



## DID YOU KNOW: Record holders

Canadians were among the most nominated musicians at this year's Grammy Awards — though Justin Bieber and Drake were shut out, Neil Young won for Best Rock Song and Arcade Fire walked away with Album of the Year.



# Who are you calling uncool?

Canada's hip quotient is only going up, even if the rest of the world doesn't know it

**ROSEMARY COUNTER**  
Special to QMI Agency

Tough break, Canada — despite the celebs flocking north of the border this week for the Toronto International Film Festival, an international poll by social networking site Badoo.com found Canada's cool quotient is severely lacking. Thirty thousand people across fifteen countries voted America the "coolest nationality," with Brazil and Spain hot on their tails.

At the bottom, however, Canada clocks in as fourth-least cool. The only countries

less than cool than us, they say, are Turkey, Poland and, the least cool country of all, Belgium (despite their delicious waffles).

"For us, knowing how cool we think we are, the fact that the world thinks of us alongside countries like Turkey and Poland is a little disappointing," says Jeremy Diamond, Director of Development and Programs at The Historical-Dominion Institute in Toronto. Diamond is equal parts sad and surprised. Last year, his organization did a similar poll, with much cooler results.

Take this, Yanks: The Histor-

ica-Dominion Institute found 71% of global respondents — including popularity queen bees Brazil and Spain — think Canada's cool. France, themselves cool in that art-class way, voted us 92% cool. India likes us too, at 84%. But Sweden — our clear frenemy in the bunch — voted us just 50% cool.

Our neighbours to the south are a big part of our problem. "We live in the shadow of a monster," Diamond says. "We're inundated with American culture — movies, music, art, TV — so it's always been hard to carve out our identity and know

what makes us Canadian."

For starters, that would be the maple leaf, according to 101 Things Canadians Should Know About Canada. The remaining list-toppers that most define Canada? Hockey, the flag and a beaver are next, followed by Canadarm, Canada Day and peace-keeping. Rounding off the top ten are Pierre Elliott Trudeau, universal health care and the mighty Niagara Falls. (The latter, we must add, is unequivocally better than the American side. We don't even need a vote for this.)

Also on the list are some

pretty hip Canucks. We've got Wayne Gretzky, Pierre Berton (cool enough to get it on in a canoe), Terry Fox and Neil Young. "How cool is Neil Young?" asks Diamond. "So cool that people often don't realize he's Canadian."

And as far as these trendy TIFF-goers, Canada's represented just fine. The comedy competition's over (Aykroyd, Myers, Carrey, and newbies Will Arnett, Seth Rogan and Michael Cera), but even our actors are Hollywood-worthy (see: Elisha Cuthbert, Ryan Gosling). And the reigning "Sexiest Man Alive" is none

other than the eight-packed Vancouverite Ryan Reynolds. But even on the cover of People magazine, Reynolds donned a humble T-shirt. How Canadian of him.

"Because we have a smaller population, because we're laid-back and not so into patriotism, we often don't get noticed enough. But we're secure in the fact that we're cool, so maybe we should just know it and not have to tell anyone," says Diamond.

So if Badoo.com doesn't think Canucks are hip, best to brush it off and not even care. And how cool is that?



## FIVE BONUS COOL CANADIAN PICKS



**Joni Mitchell:**  
For being anti-parking lot with serious style



**Leonard Cohen:**  
Also possibly the sexiest? Just saying.



**Catherine O'Hara:** For making all our childhoods slightly better. Kevin!



**Keifer Sutherland:**  
Who headbutts? Jack Bauer, that's who.



**Linda Evangelista:**  
For not waking up for less than \$10,000 a day.

PHOTOS FROM WENN.COM