

TORONTO 18

Ontarians Believe Toronto 18 Terror Plot Was a Real Threat

Vast majority thinks terror cells are currently operating in the province.

[TORONTO – Jul, 8 2008] – Two years after the so-called “Toronto 18” were arrested, most people in Ontario believe their alleged plan to carry a terrorist attack on Canadian soil was serious, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In June 2006, 18 people—including four teenagers—were arrested in the Greater Toronto Area in connection with an alleged terror plot. The plan included attacking Toronto’s financial center with truck bombs and storming the Parliament building in Ottawa to take politicians hostage and behead the prime minister. The suspects were also charged with attending a terrorist training camp in 2005.

The charges against three of the four teens and four of the 14 adults have since been dismissed or stayed, while the trial against the remaining 11 suspects continues.

In the online survey of a representative sample of adult Ontario residents, 34 per cent of respondents say they have been following the case very or fairly closely.

Three-in-five respondents (59%) think the Toronto 18 were serious about attacking Canada. Only 13 per cent say the alleged terror plot was just a fantasy—the argument used by defence lawyer Mitchell Chernovsky in court earlier this year.

The survey also reveals that Ontarians seem worried about terrorism in general, beyond this particular case. The vast majority of respondents (82%) think terror cells are actually operating in Ontario at this time, and 59 per cent say there will be a terrorist attack in Canada within the next five years.

KEY FINDINGS

- **59% think the alleged terror plot was serious**
- **82% believe there are terrorist cells currently operating in Ontario**
- **59% think that Canada will be the target of a terrorist attack within the next five years**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From June 24 to June 25, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of **808 adult Ontario residents**. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- **3.5 %**, **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 Ontario. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

Notably, many men (42%) and respondents over the age of 55 (46%) have been following the Toronto 18 case closely compared to women (27%) and respondents aged 18-34 (21%).

Ontarians in all age, education and income brackets believe there are terror cells operating in the province at this particular time. The youngest respondents (73%) are only slightly less likely to agree with this view than their older counterparts.

Age is also a factor when predicting whether Canada will be targeted by terrorists in the near future. While just over two-in-five respondents under the age of 35 think Canada will be attacked in the next five years, the proportion reaches 62 per cent and 72 per cent in the subsequent age brackets.

Residents of Toronto (53%) are also slightly less inclined to believe there will be a terrorist attack in the country compared to those living elsewhere in the province, except Northern Ontario.

Toronto 18

As you may know, 18 residents of the Greater Toronto Area were arrested two years ago in the largest operation carried out under Canada's Anti-terrorism Act. How closely have you been following this case?

	Region							
	All	416	905	GTA (416 + 905)	Hamilton / Niagara	South West	East	North
Very closely	5%	7%	6%	7%	7%	2%	3%	4%
Fairly closely	29%	28%	31%	30%	26%	28%	31%	34%
Not too closely	45%	44%	44%	44%	48%	48%	43%	40%
Not closely at all	21%	21%	18%	19%	19%	23%	23%	22%
Net - Closely	34%	35%	37%	37%	33%	30%	34%	38%
Net - Not closely	66%	65%	63%	63%	67%	70%	66%	62%

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As you may know, 18 residents of the Greater Toronto Area were arrested two years ago in the largest operation carried out under Canada's Anti-terrorism Act. How closely have you been following this case?

	Gender		Age			Education			Income		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	HS or less	College / Tech school	Univ+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+
Very closely	7%	3%	2%	5%	7%	6%	3%	7%	6%	3%	7%
Fairly closely	35%	24%	19%	30%	39%	23%	31%	30%	30%	30%	27%
Not too closely	45%	45%	41%	48%	44%	48%	43%	47%	41%	45%	52%
Not closely at all	13%	28%	38%	17%	10%	23%	23%	16%	23%	21%	14%
Net - Closely	42%	27%	21%	35%	46%	29%	34%	37%	36%	33%	33%
Net - Not closely	58%	73%	79%	65%	54%	71%	66%	63%	64%	67%	67%

