

True peace is not merely the absence of tension:
it is the presence of justice
– Martin Luther King, Jr.

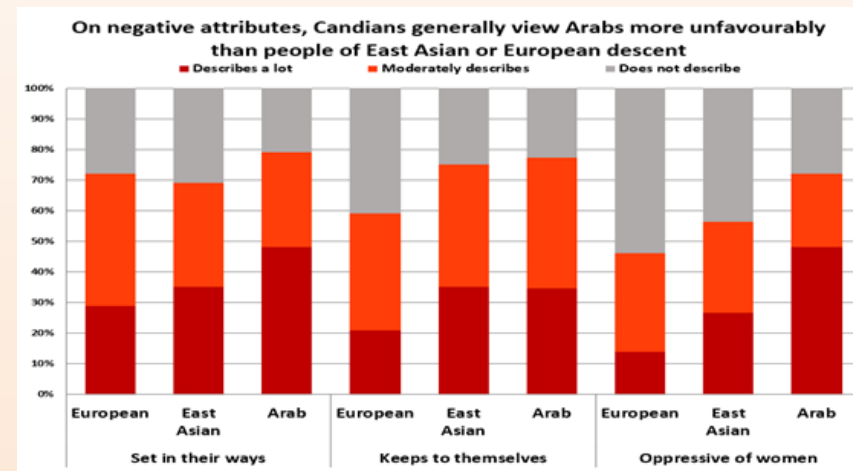


CJPME

CANADIANS FOR JUSTICE AND
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

November 2021

Stereotypes



Canadians were asked the following questions :

Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'does not describe at all' and 5 means 'describes completely', please rate how well the following words or phrases best describes your impression of people of [Arab/East Asian/European] descent in Canada?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Tolerant | 7. Violent |
| 2. Adaptable | 8. Fanatic |
| 3. Honest | 8. Oppressive of women |
| 4. Hard-working | 10. Set in their ways |
| 5. Open-minded | 11. Poorly educated |
| 6. Contributes to the community | 12. Keeps to themselves |

The survey results show that Canadians tend to view Arabs much more negatively than people of other backgrounds, with Arabs consistently rated lower on positive stereotypes, and higher on negative stereotypes. Compared to East Asians and Europeans, Arabs were much less likely to be perceived as tolerant, adaptable, open-minded, or as contributing to the community. Similarly, Arabs were twice as likely to be seen as violent (15%), fanatic (21%), and oppressive towards women (48%) than East Asians or people of European descent.

Conservative and Bloc Québécois (BQ) supporters hold the least positive impression of Arabs, while NDP supporters see Arabs most positively. For example, 61% of Conservative and 54% of BQ supporters said that the term “tolerant” does not describe Arabs, versus Liberal (25%), and NDP (15%). Similarly, 66% of Conservative and 44% of BQ supporters said that the term “open-minded” does not describe Arabs, vs. Liberal (27%), and NDP (18%) supporters.

The organizations sponsoring this survey have long observed that Arabs in Canada face systemic racism in Canada. Indeed, the survey results demonstrate that Anti-Arab racism is a concerning reality in Canada. Governments at all levels must acknowledge the specific problem of anti-Arab racism, and incorporate this perspective into policies that seek to eliminate racial discrimination.

The margin of error associated with the sample is plus or minus 3.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Visit <http://www.cjpme.org/survey2021> to access the full report, charts and data sets.

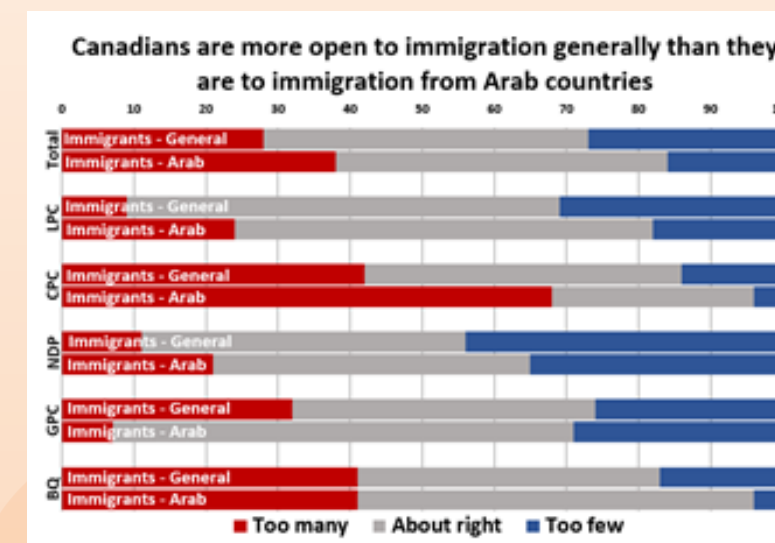
**Canadians view
Arab-Canadians
less favourably than
other ethnic groups**

