommodation*

*In Quebec more than three quarters of the population thinks immigrants should 'fully adapt' to the culture of the province, according to SES Research-Policy Options Survey*

Montreal – Nearly two Canadians in three and nine Quebecers in 10 have heard of “reasonable accommodation,” according to an SES Research poll conducted for *Policy Options*.

However, by significant majorities in Canada as a whole, and by overwhelming majorities in Quebec, Canadians and Quebecers declare limits to reasonable accommodation. When asked whether it was reasonable to accommodate religious and cultural minorities or whether immigrants should fully adapt to culture in Canada, only 18.0 percent of respondents said reasonable accommodation best reflected their personal views, as opposed to 53.1 percent who thought immigrants should fully adapt, and 21.3 percent who agreed with neither statement.

In Quebec (295 persons in the sample of 1,083), only 5.4 percent of respondents thought reasonable accommodation reflected their views, while fully 76.9 percent thought immigrants should fully adapt.

The on-line survey was conducted September 17 and 18, since the Bouchard-Taylor Commission began its hearings, which are receiving saturation coverage in the Quebec news media and wide coverage across the country. The random representative on-line sample of 1,083 Canadians is considered accurate to within three percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

“It seems that Quebecers have the strongest sense of Canada as a country of two founding peoples, two founding language communities,” observes Nik Nanos, president of SES Research, the national public opinion research firm based in Ottawa. “And when Quebecers look at a debate like reasonable accommodation, they see this vision of the two founding peoples being eroded. Interestingly, the parts of Canada with fewer new Canadians were more likely to support accommodation. Leaders from across Canada should be watching the developments in Quebec, because they may well be a precursor of things to come in other parts of Canada.”

When SES asked, for example, whether the menu requirements of religious and cultural groups should be accommodated, only 5.6 percent of Canadians said they should be accommodated all the time, while 22.3 percent said they should be accommodated most of the time. However, 50.3 percent did say they should be accommodated “some of the time.”

In Quebec, opinion that menu requirements should be accommodated all the time (4.1 percent) or most of the time (13.6 percent) was not all that different from that of Canada as a whole, while those who thought these requirements should be accommodated at least some of the time (50.8 percent) were right in line with the national result.

When SES Research asked respondents whether they supported prayer spaces being provided free of charge in public facilities to accommodate religious minorities, an overwhelming majority of Quebecers were opposed (57.6 percent) or somewhat opposed (23.1 percent), while only 12.6 percent supported (3.4 percent) or somewhat supported (9.2 percent) free prayer space.

In Canada as a whole 58.6 percent were opposed (38.1 percent) or somewhat opposed (20.5 percent), while 31.4 percent supported (10.2 percent) or somewhat supported (21.2 percent) the provision of free prayer space.

"Quebecers have more intense views on the reasonable accommodation issue," says Nanos, "and are more attached to the principle of the founding peoples." But the debate is by no means confined to Quebec. "This debate is coming to your province soon," says Nanos. "There are huge ramifications, for public policy, for what kind of country we want, and how we accept new Canadians."

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SES Research is one of Canada's leading public opinion research firms. The detailed statistical results from the survey are available at [www.sesresearch.com](http://www.sesresearch.com) or at [www.irpp.org](http://www.irpp.org). Policy Options, published 10 times a year by the Institute for Research on Public Policy, is Canada's leading public policy magazine. All articles from the magazine can be downloaded free of charge from [www.irpp.org](http://www.irpp.org).

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## REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION SURVEY

Question - As you know, there is an ongoing debate related to accommodating cultural and religious minorities, including dress and religious practices. Many people refer to this debate as "reasonable accommodation". Have you heard or not heard of reasonable accommodation?

