

# Muslims and Multiculturalism in Canada

Presentation of Landmark Public Opinion Research

April 2007

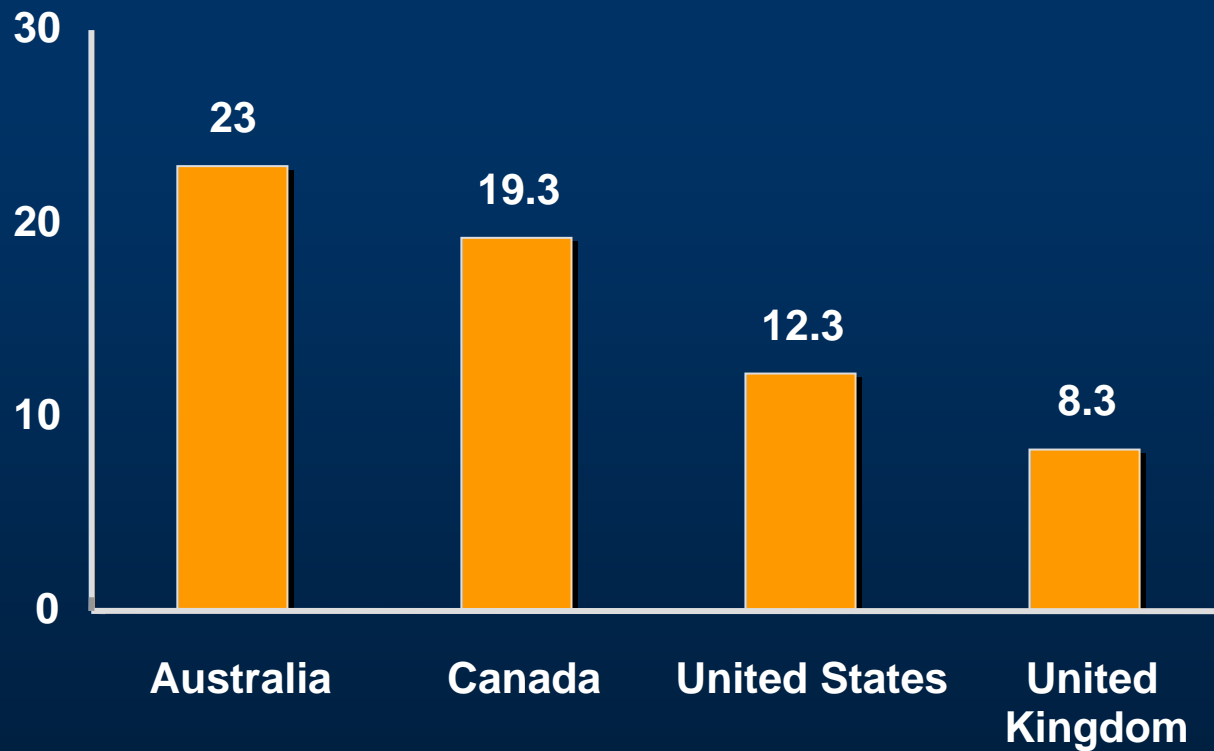


**ENVIRONICS**

# DEMOGRAPHICS

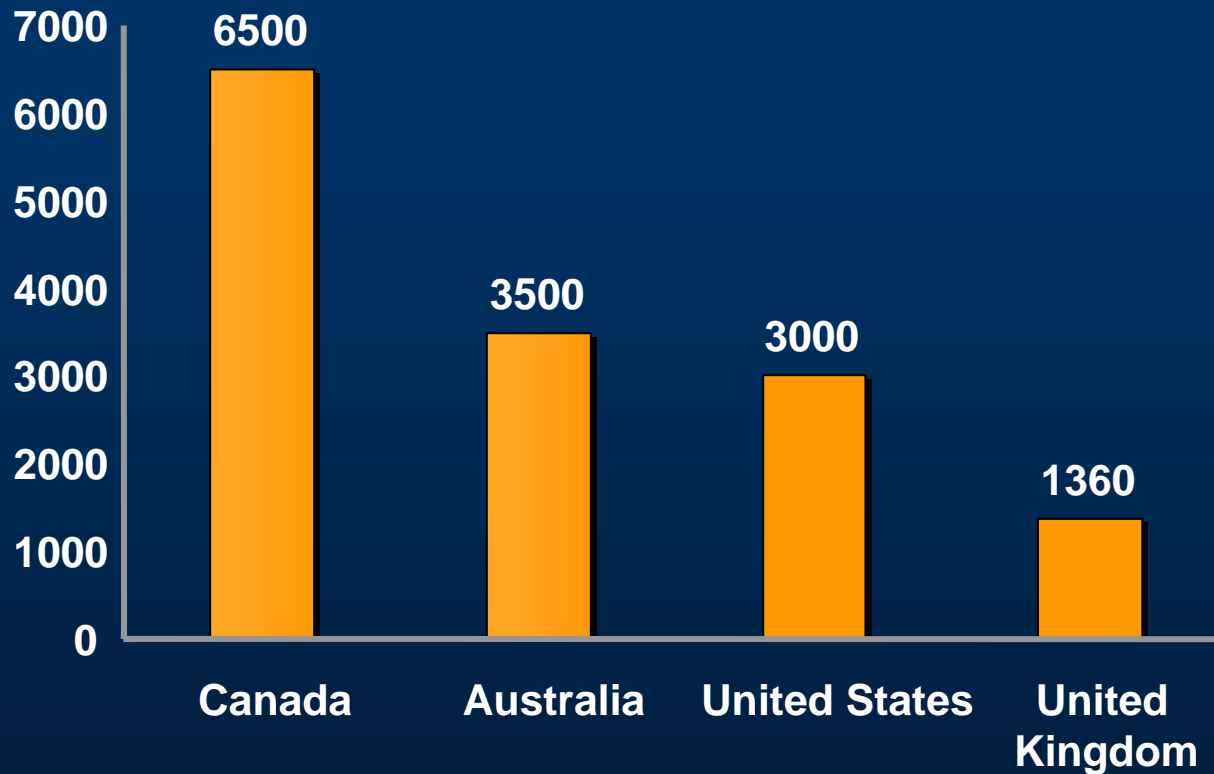
# Percent of population foreign-born

Source: OECD 2003



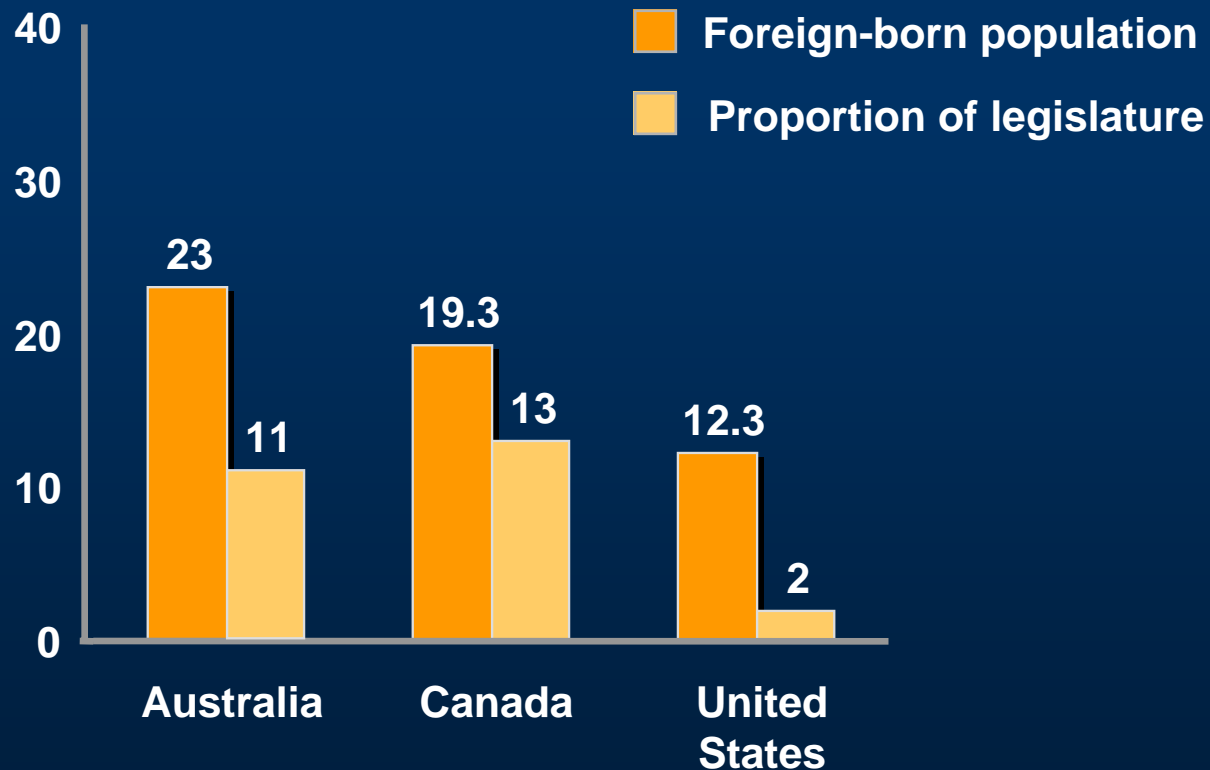
# New citizens annually per million population

Source: OECD 2000



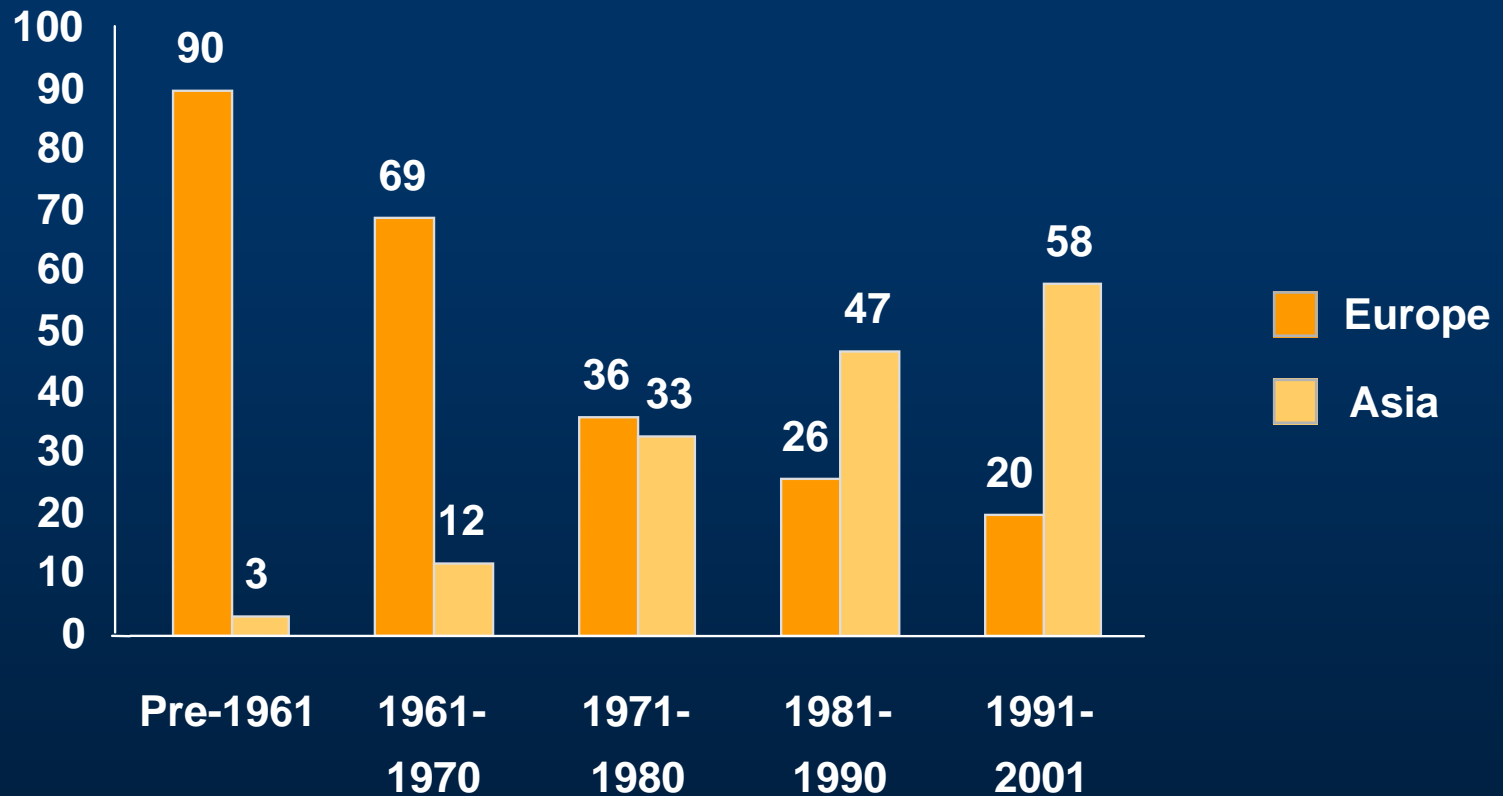
# Percent of foreign-born legislators, against proportion of population foreign-born

Source: OECD 2003



# Proportion of immigrants to Canada born in Europe and Asia - by period of immigration

Source: OECD 2003



# Immigrant groups representing more than 1% of cities' populations: nations of origin

## LONDON

(27.5%)\*

INDIA  
IRELAND  
BANGLADESH  
JAMAICA

## SYDNEY

(31.2%)\*

UNITED KINGDOM  
CHINA (INCL. HONG KONG)  
NEW ZEALAND  
VIETNAM  
LEBANON  
ITALY  
PHILIPPINES

## TORONTO

(44.99%)\*

CHINA  
INDIA  
UNITED KINGDOM  
ITALY  
PHILIPPINES  
JAMAICA  
PORTUGAL  
POLAND  
SRI LANKA  
GUYANA  
FORMER USSR  
VIETNAM  
PAKISTAN  
FORMER YUGOSLOVIA

## MIAMI

(50.94%)\*

CUBA  
OTHER LATIN AMERICA  
HAITI  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
JAMAICA

*Sources:*

*National Statistics, 2001 Census*

*Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural New South Wales, 2001;*

*2001 Census (Statcan);*

*2000 Census (Census Bureau);*

\* % of foreign-born

# Muslims in the West

	# of Muslims (millions)	% of Total Population
<b>France</b>	<b>5 - 6</b>	<b>8 - 9.6%</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>Spain</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

Sources: **France:** Total population - National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies, 2004 figures; Muslim population - French government estimate. **Germany:** Total population - Federal Statistical Office, 2004 figures; Muslim population - Federal Ministry of the Interior estimate. **Spain:** Total population - Spanish National Institute of Statistics, 2005 figures; Muslim population - US State Department. **United Kingdom:** Total population - Office for National Statistics, 2001 figures; Muslim population - Office for National Statistics, 2001 figures. **Canada:** Statistics Canada, 2006.



