

HOW COMFORTABLE ARE CANADIANS TALKING ABOUT RELIGION?

Extensive public opinion research shows that faith and religion are an integral part of Canadian society. But that doesn't mean we're comfortable addressing the subject – or even laughing about it. Cardus has teamed up with the Angus Reid Institute to research public opinion on such topics. Here's what we learned when we asked about Canadians' comfort with various aspects related to talking about religion.

People have different attitudes about discussing and debating religious views with other people. As far as you are concerned, are each of the following acceptable or unacceptable?

Teasing or making fun of someone's religious beliefs:

| | TOTAL | PRACTICING RELIGION | NON-RELIGIOUS |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------|
| Acceptable – as long as it's not mean | 11% | 19% | 10% |
| Sometimes okay | 17% | 18% | 20% |
| Unacceptable/off limits | 72% | 62% | 71% |

Teasing or making of fun of someone's for not having religious beliefs:

| | TOTAL | PRACTICING RELIGION | NON-RELIGIOUS |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------|
| Acceptable – as long as it's not mean | 11% | 17% | 10% |
| Sometimes okay | 15% | 18% | 16% |
| Unacceptable/off limits | 74% | 65% | 74% |

Trying to convince someone to change their religious beliefs (or lack thereof):

| | TOTAL | PRACTICING RELIGION | NON-RELIGIOUS |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------|
| Acceptable – as long as it's not mean | 10% | 24% | 6% |
| Sometimes okay | 23% | 39% | 19% |
| Unacceptable/off limits | 67% | 37% | 75% |

Generally speaking, to what extent do you (or would you) personally feel comfortable expressing your own views about each of the following in a public setting – say, at work or somewhere else in your community (not in your place of worship) with people outside your own close circle of friends?

Your personal faith beliefs and practices:

| | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Always or usually feel comfortable | 69% |
| Always or usually feel uncomfortable | 19% |
| Depends – could be either | 13% |

Your views on abortion or assisted dying that may not be shared by the majority of public opinion:

| | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Always or usually feel comfortable | 69% |
| Always or usually feel uncomfortable | 21% |
| Depends – could be either | 10% |

How comfortable do you (or would you) feel asking co-workers or others (not from your own close circle and not from your place of worship) for donations for a cause sponsored by a religious group you belong to or support?

| | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Always or usually feel comfortable | 28% |
| Always or usually feel uncomfortable | 54% |
| Depends – could be either | 19% |

Methodology: The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from October 30 – November 12, 2018 among a representative randomized sample of 2200 Canadian adults who are members of Angus Reid Forum. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2.0 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. Full tables are [available online](#).