

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

# Canadians Are Cautious About Revamping Nuclear Power Use

*Half of respondents want to build more reactors, but the vast majority express concern over safety issues and environmental impact.*

[VANCOUVER – Jun. 10, 2008] – Canadians appear to hold conflicting views on nuclear energy, mainly because of reservations over safety, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll reveals.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 50 per cent of respondents are in favour of building more nuclear power stations in Canada—although only 19 per cent express strong support. More than a third of respondents (36%) are opposed to this idea.

Canadians are not quite ready to accept a full shift towards nuclear energy. While 42 per cent of respondents think Canada should further pursue its nuclear capabilities in order to reduce toxic emissions that are the norm in the energy-producing industry, 40 per cent say the country should completely avoid nuclear energy and focus on developing other carbon-free sources of power instead.

The vast majority of respondents have reservations about the risks that nuclear energy might pose. More than 70 per cent of respondents are either very or moderately concerned about the possibility of an accident occurring at a nuclear power plant, the management of nuclear waste, and the health risks for communities living close to a reactor. A lower yet also significant number of respondents (63%) also fear that nuclear technology could eventually fall into the hands of extremists.

### KEY FINDINGS

- **50% support building more nuclear stations**
- **40% say Canada should avoid nuclear power and focus on developing other types of clean energy**
- **At least three-in-four worry about nuclear waste management and health risks for communities living close to a reactor**
- **Younger Canadians are least keen on further developing the nuclear industry**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From June 3 to June 4, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,006 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.1 %, 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.*

A regional breakdown of the results shows that support for a revamp of Canada's nuclear power industry is higher in Alberta, Ontario and Atlantic Canada, where roughly three-in-five respondents want more reactors built. Quebecers are clearly the least enthusiastic about this idea, with 62 per cent of respondents opposing the construction of new power plants.

Respondents in Quebec (60%) and British Columbia (49%) are more likely to say that Canada should stay off the path of nuclear energy and focus on finding other clean sources of power. Alberta ranks first in the proportion of people who want Canada to expand its nuclear capabilities (58%).

Concerns over the different risks related to nuclear power are very high across the country. Notably, respondents in Alberta are the least worried about both the possibility of an accident occurring at a nuclear plant (58%, compared to a national average of 70%) and the chance that the technology would fall into the hands of extremists (52%, compared to a national average of 63%).

A look into the different demographic groups shows that Canadian men (65%) are much more likely to support the construction of new reactors than women (36%). Male respondents (56%) are also more prone to believe that Canada should increase its nuclear industry than females (29%). Men are less worried than women about all the risks posed by nuclear power.

Remarkably, respondents aged 18 to 34 are not so keen on Canada building new nuclear reactors (40% want them, compared to over half of older respondents). Younger Canadians are also more likely than others to urge the government to focus on developing alternative sources of energy (49% agree with this view, compared to less than 39% for Canadians 35 and older).

<b>Nuclear Energy</b>							
Would you support or oppose building more nuclear power stations in Canada?							
	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Strongly support</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Moderately support</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Moderately oppose</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Support (net)</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Oppose (net)</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>27%</b>

### Nuclear Energy

Would you support or oppose building more nuclear power stations in Canada?

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
<b>Strongly support</b>	31%	8%	18%	18%	22%	13%	21%	31%	13%	18%	29%
<b>Moderately support</b>	33%	28%	22%	32%	37%	23%	35%	43%	31%	30%	32%
<b>Moderately oppose</b>	6%	15%	13%	10%	9%	12%	9%	9%	10%	11%	10%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	26%	25%	29%	25%	23%	33%	22%	11%	28%	25%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	24%	18%	15%	8%	19%	14%	7%	18%	17%	4%
<b>Support (net)</b>	65%	36%	40%	50%	59%	36%	56%	74%	44%	48%	61%
<b>Oppose (net)</b>	32%	40%	42%	35%	32%	45%	30%	20%	38%	35%	35%

<b>Nuclear Energy</b>							
Which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?							
	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Canada should avoid nuclear energy and focus on other carbon-free sources of energy	40%	49%	26%	30%	31%	60%	30%
Canada should further pursue its nuclear energy capabilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	42%	38%	58%	45%	54%	21%	43%
Not sure	17%	12%	16%	26%	15%	18%	27%

<b>Nuclear Energy</b>											
Which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?											
	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
Canada should avoid nuclear energy and focus on other carbon-free sources of energy	37%	44%	49%	39%	34%	43%	39%	28%	38%	42%	41%
Canada should further pursue its nuclear energy capabilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	56%	29%	34%	40%	53%	33%	46%	58%	41%	38%	51%
Not sure	8%	27%	17%	21%	13%	24%	14%	14%	21%	20%	9%

<b>Nuclear Energy</b>							
How concerned are you about each of the following? ("Very concerned" and "Moderately concerned" answers only)							
	<b>Region</b>						
	<b>National</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>MB/SK</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>PQ</b>	<b>ATL</b>
<b>Nuclear waste management</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>An accident at a nuclear power plant</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Health risks for communities that are close to a power station</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Nuclear technology falling into the hands of extremists</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>68%</b>

### Nuclear Energy

How concerned are you about each of the following?  
("Very concerned" and "moderately concerned" answers only)

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
<b>Nuclear waste management</b>	85%	89%	86%	87%	89%	90%	86%	85%	84%	89%	87%
<b>An accident at a nuclear power plant</b>	61%	79%	66%	74%	68%	75%	67%	61%	72%	73%	61%
<b>Health risks for communities that are close to a power station</b>	66%	84%	76%	78%	72%	80%	74%	66%	81%	75%	70%
<b>Nuclear technology falling into the hands of extremists</b>	54%	72%	54%	67%	67%	71%	61%	55%	74%	65%	49%

*Angus Reid Strategies is a 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.*

*Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its four offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices San Francisco, New York and London, England. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*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.*

*Over the last year, Angus Reid has covered five elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes. <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>*

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

- 30 -

**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)**