

ORIGIN OF LIFE

Canadians Believe Human Beings Evolved Over Millions of Years

Only one quarter believe God created humans in their present form within the last 10,000 years.

[VANCOUVER – Aug. 5, 2008] – A majority of Canadians believe in the theory of evolution while roughly one-in-five accept creationism, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll reveals.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 58 per cent of respondents believe that human beings evolved from less advanced life forms over millions of years. In turn, 22 per cent say God created humans in their present form in the past 10,000 years.

Respondents living in Quebec (63%) and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (63%) are particularly convinced about evolution, while a significantly high number of Albertans (40%) are more inclined to believe humans were created by God. Albertans are the only group in the entire survey in which more respondents chose the theory of creationism over evolution.

Notably, males are much more swayed by the theory of evolution (69% versus 48% for females) and less willing to believe that God created humans within the last 10,000 years (16% versus 28% for females).

A comparison of the different age groups also reveals an interesting trend—the belief in evolution decreases with age, while conviction in creationism increases with age. Two-thirds (67%) of respondents aged 18-34 believe in evolution, compared to a smaller 58 per cent for those aged 35-54

KEY FINDINGS

- **58% believe in evolution, while 22% believe in creationism**
- **Men more inclined than women to believe in evolution (69% versus 48%); women more prone to believe in creationism (28% versus 16%)**
- **Males (69%), younger adults (67%) and those with at least one university degree (71%) more inclined to believe in evolution**
- **Albertans (40%) and Conservative Party supporters (29%) more likely to think humans were created by God**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 29 to July 30, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,007 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.

and only half (51%) of those over the age of 55. In turn, while only 17 per cent of younger adults believe that God created humans, the proportion increases to 23 per cent for the middle-aged group and 25 per cent for older Canadians.

Belief in the theory of evolution is also quite prevalent among respondents with household incomes of \$100,000 or more (66%). The education analysis is worth noting, as the jump between the different groups is striking. Less than half of respondents with a high school degree or less (47%) are prone to believe that humans evolved over millions of years, compared to a higher 58 per cent for those with a college or technical school diploma. Among those with at least one university degree, evolutionists outnumber creationists by a five-to-one margin (71% to 14%).

Finally, another noteworthy snippet reveals that the political views of respondents also play a significant part. Almost half (48%) of Conservative Party supporters back the notion of evolution, while roughly three-in-ten (29%) believe all humans were created by God. Alternatively, the theory of evolution holds high ground with most other political supporters, especially Green Party backers (83%) and Bloc Québécois voters (72%).

When compared to an identical survey carried out by Angus Reid Strategies in June 2007, this year's results show no significant changes. The proportion of evolutionists dropped by one point (59% to 58%), while the amount of respondents who believe in creationism remained the same (22%). This year's poll also reveals that one-fifth of respondents (20%) are undecided on this issue (up one point from the previous survey).

Origin of Life

Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view regarding the origin and development of human beings on earth?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL
Human beings evolved from less advanced life forms over millions of years	58%	60%	37%	63%	59%	63%	56%
God created human beings in their present form within the last 10,000 years	22%	22%	40%	15%	22%	18%	22%
Not sure	20%	18%	23%	22%	19%	19%	23%

Origin of Life

Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view regarding the origin and development of human beings on earth?

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech schl	Univ+
Human beings evolved from less advanced life forms over millions of years	69%	48%	67%	58%	51%	55%	61%	66%	47%	58%	71%
God created human beings in their present form within the last 10,000 years	16%	28%	17%	23%	25%	26%	20%	14%	28%	23%	14%
Not Sure	16%	24%	16%	19%	25%	19%	20%	20%	25%	19%	15%

Origin of Life

Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view regarding the origin and development of human beings on earth?

	Will vote for or intends to vote for in next federal ballot						
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Green	Other
Human beings evolved from less advanced life forms over millions of years	58%	48%	61%	60%	72%	83%	62%
God created human beings in their present form within the last 10,000 years	22%	29%	24%	15%	12%	9%	13%
Not Sure	20%	23%	15%	25%	15%	7%	25%

Origin of Life

TREND - Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view regarding the origin and development of human beings on earth?

	August 2008	June 2007
Human beings evolved from less advanced life forms over millions of years	58%	59%
God created human beings in their present form within the last 10,000 years	22%	22%
Not Sure	20%	19%

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**