# Canadian Muslim Population Over Time

	# of Muslims in Canada	% of Canadian Population
1871	13	--
1931	645	--
1971	33,370	0.1%
1981	98,160	0.3%
1991	253,300	0.9%
2001	579,600	1.8%
2006	842,200	2.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census

# CANADIAN PUBLIC ATTITUDES

# Identity and Current Problems

# Basis of pride in being Canadian

Top 10 reasons 1994 - 2006

	1994	2003	2006
Free country/freedom/democracy	31	28	27
Multiculturalism	3	6	11
Humanitarian/caring people	9	13	9
Peaceful country	7	5	6
Beauty of the land	7	4	4
Respected by other countries	4	3	4
Quality of life	5	6	3
Born here/my country	5	4	2

# Most important problem facing Canadians today

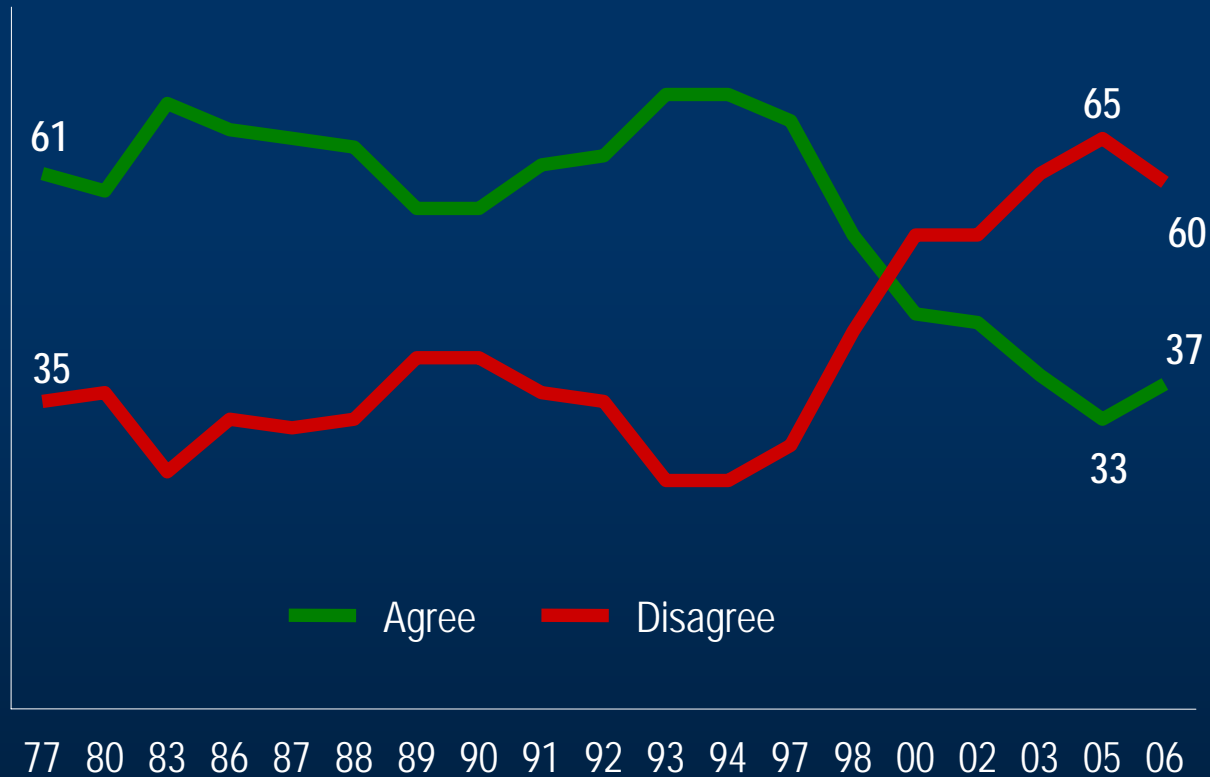
Top mentions    December 2006



# Attitudes toward immigration

# Immigration levels are too high

1977 - 2006



# Economic impact of immigration is positive

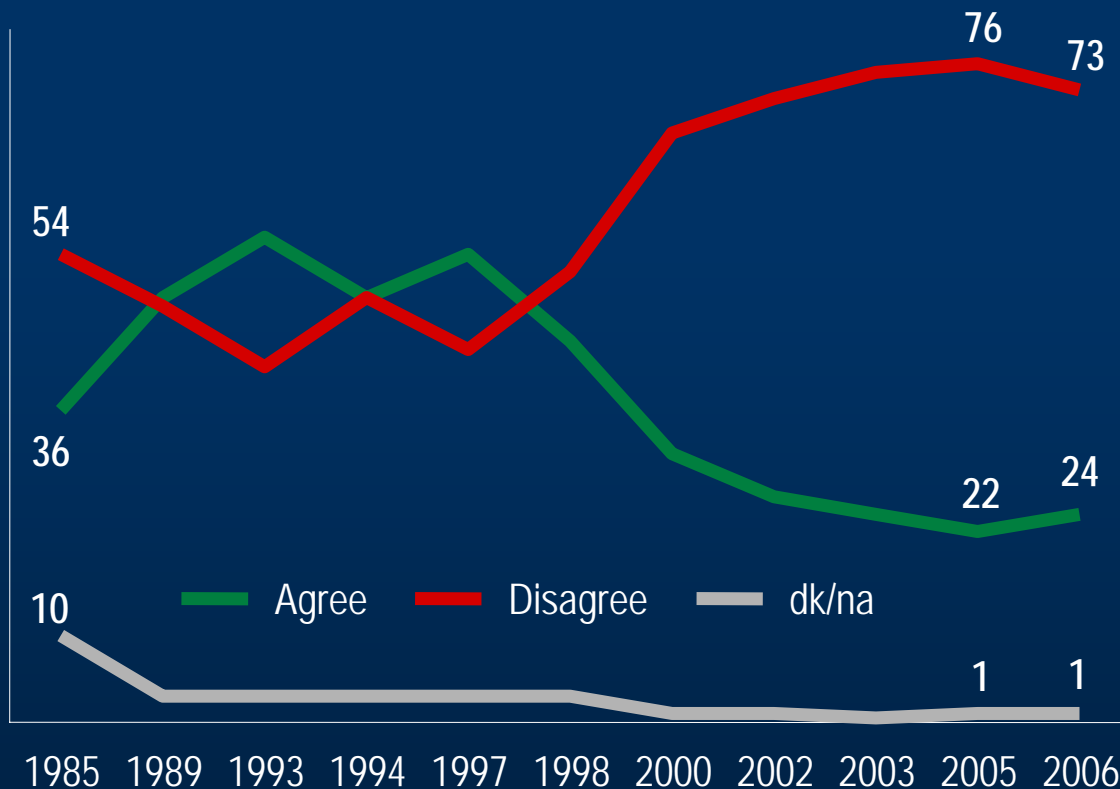
1993 - 2006





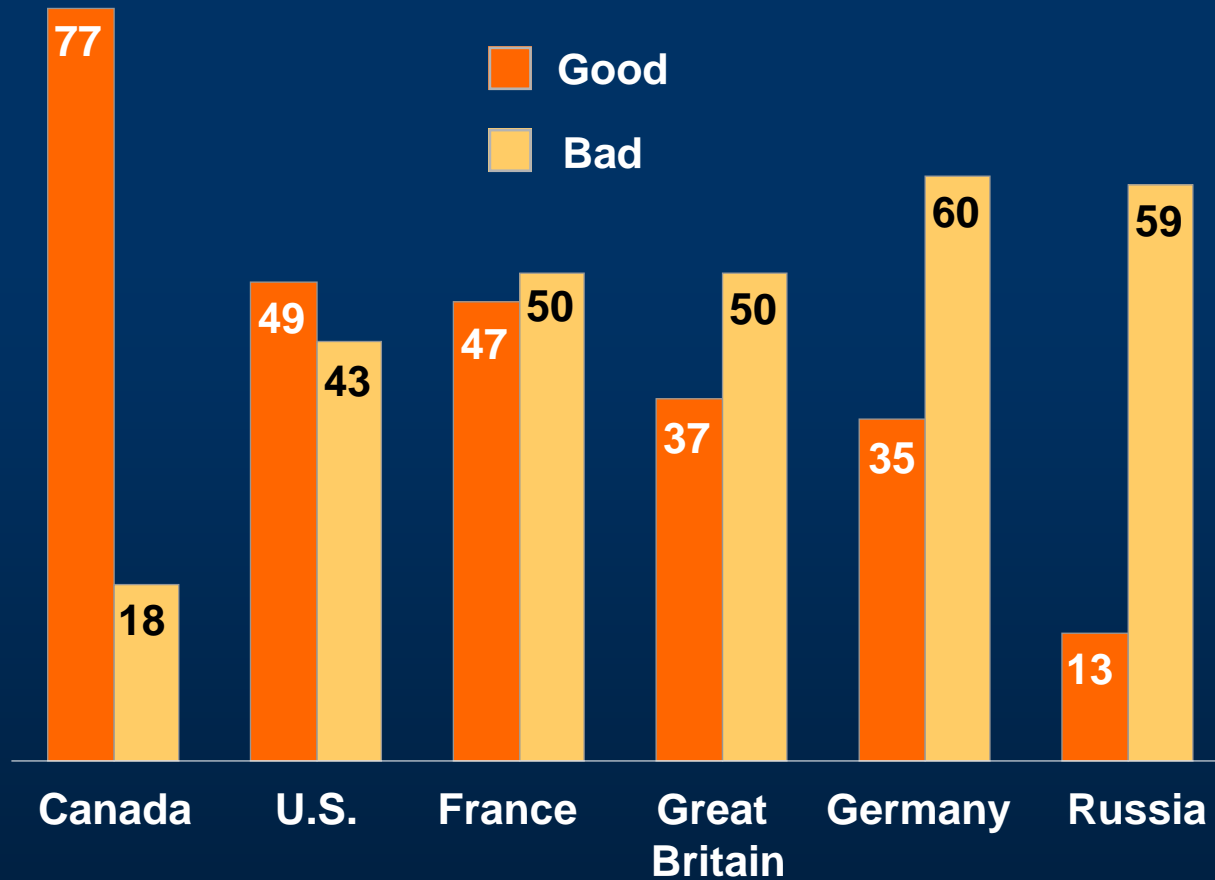
# Immigration takes away Canadian jobs

1985 - 2006



# Influence of immigrants

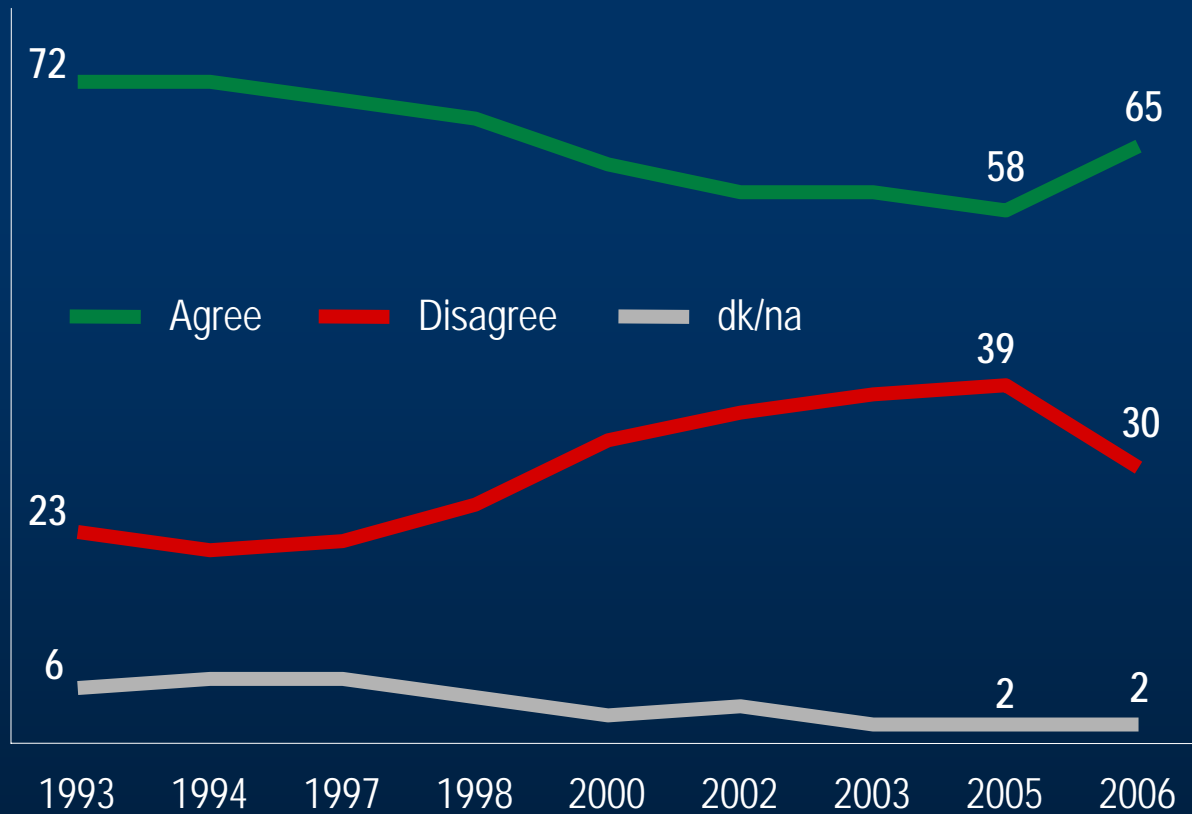
International data 2002



Source: Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, December 2002. (n=38,000)

# Too many immigrants do not adopt Canadian values

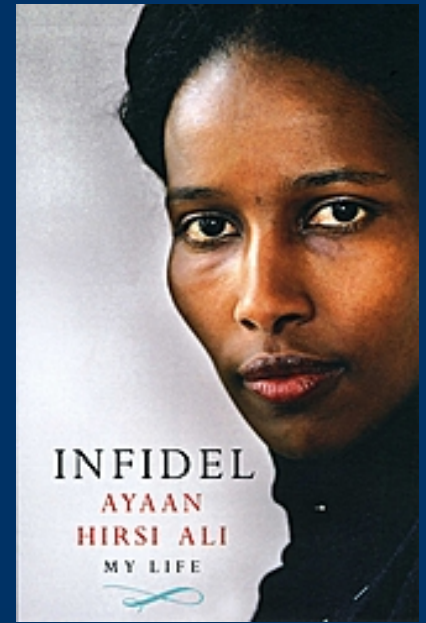
1993 - 2006



# LIFTING THE VEIL

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# MUSLIMS IN CANADA



# Focus Canada December 2006 survey

## GENERAL POPULATION

- Survey of 2,045 adult Canadians
- Conducted December 8 to 30, 2006
- Interviews in English and French
- National results accurate to within  $\pm 2.2$  percentage points  
*(in 19 out of 20 samples)*

## MUSLIMS IN CANADA

- Survey of 500 adult Muslims
- Conducted November 30, 2006, to January 5, 2007
- Interviews in English, French, Arabic, and Urdu
- National results accurate to within  $\pm 4.4$  percentage points  
*(in 19 out of 20 samples)*

# Muslim Demographics

# Region of residence

## Canadian Muslims

	Unweighted Sample	Weighted Sample	%
Ontario	270	301	60
West	85	89	18
Quebec	130	107	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Country of origin

91% foreign-born (from more than 30 countries)

## Top three countries of origin

### Quebec:

Morocco (22%)

Algeria (16%)

Other Africa (8%)

### Ontario:

Pakistan (21%)

Canada (8%)

Bangladesh/Somalia (6% each)

### West:

Iran (22%)

Canada (12%)

Afghanistan (11%)

