

Seven in ten Kingston residents express support to one extent or another for restoring the city's previously removed statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location.

The research gauged the opinions among residents of Kingston, Ontario regarding their level of support for restoring the City's statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location in City Park, along with views of residents regarding the importance of recognizing history in public spaces and learning more about Sir John A Macdonald's legacy.

Nanos conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) random telephone survey of 305 Kingstonians, 18 years of age or older, between February 3 and 6, 2026. Participants were randomly recruited by telephone using live agents and administered a survey. The sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Kingston.

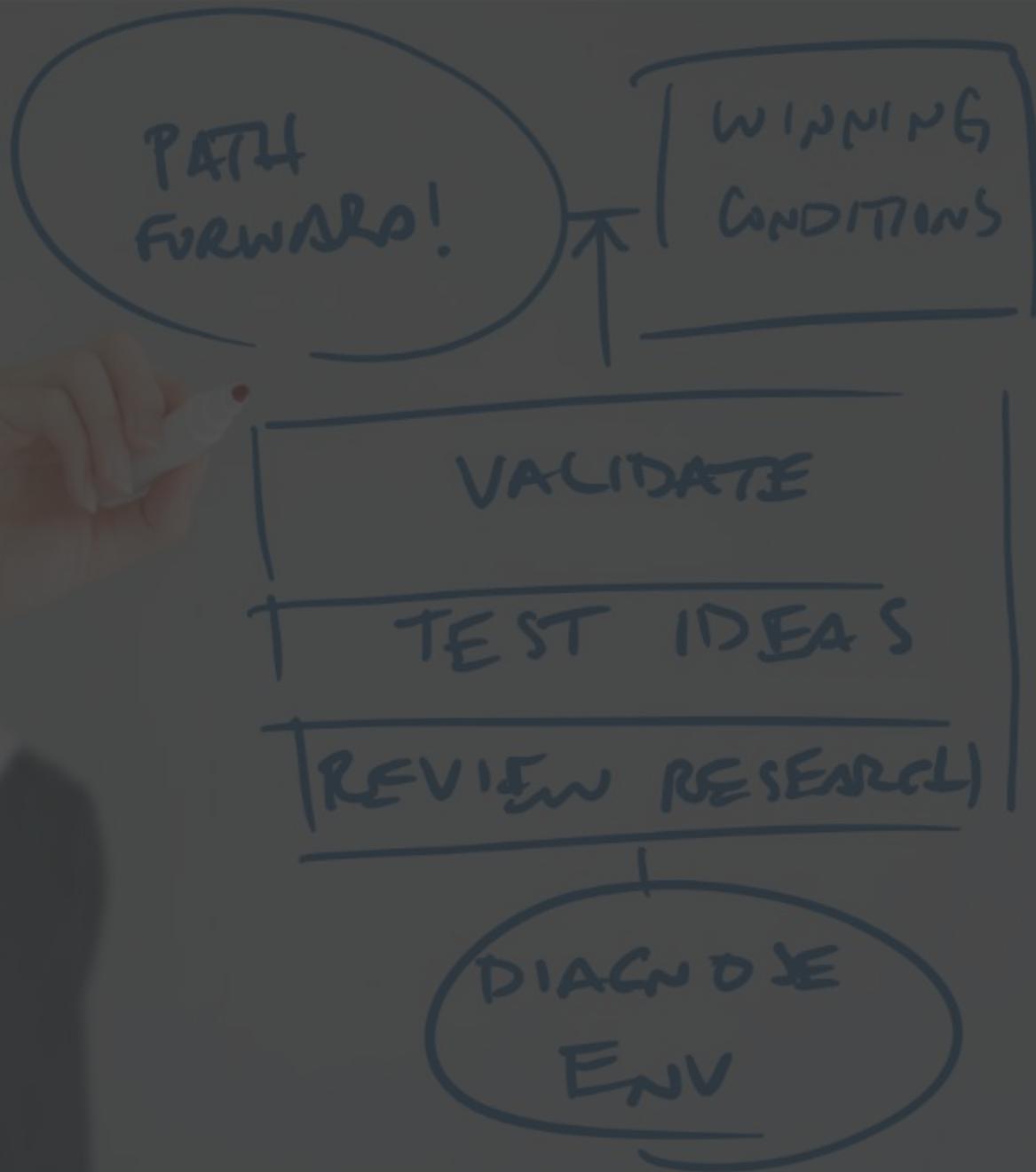
Individuals were randomly called using random digit dialing with a maximum of five call backs.