Marginalized and misunderstood Survey on Attitudes on Arabs and Anti-Arab Racism in Canada

National opinion survey of Canadians conducted May 26–31, 2021

EKOS Research Associates conducted a national online survey of 1,005 Canadians, between May 26–31, 2021, on behalf of Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME), the Canadian Arab Federation (CAF), and the Arab Canadian Lawyers Association (ACLA). The survey asked eight questions designed to elicit the survey respondents' perceptions – and indicators of latent prejudices – of Arabs. The following provides highlights of the results.

Perception of Arabs in Canada



This question was a split sample, with the first half being asked a general question about immigration and the second half being asked about immigration from Arab countries in general.

Canadians were asked the following questions :

Split 1: In your opinion do you feel that there are too few, too many or about the right number of immigrants coming to Canada?

Split 2: Forgetting about the overall number of immigrants coming to Canada, of those who come would you say there are too few, too many or the right number who are from Arab countries?

Canadians were 10% more likely to say there are too many Arab immigrants, compared to immigrants in general. This suggests that anti-Arab prejudice may be a factor in how some Canadians think about immigration from Arab countries.

This position is extremely polarized by respondents' political party support. Overall, 38% of Canadians feel there are too many Arab immigrants, as compared to 68% of Conservative supporters, 24% of Liberal supporters, and 21% of NDP supporters.

**Canadians hold
negative views on
immigration from
Arab countries**

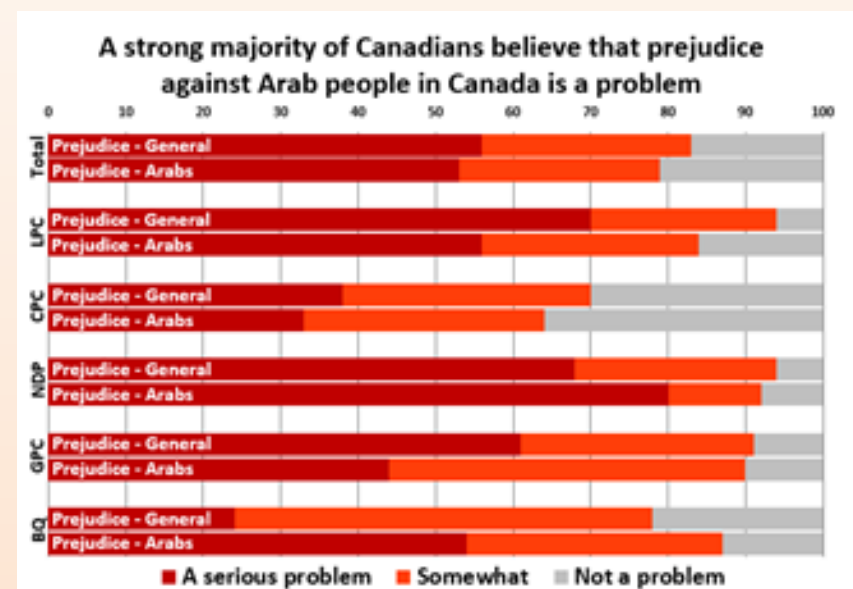


Our mission: To empower Canadians of all backgrounds to promote justice, development and peace in the Middle East, and here at home in Canada

CJPME's Pillars:

Support for International Law
Equal expectations for all parties
A belief that violence is not a solution

Desecrimination



This question had a split sample, with the first half of respondents being asked about prejudice against minority groups in Canada in general, and the second half being asked about prejudice against Arab people in Canada specifically.