		Total	Have heard of reasonable accommodation	Have not heard of reasonable accommodation
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage
Aggregate	Canada 2007	1083	63.7	36.3
Gender	Male	534	67.2	32.8
	Female	549	60.3	39.7
Age	18 to 24	124	52.4	47.6
	25 to 34	185	65.4	34.6
	35 to 44	239	64.4	35.6
	45 to 54	217	61.8	38.2
	55 to 64	132	70.5	29.5
	65 and older	186	66.1	33.9
Education	High school or less	311	56.6	43.4
	College	443	63.2	36.8
	University	255	70.6	29.4
	Post-graduate	74	73.0	27.0
Income	Less than \$25,000	230	53.0	47.0
	\$25,000-\$39,999	231	61.5	38.5
	\$40,000-\$49,999	138	68.8	31.2
	\$50,000-\$74,999	240	61.7	38.3
	\$75,000 or more	244	75.0	25.0
Region	Atlantic	69	55.1	44.9
	Quebec	295	90.2	9.8
	Ontario	399	51.6	48.4
	AB/ Prairies	179	58.1	41.9
	British Columbia	141	53.9	46.1



REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION SURVEY

Question - Which of these two statement best reflects your personal view?

		Total	It is reasonable to accommodate religious and cultural minorities	Immigrants should adapt fully to culture in Canada	Agree with neither statement	Unsure
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Aggregate	Canada 2007	1083	18.0	53.1	21.3	7.6
Gender	Male	534	19.3	54.5	20.0	6.2
	Female	549	16.8	51.7	22.6	8.9
Age	18 to 24	124	29.8	34.7	23.4	12.1
	25 to 34	185	24.3	39.5	27.0	9.2
	35 to 44	239	17.2	50.6	25.1	7.1
	45 to 54	217	14.3	59.4	17.5	8.8
	55 to 64	132	16.7	61.4	18.2	3.8
Education	65 and older	186	10.2	68.8	16.1	4.8
	High school or less	311	9.6	63.7	15.8	10.9
	College	443	19.6	49.4	22.3	8.6
	University	255	23.9	49.8	23.9	2.4
Income	Post-graduate	74	23.0	41.9	29.7	5.4
	Less than \$25,000	230	17.8	46.5	22.2	13.5
	\$25,000-\$39,999	231	19.0	50.6	19.9	10.4
	\$40,000-\$49,999	138	13.8	63.8	15.9	6.5
	\$50,000-\$74,999	240	22.5	52.9	21.3	3.3
Region	\$75,000 or more	244	15.2	55.7	25.0	4.1
	Atlantic	69	30.4	36.2	21.7	11.6
	Quebec	295	5.4	76.9	12.9	4.7
	Ontario	399	21.6	49.6	21.6	7.3
	AB/ Prairies	179	26.8	37.4	25.1	10.6
	British Columbia	141	17.0	41.1	33.3	8.5



REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION SURVEY

Question - Should the menu requirements of religious and cultural groups be accommodated all of the time, most of the time, some of the time or never?

		Total	Accommodated all of the time	Accommodated most of the time	Accommodated some of the time	Never accommodated	Unsure
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Aggregate	Canada 2007	1083	5.6	22.3	50.3	13.9	7.9
Gender	Male	534	5.1	21.7	50.2	15.7	7.3
	Female	549	6.2	22.8	50.5	12.0	8.6
Age	18 to 24	124	6.5	37.1	36.3	8.9	11.3
	25 to 34	185	7.6	23.8	48.1	10.8	9.7
	35 to 44	239	7.5	20.9	50.6	12.1	8.8
	45 to 54	217	4.6	15.2	56.7	16.1	7.4
	55 to 64	132	2.3	23.5	53.0	15.2	6.1
Education	65 and older	186	4.3	19.9	52.2	18.8	4.8
	High school or less	311	4.2	14.8	49.8	17.4	13.8
	College	443	5.4	24.6	50.8	13.1	6.1
	University	255	7.1	25.5	49.4	13.7	4.3
Income	Post-graduate	74	8.1	28.4	52.7	4.1	6.8
	Less than \$25,000	230	6.5	25.2	39.1	13.0	16.1
	\$25,000-\$39,999	231	7.4	21.6	47.6	13.9	9.5
	\$40,000-\$49,999	138	8.0	21.7	48.6	15.9	5.8
	\$50,000-\$74,999	240	4.6	22.5	55.0	13.8	4.2
Region	\$75,000 or more	244	2.9	20.1	59.8	13.5	3.7
	Atlantic	69	5.8	33.3	39.1	4.3	17.4
	Quebec	295	4.1	13.6	50.8	25.4	6.1
	Ontario	399	7.5	24.6	48.9	10.5	8.5
	AB/ Prairies	179	5.6	25.7	53.1	7.3	8.4
	British Columbia	141	3.5	24.1	55.3	12.1	5.0



## REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION SURVEY

Question - Do you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or oppose prayer spaces being provided free of charge in public facilities to accommodate religious minorities?

