



CELEBRATING WOMEN

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CARDUS



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Do we know what Canadians think about women's issues and how they connect to politics, culture and family? Angus Reid Forum asked questions about these subjects. If one theme emerges it is diversity. Neither men nor women are easily categorized on a host of issues facing women in Canada in 2017. Some of these questions address current events. Others step back and examine the bigger picture. Either way, Canadians cannot be put in one easy box.

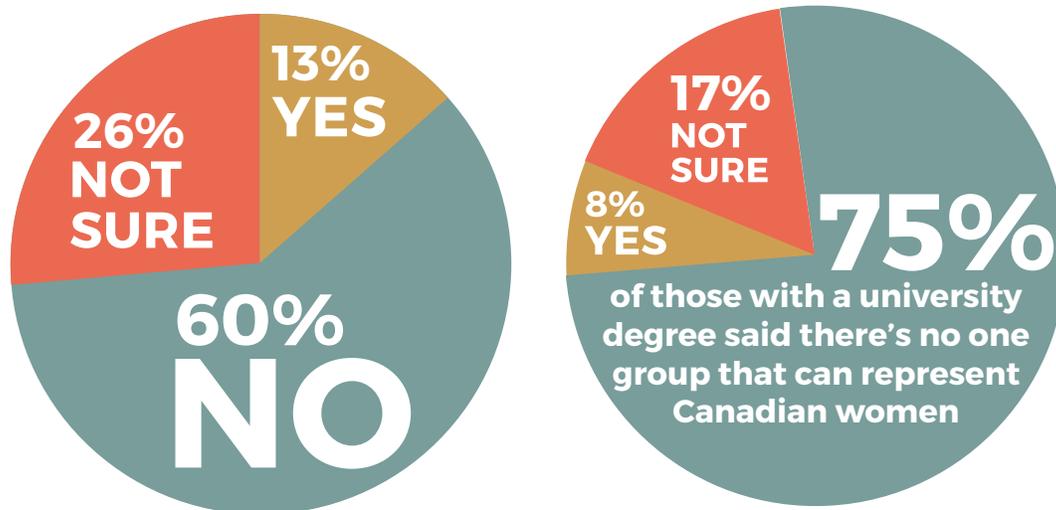
THE SISTERHOOD

We all like the idea of a sisterhood—a warm community of women who are supportive regardless of race, religion or politics. While privately this is certainly possible, is it possible in the public square?

We asked:

'The sisterhood' is a concept often mentioned in politics and alluded to in culture. Is there enough consensus amongst women that any one person or organization could credibly claim to represent or speak on behalf of Canadian women?

Canadians – women and men – who think one organization/woman can credibly claim to represent Canadian women