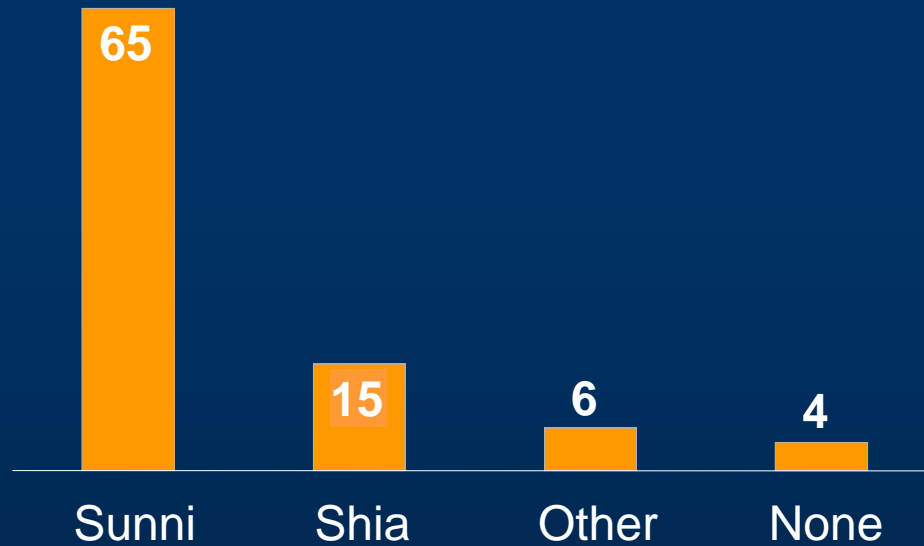
# Foreign-born length of residency

## Canadian Muslims



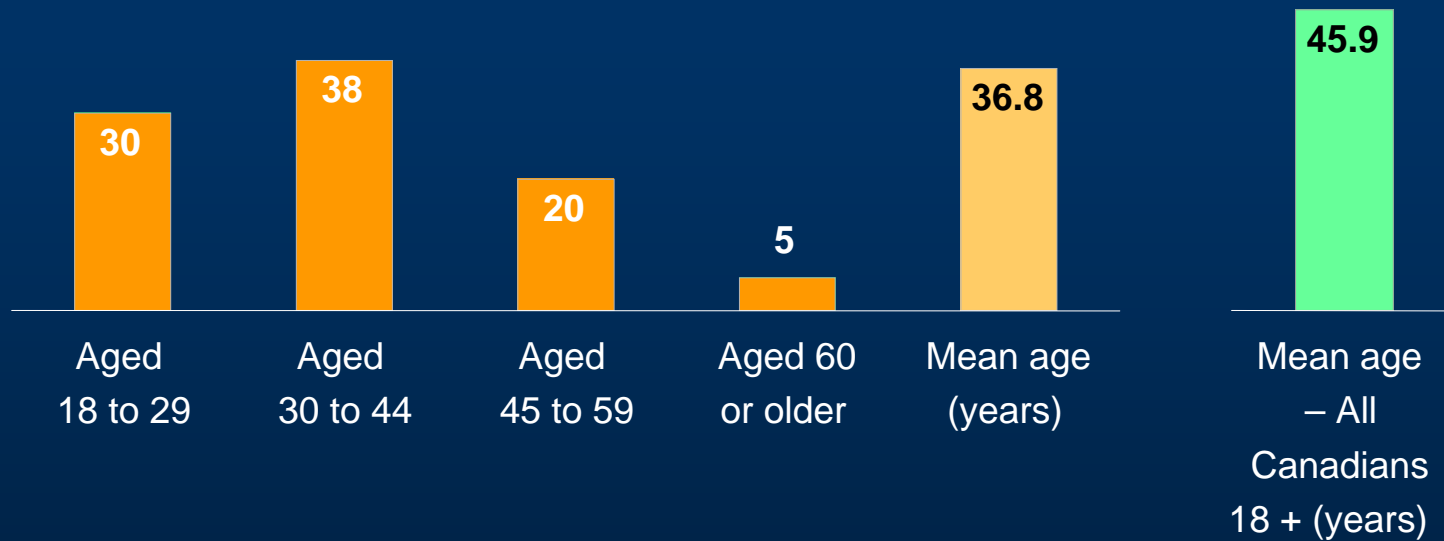
# Muslim Sect

## Canadian Muslims



# Age

## Canadian Muslims



# Education

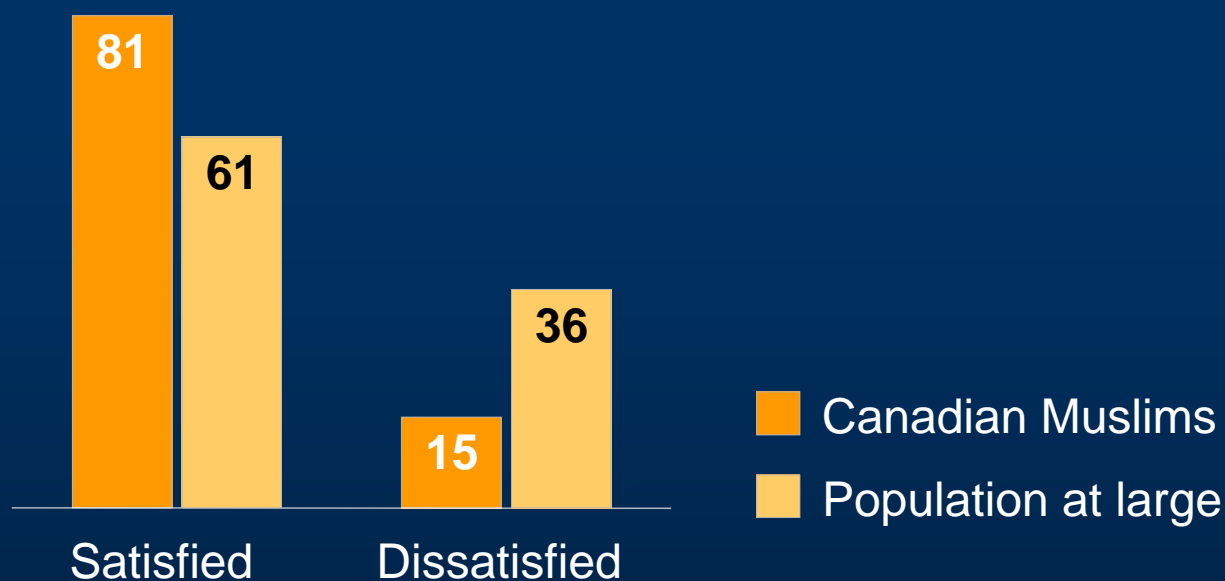
## Canadian Muslims and population at large

	Cdn Muslims (18+)	Gender		Age			Canadian Population (18+)
		Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 44	45 or older	
Some high school or less	6	4	5	7	3	6	10
Completed high school	13	13	14	18	11	11	19
College/trade school	23	16	30	29	22	20	27
Some university	11	12	11	26	4	6	10
Completed university (A)	23	24	21	9	29	27	21
Post-grad degree/ professional school (B)	22	28	16	11	30	29	12
<b>One/more degrees (A + B)</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>33</b>

# Muslim Experience in Canada

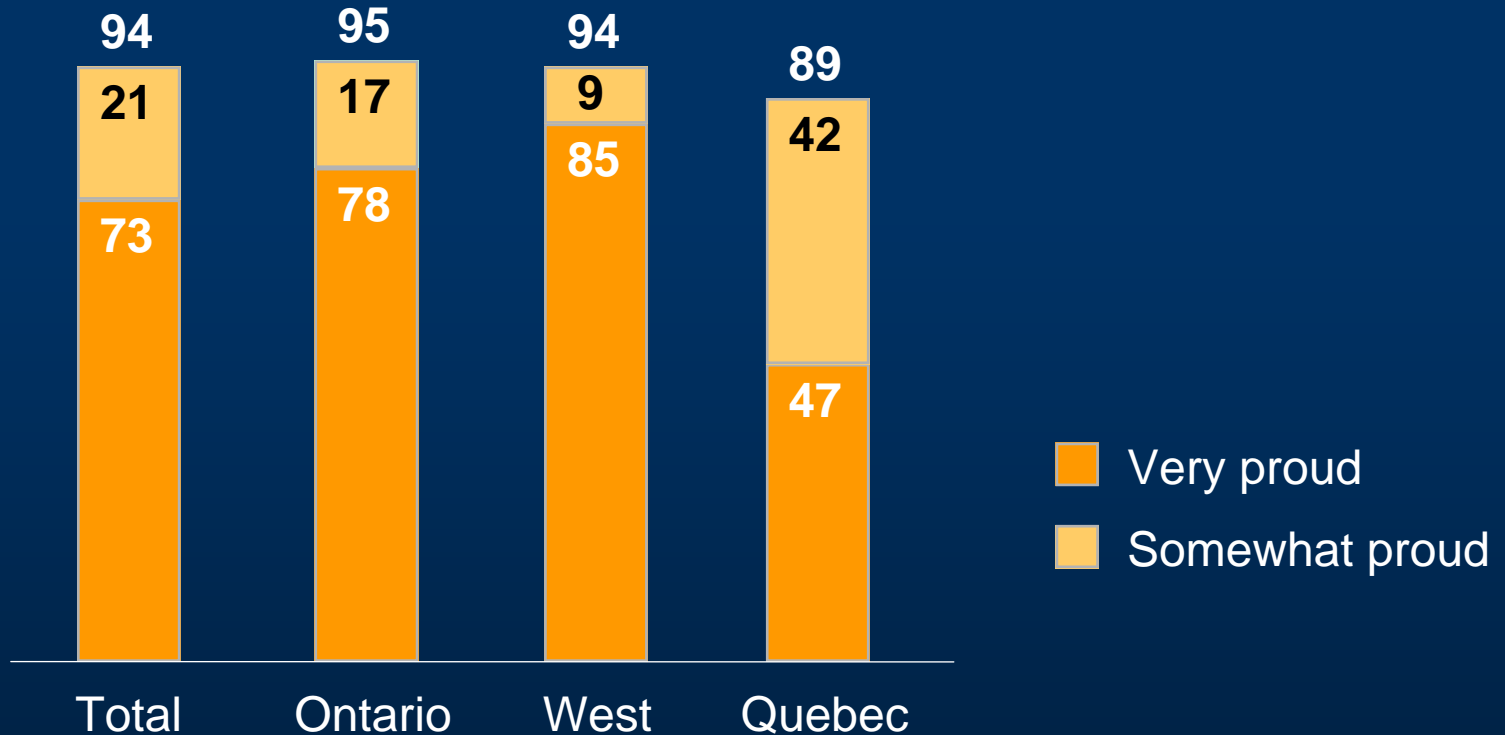
Muslims are satisfied with the way things are going in Canada, even more so than the population at large

Satisfaction with direction of country today



Muslims are proud of being Canadian,  
although with less enthusiasm in Quebec

Canadian Muslims – By Region





# Muslims are proud of Canadian democracy, freedom, multiculturalism, peace and humanitarianism

## Greatest source of pride in Canada – Top Mentions

### Canadian Muslims



# What Muslims like least about Canada: Cold weather and discrimination

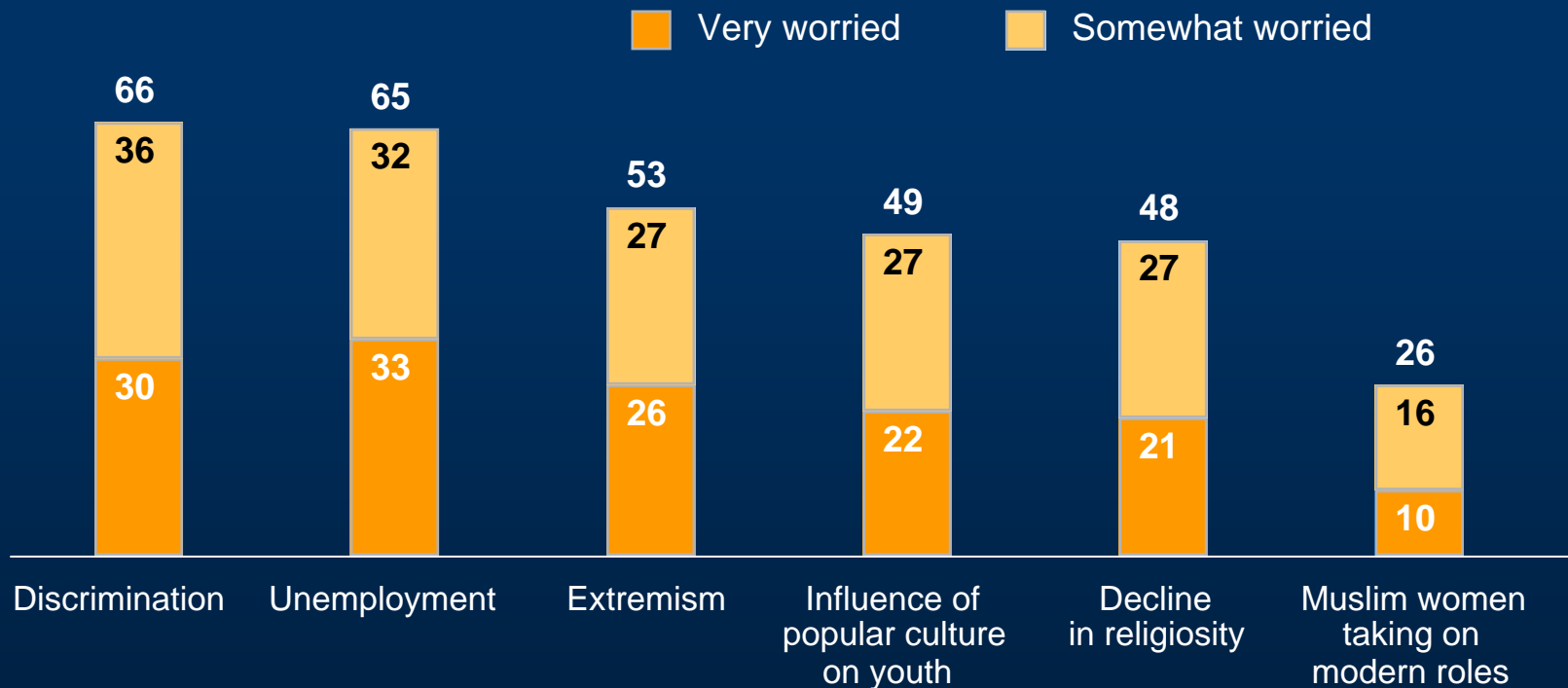
## Like least about Canada – Top Mentions Canadian Muslims



# Muslims are most worried about discrimination and unemployment; Least worried about Muslim women taking on modern roles

## Greatest worries about Muslims living in Canada

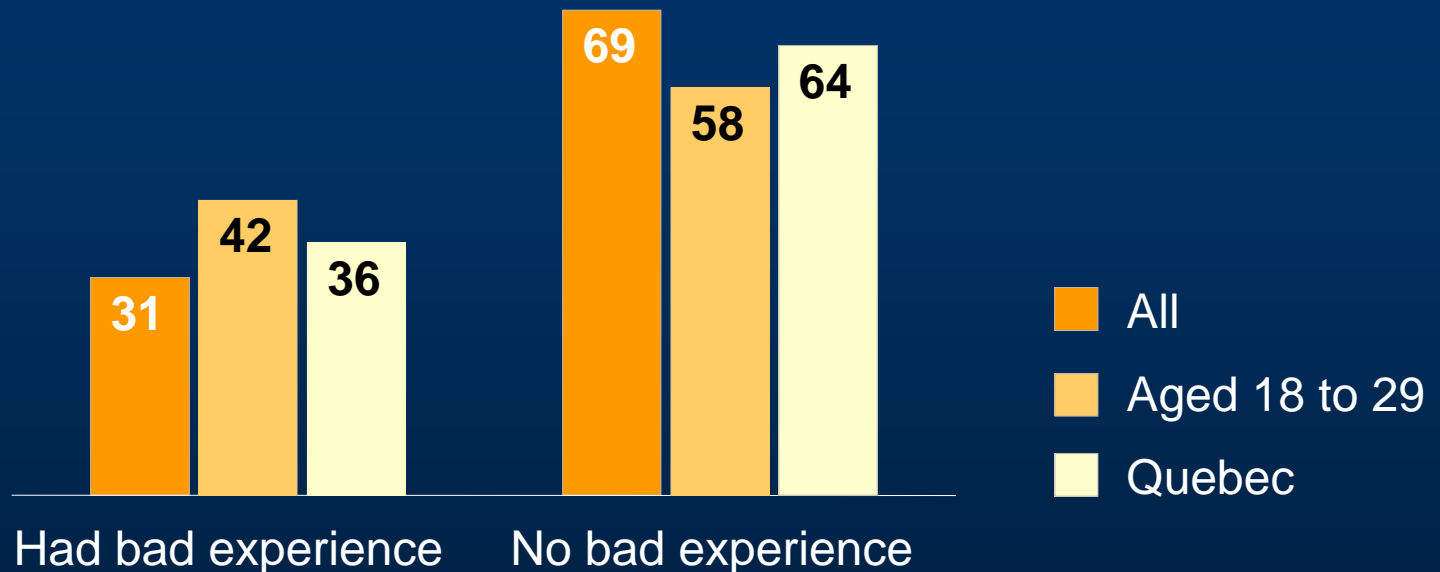
### Canadian Muslims



# The majority of Muslims have not personally experienced discrimination

Have had bad experience due to race/ethnicity/religion in past two years

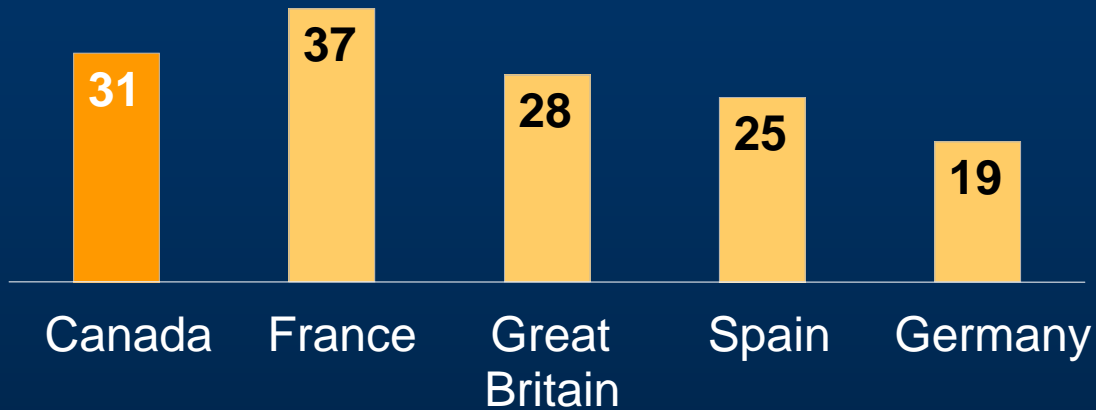
Canadian Muslims



But this is higher than in most European countries

Have had recent bad experience due to race/ethnicity/religion in past two years

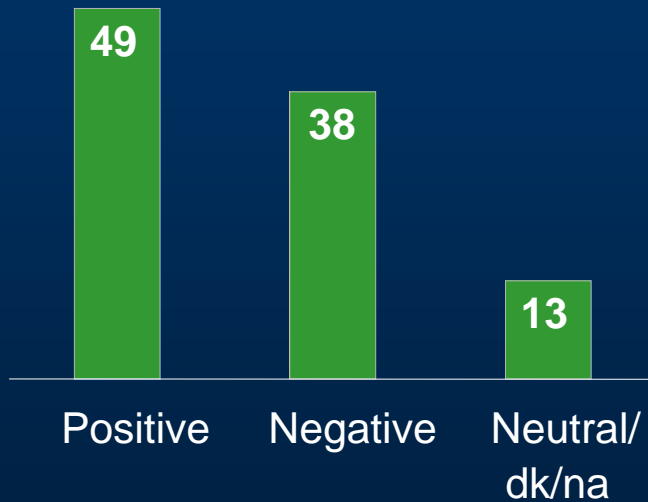
Muslims in Canada and Europe



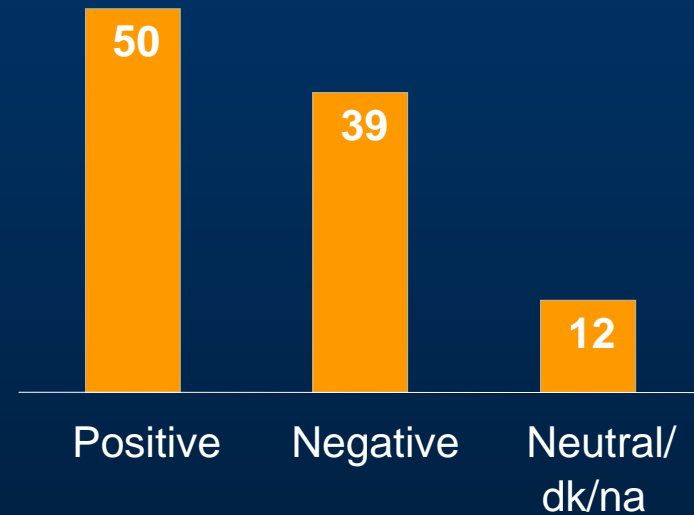
# Half of Muslims think Canadians have a positive impression of Islam; This reflects the Canadian consensus