		Total	Support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Oppose	Unsure
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Aggregate	Canada 2007	1083	10.2	21.2	20.5	38.1	9.9
Gender	Male	534	8.8	20.8	21.5	43.1	5.8
	Female	549	11.7	21.7	19.5	33.3	13.8
Age	18 to 24	124	16.9	31.5	16.9	20.2	14.5
	25 to 34	185	14.1	25.4	18.9	28.1	13.5
	35 to 44	239	12.6	23.4	24.3	32.2	7.5
	45 to 54	217	8.3	18.0	19.4	44.7	9.7
	55 to 64	132	4.5	18.9	17.4	49.2	9.8
	65 and older	186	5.4	12.9	23.1	52.2	6.5
Education	High school or less	311	9.0	16.4	20.3	39.9	14.5
	College	443	9.0	25.1	18.5	38.4	9.0
	University	255	13.3	18.4	24.3	37.3	6.7
	Post-graduate	74	12.2	28.4	20.3	32.4	6.8
Income	Less than \$25,000	230	11.3	24.3	20.0	28.3	16.1
	\$25,000-\$39,999	231	17.3	17.3	20.8	34.2	10.4
	\$40,000-\$49,999	138	8.7	21.7	20.3	41.3	8.0
	\$50,000-\$74,999	240	8.8	19.6	22.1	41.7	7.9
	\$75,000 or more	244	4.9	23.4	19.3	45.9	6.6
Region	Atlantic	69	13.0	33.3	20.3	20.3	13.0
	Quebec	295	3.4	9.2	23.1	57.6	6.8
	Ontario	399	12.3	23.6	18.3	33.6	12.3
	AB/ Prairies	179	16.2	22.9	23.5	29.6	7.8
	British Columbia	141	9.9	31.9	17.7	29.8	10.6



## REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION SURVEY

Question - On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is full religious and cultural accommodation and 1 is no religious or cultural accommodation, please rate each of the following venues and how much they should accommodate or not accommodate religious and cultural minorities.

Public places like schools, hospitals and government buildings

		Total	No Religious Or Cultural Accommodation	2	3	4	Full Religious And Cultural Accommodation
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Aggregate	Canada 2007	1083	36.7	19.9	25.3	12.0	6.1
Gender	Male	534	42.9	20.6	22.1	10.9	3.6
	Female	549	30.8	19.1	28.4	13.1	8.6
Age	18 to 24	124	23.4	14.5	36.3	17.7	8.1
	25 to 34	185	28.1	17.8	32.4	16.8	4.9
	35 to 44	239	35.1	21.3	25.9	10.9	6.7
	45 to 54	217	41.9	25.3	17.5	9.7	5.5
	55 to 64	132	40.2	18.2	25.0	10.6	6.1
	65 and older	186	47.8	18.3	19.4	8.6	5.9
Education	High school or less	311	42.1	16.4	26.4	10.6	4.5
	College	443	34.5	23.7	24.4	11.1	6.3
	University	255	36.1	17.6	24.3	14.9	7.1
	Post-graduate	74	29.7	18.9	29.7	13.5	8.1
Income	Less than \$25,000	230	34.8	16.5	31.3	13.5	3.9
	\$25,000-\$39,999	231	30.7	21.2	28.1	10.8	9.1
	\$40,000-\$49,999	138	47.1	20.3	13.0	10.9	8.7
	\$50,000-\$74,999	240	35.8	21.7	25.8	12.1	4.6
	\$75,000 or more	244	39.3	19.7	23.4	12.3	5.3
Region	Atlantic	69	27.5	15.9	34.8	14.5	7.2
	Quebec	295	64.1	18.0	12.5	3.7	1.7
	Ontario	399	27.1	21.8	31.1	14.3	5.8
	AB/ Prairies	179	25.1	19.0	24.6	17.9	13.4
	British Columbia	141	26.2	21.3	31.9	14.2	6.4



**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION SURVEY**

Question - On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is full religious and cultural accommodation and 1 is no religious or cultural accommodation, please rate each of the following venues and how much they should accommodate or not accommodate religious and cultural minorities.

