

Issues & Ideas

## Are we drifting apart?

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A new poll reveals only one in four Canadians believes our values are becoming more similar to those of their southern neighbours.

The Dominion Institute released results from a survey today showing that 24% of Canadians and 17% of Americans agree that Canadian and American values are converging.

This compares to 27% of Canadians and 20% of Americans who feel the values of the two countries are becoming increasingly different, according to the poll.

The majority of people -- 45% of Canadians and 51% of Americans -- feel their values are staying the same.

"We're not all that similar and we're not changing that much and most people perceive that accurately," said Greg Lyle, managing director of **Innovative** Research Group Inc., which conducted the poll. "Most Canadians say that we're doing a pretty good job of protecting our identity."

In previous research for the Post, the research firm found that Canada was closer to Americans than Europeans on issues of religion, and had similar views when asked about protecting the environment. However, Canadians and Americans differ on some issues, such as cultural politics and race.

Mr. Lyle said he found it interesting that more Canadians than Americans felt our values were becoming more similar.

"I just think we're not on the American radar screen, he said."

Canadians with post-graduate (39%) or university (36%) education are more likely than those with lower levels of education to say that our values are diverging.

The poll also surveyed Canadians about whether they feel "at home" when visiting the U.S.

On this question, Canadians are split regionally. 60% of Quebecers don't feel at home, compared to 25% of Atlantic Canadians. Canadians who are most likely to agree that they feel at home are those aged 45 and older.

"What you're really seeing there is that most English Canadians and older Canadians feel at home when they go down to the States. Younger Canadians and Francophones are more likely to say they don't."

Not surprisingly, Mr. Lyle said, Canadians who are "Pro-Bush" (64%) are more likely to feel more comfortable than those who are "anti-Bush" (20%).

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