## Perception of Canadians' impression of Islam

How Muslims think Canadians view Islam



How Canadians view Islam



# The majority of urban Canadians have contact with Muslims

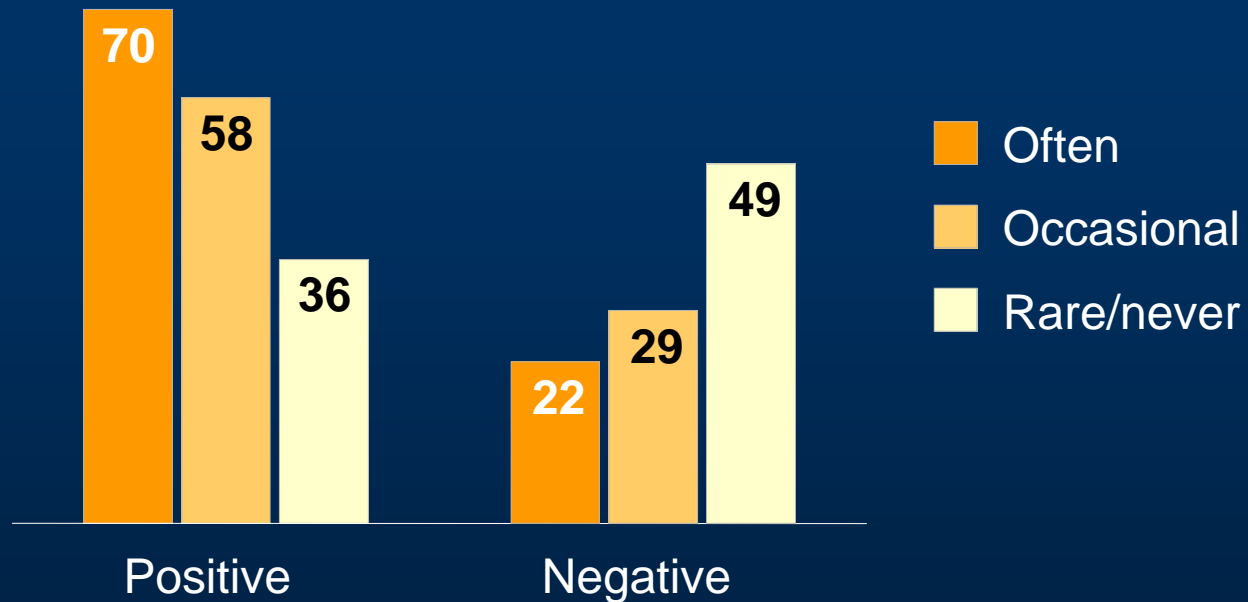
## Frequency of contact with Muslims

	COMMUNITY SIZE				Toronto	Montreal	Vancouver
	1M+	100K – 1M	5K – 100K	>5K			
Never	17	25	37	49	13	23	19
Rarely	18	22	29	25	17	22	15
Occasionally	30	29	24	19	32	25	33
Often	34	22	9	5	38	29	32
<b>Often/Occasionally</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>

# Contact breeds goodwill

Impression of religion of Islam

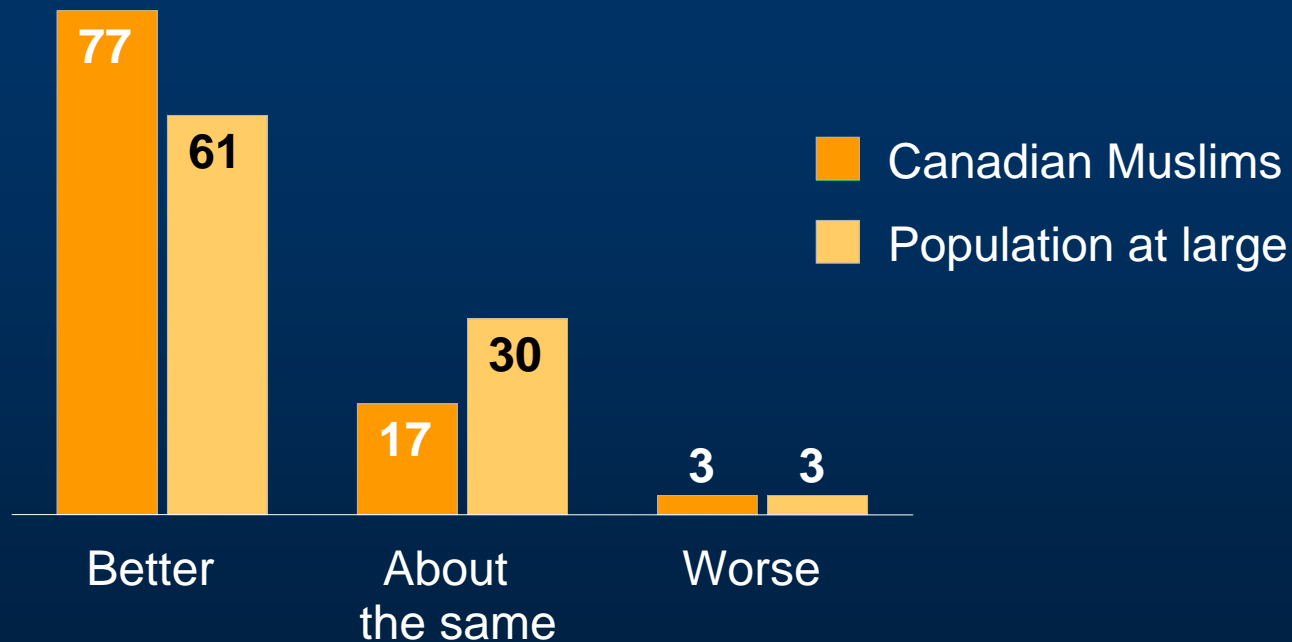
By frequency of contact with Muslims





Muslims are even more likely than population at large to think Muslims are treated better in Canada than elsewhere in the West

Treatment of Muslims in Canada vs. in other western countries



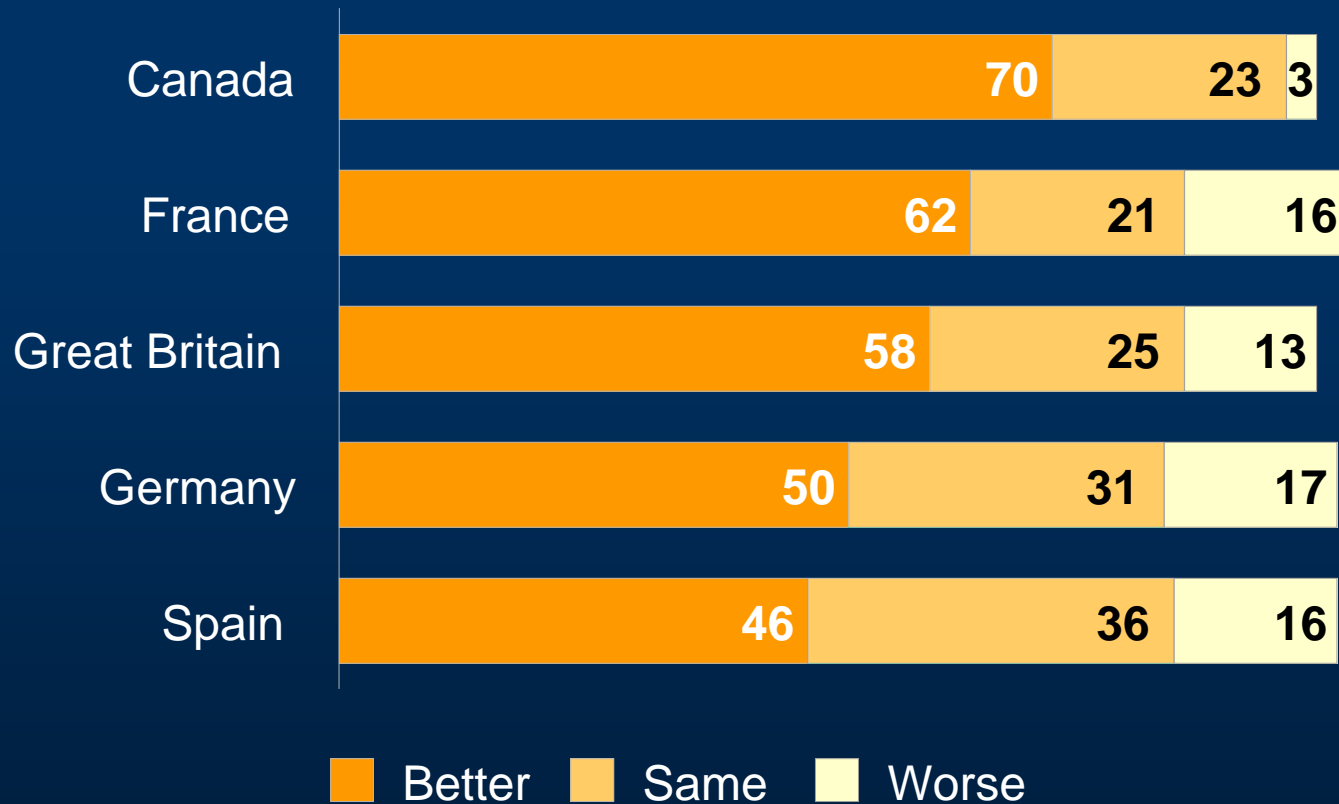
# Majority of Muslims think the quality of life for Muslim women is better in Canada than in most Muslim countries

## Quality of life for Muslim women in Canada vs. Muslim countries Canadian Muslims



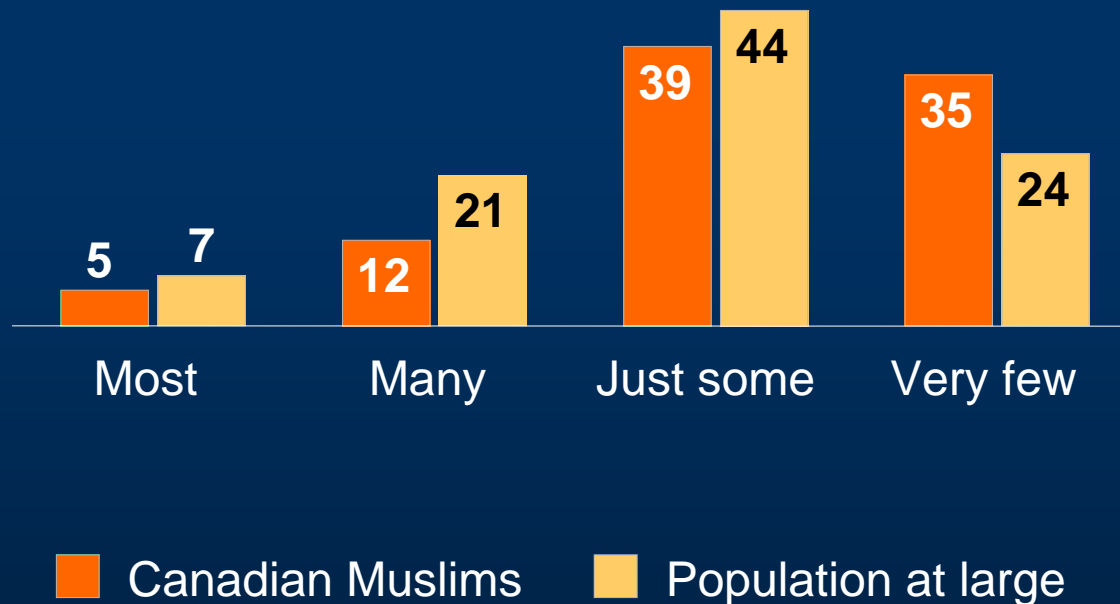
# Canadian Muslims are the most likely to believe their country is the place to be if you are a Muslim woman

Quality of life for Muslim women in Canada/Europe vs. Muslim countries  
Muslims in Canada and Europe



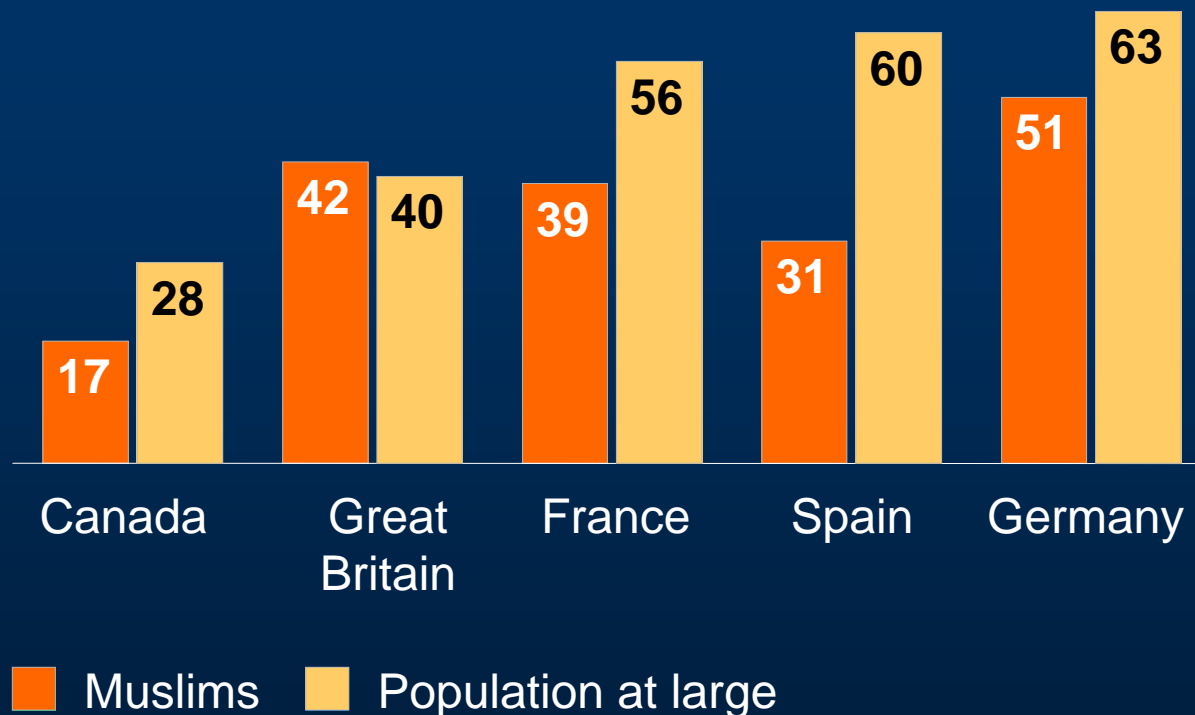
# Muslims and the population at large do not feel Canadians are hostile to Muslims

How many Canadians are hostile to Muslims?