The margin of error for a random survey of 305 Kingstonians is ± 5.7 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The research was commissioned by the Canadian Institute for Historical Education (CIHE) and was conducted by Nanos Research.

Full data tables with weighted and unweighted number of interviews is here: [by gender, age and duration of residency](#); [by home ownership and education](#).

Note: Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



Note to readers

Readers should note that the survey of Kingston residents was conducted by Nanos between February 3 and 6, 2026. Of note, the week the survey was being conducted, the process surrounding the removal of the statue of Sir John A Macdonald received media attention in outlets including the *Whig-Standard*, the *National Post*, and *CBC Radio*.

At a glance – Strong support for restoring the statue of Sir John A Macdonald

7 in 10

Kingstonians **support (59%) or somewhat support (12%)** restoring Kingston's previously removed statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location in City Park.



Homeowners (77%) are more likely than **renters (58%)** to report being either supportive or somewhat supportive of restoring the statue to its original location.



The **longer residents have lived in Kingston**, the more likely they are to express some level of support for restoring the statue to its original location in City Park (**78% for residents who have lived in Kingston over 30 years**).



The older Kingstonians are, the more likely they are to be supportive of restoring the city's statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location (**85% for residents over 55 years of age**).



A majority of **Kingstonians across all levels of educational attainment** are supportive of restoring the statue to its original location in City Park.

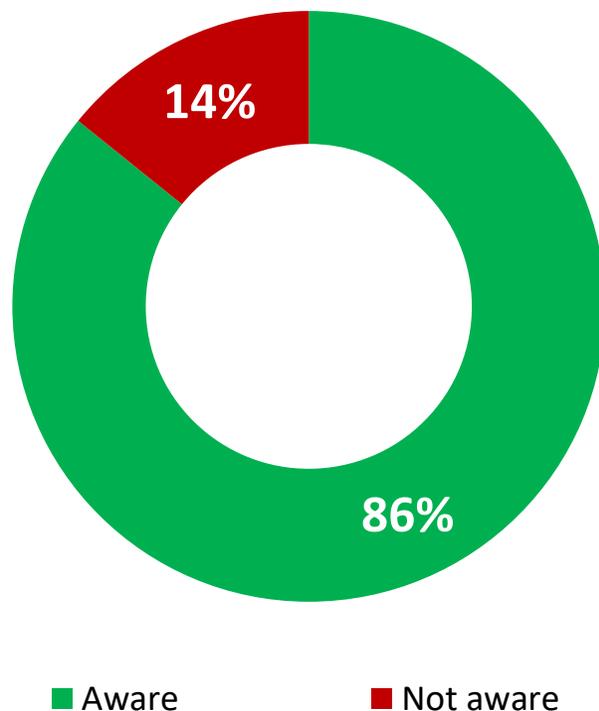
Preamble text read aloud to participants: As you may be aware, Sir John A Macdonald was the Member of Parliament for Kingston and served as Canada's first Prime Minister. A statue of Sir John A Macdonald was installed in City Park in Kingston in 1895. In June of 2021, the statue was removed by the municipal government from City Park. His reputation came into question when he was associated with Indian Residential Schools at a time when graves of Indigenous children was in the news. The statue of Sir John A Macdonald is currently stored in a warehouse, out of public display.

Question – Based on what you know, would you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or oppose restoring Kingston's statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location in City Park?

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame random telephone survey, conducted between February 3 and 6, 2026, n=305 residents of Kingston, ON, accurate 5.7 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Awareness of removal of Sir John A Macdonald statue from City Park in 2021

Q – Are you aware or not aware that a statue of Sir John A Macdonald was removed from City Park in Kingston in 2021?



Over 4 in 5 Kingstonians

report being aware (86%) that a statue of Sir John A Macdonald was removed from City Park in Kingston in 2021. Fourteen percent of Kingstonians report not being aware of this.

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame random telephone survey, February 3 to 6, 2026, n=305 residents of Kingston, accurate 5.7 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Awareness of removal of Sir John A Macdonald statue from City Park in 2021 – by gender, age, and duration of residency

Q – Are you aware or not aware that a statue of Sir John A Macdonald was removed from City Park in Kingston in 2021?

