

**AIR INDIA BOMBING**

# Two-in-Five Canadians Want Government to Apologize for Air India Bombing Failures

*Over half blame Airport Security Personnel, CSIS for the attack*

[VANCOUVER – Mar. 3, 2008] – Following the conclusion of the public judicial inquiry into the 1985 Air India bombing, a majority of Canadians believe government agencies and employees are responsible for failing to avert the terrorist attack, and two-in-five believe an official apology to the families of victims is in order, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a national representative sample, more than half of respondents believe two entities deserve a great deal or a moderate amount of the blame for the bombing: Airport security personnel (56%) and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) (55%).

In addition, 45 per cent of respondents think the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is greatly or moderately responsible, while 41 per cent feel the same way about Transport Canada.

In June 1985, a mid-air explosion killed 329 people on board Air India Flight 182. A public judicial inquiry, headed by former Supreme Court justice John Major, finished its examination into the case on Feb. 15.

The families of Canadians who died in the Air India bombing have urged for a formal apology from the prime minister, due to the intelligence, policing and regulatory failures surrounding the case. More than two-in-five respondents (45%) believe Ottawa should apologize, while three-in-ten (30%) disagree. Support for an apology is highest in British Columbia (49%) and Ontario (49%).

**KEY FINDINGS**

- » **45% think the federal government should formally apologize for the intelligence, policing and regulatory failures surrounding the case**
- » **More than half think Airport Security Personnel and CSIS deserve a great deal or a moderate amount of the blame for the bombing**
- » **47% see Air India bombing as a Canadian tragedy; 20% deem it an Indian affair**
- » **34% believe race played a factor in the initial investigation**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From February 19 to February 21, 2008, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,085 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.0 %, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

Some of the victims' families believe that race played a factor in how the initial investigation into the attack was handled. While Canadians are divided on this issue (34% agree, 36% disagree), 48 per cent of respondents in British Columbia side with the families.

Almost half of Canadians (47%)—and 60 per cent of respondents in British Columbia—believe the Air India bombing is a Canadian tragedy, while 20 per cent deem it an Indian affair. In Quebec, 56 per cent of respondents were unsure.

Finally, 28 per cent of Canadians think the country is now more vulnerable to a terrorist attack similar to the 1985 Air India bombing, while 43 per cent claim there is no difference. Only one-in-five (19%) believe Canada is less vulnerable.

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<b>Air India Bombing</b>							
Do you regard the 1985 Air India bombing as a Canadian tragedy or an Indian affair?							
		<b>Region</b>					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>MB/SK</b>	<b>ONT</b>	<b>PQ</b>	<b>ATL</b>
<b>Canadian tragedy</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Indian affair</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>38%</b>

<b>Air India Bombing</b>				
How much of the blame, if any, do you think each of the following deserves for the Air India bombing?				
	<b>RCMP</b>	<b>CSIS</b>	<b>Transport Canada</b>	<b>Airport Security Personnel</b>
<b>A great deal</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>A moderate amount</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Only a little</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>None at all</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>25%</b>

### Air India Bombing

A public judicial inquiry, headed by former Supreme Court justice John Major, examined the 1985 Air India bombing. Some of the victims' families believe that race played a factor in how the initial investigation into the attack was handled. Do you agree or disagree with this view?

	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Moderately agree</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Moderately disagree</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>27%</b>

### Air India Bombing

The families of Canadians who died in the 1985 Air India bombing have said they want a formal apology from the prime minister, due to the intelligence, policing and regulatory failures surrounding the case. Do you think the Canadian government should apologize?

	Total	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
<b>Yes</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>34%</b>

### Air India Bombing

Would you say Canada is now more vulnerable or less vulnerable to a terrorist attack similar to the 1985 Air India bombing?

		Region					
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
<b>More vulnerable</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Less vulnerable</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>No difference</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>12%</b>

*Angus Reid Strategies is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research.*

*Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.*

*Angus Reid Strategies has been successful in predicting the outcome of the 2007 provincial elections in:*

*Quebec: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=37>*

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*More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF%20WHITE%20PAPER.pdf>*

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:  
[www.angusreidstrategies.com](http://www.angusreidstrategies.com)**