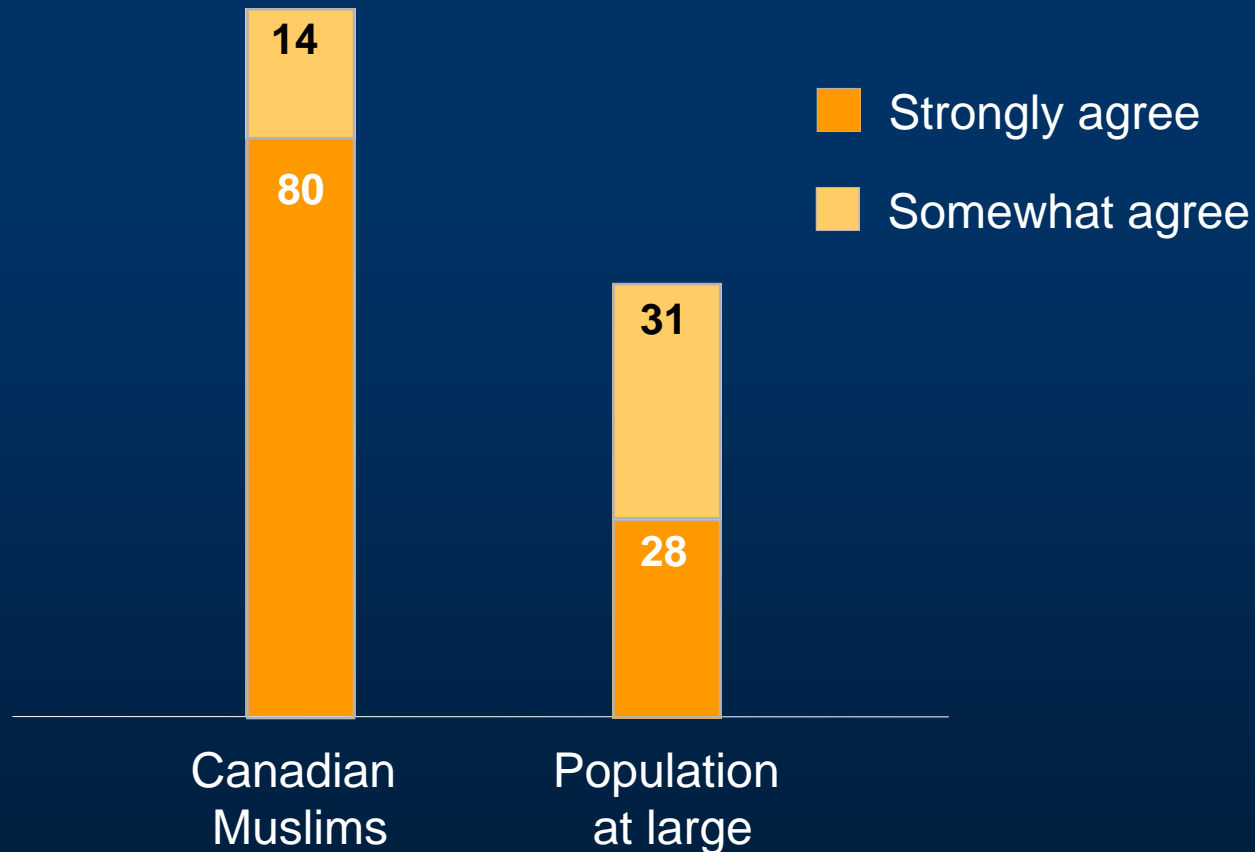
Canadian Muslims and other Canadians are less likely than Europeans to perceive hostility to Muslims in their country

Think many/most Canadians/Europeans are hostile to Muslims  
Canada and Europe



# Religion is very important to Muslims, but less so to other Canadians

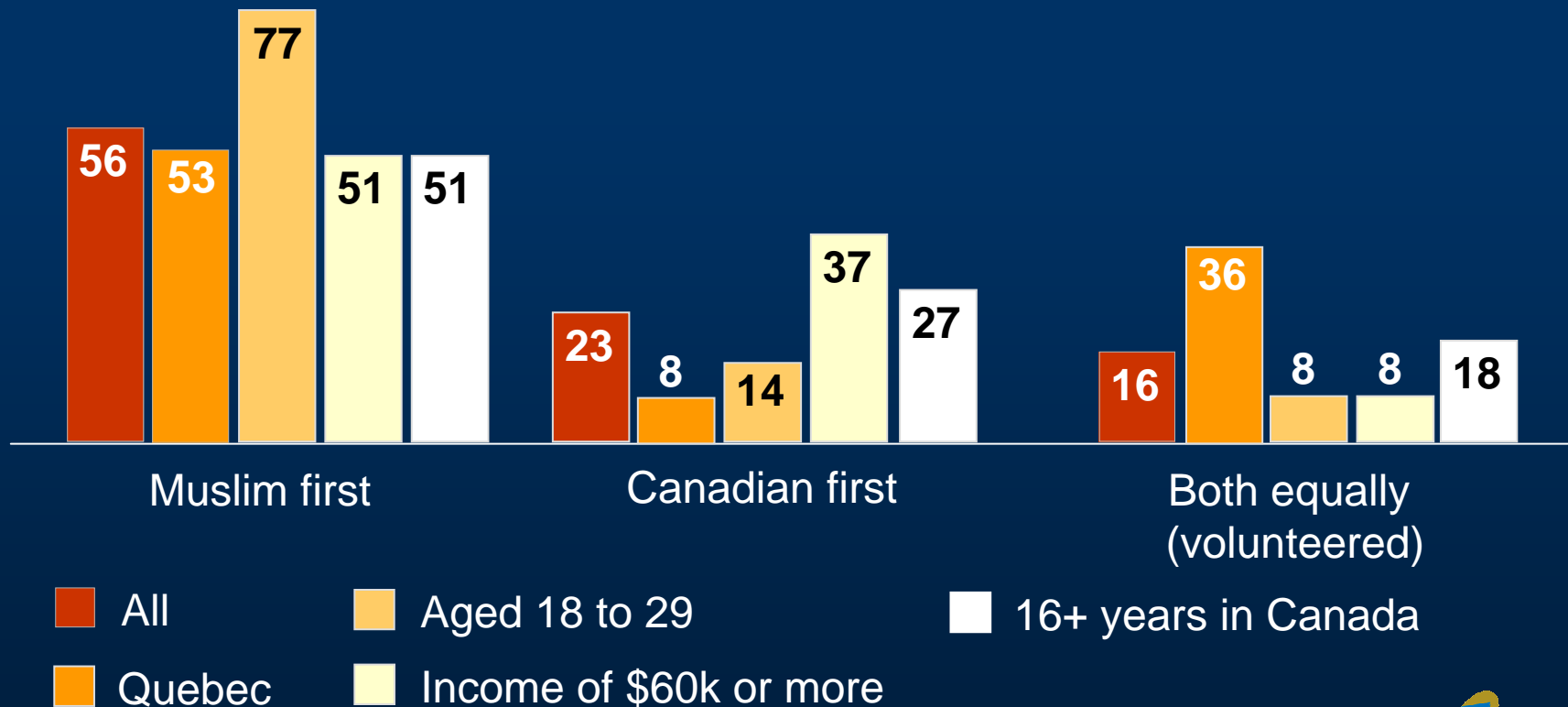
My religious beliefs are very important to me



# When it comes to identity, Muslims think of themselves as Muslim first, Canadians second

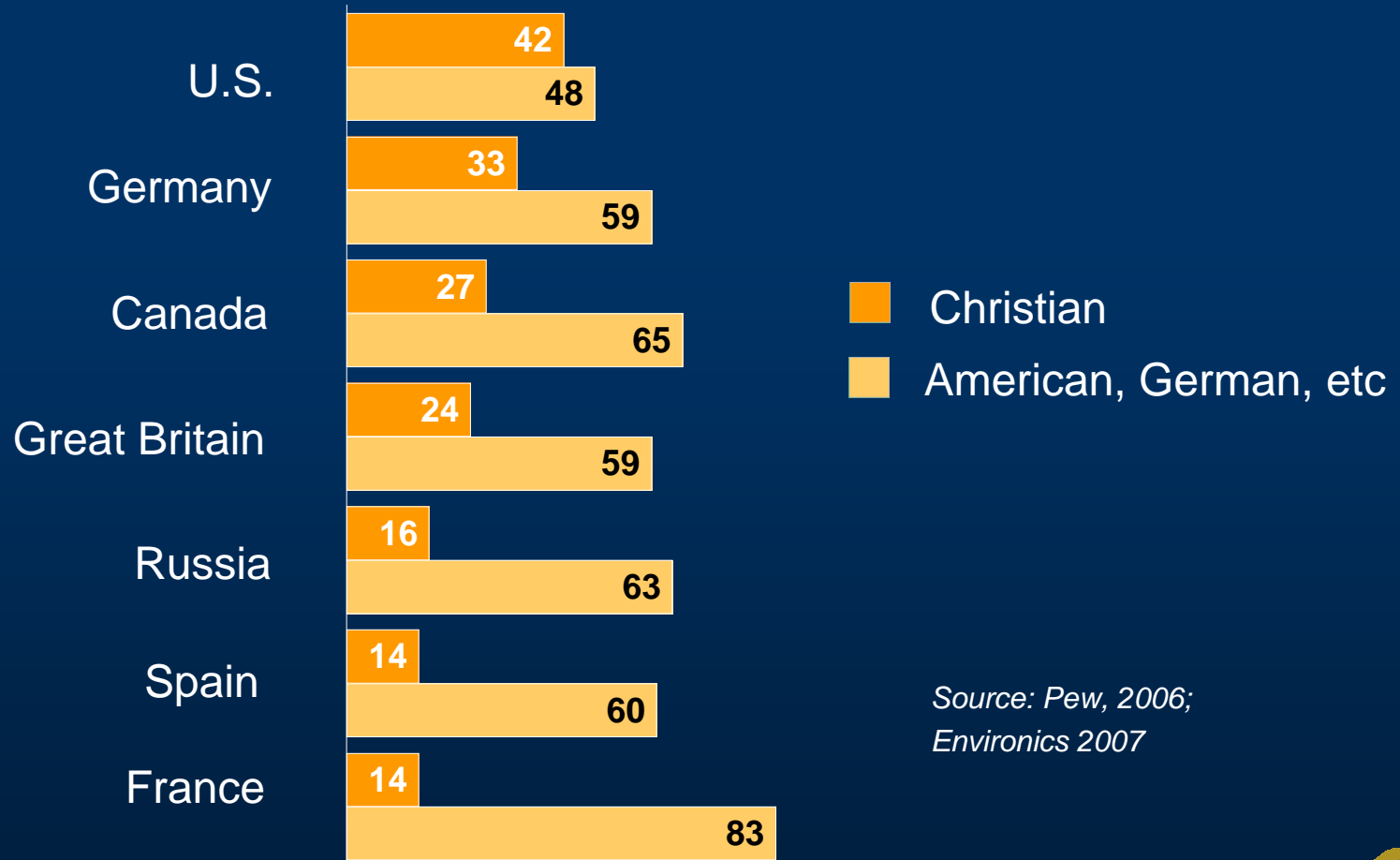
Think of self as Muslim or Canadian first?

Canadian Muslims



# By comparison, one in four Canadians consider themselves to be more Christian than Canadian

What do you consider yourself as first?

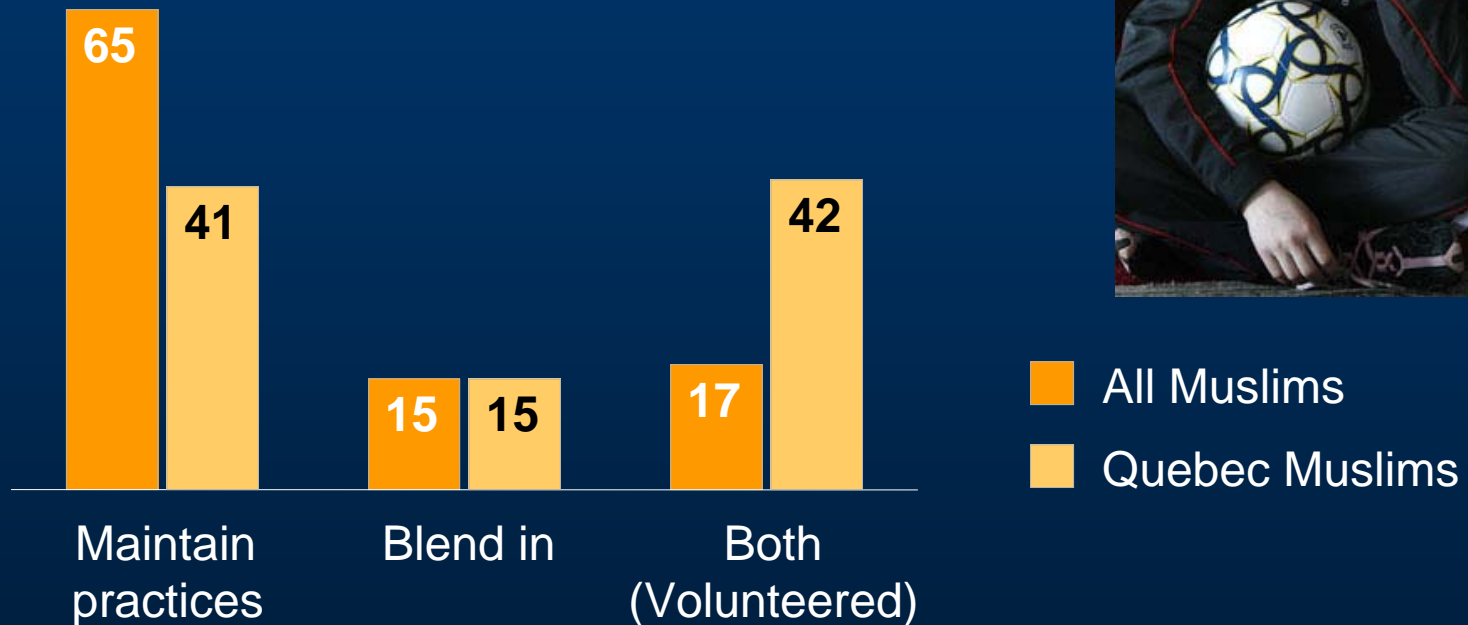


Source: Pew, 2006;  
Environics 2007



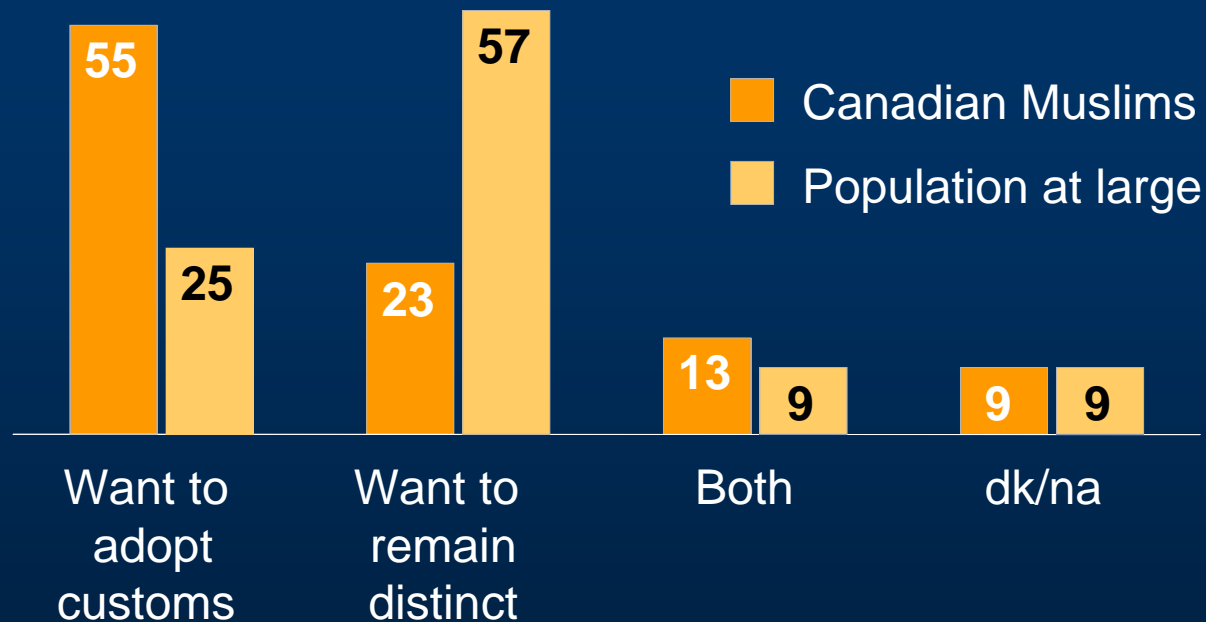
Muslims believe immigrants should be free to maintain their religious and cultural practices rather than blend into Canadian society; Quebec Muslims are more ambivalent

### Canadian Muslims



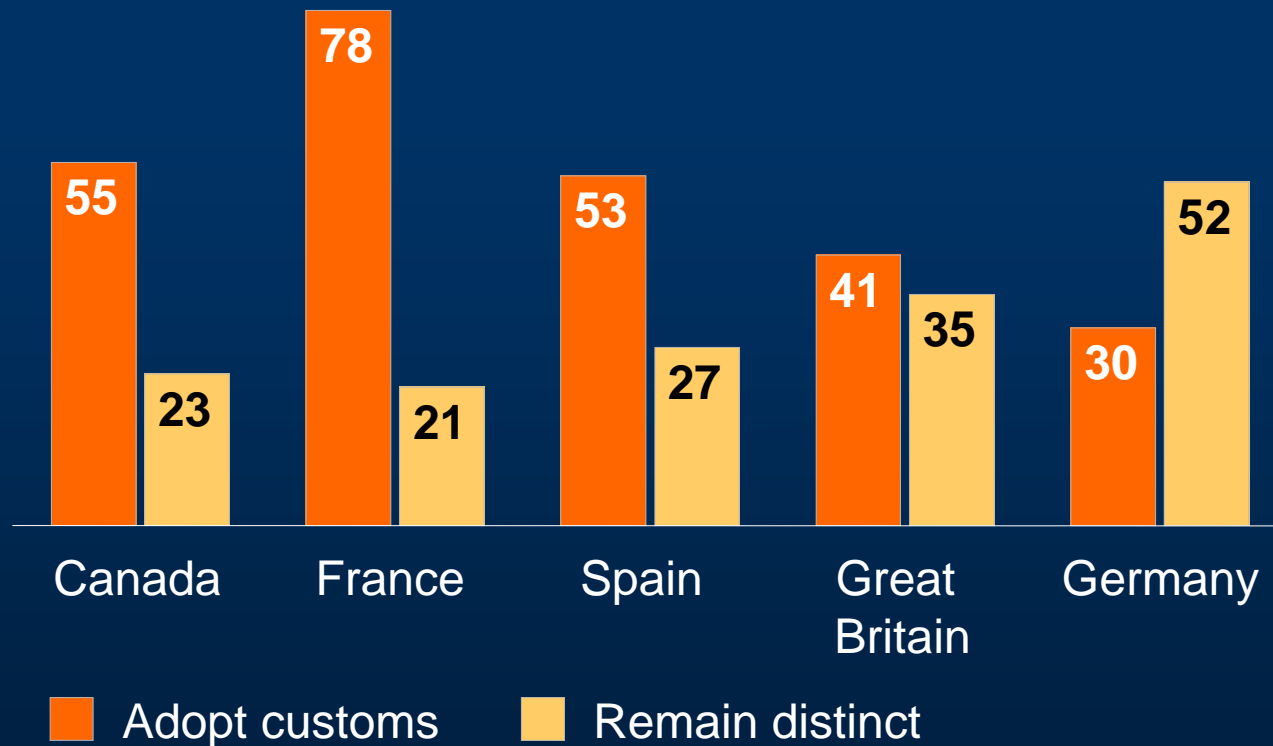
# Muslims say they want to adopt Canadian customs, but the population at large doubts this

Do Muslims want to adopt Canadian customs or remain distinct?