		Gender		Age			For how many years have you lived in Kingston?		
2026-02 (n=305)		Men (n=151)	Women (n=154)	18-34 (n=54)	35-54 (n=106)	55 plus (n=145)	15 years or less (n=63)	16 to 30 years (n=79)	More than 30 years (n=161)
Aware	85.8%	86.0%	85.6%	73.0%	86.9%	94.2%	54.8%	97.2%	94.2%
Not aware	14.2%	14.0%	14.4%	27.0%	13.1%	5.8%	45.2%	2.8%	5.8%

The older Kingstonians are, the more likely they are to be aware that a statue of Sir John A Macdonald was removed from City Park in 2021, while those who have lived in Kingston for 16 years or more are more likely to be aware of this than residents of 15 years or less.

Awareness of removal of Sir John A Macdonald statue from City Park in 2021 – by home ownership and education

Q – Are you aware or not aware that a statue of Sir John A Macdonald was removed from City Park in Kingston in 2021?

	2026-02 (n=305)	Do you own or rent your home?		Which of the following is the highest level of education you have achieved?					
		Own (n=201)	Rent (n=91)	Some high school (n=13)*	Completed high school (n=50)	Some college or university (n=42)	Completed college (n=71)	Completed university (n=63)	Completed graduate studies (n=58)
Aware	85.8%	94.5%	70.6%		82.7%	85.1%	88.8%	85.3%	89.0%
Not aware	14.2%	5.5%	29.4%		17.3%	14.9%	11.2%	14.7%	11.0%

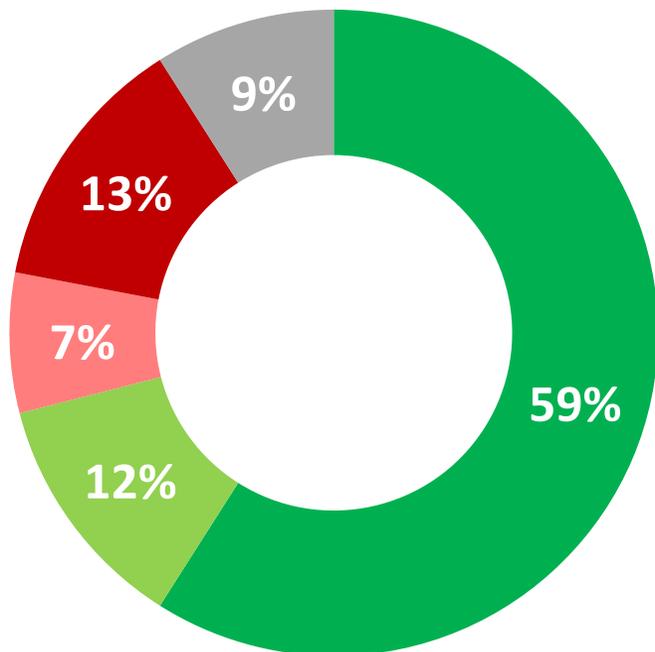
Homeowners are more likely than renters to report being aware of the removal of the statue.

*Shaded due to small sample size (less than n=30).

Text read aloud to participants

“ As you may be aware, Sir John A Macdonald was the Member of Parliament for Kingston and served as Canada’s first Prime Minister. A statue of Sir John A Macdonald was installed in City Park in Kingston in 1895. In June of 2021, the statue was removed by the municipal government from City Park. His reputation came into question when he was associated with Indian Residential Schools at a time when graves of Indigenous children was in the news. The statue of Sir John A Macdonald is currently stored in a warehouse, out of public display. ”

Question – Based on what you know, would you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or oppose restoring Kingston’s statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location in City Park?



■ Support ■ Somewhat support ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Oppose ■ Unsure

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Level of support for restoring Kingston’s statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location

Kingstonians are over three times more likely

to support (59%) or somewhat support (12%) the restoral of the statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location in City Park than they are to somewhat oppose (seven percent) or oppose this (13%). Of note, about one Kingstonian out of every ten (nine percent) reports being unsure.

Level of support for restoring Kingston's statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location – by gender, age, and duration of residency

Q – Based on what you know, would you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or oppose restoring Kingston's statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location in City Park?

