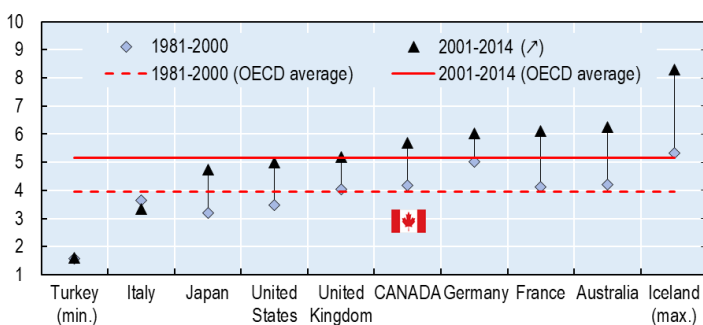




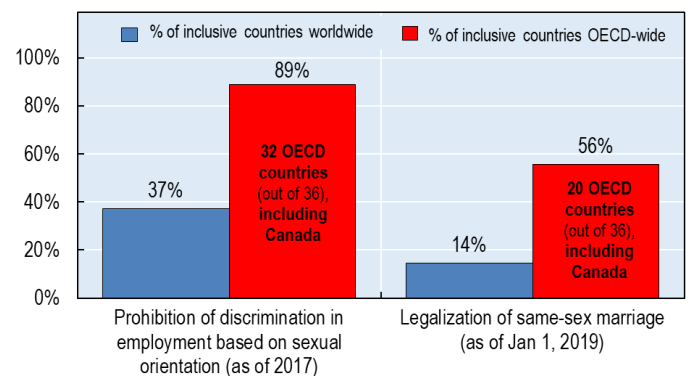
The 2019 edition of *Society at a Glance* examines trends in social well-being across the OECD. It features a special chapter on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people: their numbers, how they fare in terms of their economic situation and well-being, and what policies can improve LGBT inclusivity. It also includes a special chapter based on the 2018 OECD Risks That Matter Survey on people's perceptions of social and economic risks and the extent to which they think governments address those risks. The publication also presents 25 indicators on general context, self-sufficiency, equity, health and social cohesion.

Fig.1. Despite improvements, acceptance of homosexuality remains limited



Note: Acceptance of homosexuality is measured on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that homosexuality is never justifiable and 10 means that it is always justifiable. Source: [Figure 1.6 of OECD Society at a Glance 2019].

Fig.2. There is still a long way before sexual and gender minorities meet full-fledged legal recognition



Source: [Figure 1.18 of OECD Society at a Glance 2019].

A SPOTLIGHT ON LGBT PEOPLE

Canada is one of the 15 OECD countries that include a question on self-identification as heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual in at least one of their nationally representative surveys. The share of LGB people in Canada is sizeable (3.2% according to the 2016 Canadian Community Health Survey) and on the rise [Figure 1.4 of OECD Society at a Glance 2019]. Increasing disclosure of an LGB identity is likely to continue in the future since it is driven by younger cohorts. As most OECD countries, Canada does not yet collect information on the share of transgender people among the adult population. However, Statistics Canada recently published new standards for collecting data on sex at birth and gender in view of providing estimates of the full transgender population in the future.

Attitudes toward LGBT people are improving worldwide and have consistently been more positive in OECD countries than elsewhere. However, there remains substantial room for progress. Canada is no exception: Canadian citizens are only halfway to full social acceptance of homosexuality, scoring a little above five on a 1-to-10 acceptance scale (in line with the average OECD score) [Figure 1 above]. Moreover, only a minority

of Canadian respondents (44%) would accept that a child dresses and expresses herself/himself as a child of the other gender [Figure 1.8, Panel B].

Low acceptance of LGBT people puts them at risk of discrimination. Representative survey data reveal that LGBT people are penalised with respect to employment status and labour earnings [Figure 1.12]. Experimental data confirm that this penalty at least partly reflects labour market discrimination: with the same curriculum vitae, homosexual applicants are 1.5 times less likely to be invited to a job interview than heterosexual applicants when their sexual orientation is conveyed through their volunteer engagement or work experience in a gay and lesbian organisation [Figure 1.13].