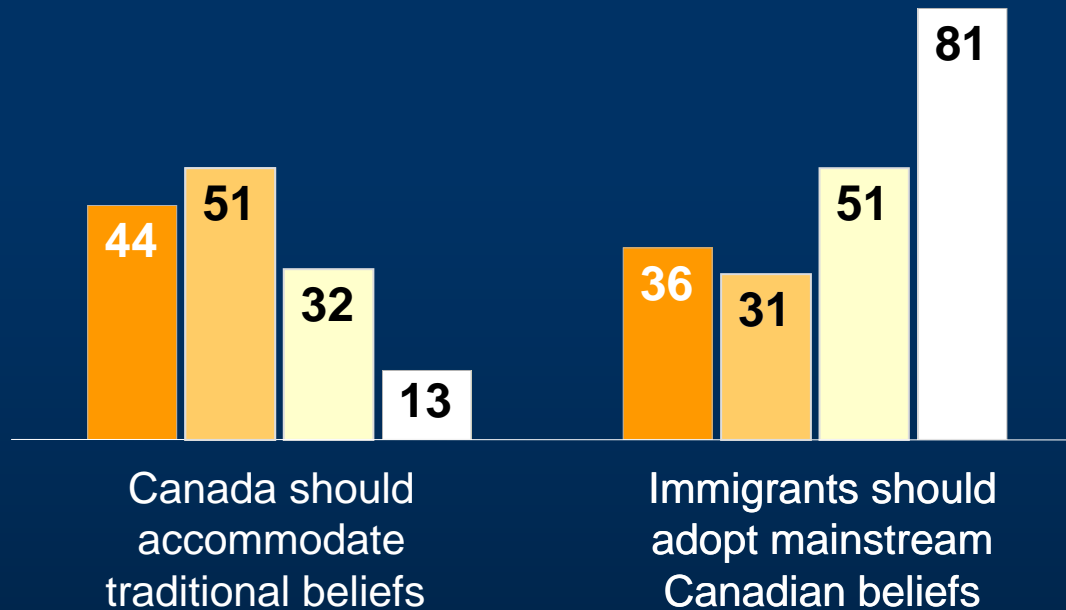
# Canadian Muslims are among the most likely to believe Muslims want to adopt their country's customs

Do Muslims want to adopt local country's customs or remain distinct?  
Muslims in Canada and Europe



A plurality of Canadian Muslims want traditional beliefs about gender rights and roles accommodated; Other Canadians insist immigrants adopt mainstream Canadian beliefs

### Role of women in immigrant/ethnic communities

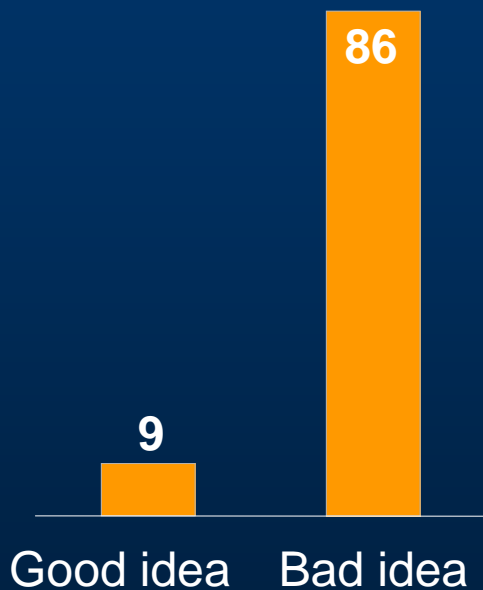


- All Muslims
- Muslim women
- Muslims with income of \$60K or more
- Population at large

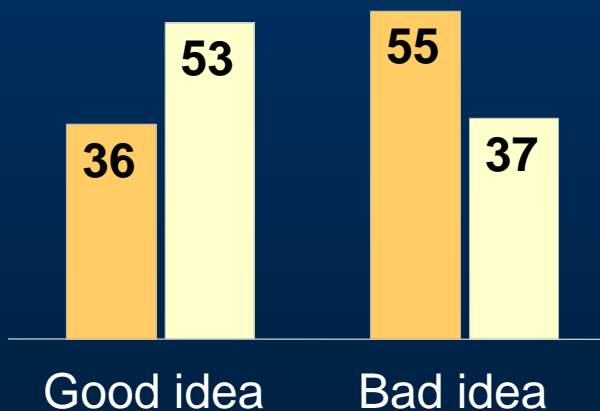
Muslims do not think head scarves should be banned in public places like schools. A majority of other Canadians agree, except in Quebec

Banning of head scarves in public places, including schools

Canadian Muslims



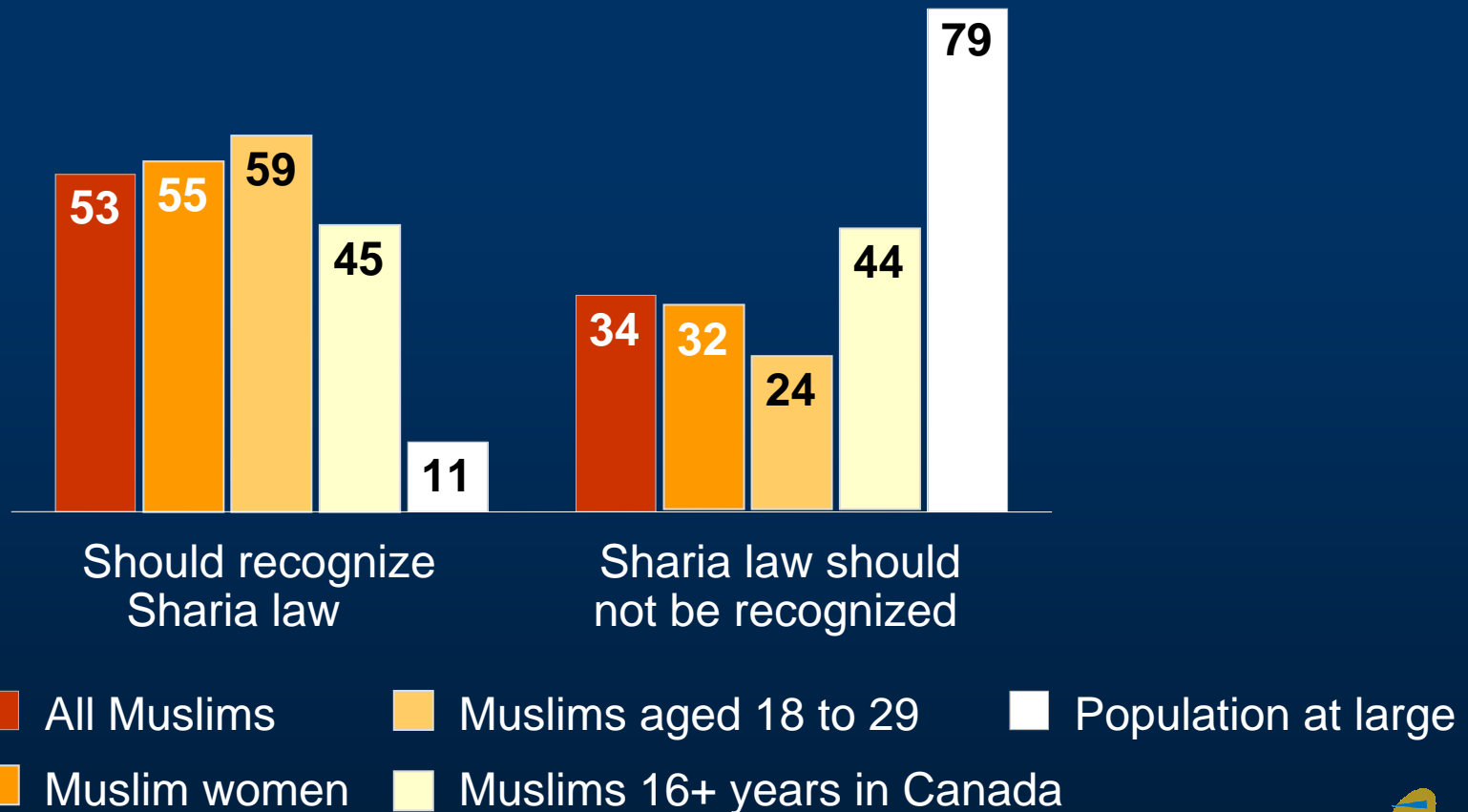
Population at large



■ All Canadians ■ Quebec

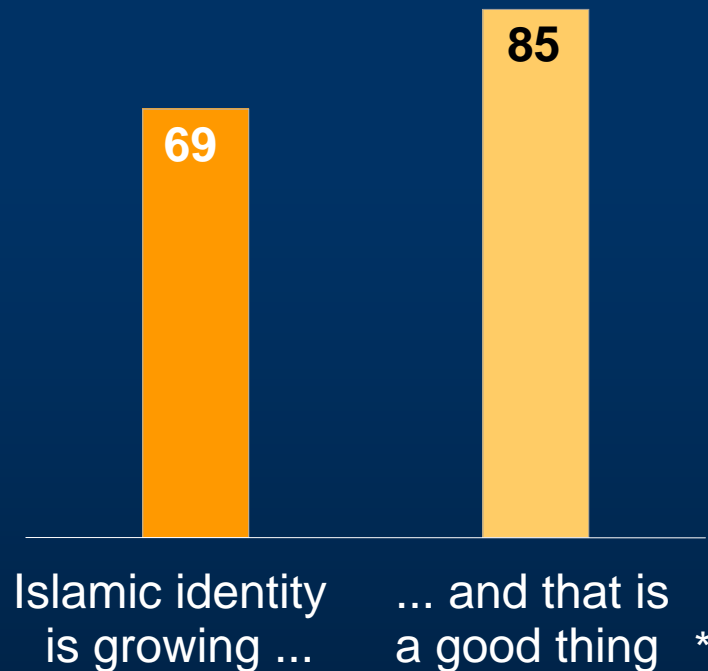
A majority of Muslims believe Sharia law should be recognized as a legal basis for settling family disputes; Most other Canadians disagree

Should Canada recognize Sharia law for settling family disputes?



# Muslims think Islamic identity is growing and that this is a good thing

## Canadian Muslims



*\* Subsample: Those who think Islamic identity is growing*

# Muslims think growing Islamic identity is a good thing because multicultural Canada should appreciate this religion

## How growing sense of Islamic identity is good for Canada

### Top mentions Canadian Muslims

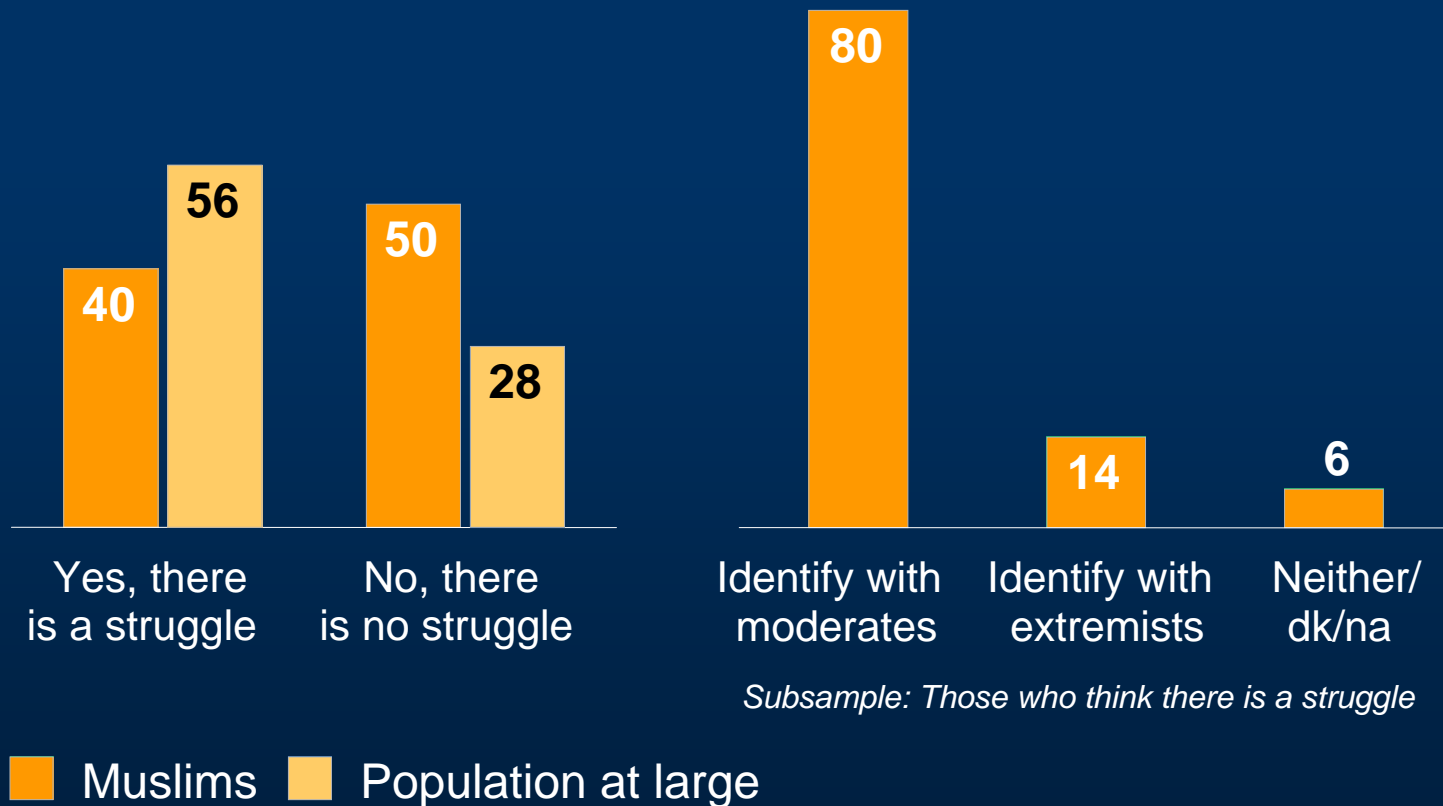




# Conflict and Terrorism

Many Muslims and most of the population at large believe there is a struggle between moderates and extremists – and most identify with moderates

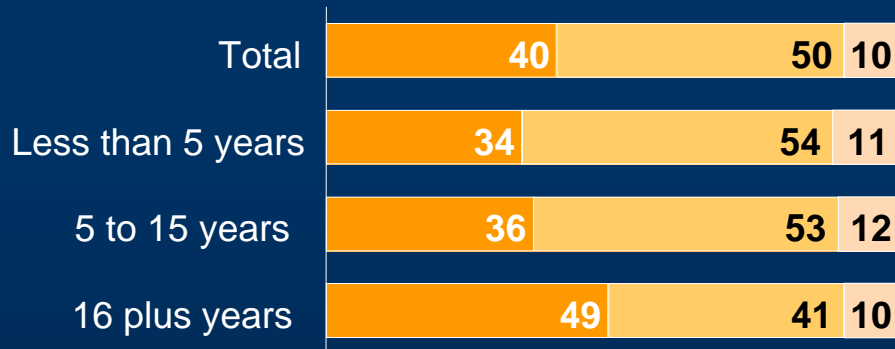
### Struggle between moderate and extremist Muslims in Canada