	2026-02 (n=304)	Gender		Age			For how many years have you lived in Kingston?		
		Men (n=150)	Women (n=154)	18-34 (n=53)	35-54 (n=106)	55 plus (n=145)	15 years or less (n=62)	16 to 30 years (n=79)	More than 30 years (n=161)
Support	58.8%	66.8%	51.5%	33.6%	58.4%	76.7%	49.1%	52.7%	67.9%
Somewhat support	11.8%	8.1%	15.1%	19.7%	8.6%	8.3%	3.1%	19.3%	10.0%
Somewhat oppose	6.7%	1.7%	11.2%	12.1%	7.3%	2.5%	15.2%	7.4%	2.3%
Oppose	13.5%	12.5%	14.4%	18.8%	15.5%	8.3%	17.7%	11.7%	12.8%
Unsure	9.3%	10.9%	7.8%	15.7%	10.2%	4.1%	14.9%	8.9%	7.0%

A majority of Kingstonians support or somewhat support the return of the statue to its original location. The intensity of support is highest for those 55 years of age and older and lowest among residents under the age of 35. Intensity of support is higher among men than among women.

Level of support for restoring Kingston's statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location – by home ownership and education

Q – Based on what you know, would you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or oppose restoring Kingston's statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location in City Park?

	2026-02 (n=304)	Do you own or rent your home?		Which of the following is the highest level of education you have achieved?					
		Own (n=200)	Rent (n=91)	Some high school (n=13)*	Completed high school (n=49)	Some college or university (n=42)	Completed college (n=71)	Completed university (n=63)	Completed graduate studies (n=58)
Support	58.8%	65.2%	47.6%		63.7%	48.1%	61.5%	66.8%	51.3%
Somewhat support	11.8%	11.7%	10.3%		21.8%	15.7%	8.1%	6.5%	11.3%
Somewhat oppose	6.7%	5.7%	8.9%		6.1%	13.0%	1.2%	3.7%	13.5%
Oppose	13.5%	10.0%	19.6%		-	13.4%	21.1%	12.2%	16.5%
Unsure	9.3%	7.4%	13.6%		8.4%	9.7%	8.1%	10.8%	7.4%

Residents who report that they own their home are more likely to support or somewhat support the restoral of the statue to its original location than residents who report that they rent their home. A majority of Kingstonians across all levels of educational attainment report being supportive to one extent or another of the restoral of the statue to its original location.

*Shaded due to small sample size (less than n=30).

Reasoning for opinion regarding restoration of the statue

Q – Why do you have this opinion? [OPEN]

Based on what you know, would you support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or oppose restoring Kingston's statue of Sir John A Macdonald to its original location in City Park?

TOP RESPONSES

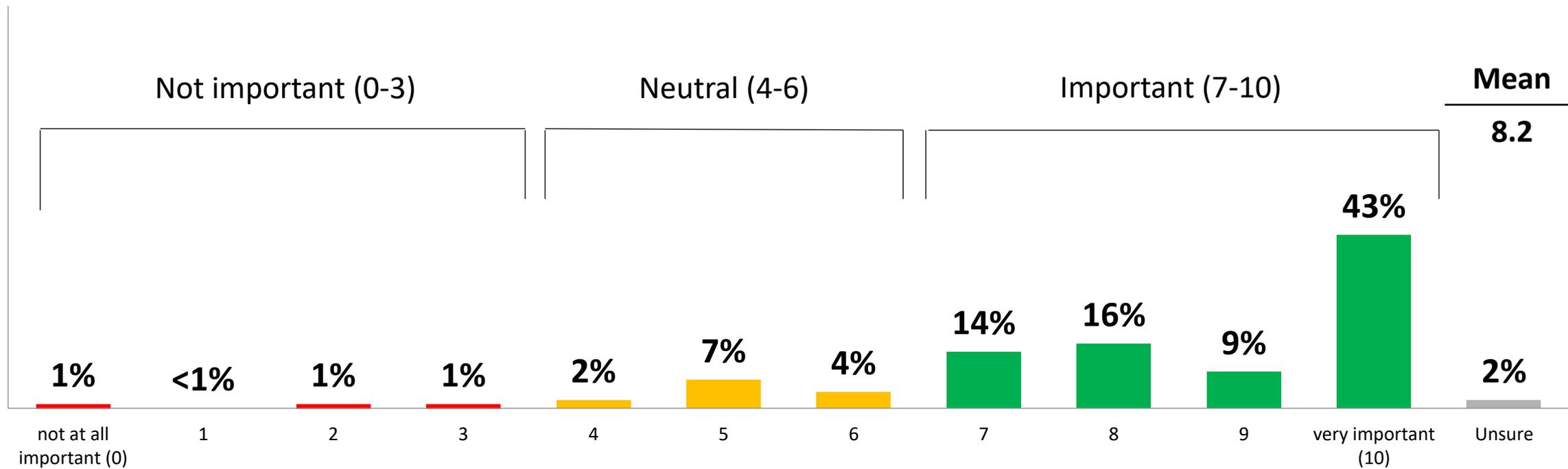
	2026-02 (n=287)	Support/Somewhat support (n=219)	Oppose/Somewhat oppose (n=50)	Unsure (n=18)*
Support for Restoring the Statue to Preserve History	18.1%	23.0%	3.6%	
Historical Significance of Sir John A Macdonald	13.2%	17.6%	1.8%	
Belief in Learning from History	12.1%	15.5%	2.2%	
Inappropriateness of Judging Historical Figures by Modern Standards	7.2%	9.5%	-	
Focus on Positive Contributions	7.1%	9.3%	1.6%	
Move to different location/should be in museum for more context	5.5%	0.9%	24.7%	
Need for Historical Education and Context	5.4%	6.4%	-	
Opposition Due to Residential School Involvement	5.1%	0.4%	24.4%	
Lack of Knowledge or Information	3.5%	0.6%	3.2%	
Support for Indigenous Reconciliation	2.7%	1.4%	8.9%	
Indifference or Lack of Personal Connection	2.7%	-	1.3%	
Painful Reminder for Indigenous People	2.6%	0.4%	11.8%	
Mixed Feelings and Neutral Stance	2.5%	2.3%	1.4%	
Historical Figures Should Be Honored Despite Flaws	2.5%	3.1%	1.3%	

