

# People, Opinions & Polls

*A Roper Center report  
of findings in public  
opinion research*

## *The Quebec Referendum on Sovereignty, and the Future of Canada*



## Canada—One Country, Two Nations Still

# The Quebec Referendum: Far More Narrowly Against Sovereignty Than in 1980

### The 1995 Referendum

### The 1980 Referendum

*Do you agree that Quebec should become sovereign after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership, within the scope of the bill respecting the future of Quebec and of the agreement signed on June 12, 1995? [The June 12 agreement cited was signed by the leaders of the Parti Québécois, the Bloc Québécois (a separatist party that is the official Opposition in the Canadian Parliament) and the Parti Action Démocratique. It calls for sovereignty combined with an offer from Quebec to negotiate political and economic association with Canada.]*

*This agreement would enable Quebec to acquire the exclusive power to make its laws, administer its taxes, and establish relations abroad—in other words sovereignty—but at the same time to maintain with Canada an economic association including a common currency. Any change in political status resulting from the negotiations will be submitted to the people through a referendum. On these terms, do you agree to give the government of Quebec the mandate to negotiate the proposed agreement between Quebec and Canada?*

**No:** 50.6% (2,360,717)  
**Yes:** 49.4% (2,308,072)

#### How Quebec Voted

**No:** 59.6% (2,140,814) [unofficial]  
**Yes:** 40.4% (1,475,509)

Source: Canadian Embassy, Washington, DC; 1980 Facts on File, May 23, 1980.

## The 1995 Vote: Women, Older Persons, the Affluent, and Those Not French Said “No”

	9/25-27		10/16-18		10/23-25	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>By Ethnicity</b>						
French	55%	45%	61%	39%	61%	39%
English	5%	95%	8%	92%	5%	95%
Other	13%	87%	7%	93%	9%	91%
<b>By Gender</b>						
Men	51%	49%	58%	42%	55%	45%
Women	43%	57%	44%	56%	48%	52%
<b>By Age</b>						
18-34 yrs. of age	53%	47%	59%	41%	56%	44%
35-34 yrs. of age	50%	50%	55%	45%	60%	40%
55+ yrs. of age	36%	64%	32%	68%	35%	65%
<b>By Income</b>						
Less than \$30,000	51%	49%	49%	51%	57%	43%
\$30,000-\$59,999	50%	50%	55%	45%	54%	46%
\$60,000+	39%	61%	56%	44%	44%	56%
<b>By Region</b>						
Greater Montreal	42%	58%	46%	54%	39%	61%
Rest of Quebec	52%	48%	55%	45%	63%	37%

Source: Surveys by Léger & Léger for the *Journal de Montréal Globe & Mail*, latest that of October 23-25, 1995.

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# The Big Split Was, Of Course, Between French Speakers and Other Groups

**Question:** In the coming October 30 referendum will you answer YES or NO to the following question [see wording to the referendum on opposite page]...?

	Francophones	Non-Francophones
<b>Yes</b>	55%	7%
<b>No</b>	33%	83%

**Question:** Personally, do you consider yourself...?

	Francophones	Non-Francophones
Québécois only	29%	2%
Québécois first	29%	5%
Québécois & Canadian	28%	42%
Canadian first	7%	26%
Canadian only	5%	22%

**Question:** Personally, in which camp do you consider yourself to be in regarding the referendum?

### The Young Said Yes Emphatically

	Francophones		By Age Groups					
	Yes	No	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
<b>Yes Camp</b>	57%	7%	63%	58%	54%	50%	32%	
<b>No Camp</b>	30%	81%	32%	33%	33%	36%	60%	

Source: Surveys by Léger & Léger for the *Journal de Montréal Globe & Mail*, October 23-25, 1995.

## Citizens in Canada's Three Closest "Neighbors" Weren't Paying Much Attention to the Sovereignty Vote

	United States	Great Britain	France
<b>Question:</b> On October 30th, the mainly French-speaking Canadian province of Quebec will hold a referendum in which the people of Quebec will vote on whether or not to separate from Canada and become an independent country. Have you read or heard anything about this referendum?			
<b>Yes</b>	36%	29%	23%
<b>No</b>	64%	71%	77%
<b>Question:</b> How interested are you in this referendum: Very interested, somewhat interested, not too interested, or not at all interested?			
<b>Very interested</b>	10%	4%	5%
<b>Somewhat interested</b>	33%	22%	24%
<b>Not too/Not at all interested</b>	56%	72%	70%
<b>Question:</b> Do you personally favor or oppose the idea of the province of Quebec separating from Canada and becoming an independent country?			
<b>Favor</b>	16%	16%	56%
<b>Oppose</b>	43%	21%	15%
<b>No opinion</b>	41%	63%	29%

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 19-22, 1995.