Canadians were asked the following questions :

Split 1: In your opinion, how serious a problem is prejudice against minority groups in Canada? (e.g. Black, Arab, Jewish, Indigenous, Asian, etc.)

Split 2: In your opinion, how serious a problem is prejudice against Arab people in Canada?

A striking 79% of Canadians acknowledge that prejudice against Arabs to be somewhat of a problem or a serious problem. This number is slightly less than the number of Canadians (83%) who consider prejudice overall against racialized people to be a problem. While it is encouraging that so many Canadians acknowledge the problem of anti-Arab racism, it is also likely suggestive of the severity of the problem.

When broken down by political party, Liberal (70%) and NDP (68%) supporters were the most likely to say that prejudice in general is a serious problem, vs. 38% of Conservatives, and 24% of BQ, who tended to downplay the issue of prejudice across the board. When asked specifically about Arabs, over a third (36%) of Conservatives said that prejudice was not a problem, compared to 16% of Liberals, 8% of NDP, and 13% of BQ.



Canadians say that prejudice against Arab people in Canada is a problem

Barriers

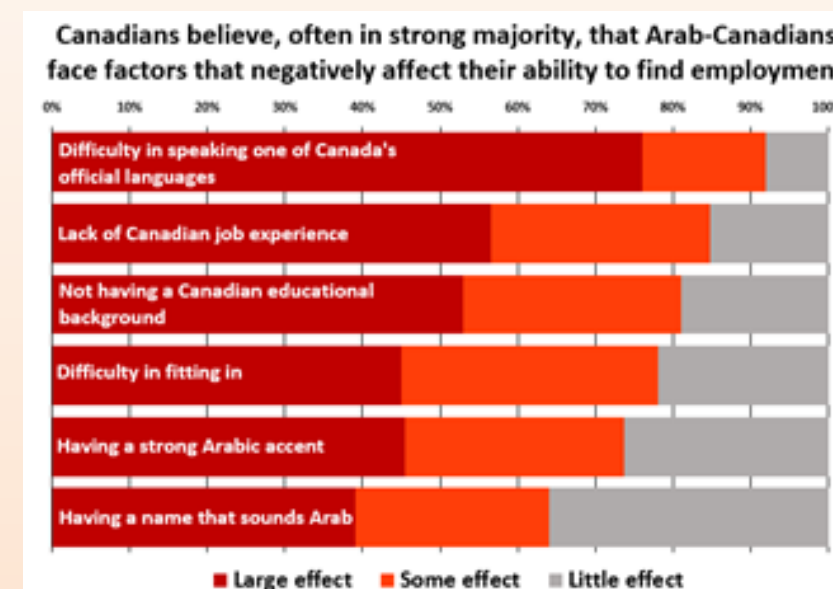
Canadians were asked the following questions on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “No negative effect” and 5 being “Very large negative effect” :

Statistics Canada has found that joblessness among Arab-Canadians is almost 50% higher than the Canadian average. Please rate how strongly you think the following factors could negatively affect the ability of Arab-Canadians to find employment in general:

1. Difficulty in speaking one of Canada's official languages
2. Difficulty in fitting in
3. Having a name that sounds Arab
4. Not having a Canadian educational background
5. Lack of Canadian job experience
6. Having a strong Arabic accent

The survey results find that Canadians are willing to acknowledge that many factors could negatively affect the ability of Arab-Canadians to secure employment. When asked about why Arab-Canadians face a joblessness rate 50% higher than the average, 92% of Canadians suggested that difficulty speaking one of Canada's official languages could have a negative effect. Additionally, 84% said that lack of Canadian job experience was another important factor, followed by (81%) not having a Canadian educational background. Canadians felt that “difficulty in fitting in,” (78%), “having a strong Arabic accent” (73%) and “having a name that sounds Arab,” (64%) could also all have a negative effect on an Arab-Canadian's job prospects.

Once again, the results were polarized by party support. Whereas Conservative supporters were most likely to point to problems with credentials or qualifications as an explanation for joblessness, NDP supporters were most likely to suggest that employers may be discriminating against applicants on the basis of their Arab identity.



Canadians believe that Arab-Canadians face barriers to finding employment