*Shaded due to small sample size (less than n=30).

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame random telephone survey, February 3 to 6, 2026, n=287 residents of Kingston, accurate 5.9 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Views on importance of Kingstonians recognizing their history in public spaces

Q – On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is not at all important and 10 is very important, how important are the following: [RANDOMIZE]
That Kingstonians recognize their history in public spaces.



About four in five Kingstonians believe it is important (82%) for residents of their city to recognize their history in public spaces, while 13 percent hold a neutral view and three percent believe this is not important.

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Views on importance of Kingstonians recognizing their history in public spaces – by gender, age, and duration of residency

Q – On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is not at all important and 10 is very important, how important are the following: [RANDOMIZE]
That Kingstonians recognize their history in public spaces.

	2026-02 (n=305)	Gender		Age			For how many years have you lived in Kingston?		
		Men (n=151)	Women (n=154)	18-34 (n=54)	35-54 (n=106)	55 plus (n=145)	15 years or less (n=63)	16 to 30 years (n=79)	More than 30 years (n=161)
Mean	8.2	8.0	8.4	7.4	8.5	8.7	7.9	8.2	8.4
Important (7-10 out of 10)	81.9%	79.4%	84.2%	73.4%	82.2%	87.8%	75.7%	85.9%	82.2%
Neutral (4-6 out of 10)	13.2%	13.9%	12.6%	21.2%	11.2%	8.8%	16.3%	9.1%	14.3%
Not important (0-3 out of 10)	3.0%	5.1%	1.1%	5.3%	3.8%	0.8%	5.6%	3.7%	1.3%
Unsure	1.9%	1.7%	2.1%	-	2.8%	2.7%	2.3%	1.2%	2.1%

Although a strong sentiment across all groups, residents aged 55 and over are more likely than residents aged 18 to 34 to report that it is important that Kingstonians recognize their history in public spaces.

Views on importance of Kingstonians recognizing their history in public spaces – by home ownership and education

Q – On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is not at all important and 10 is very important, how important are the following: [RANDOMIZE]
That Kingstonians recognize their history in public spaces.