# Struggle in Canada between moderates and extremist Muslims

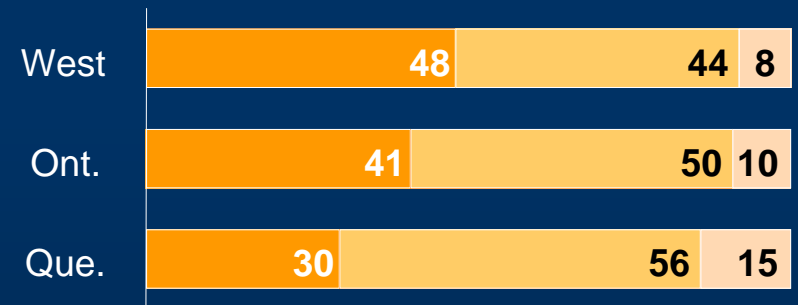
## Canadian Muslims – By years in Canada and region

### By years in Canada



■ Yes, there is a struggle    ■ dk/na  
■ No, there is not a struggle

### By region in Canada

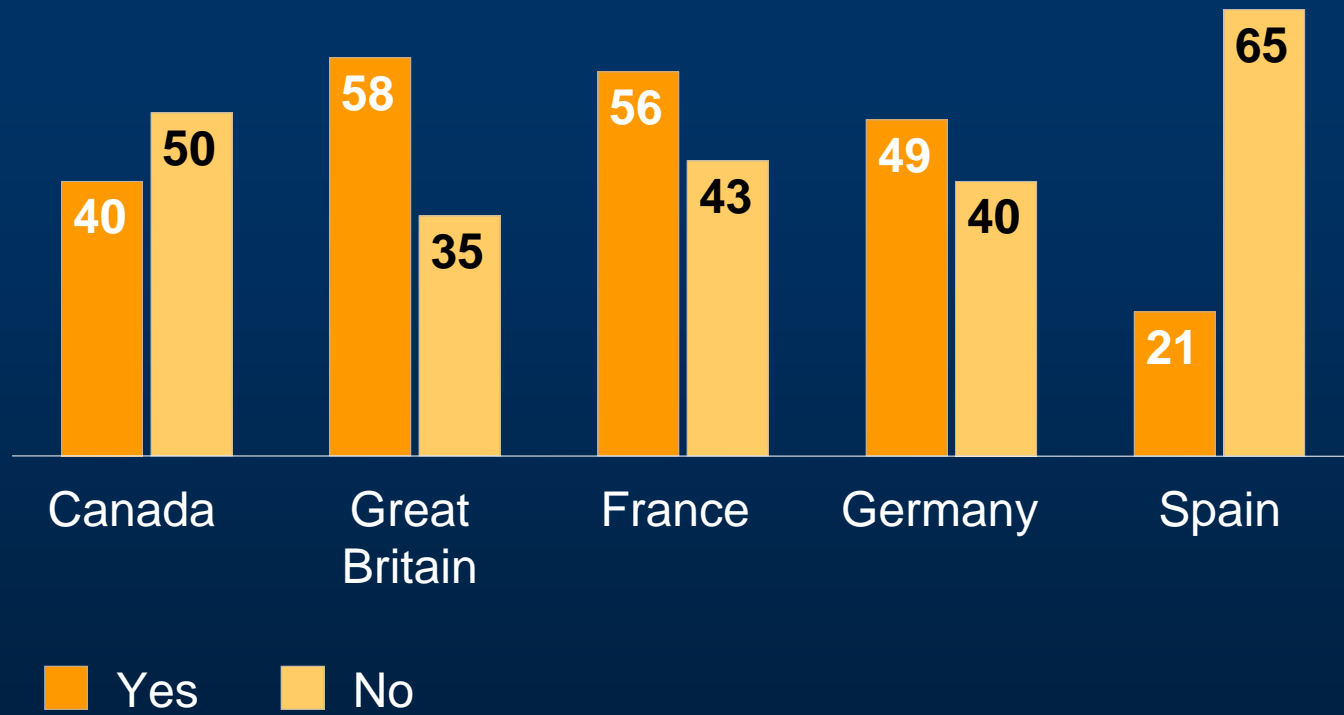


■ Yes, there is a struggle    ■ dk/na  
■ No, there is not a struggle

# Canadian Muslims are less likely than Muslims in most European countries to see a struggle between moderates and extremists

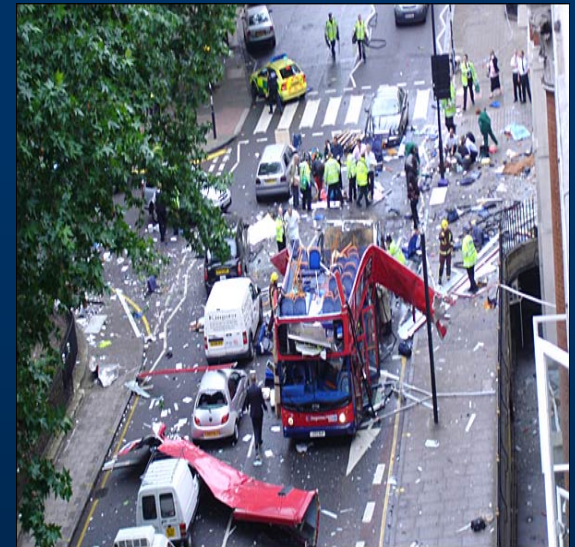
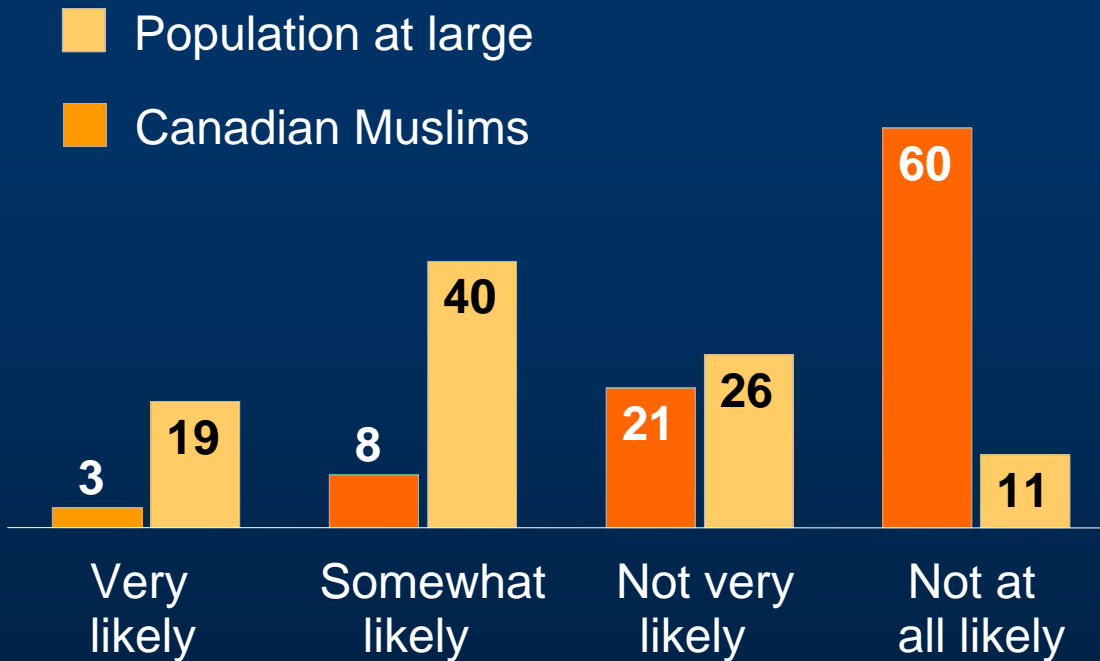
Struggle between moderate and extremist Muslims

Muslims in Canada and Europe



# Few Muslims think Canada will experience a terrorist attack from Muslim Canadians; Other Canadians are not so sure

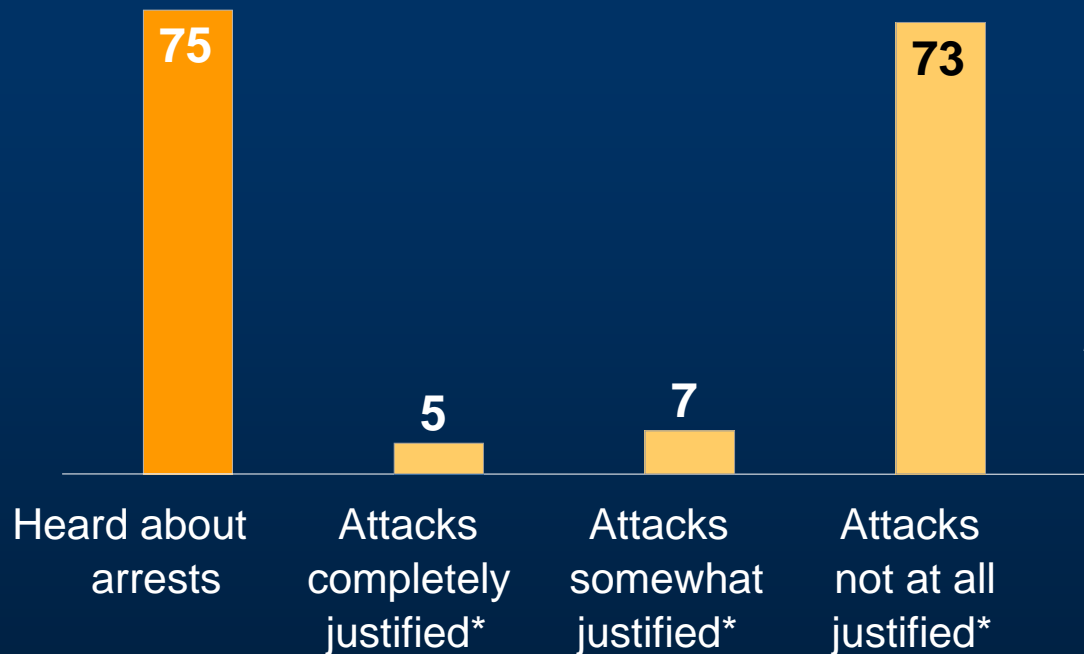
## Likelihood of terrorist attack in Canada by Muslim Canadians



Most Muslims know of the 18 Muslim men and boys accused of plotting terrorism last year; Very few think such attacks are justified

Arrest of 18 Muslim terrorist suspects in Toronto

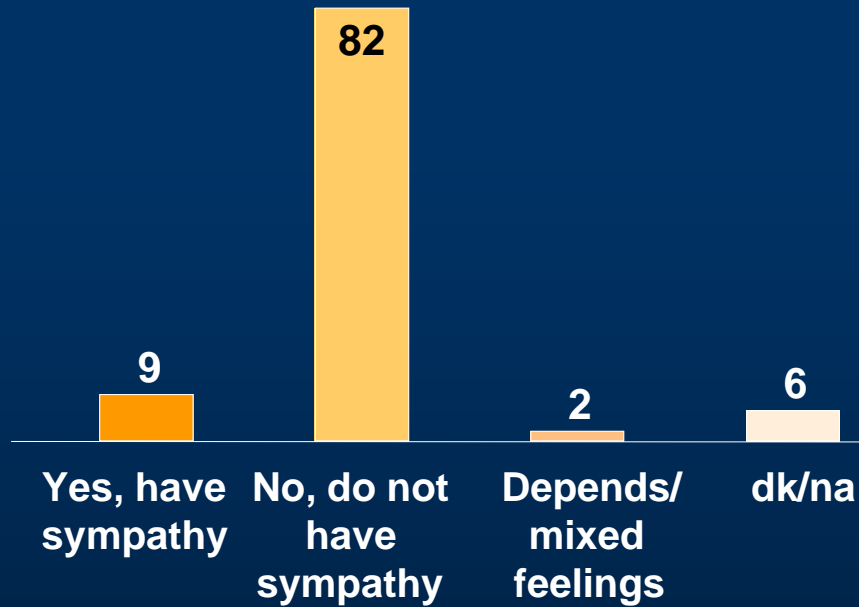
Canadian Muslims



*\* Subsample: Those who heard about the arrests*

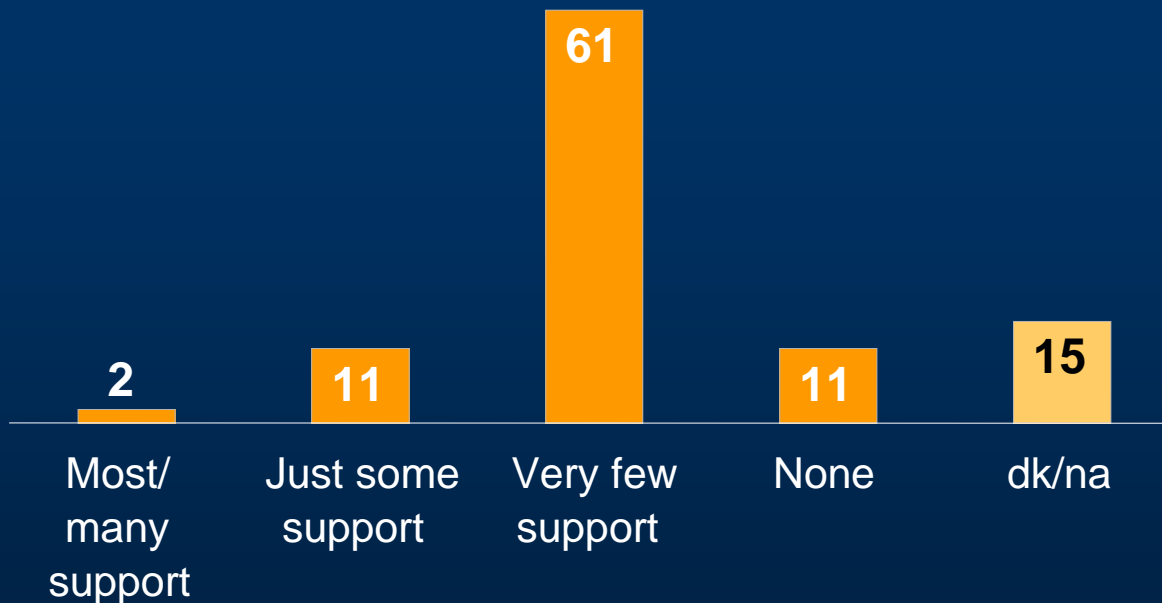
# Have sympathy with feelings/motives of alleged terrorists

## Canadian Muslims



# Very few Canadian Muslims believe there is domestic support for extremists like al-Qaeda

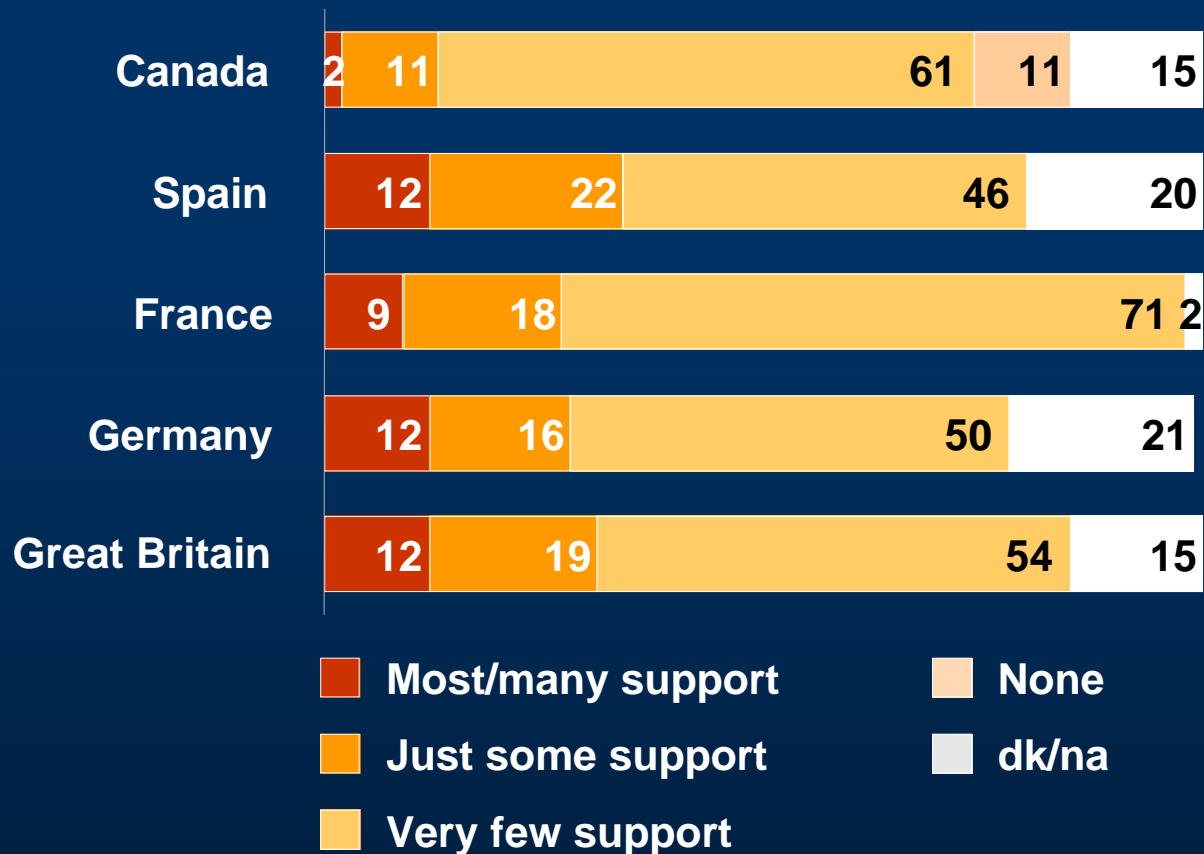
Perceived support among Canadian Muslims for extremists like al-Qaeda