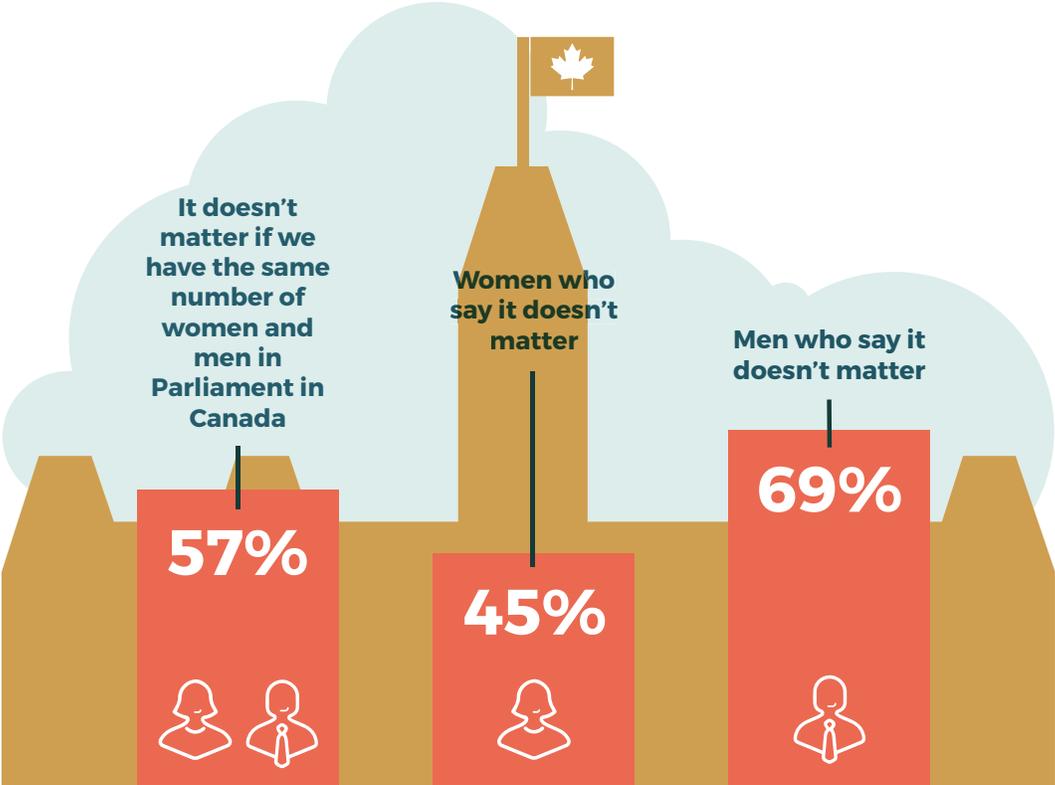


60% of Canadians said there is no one person or organization that can credibly claim to represent Canadian women. Only 13% said there was. 61% of Canadian men and 60% of Canadian women said there is no one person or organization that can credibly claim to represent Canadian women. There is agreement between the genders on this issue and the more educated Canadians are, the more likely they are to say there is no one group that can speak on behalf of Canadian women. 75% of those with a university degree said no one group can represent Canadian women.

REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT

Does having the same number of women as men in federal Parliament or cabinet matter to you?

Canadians who think having the same number of women and men in Parliament/Cabinet matters



The perennial question of gender diversity in Parliament is in the limelight today more than ever.

A 57% majority of Canadians said having the same number of men and women in Parliament/cabinet doesn't matter. 32% said it does and 11% were not sure.

When looking at gender 45% of women said it doesn't matter; 40% said it does matter. Only four in ten women are concerned about having the same number of men and women in Parliament/Cabinet.

Almost seven in ten men (69%) said having the same number of women and men in federal Parliament or cabinet doesn't matter. 23% of men said it does.

FEMINISM

What is the nature of feminism today? Who is a feminist? Is there room for a diversity of views? The good news is yes, there is. We asked:

Can you be a feminist and pro-life?

Only 18% of Canadians, less than two in ten, said this is *not* possible. A slim majority of Canadians believe you can be a feminist and pro-life at 52%. Fully 30% of Canadians were not sure.

Of note is that *more women than men* say that you can be a feminist and be pro-life. Fully 57% of women, that's almost six in ten Canadian women, believe this is possible. Contrasting with men, only 47% of men believe you can be a feminist and pro-life.

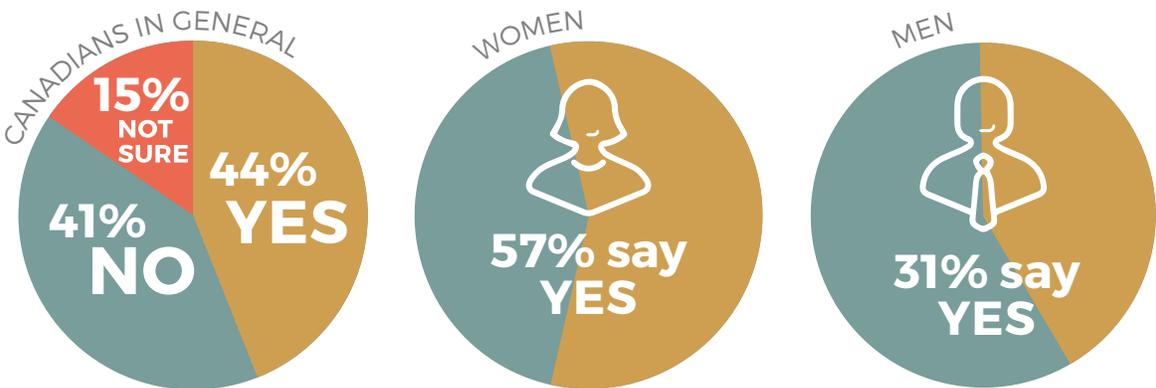


WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT

How do Canadians feel about women's prospects in Canada in 2017? We asked:

Are women held back in Canada today because they are women?

