

**Prayer in Canadian Public Life
2015**

User Guide and Codebook

Angus Reid Institute

User Guide compiled by:
Data Services, Academic Services
Queen's University Library
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INTRODUCTION

[Angus Reid Institute](#) is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research organization.

In April 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled on the use of prayer at municipal council meetings. This survey looks at if Christian prayer should be allowed at public meetings, the personal importance of religion in everyday life, the Supreme Court's decision and whether God should be removed from the national anthem.

Queen's University Library (QUL) Data Services worked collaboratively with Angus Reid Institute to document and archive the dataset described here. QUL is grateful to Angus Reid Institute for their commitment to providing broad and open access to this dataset.

METADATA

Dataset

Number of Cases = 1504

Number of Variables = 44

Universe

Individuals 18 years and older who are members of the Angus Reid Forum panel.

Geography

Canada

Date of Collection

April 30 – May 3, 2015

Mode of data collection

Online survey

Sampling procedure

1504 Canadians adults were randomly selected from Angus Reid Forum panel members.

For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

Mode of data collection

Online survey

Characteristics of the data collection situation

This survey was conducted in conjunction with the *Disasters, 2015*, survey. The dataset was received by Data Services, Queen's University Library, as one dataset. Questions Q1-Q9 concerns the *Prayer in Canadian Public Life, 2015* survey and questions P1-P5 the *Disasters, 2015* survey.

Data processing notes

The combined dataset was split by Data Services, Queen's University Library, into two datasets. The demographic and weight variables are the same for each dataset. The variable numbering from the original combined dataset was maintained in each dataset.

QUESTIONNAIRE

As you may have heard, earlier this month the Supreme Court of Canada ruled on the basis of freedom of religion that public meetings should not begin with a prayer. This ruling will apply to public meetings across Canada such as municipal councils or library boards or airport authorities and the like. Many of Canada's major cities, including Vancouver and Toronto, have already eliminated prayer at the beginning of meetings.

P1. First of all, how interested are you yourself in this issue of whether or not prayer should be allowed at public meetings?

- Read/saw stories about it and discussed it with friends and family
- Saw a story or two, and had the odd conversation about it
- Just scanned/saw the headlines
- Not read/seen anything at all

P2. What is your overall reaction to the Supreme Court's decision that prayer should not be allowed at public meetings? Are you:

- Strongly in favour of the court's decision
- In favour
- Against
- Strongly against the court's decision

P3. Now, setting aside for now what the Supreme Court decided, let's look at this a little more specifically...

Thinking about your own city or municipal government's regular council meetings, please indicate how you personally feel about each of the following occurring at the beginning of those meetings?

[Keep this order]

- A Christian prayer referring to Jesus Christ
- A prayer to God without any reference to a specific religion
- Prayers from different religions, rotating from meeting to meeting
- A quick inspiring "pep talk" with no religious reference
- A moment of silence to "help council focus to do our best"
- Nothing – just start the meeting

Definitely unacceptable to start a public meeting that way
Usually unacceptable
Usually acceptable
Definitely acceptable to start a public meeting that way

P4. Canada's national anthem – Oh Canada – includes a reference to God in the last verse: "God keep our land, glorious and free..."? Suppose some people complain about that and it becomes a subject of debate. What would be your own view? Would you say...?

We should change the anthem to remove that reference to God
Maybe not ideal, but that's how it was written so just keep it
It is fine that Oh Canada includes a reference to God

P4 [French] – The French anthem does not contain references to "God" – but there are religious references, the French version of this question was about those religious references not a specific mention of "God".

L'hymne national du Canada – Ô Canada – possède des références religieuses : « ...porter la croix », « ... ta valeur de foi trempée ». Imaginons que certaines personnes portent plainte et que ces paroles deviennent le sujet d'un débat. Quelle serait votre opinion sur le sujet? Diriez-vous que... ?

Nous devrions changer les paroles de l'hymne pour enlever toute référence religieuse
Ce n'est pas idéal, mais c'est comme ça que l'hymne a été écrit, alors gardons-le intact
C'est correct que l'hymne Ô Canada ait des références religieuses

P5. Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with these statements.

