

Let us do the legwork. Get the latest news, politics, business and more, delivered to your inbox. [Free sign up >>](#)

Let us do the legwork. Get the latest news, politics, business and more, delivered to your inbox. [Free sign up >>](#)

Sections  Search

NATIONAL POST

 My Account 

Subscribe \$1 for 6 months

Newsletters Canada World Financial Post NP Comment Longreads Puzzmo Diversions Life Shopping Epaper [Manage Print Subscription](#)

Redefining
Wealth Management

SPEAK TO A PARTNER

[Home](#) / [NP Comment](#)

Marty York: Canadians wary of Liberal plan to expedite Gazan visas

Forty-three per cent of respondents opposed the decision to expedite visa processing and 19 per cent answered, "I don't know."

By **Marty York**, [Special to National Post](#)

Published Jul 15, 2026 Last updated 10 hours ago 3 minute read  [223 Comments](#)



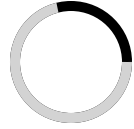
Redefining



A Citizenship and Immigration Canada office. PHOTO BY HANDOUT/IMMIGRATION CANADA SERVICES

According to a recent poll, just under half of Canadians are opposed to the federal government's recent decision to expedite Gazan student visa processing.

And I must say, I don't blame them.



The decision to expedited visa processing for 37 Gazan students and their families was announced last month by Immigration Minister Lena Diab.

The Leger poll, commissioned by the HR Canada Charitable Organization, asked respondents whether, like some, they believed the policy would help students whose education had been disrupted by war, or whether they thought “speeding up the process could make it more difficult to adequately identify potential security risks, including individuals with extremist affiliations.”

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Forty-three per cent of respondents opposed the decision to expedite visa processing, 38 per cent supported it, and the remaining 19 per cent answered, “I don’t know.” These results demonstrate significant public concern and uncertainty for accelerating Gazan student visa processing because of perceived security risks of allowing radicalized Palestinians into Canada.



Right?

The National Post newsletter that doesn’t hold back, giving readers the unvarnished truth on media, politics and culture.

Sign Up

By signing up, you consent to receive the above newsletter from Postmedia Network Inc.

Interested in more newsletters? [Browse here.](#)

The survey was conducted last month, between June 19 and June 26, among a representative sample of 1,528 Canadian adults.

TRENDING

Respondents' opposition and uncertainty should not be surprising. Gaza, after all, is governed by the terrorist group Hamas, which was responsible for the heinous attack of Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, during the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah. At least 1,500 Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists breached Israel's borders by land, air and sea. In total, 1,195 people were killed, including infants, children, elderly and peace-festival attendees. Families were murdered in their homes, some, burnt alive, while others were executed in bomb shelters. Those kidnapped and taken hostage numbered 251.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Keep in mind that polls conducted inside Gaza revealed that 72 percent of respondents felt the decision for Hamas to conduct the October 7 massacre was "correct" given the outcome.

-
- 1** Fire surrounds a **Ontario wildfires engulf train in flames; smoke blankets the province. Here's what to know**
 - 2** Gordie Howe **Canada, U.S. contradict each other on financial terms of Gordie Howe Bridge deal**
 - 3** tracey **Canadian who allegedly slapped a girl in 'Trump' sweatpants now in ICE custody, reports say**
 - 4** Cindy Woodhouse **AFN chiefs want residential school denialism to be legislated as hate speech crime**
 - 5** Teen wearing a **Teen gets five years in youth facility for stabbing random woman to death 'to escape his old life'**

Read More

Jamie Sarkonak: One law for First Nations, another for everyone else



Adam Zivo: The necessary rise of 'homonationalism'



“Canadians have witnessed an explosive rise in extremist rhetoric, ideological radicalization, and politically motivated violence, along with an unprecedented rise of antisemitism,” the HR Canada Charitable Organization commented in a [statement](#). “As concerns about public safety have grown. . .so too have questions about how governments balance humanitarian objectives with security considerations.”

“The purpose of this research is not to tell Canadians what they should think,” the HR Charitable Organization said. “It is to help illuminate what Canadians do think, and to contribute a more informed discussion about the

complex issues affecting Canadian society. Understanding public attitudes toward security, extremism and social cohesion is an important part of understanding the environment in which antisemitism and other forms of (hate) emerge and evolve.”

Amanda Eskenasi, education director at HR Charitable Organization, told me in an interview that the poll was commissioned to provide context.

ADVERTISEMENT

“Our mandate,” she explained, “is to advance education on issues relating to antisemitism and discrimination, with a particular focus on how public perceptions and media narratives shape those conversations. Understanding how Canadians view, and are talking about, issues that intersect with security, extremism, and humanitarian policy helps provide important

context for that work.”

Eskenasi said Canadians have been exposed to a growing number of incidents involving Islamic extremism in recent years, “and this poll suggests those concerns are reflected in public opinion. The results indicate that appropriate security screening for those arriving from countries where these ideologies are prevalent is an issue of significant concern for millions of Canadians.”

The question is — would screening individuals with extremist affiliations be difficult, or doable?