Canadians who think women are held back because they are women



Here, the results are divided. 44% of Canadians say yes, women are held back, 41% say no.

Yet looking at the gender divide, over half of women at 57% believe yes, women are held back for being women, while only 31% of men say the same.

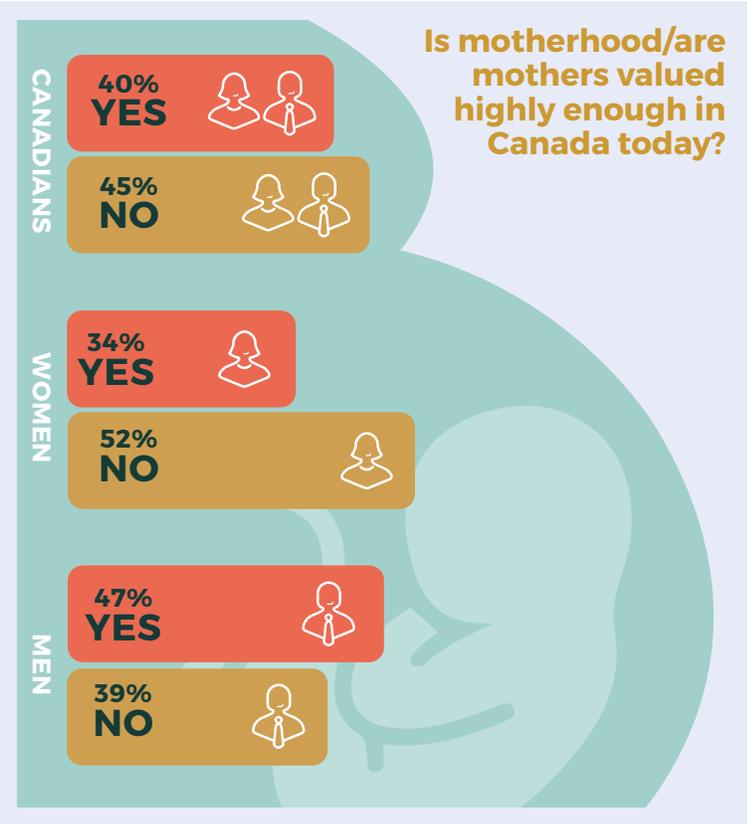
The percentage of Canadians both male and female who say yes, women are held back for being women is higher in British Columbia and Ontario, among our most populous provinces, both at 49%.

MOTHERHOOD

Having children is an aspirational goal for many, yet we have fewer and fewer children. The most recent statistics show our fertility rate is 1.6. The replacement rate is 2.1.

We asked:

Is motherhood/are mothers valued highly enough in Canada today?



More Canadians think motherhood is not valued highly enough than think it is.

45% of Canadians said motherhood is not valued highly enough in Canada today, contrasted with 40% who said it is. 52% of women said motherhood is *not* valued highly enough, which represents a difference from the 39% of men who said the same.

Only 34% of women believe motherhood is valued highly enough, as contrasted with 47% of men who said the same.

CONCLUSION

This survey provides a snapshot of how men and women are feeling about gender equality, feminism, and the value of motherhood.

The greatest consensus is around the idea that no one group or person can lay claim to representing women. Other questions point to a desire for a big tent feminism—for example, a majority of Canadians and Canadian women (and more women than men) believe it is possible to be pro-life and feminist. There is some consensus among women that motherhood is not valued as much as it should be and a majority of women believe that women are held back in Canada today simply for being women. All of these answers point to a need for greater discussion of these important issues facing Canadians—and Canadian women—today.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

From February 24th to February 26th 2017 an online survey was conducted among 1,025 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to education, age, gender and region (and in Quebec, language) and Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.