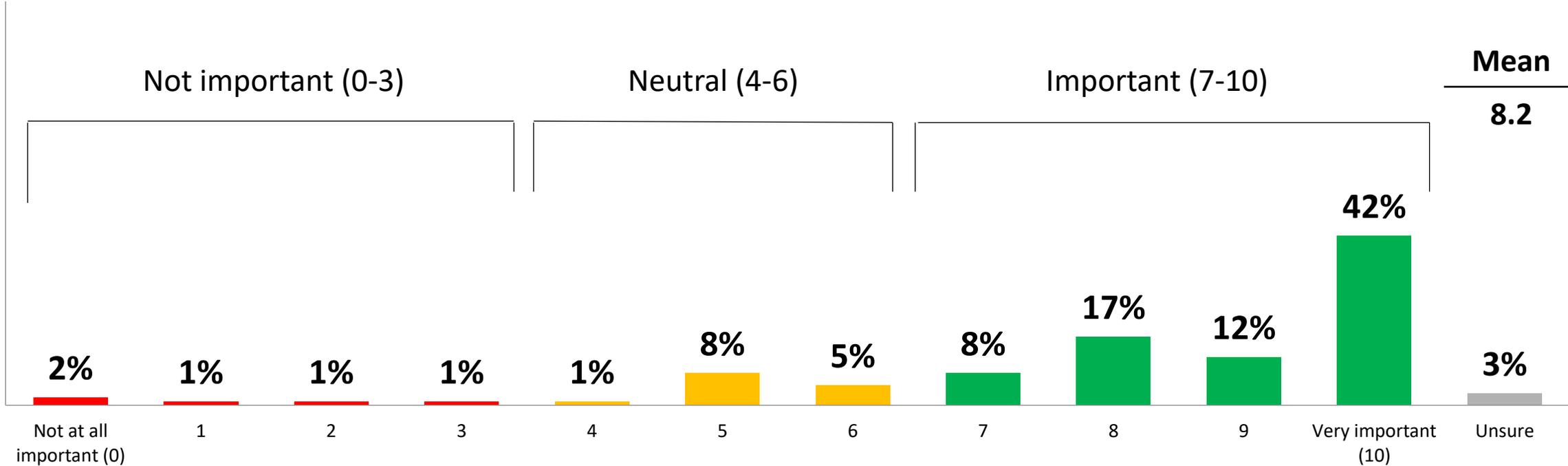
	2026-02 (n=305)	Do you own or rent your home?		Which of the following is the highest level of education you have achieved?					
		Own (n=201)	Rent (n=91)	Some high school (n=13)*	Completed high school (n=50)	Some college or university (n=42)	Completed college (n=71)	Completed university (n=63)	Completed graduate studies (n=58)
Mean	8.2	8.3	8.2		7.7	8.3	8.6	8.1	8.4
Important (7-10 out of 10)	81.9%	82.7%	80.7%		75.5%	84.8%	82.5%	81.8%	84.1%
Neutral (4-6 out of 10)	13.2%	12.9%	13.5%		14.3%	11.3%	14.8%	13.8%	11.4%
Not important (0-3 out of 10)	3.0%	2.6%	3.4%		8.6%	-	1.7%	3.2%	1.3%
Unsure	1.9%	1.8%	2.4%		1.5%	3.9%	1.0%	1.2%	3.2%

A majority of Kingstonians across all levels of educational attainment report believing that it is important that residents of their city recognize their history in public spaces.

*Shaded due to small sample size (less than n=30).

Views on importance of Kingstonians learning more about the legacy of Sir John A Macdonald

Q – On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is not at all important and 10 is very important, how important are the following: [RANDOMIZE]
That Kingstonians learn more about the legacy of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A Macdonald, including [ROTATE] his accomplishments as a founder of Canada and his role in the Indian Residential School system



Kingstonians are about four times more likely to say it is important (78%) to learn more about the legacy of Sir John A Macdonald, including his accomplishments as founder of Canada and his role in the Residential School system, than they are to hold a neutral view (14%) or to believe this is not important (five percent).

*Weighted to the true population proportion.

*Charts may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Nanos Research, RDD dual frame random telephone survey, February 3 to 6, 2026, n=305 residents of Kingston, accurate 5.7 percentage points plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Views on importance of Kingstonians learning more about the legacy of Sir John A Macdonald – by gender, age, and duration of residency

Q – On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is not at all important and 10 is very important, how important are the following: [RANDOMIZE]

That Kingstonians learn more about the legacy of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A Macdonald, including [ROTATE] his accomplishments as a founder of Canada and his role in the Indian Residential School system

	2026-02 (n=305)	Gender		Age			For how many years have you lived in Kingston?		
		Men (n=151)	Women (n=154)	18-34 (n=54)	35-54 (n=106)	55 plus (n=145)	15 years or less (n=63)	16 to 30 years (n=79)	More than 30 years (n=161)
Mean	8.2	7.9	8.4	7.5	8.4	8.5	8.2	8.0	8.2
Important (7-10 out of 10)	78.2%	77.4%	78.9%	69.0%	81.9%	82.3%	82.6%	71.8%	79.7%
Neutral (4-6 out of 10)	13.9%	16.1%	11.9%	22.6%	8.1%	11.6%	12.8%	15.8%	13.7%
Not important (0-3 out of 10)	5.0%	5.1%	5.0%	8.4%	5.9%	2.0%	4.6%	7.8%	3.7%
Unsure	2.9%	1.4%	4.2%	-	4.1%	4.1%	-	4.6%	2.8%