Indeed, let’s hope and pray that, if there isn’t a change of heart on this plan from the Mark Carney administration, government officials and bureaucrats do their due diligence impeccably and vet potential immigrants thoroughly — and not only with Gazans, for that matter, but for anyone from a foreign country who would like to make Canada their home.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Look, I know very well that immigration has been a vital cog in Canada's ascent to the great nation it was not all that long ago. Times have changed, however, and Canada's reputation and image are not what they used to be, and the country's safety standards during recent years have nosedived significantly.

Immigration, sadly, has not helped us maintain the levels of grandeur and serenity we once enjoyed. Opening the doors to unhappy and possibly radicalized extremists seems tantamount to asking for the possibility — or probability — of more chaos.

National Post

Marty York is renowned as a national columnist, associate editor and television personality in Canada. He spent the past decade as chief media officer and communications director for a Canadian Jewish human rights organization.



12 Retirement Blunders Canadian Millionaires Avoid [Free Guide]

Fisher Investments | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

The Warsh Fed—Return to Orthodoxy

Kevin Warsh came out as a hawk during his first press conference as Federal Reserve (Fed) chair. Franklin Templeton Fixed Income CIO Sonal Desai believes that he may be the most hawkish chair since Paul Volcker.

Franklin Templeton | Sponsored

[Read More](#)

Former MP Raj Grewal faces slew of fraud allegations, possible suspension as lawyer

The Law Society of Ontario is investigating charges that onetime Liberal MP may have misappropriated trust money and participated in fraud

National Post

Book now to save!

Your dream Europe trip awaits. Book by July 19 to save big on the flight.

Air Transat | Sponsored

[Book Now](#)

Escape to adults-only bliss in Punta Cana

Unwind in a suite with your own jacuzzi, sip cocktails at the swim-up bar and savour à la carte dining for two. This adults-only escape on Punta Cana's white sand is calling.

Where romance meets paradise | Sponsored

[Book Now](#)

COMMENTS

You must be logged in to join the discussion or read more comments.

Sign in

Create an Account

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Postmedia is committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion. Please keep comments relevant and respectful.

Comments may take up to an hour to appear on the site. You will receive an email if there is a reply to your comment, an update to a thread you follow or if a user you follow comments. Visit our [Community Guidelines](#) for more information.



Club Med Quebec Charlevoix

All-Inclusive Mountain Resort

Club Med | Sponsored

Covered Call ETFs for Every Investor

Global X Canada | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

How often should I wash my sheets? An expert answers

U.K. to change law to allow deportation of convicted pedophile who led grooming gang

National Post

Spicy Flying Goose Sauces

Elevate your meals with Flying Goose. Spice up every dish, from appetizers to mains.

flyinggoosebrand.com | Sponsored

Contact Us

LATEST FROM SHOPPING ESSENTIALS

'The Odyssey,' 'Every Year After' and more of summer's best book-to-screen adaptations

The Odyssey

If you're in need of some entertainment ideas, here are summer's book to screen adaptations

5 hours ago

[ENTERTAINMENT](#)

These resorts were just named the best in Canada

Travel + Leisure ranked properties based on amenities, design and 'sense of place' in the World's Best Awards for 2026

5 hours ago

[TRAVEL](#)

An aerial view of the Wickaninnish Inn on
Chesterman Beach in Tofino, B.C., named one of
the best resorts in Canada by Travel + Leisure.

I'm a picky shopper: Three of my favourite pairs of jean shorts are on sale right now

Shop my favourite styles from Everlane, American Eagle and Abercrombie

8 hours ago

Fashion

jean shorts on sale canada

Dairy Queen is serving up sundaes for just \$1 across Canada this week

All you need to do is sign up for DQ Rewards

8 hours ago

FOOD & DRINKS

Dairy Queen \$1 Sundaes

How adopting a 'nightly home reset' completely revamped my mornings

A routine you can stick to

1 day ago

LIFESTYLE

Nightly Home Reset Routine

Subscribe \$1 for 6 months



Newsletters **Canada** **World** **Financial Post** **NP Comment** **Longreads** **Puzzmo** **Diversions** **Life** **Lives Told** **Tails Told**
Shopping **Epaper** **Manage Print Subscription** **Subscribe**

Manage Account

[My Account](#)

[Manage My Print Subscription](#)

[Manage My Tax Receipt](#)

[ePaper](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Advertise

[Advertise With Us](#)

[Advertising Solutions](#)

[Postmedia Ad Manager](#)

[Appointment Notice](#)

[Content Works](#)

[Partnerships](#)

[Resources](#)

Postmedia Network

[Financial Post](#)

Classified

[Remembering](#)

[Celebrating](#)

[Classifieds Marketplace](#)

[Careers](#)

[Savings](#)

[Post a Classified ad](#)

[Local Directory](#)

Sales

[About Us](#)

[Canada.com](#)

Canoe
Driving.ca
The GrowthOp
Winnipeg Sun
The London Free Press
Regina Leader-Post
Saskatoon StarPhoenix
Windsor Star
Ottawa Citizen

The Province
Vancouver Sun
Edmonton Journal
Calgary Herald
Montreal Gazette
Toronto Sun
Ottawa Sun
Calgary Sun
Edmonton Sun

Follow us



Give us some feedback!

365 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3L4

© 2026 National Post, a division of Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Copyright & Licensing](#)

[Digital Ad Registry](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)