[Randomize statements:]

This issue is a case of political correctness gone too far -- leave things like the anthem alone
Religion is important to me in my day to day life
Reducing the presence of religion in our public life is a sign of progress in our society

Strongly agree
Agree
Disagree
Strongly disagree

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Media Release - [Prayer in Canadian Public Life: a Nation Divided](#)

DOCUMENTATION

[Tables](#)

TOPIC INDEX

Demographic

arf_Gender	ARF - Gender
arf_Age_Rollup_fine	ARF - Age (7 groups)
Age	ARF - Age (3 groups)
age_gender	ARF - Age/Gender
edu	ARF - Education
ARF_Education_Level_DV	ARF - Education [derived variable]
arf_Marital_Status	ARF - Marital Status
arf_HHKids	ARF - Household Kids
arf_Working_Status	ARF - Working Status
arf_Home_Lang	ARF - Home language
arf_HH_SIZE_DV	ARF - Household size [derived variable]
arf_Home_Ownership	ARF - Home Ownership
income	ARF - Income
arf_HH_Income	ARF - Household Income

Geographic

arf_Region_Rollup	ARF - Region Rollup - Provinces
arf_Urban_Rural	ARF - Urban Rural
arf_First_DV	ARF - First letter of Forward Sortation Area (FSA) [derived variable]
arf_MACRO_REGION	ARF - Macro Region
region	ARF - Region (Manitoba/Saskatchewan grouped; Atlantic provinces grouped)
region7	ARF - Region (Atlantic provinces grouped)

Federal Vote

arf_Federal_Vote_2011	ARF - Federal Vote 2011
arf_Federal_PartyChoice_2011	ARF - Federal Party Choice 2011

Race

arf_Race_British	ARF - Race - British Isles (e.g., English, Irish, Scottish)
arf_Race_French	ARF - Race - French
arf_Race_OtherEur	ARF - Race - Other European (e.g., German, Russian, Italian, Norwegian)
arf_Race_Aboriginal	ARF - Race - Aboriginal (e.g., Inuit, Métis, North American Indian)
arf_Race_OtherNA	ARF - Race - Other North American (e.g., Canadian, American, Newfoundlander, Québécois)
arf_Race_Asian	ARF - Race - South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Goan, Sri Lankan)
arf_Race_Chinese	ARF - Race - Chinese
arf_Race_OtherAsian	ARF - Race - Other East and Southeast Asian (e.g., Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese)
arf_Race_Otherspecify_DV	ARF - Race - Other (includes Latin, Central, South America, African, Arab/West Asian, Oceania)
arf_Mosaic_identity_Born_in_CA	ARF - Mosaic identity - Born in Canada

Survey Questions

- P1 Interest in issue of prayer at public meetings
- P2 Reaction to Supreme Court decision
- P3_0 Personally feel about: Christian prayer referring to Jesus Christ
- P3_1 Personally feel about: Prayer to God without reference to specific religion
- P3_2 Personally feel about: Prayers from different religions
- P3_3 Personally feel about: Inspiring "pep talk" with no religious reference
- P3_4 Personally feel about: moment of silence
- P3_5 Personally feel about: Nothing
- P4 View on reference to God in national anthem
- P5_0 Agree/disagree: This is political correctness gone to far
- P5_1 Agree/disagree: Religion is important in day to day life
- P5_2 Agree/disagree: Reducing religion in public life is sign of progress

arf_Gender

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position	1		
	Label	ARF - Gender		
Valid Values	1	Male	745	49.5%
	2	Female	759	50.5%

arf_Age_Rollup_fine

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position	2		
	Label	ARF - Age (7 groups)		
Valid Values	1	Under 18	0	0.0%
	2	18 to 24	116	7.7%
	3	25 to 34	284	18.9%
	4	35 to 44	183	12.2%
	5	45 to 54	365	24.3%
	6	55 to 64	260	17.3%
	7	65+	296	19.7%

ARF_Education_Level_DV

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position	3		
	Label	ARF - Education [derived variable]		
Valid Values	1	Elementary/grade school/some high school	144	9.6%
	2	High school graduate	468	31.1%
	3	Some college / technical school	164	10.9%
	4	Completed college / technical school	319	21.2%
	5	Some university	88	5.9%
	6	University undergraduate degree	200	13.3%
	7	Some post-graduate school	33	2.2%
	8	Post-graduate degree	88	5.9%