# Canadian Muslims are less likely than those in Europe to see domestic support for extremists

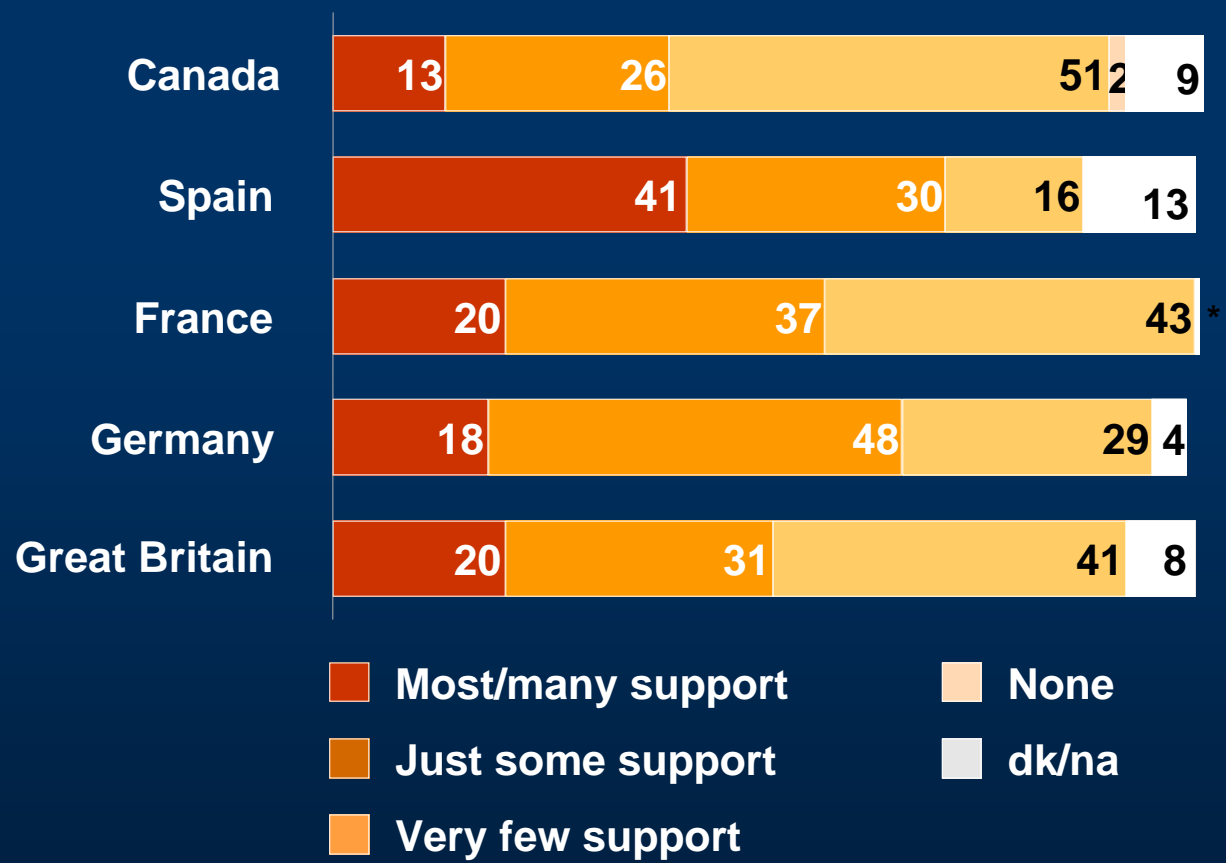
## Muslims in Canada and Europe



Note: "None" was not offered as an option outside Canada

# Canadians overall are less likely than Europeans to see domestic support for extremists like al-Qaeda

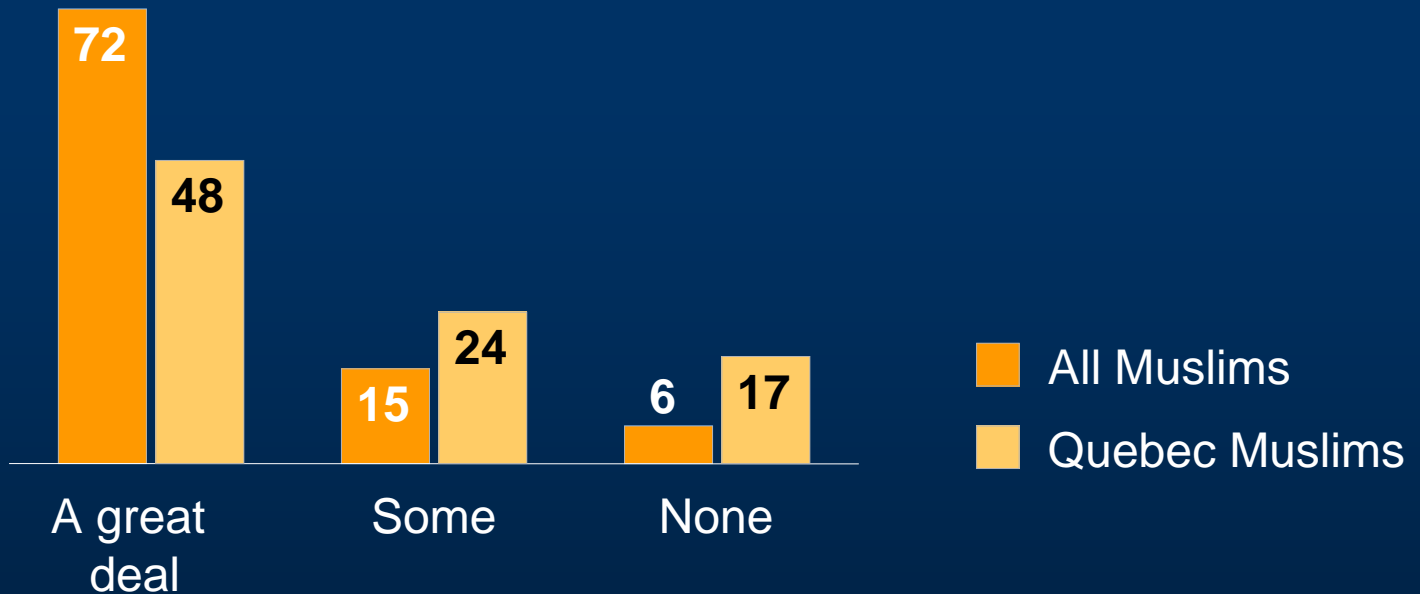
## Population-at-large in Canada and Europe



Note: "None" not an option outside Canada

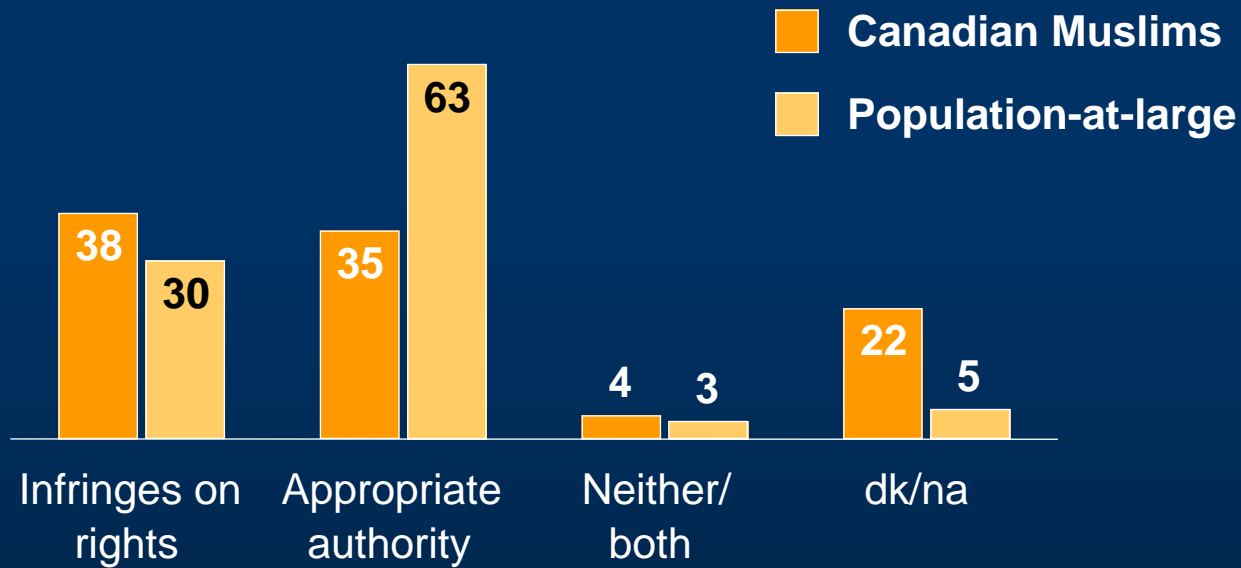
Muslims believe their community has a responsibility to report on potentially violent extremists; This sentiment is weaker in Quebec

Degree of responsibility for reporting potentially violent extremists  
Canadian Muslims



# Opinion of Canada's anti-terrorism laws

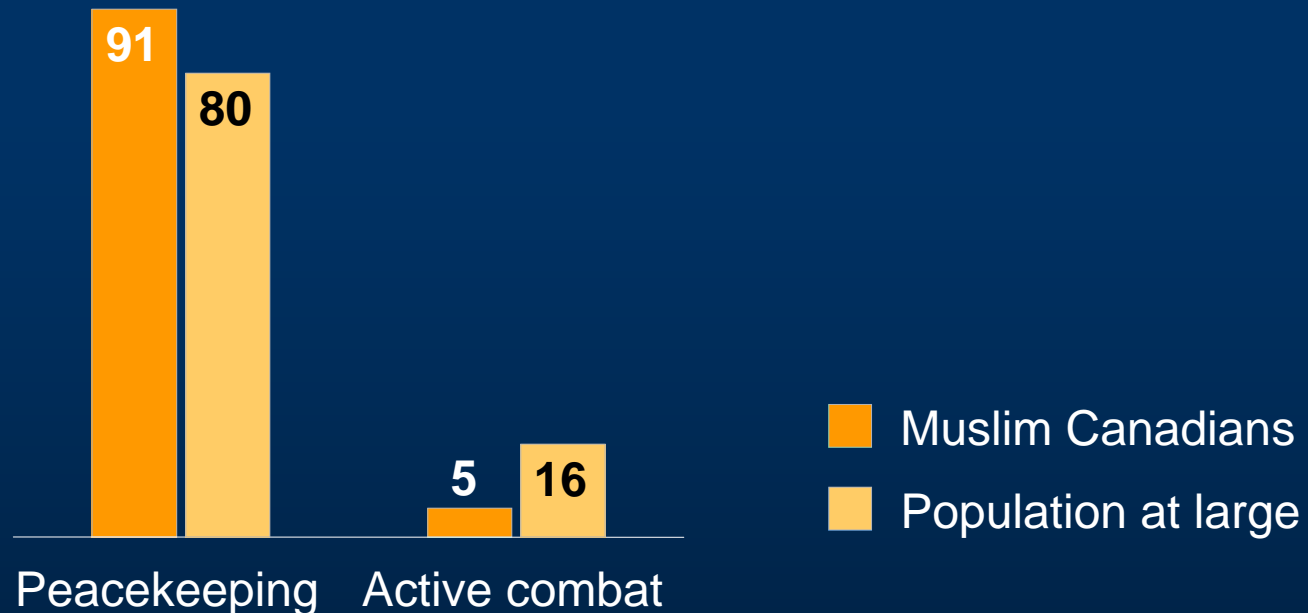
## Canadian Muslims



# Canadian Foreign Policy

Muslims, like other Canadians, want Canadian foreign policy to promote peace-building, not active combat alongside allies

### Preferred role for Canadian military



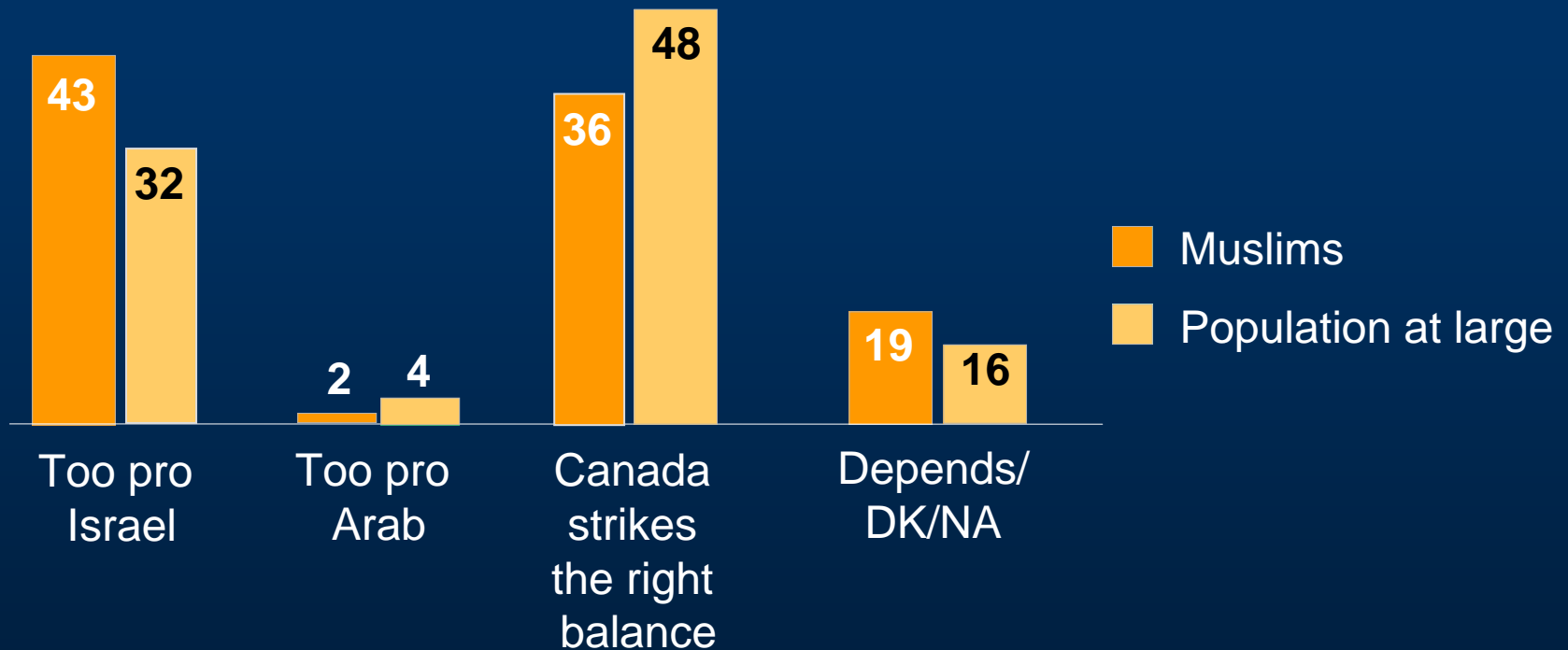
# Muslims disapprove of Canada's military participation in Afghanistan; Other Canadians are divided

Approve Canada's current military action in Afghanistan



# Muslims are only slightly more likely than other Canadians to believe Canadian foreign policy is too pro-Israel

Canadian government's foreign policy is ...





# In Summary

- Canadian Muslims value Canada for the same reasons Canadians do: peace, order, good government, freedom and multiculturalism
- Discrimination and unemployment worry Muslims most about life in Canada; but they are mostly positive about life in Canada
- The more frequent their contact with Muslims, the more positive Canadians' impression of Islam
- Muslims feel Muslims are treated better in Canada than in other western countries, and that life in Canada for Muslim women is better than in most Muslim countries

## In Summary (cont'd)

- Religion is very important to Muslims, but much less so to Canadians, and their identity is more Muslim than Canadian, especially among the young
- Muslims want both to adopt Canadian customs (something Canadians doubt) and to maintain their traditional religious and cultural practices including the use of Sharia law for settling family disputes
- Muslims feel their religious identity is increasing but identify with moderates, not extremists
- Muslims, like Canadians at large, want Canadian foreign policy to emphasize peace building, not active combat, particularly in Afghanistan where Canadians are divided



# ENVIRONICS

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