Toronto 18

It is alleged that the plot of the so-called Toronto 18 involved attacks on several buildings around the Toronto area, including the headquarters of CSIS, the RCMP, and the Toronto Stock Exchange, and storming Parliament Hill. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	Region							
	All	416	905	GTA (416 + 905)	Hamilton / Niagara	South West	East	North
The alleged terror plot was a fantasy	13%	19%	10%	14%	11%	13%	13%	15%
The alleged terror plot was serious	59%	50%	63%	57%	60%	58%	60%	64%
Not sure	28%	30%	27%	28%	29%	29%	28%	22%

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It is alleged that the plot of the so-called Toronto 18 involved attacks on several buildings around the Toronto area, including the headquarters of CSIS, the RCMP, and the Toronto Stock Exchange, and storming Parliament Hill. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	Gender		Age			Education			Income		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	HS or less	College / Tech school	Univ+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+
The alleged terror plot was a fantasy	17%	11%	15%	11%	15%	15%	11%	17%	13%	12%	17%
The alleged terror plot was serious	60%	57%	47%	62%	65%	52%	63%	56%	54%	58%	60%
Not sure	23%	32%	38%	27%	20%	33%	26%	27%	33%	30%	24%

Toronto 18

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? -
Terror cells are operating in Ontario at this time

	Region							
	All	416	905	GTA (416 + 905)	Hamilton / Niagara	South West	East	North
Strongly agree	38%	27%	43%	36%	39%	33%	49%	45%
Moderately agree	44%	51%	41%	45%	43%	50%	36%	39%
Moderately disagree	9%	11%	10%	11%	10%	8%	7%	7%
Strongly disagree	3%	5%	1%	3%	7%	3%	3%	3%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%	5%	1%	6%	5%	6%
Net - Agree	82%	77%	84%	81%	82%	83%	85%	84%
Net - Disagree	12%	16%	12%	14%	16%	11%	10%	10%

Toronto 18

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? -
Terror cells are operating in Ontario at this time

	Gender		Age			Education			Income		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	HS or less	College / Tech school	Univ+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+
Strongly agree	42%	35%	25%	40%	48%	37%	41%	35%	38%	39%	38%
Moderately agree	41%	47%	48%	46%	38%	49%	40%	48%	38%	45%	51%
Moderately disagree	9%	9%	15%	6%	7%	4%	9%	11%	12%	8%	8%
Strongly disagree	4%	3%	5%	2%	4%	4%	4%	2%	4%	4%	2%
Not sure	3%	7%	7%	5%	3%	7%	6%	3%	9%	4%	2%
Net - Agree	83%	82%	73%	86%	86%	85%	81%	84%	75%	84%	88%
Net - Disagree	14%	11%	20%	9%	11%	8%	14%	13%	16%	11%	10%

Toronto 18

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? -
There will be a terrorist attack in Canada in the next five years

	Region							
	All	416	905	GTA (416 + 905)	Hamilton / Niagara	South West	East	North
Strongly agree	19%	14%	25%	20%	24%	16%	20%	19%
Moderately agree	40%	39%	38%	38%	33%	47%	43%	30%
Moderately disagree	23%	26%	23%	24%	20%	22%	23%	19%
Strongly disagree	9%	16%	8%	11%	11%	7%	5%	9%
Not sure	9%	5%	7%	6%	12%	8%	9%	22%
Net - Agree	59%	53%	63%	58%	57%	63%	63%	49%
Net - Disagree	32%	42%	30%	36%	31%	29%	28%	29%

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Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? -
There will be a terrorist attack in Canada in the next five years

	Gender		Age			Education			Income		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	HS or less	College / Tech school	Univ+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+
Strongly agree	21%	17%	9%	20%	29%	19%	21%	17%	19%	22%	18%
Moderately agree	39%	41%	34%	42%	43%	46%	40%	37%	41%	34%	43%
Moderately disagree	23%	23%	33%	20%	18%	14%	22%	29%	18%	26%	27%
Strongly disagree	11%	8%	17%	7%	4%	8%	8%	11%	10%	9%	9%
Not sure	6%	11%	9%	11%	6%	13%	8%	7%	12%	9%	3%
Net - Agree	60%	59%	42%	62%	72%	65%	61%	54%	60%	56%	61%
Net - Disagree	34%	30%	49%	27%	22%	22%	30%	39%	28%	35%	36%

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), 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>

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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**