Based on Education_Level (removed from Public file)

arf_HH_Income

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	4 ARF - Household Income		
Valid Values	1	Less than \$25,000	146	9.7%
	2	\$25,000 to less than \$35,000	127	8.4%
	3	\$35,000 to less than \$50,000	206	13.7%
	4	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	303	20.1%
	5	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	202	13.4%
	6	\$100,000 to less than \$125,000	127	8.4%
	7	\$125,000 or more	146	9.7%
	8	Don't know/prefer not to say	247	16.4%

arf_Race_British

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	5 ARF - Race - British Isles (e.g., English, Irish, Scottish)		
Valid Values	0	Not Selected	981	65.2%
	1	Selected	523	34.8%

arf_Race_French

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	6 ARF - Race - French		
Valid Values	0	Not Selected	1292	85.9%
	1	Selected	212	14.1%

arf_Race_OtherEur

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	7 ARF - Race - Other European (e.g., German, Russian, Italian, Norwegian)		
Valid Values	0	Not Selected	1124	74.7%
	1	Selected	380	25.3%

arf_Race_Aboriginal

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	8 ARF - Race - Aboriginal (e.g., Inuit, Métis, North American Indian)		
Valid Values	0	Not Selected	1422	94.5%
	1	Selected	82	5.5%

arf_Race_OtherNA

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	9 ARF - Race - Other North American (e.g., Canadian, American, Newfoundlander, Québécois)		
Valid Values	0	Not Selected	720	47.9%
	1	Selected	784	52.1%

arf_Race_Asian

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	10 ARF - Race - South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Goan, Sri Lankan)		
Valid Values	0	Not Selected	1482	98.5%
	1	Selected	22	1.5%

arf_Race_Chinese

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	11 ARF - Race - Chinese		
Valid Values	0	Not Selected	1449	96.3%
	1	Selected	55	3.7%

arf_Race_OtherAsian

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	12 ARF - Race - Other East and Southeast Asian (e.g., Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese)		
Valid Values	0	Not Selected	1483	98.6%
	1	Selected	21	1.4%

arf_Race_Otherspecify_DV

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	13 ARF - Race - Other (includes Caribbean, Latin, Central, South America, African, Arab/West Asian, Oceania, Jewish)		
Valid Values	0	Not Selected	1405	93.4%
	1	Selected	99	6.6%

Based on arf_Race_Otherspecify, arf_Race_Caribbean, arf_Race_CentralSA, arf_Race_African, arf_Race_Arab, arf_Race_Oceania, arf_Race_Jewish (removed from Public file)

arf_Region_Rollup

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	14 ARF - Region Rollup - Provinces		
Valid Values	1	BC	200	13.3%
	2	Alberta	152	10.1%
	3	SK	101	6.7%
	4	MB	100	6.6%
	5	ON	500	33.2%
	6	QC	351	23.3%
	7	Atlantic	100	6.6%
	8	Territories	0	0.0%

arf_HHKids

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	15 ARF - Household Kids		
Valid Values	1	Yes	425	28.3%
	2	No	1043	69.3%
Missing Values	System		36	2.4%

arf_Working_Status

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	16 ARF - Working Status		
Valid Values	1	Employed / self-employed full-time (30 or more hours per week)	651	43.3%
	2	Employed / self-employed part-time (fewer than 30 hours per week)	160	10.6%
	3	Full-time student	84	5.6%
	4	Homemaker	83	5.5%
	5	Retired	359	23.9%
	6	Currently looking for work	64	4.3%
	7	Not working for medical reasons	77	5.1%
	8	Other	26	1.7%

arf_Home_Lang

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	17 ARF - Home Language		
Valid Values	1	English	1157	76.9%
	2	French	302	20.1%
	3	Other	45	3.0%

arf_HH_SIZE_DV

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	18 ARF - Household size [derived variable]		
Valid Values	1	1 person in household	294	19.5%
	2	2 people in household	638	42.4%
	3	3 people in household	265	17.6%
	4	4 people in household	198	13.2%
	5	5 people in household	82	5.5%
	6	6 or more people in household	27	1.8%