A range of policies can help improve LGBT inclusivity. Making LGBT individuals and the penalties they face visible in national statistics is a prerequisite for their inclusion. Canada has a proud record in this area and will include questions to measure LGBT identities in the 2021 census.

Legally prohibiting anti-LGBT discrimination and ensuring equal rights for LGBT individuals is also essential to improve their situation. Canada also shows a good

performance in this field, being among the 32 OECD countries that prohibit discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation, and among the 20 OECD countries that have legalized same-sex marriage [Figure 2 above].

Finally, educating people in countering their unconscious bias is a key component of any policy package aiming to better LGBT inclusion. Evidence shows that these interventions can be highly effective, even when they are short.

Risks that Matter survey suggests Canadians cautiously optimistic about government programmes

Canadians are worried about financial security, in both the short and long run. About 51% of Canadians say “struggling to meet daily expenses despite working” is a top-three concern in the next year or two [Figure 3.1]. When looking beyond the next decade, 67% of Canadians list financial security in old age as a top-three risk, followed by concerns about social mobility [Figure 3.2].

Compared to respondents in other countries, Canadians are relatively satisfied with access to public benefits. While just over one-third (34%) of Canadians say they feel that they could access public benefits easily if they needed them, this is a higher level of confidence than in all of the other twenty countries surveyed [Figure 3.3]. Most people want government to do more: 57% of Canadians say government should do more to ensure their economic and social security, and only 5% say government should do less [Figure 3.6].

OVERVIEW OF OTHER SOCIAL INDICATORS

Affordable housing is a challenge

Canada ranks in the top-5 of OECD countries with the highest shares of households owning their property with a mortgage (41% of all households). The housing cost burden is particularly large for low-income people. In Canada, 48% of low-income owners with a mortgage spent over 40% of their disposable income on a mortgage in 2016, the fifth highest share among OECD countries. The same indicator decreases to 43% for low-income renters [Figure 6.14].

High poverty among children and youth

The relative poverty rate in Canada is slightly above the OECD average: 12.4% and 11.7% respectively [Figure 6.4]. **Poverty rates for children and youth in Canada are also higher than the OECD average** [Figure 6.6]. By contrast, poverty among the elderly is lower than the OECD average and the elderly have the lowest poverty rate amongst all age-groups in Canada.

Below average public social spending

Overall public social spending in Canada, at 17% of GDP, is below the OECD average of just over 20% [Figure 6.10]. But factoring in private social spending and tax incentives which are much larger in Canada than in other countries, net total social spending in Canada is close to the OECD average [Figure 6.11]

High household income

Annual median equivalised disposable income in Canada – at 31 700 USD – is well above the OECD average of 23 000 USD, and just below the United States [Figure 4.1]. The richest 10% of income earners get nearly a quarter (24%) of all income and more than half (51%) of all wealth is concentrated among the top 10% of wealthiest households. These shares are similar to those in OECD countries on average [Figure 6.2].

High trust levels

A cohesive society is one where citizens have confidence in public institutions. **64% of Canadians report confidence in national government**, the fourth-highest rate and well above the OECD average level of 43% [Figure 8.4]. Also (only) 38% of Canadians report that there is widespread corruption in their government, well below the OECD average level of 56% [Figure 8.6].

Canadian men feel safe, Canadian women less so

Only 7% of Canadian men did not feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they lived in 2016/17, placing Canada third in the OECD ranking. The share of Canadian women who feel unsafe is considerably higher (27%), but still lower than for many OECD countries where 32% of women do not feel safe on average [Figure 8.9].

Internet uptake can be expanded

Internet uptake by young people is nearly universal in Canada, as in most other OECD countries. For the total population, Canada does only slightly better than OECD countries on average, with 88% of the population using internet compared with 86% in the OECD [Figure 8.13].

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