Residents aged 35 and older are more likely than residents aged 18 to 34 to report that it is important that Kingstonians learn more about the legacy of Sir John A Macdonald, including his accomplishments as a founder of Canada and his role in the Indian Residential School system.

Views on importance of Kingstonians learning more about the legacy of Sir John A Macdonald – by home ownership and education

Q – On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is not at all important and 10 is very important, how important are the following: [RANDOMIZE]

That Kingstonians learn more about the legacy of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A Macdonald, including [ROTATE] his accomplishments as a founder of Canada and his role in the Indian Residential School system

	2026-02 (n=305)	Do you own or rent your home?		Which of the following is the highest level of education you have achieved?					
		Own (n=201)	Rent (n=91)	Some high school (n=13)*	Completed high school (n=50)	Some college or university (n=42)	Completed college (n=71)	Completed university (n=63)	Completed graduate studies (n=58)
Mean	8.2	8.2	8.0		8.2	7.9	8.5	8.2	7.8
Important (7-10 out of 10)	78.2%	78.9%	76.3%		76.0%	64.9%	84.8%	81.5%	74.9%
Neutral (4-6 out of 10)	13.9%	11.5%	17.8%		17.7%	25.1%	7.0%	14.1%	15.3%
Not important (0-3 out of 10)	5.0%	5.5%	4.9%		2.5%	5.9%	4.6%	3.2%	8.0%
Unsure	2.9%	4.1%	0.9%		3.7%	4.1%	3.6%	1.2%	1.8%

A majority of Kingstonians across all levels of educational attainment report believing that it is important that residents of their city learn more about the legacy of Sir John A Macdonald.

*Shaded due to small sample size (less than n=30).

Element	Description
Research sponsor	Canadian Institute for Historical Education (CIHE)
Population and Final Sample Size	305 Randomly selected residents of Kingston.
Source of Sample	Dynata
Type of Sample	Probability
Margin of Error	±5.7 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.
Mode of Survey	RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) random telephone survey
Sampling Method Base	The sample included both land- and cell-lines RDD (Random Digit Dialed) across Kingston.
Demographics (Captured)	Men and Women; 18 years and older; Duration of Residency; Home Ownership; Education. Six digit postal code was used to validate geography.
Fieldwork/Validation	Live CATI interviews with live supervision to validate work.
Number of Calls	Maximum of five call backs.
Time of Calls	Individuals were called between 6:30-9:30pm local time for the respondent.
Field Dates	February 3 to 6, 2026.
Language of Survey	The survey was conducted in English.
Standards	Nanos Research is a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC) and confirms that this research fully complies with all CRIC Standards including the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements. https://canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/standards/

Element	Description
Weighting of Data	The results were weighted by age and gender using the latest Census information (2021) and the sample is geographically stratified to ensure a distribution across all regions of Kingston. See tables for full weighting disclosure.
Screening	Screening ensured potential respondents did not work in the market research industry, in the advertising industry, in the media or a political party prior to administering the survey to ensure the integrity of the data.
Excluded Demographics	Individuals younger than 18 years old; individuals without land or cell lines could not participate.
Stratification	By age and gender using the latest Census information (2021) and the sample is geographically stratified to be representative of Kingston.
Estimated Response Rate	Five percent, consistent with industry norms.
Question Order	Question order in the preceding report reflects the order in which they appeared in the original questionnaire.
Question Content	All questions asked are contained in the report.
Question Wording	The questions in the preceding report are written exactly as they were asked to individuals.
Research/Data Collection Supplier	Nanos Research
Contact	Contact Nanos Research for more information or with any concerns or questions. http://www.nanos.co Telephone:(613) 234-4666 ext. 237 Email: info@nanosresearch.com.
Data Tables	By gender, age and duration of residency: 2026-2990 CIHE Tables - Gender Age and Duration of Residency – Formatted By home ownership and education: 2026-2990 CIHE Tables - Home Ownership and Education - Formatted



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Any questions?



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