Based on arf_HH_SIZE (removed from Public file)

arf_Home_Ownership

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	19 ARF - Home Ownership		
Valid Values	1	Own	1018	67.7%
	2	Rent	423	28.1%
	3	Other	63	4.2%

arf_Urban_Rural

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	20 ARF - Urban Rural		
Valid Values	1	Urban	1220	81.1%
	2	Rural	284	18.9%

arf_First_DV

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	21 ARF - First letter of Forward Sortation Area (FSA) [derived variable]		
Valid Values	1	A, B, C, E - Atlantic Provinces	100	6.6%
	2	G - Eastern Quebec	106	7.0%
	3	H - Metropolitan Montréal	77	5.1%
	4	J - Western Quebec	168	11.2%
	5	K - Eastern Ontario	91	6.1%
	6	L - Central Ontario	166	11.0%
	7	M - Metropolitan Toronto	110	7.3%
	8	N - Southwestern Ontario	101	6.7%
	9	P - Northern Ontario	32	2.1%
	10	R - Manitoba	100	6.6%
	11	S - Saskatchewan	101	6.7%
	12	T - Alberta	152	10.1%
	13	V - British Columbia	200	13.3%
	14	X - Northwest Territories and Nunavut	0	0.0%
	15	Y - Yukon	0	0.0%

Based on arf_First (removed from Public file)

arf_Marital_Status_DV

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	22 ARF - Marital Status [derived variable]		
Valid Values	1	Single, never married	371	24.7%
	2	Common law/Civil partnership	207	13.8%
	3	Married	682	45.3%
	4	Separated	33	2.2%
	5	Divorced	116	7.7%
	6	Widowed	67	4.5%
Missing Values	System		28	1.9%

Based on arf_Marital_Status (removed from Public file)

arf_MACRO_REGION

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position	23		
	Label	ARF - Macro Region		
Valid Values	1	Vancouver	97	6.4%
	2	BC Other	103	6.8%
	3	Calgary	53	3.5%
	4	Edmonton	55	3.7%
	5	AB Other	44	2.9%
	6	Regina / Saskatoon	56	3.7%
	7	SK Other	45	3.0%
	8	Winnipeg	65	4.3%
	9	MB Other	35	2.3%
	10	Toronto	183	12.2%
	11	Ottawa - Hull	0	0.0%
	12	ON Other	317	21.1%
	13	Montréal	145	9.6%
	14	Québec	50	3.3%
	15	QC Other	156	10.4%
	16	Halifax	17	1.1%
	17	ATL Other	83	5.5%
	18	North	0	0.0%

arf_Federal_Vote_2011

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position	24		
	Label	ARF - Federal Vote 2011		
Valid Values	1	Yes	1221	81.2%
	2	No	283	18.8%

arf_Federal_PartyChoice_2011

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position	25		
	Label	ARF - Federal PartyChoice 2011		
Valid Values	1	Conservative Party of Canada	460	30.6%
	2	Liberal Party of Canada	262	17.4%
	3	New Democratic Party	354	23.5%
	4	Green Party of Canada	53	3.5%
	5	Bloc Québécois	66	4.4%
	6	Other	26	1.7%
Missing Values	System		283	18.8%

arf_Mosaic_identity_Born_in_CA

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	26 Mosaic identity - born in Canada		
Valid Values	1	Yes	829	55.1%
	2	No	85	5.7%
Missing Values	System		590	39.2%

P1

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	27 Interest in issue of prayer at public meetings		
Valid Values	1	Read/saw stories about it and discussed it with friends and family	366	24.3%
	2	Saw a story or two, and had the odd conversation about it	369	24.5%
	3	Just scanned/saw the headlines	433	28.8%
	4	Not read/seen anything at all	336	22.3%

P2

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	28 Reaction to Supreme Court decision		
Valid Values	1	Strongly in favour of the court's decision	364	24.2%
	2	In favour	479	31.8%
	3	Against	379	25.2%
	4	Strongly against the court's decision	282	18.8%

P3_0

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	29 Personally feel about: Christian prayer referring to Jesus Christ		
Valid Values	1	Definitely unacceptable to start a public meeting that way	547	36.4%
	2	Usually unacceptable	334	22.2%
	3	Usually acceptable	405	26.9%
	4	Definitely acceptable to start a public meeting that way	218	14.5%

P3_1

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	30 Personally feel about: Prayer to God without reference to specific religion		
Valid Values	1	Definitely unacceptable to start a public meeting that way	424	28.2%
	2	Usually unacceptable	286	19.0%
	3	Usually acceptable	459	30.5%
	4	Definitely acceptable to start a public meeting that way	335	22.3%

P3_2

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	31 Personally feel about: Prayers from different religions		
Valid Values	1	Definitely unacceptable to start a public meeting that way	672	44.7%
	2	Usually unacceptable	397	26.4%
	3	Usually acceptable	322	21.4%
	4	Definitely acceptable to start a public meeting that way	113	7.5%