The workplace

		Total	No Religious Or Cultural Accommodation	2	3	4	Full Religious And Cultural Accommodation
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Aggregate	Canada 2007	1083	44.7	20.0	22.3	9.3	3.7
Gender	Male	534	47.9	21.9	20.8	7.1	2.2
	Female	549	41.5	18.2	23.7	11.5	5.1
Age	18 to 24	124	26.6	24.2	29.0	14.5	5.6
	25 to 34	185	30.8	18.4	33.5	11.9	5.4
	35 to 44	239	40.6	25.1	20.1	9.6	4.6
	45 to 54	217	57.1	16.6	15.2	9.2	1.8
	55 to 64	132	47.7	19.7	21.2	8.3	3.0
Education	65 and older	186	59.1	16.7	18.3	3.8	2.2
	High school or less	311	54.0	16.1	20.9	5.5	3.5
	College	443	43.3	22.6	21.2	9.9	2.9
	University	255	39.2	20.8	21.6	13.7	4.7
Income	Post-graduate	74	32.4	18.9	36.5	6.8	5.4
	Less than \$25,000	230	41.7	19.6	24.8	11.7	2.2
	\$25,000-\$39,999	231	38.5	19.9	22.9	11.3	7.4
	\$40,000-\$49,999	138	55.8	16.7	18.1	4.3	5.1
	\$50,000-\$74,999	240	45.8	16.7	24.2	10.0	3.3
Region	\$75,000 or more	244	45.9	25.8	19.7	7.4	1.2
	Atlantic	69	33.3	17.4	30.4	13.0	5.8
	Quebec	295	65.4	19.0	10.5	3.4	1.7
	Ontario	399	39.3	20.8	26.3	10.5	3.0
	AB/ Prairies	179	36.9	20.7	24.0	10.6	7.8
	British Columbia	141	31.9	20.6	29.1	14.9	3.5



**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION SURVEY**

Question - On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is full religious and cultural accommodation and 1 is no religious or cultural accommodation, please rate each of the following venues and how much they should accommodate or not accommodate religious and cultural minorities.

Amateur sport and leisure activities

		Total	No Religious Or Cultural Accommodation	2	3	4	Full Religious And Cultural Accommodation
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Aggregate	Canada 2007	1083	47.9	18.7	21.8	8.3	3.3
Gender	Male	534	50.0	19.1	21.5	6.6	2.8
	Female	549	45.9	18.2	22.0	10.0	3.8
Age	18 to 24	124	29.0	17.7	32.3	15.3	5.6
	25 to 34	185	36.8	18.9	28.6	12.4	3.2
	35 to 44	239	48.1	22.2	20.1	5.9	3.8
	45 to 54	217	57.1	17.1	16.6	6.9	2.3
	55 to 64	132	50.0	15.9	24.2	6.1	3.8
Education	65 and older	186	59.1	18.3	14.5	5.9	2.2
	High school or less	311	56.3	15.1	19.0	6.8	2.9
	College	443	47.0	19.0	23.5	7.9	2.7
	University	255	40.8	22.4	22.0	10.6	4.3
Income	Post-graduate	74	43.2	18.9	23.0	9.5	5.4
	Less than \$25,000	230	46.1	17.4	24.8	9.1	2.6
	\$25,000-\$39,999	231	41.6	20.8	22.5	10.4	4.8
	\$40,000-\$49,999	138	53.6	21.0	13.8	8.0	3.6
	\$50,000-\$74,999	240	47.1	17.9	23.3	7.9	3.8
Region	\$75,000 or more	244	53.3	17.2	21.3	6.1	2.0
	Atlantic	69	40.6	10.1	36.2	8.7	4.3
	Quebec	295	71.9	13.9	8.8	3.7	1.7
	Ontario	399	40.1	20.8	25.1	10.8	3.3
	AB/ Prairies	179	39.7	19.6	26.8	8.4	5.6
	British Columbia	141	34.0	25.5	26.2	10.6	3.5