P3_3

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	32 Personally feel about: Inspiring 'pep talk' with no religious reference		
Valid Values	1	Definitely unacceptable to start a public meeting that way	298	19.8%
	2	Usually unacceptable	249	16.6%
	3	Usually acceptable	632	42.0%
	4	Definitely acceptable to start a public meeting that way	325	21.6%

P3_4

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	33 Personally feel about: moment of silence		
Valid Values	1	Definitely unacceptable to start a public meeting that way	225	15.0%
	2	Usually unacceptable	196	13.0%
	3	Usually acceptable	641	42.6%
	4	Definitely acceptable to start a public meeting that way	442	29.4%

P3_5

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position	34		
	Label	Personally feel about: Nothing		
Valid Values	1	Definitely unacceptable to start a public meeting that way	222	14.8%
	2	Usually unacceptable	164	10.9%
	3	Usually acceptable	428	28.5%
	4	Definitely acceptable to start a public meeting that way	690	45.9%

P4

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position	35		
	Label	View on reference to God in national anthem		
Valid Values	1	We should change the anthem to remove that reference to God	107	7.1%
	2	Maybe not ideal, but that's how it was written so just keep it	502	33.4%
	3	It is fine that Oh Canada includes a reference to God	895	59.5%

P5_0

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position	36		
	Label	Agree/disagree: This is political correctness gone to far		
Valid Values	1	Strongly agree	826	54.9%
	2	Agree	457	30.4%
	3	Disagree	138	9.2%
	4	Strongly disagree	83	5.5%

P5_1

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position	37		
	Label	Agree/disagree: Religion is important in day to day life		
Valid Values	1	Strongly agree	297	19.7%
	2	Agree	440	29.3%
	3	Disagree	384	25.5%
	4	Strongly disagree	383	25.5%

P5_2

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	38 Agree/disagree: Reducing religion in public life is sign of progress		
Valid Values	1	Strongly agree	264	17.6%
	2	Agree	391	26.0%
	3	Disagree	440	29.3%
	4	Strongly disagree	409	27.2%

Age

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	39 Age		
Valid Values	1	18-34	400	26.6%
	2	35-54	548	36.4%
	3	55+	556	37.0%

age_gender

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	40 ARF - Age/Gender		
Valid Values	1	Male 18-34	211	14.0%
	2	Male 35-54	274	18.2%
	3	Male 55+	260	17.3%
	4	Female 18-34	189	12.6%
	5	Female 35-54	274	18.2%
	6	Female 55+	296	19.7%

edu

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	41 ARF - Education		
Valid Values	1	HS or less	612	40.7%
	2	College/ Tech school	483	32.1%
	3	Univ+	409	27.2%

income

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	42 ARF - Income		
Valid Values	1	<\$50K	479	31.8%
	2	\$50-99K	505	33.6%
	3	\$100K+	273	18.2%
	4	DK/REF	247	16.4%

region

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	43 ARF - Region (Manitoba/Saskatchewan grouped; Atlantic provinces grouped)		
Valid Values	1	BC	200	13.3%
	2	AB	152	10.1%
	3	MB/SK	201	13.4%
	4	ON	500	33.2%
	5	PQ	351	23.3%
	6	ATL	100	6.6%

region7

		Value	Count	Percent
Standard Attributes	Position Label	44 ARF - Region (Atlantic provinces grouped)		
Valid Values	1	BC	200	13.3%
	2	AB	152	10.1%
	3	SK	101	6.7%
	4	MB	100	6.6%
	5	ON	500	33.2%
	6	PQ	351	23.3%
	7	ATL	100	6.6%

CITATION

The publishing of analysis and results from research using this data is permitted in research communications such as scholarly papers, journals and the like. Authors of such communications are required to cite the source of the data and to indicate that results or views expressed are those of the author/authorized user.

This survey data should be referenced as follows:

Angus Reid Institute. *Prayer in Canadian Public Life, 2015*. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada: Angus Reid Institute [producer]. Data Services, Queen's University [distributor].

Any questions about the data set or its use should be directed to:

Data Services, Academic Services

Queen's University Library

Kingston ON

Email: academic.services@queensu.ca

<http://library.queensu.ca/search/data-statistics>