



AFGHANISTAN

CANADIANS STILL UNHAPPY WITH AFGHAN MISSION

**May poll shows discontent with Afghan mission,
in line with last two Angus Reid surveys**

**Half of Canadians (50%) want troops withdrawn
before the Feb 2009 deadline**

**Over half (55%) think Canada is shouldering
too much of the NATO burden**

**49% see Afghanistan as war mission,
not peace operation**

**Over half (55%) think the Harper government
has not explained the Afghan mission well**

**Over one-third (36%) not sure whether Afghan people
are benefiting from Canadian presence**

From May 25 to 28, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,056 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.

**Public Release:
National Public Opinion Poll**

[VANCOUVER - June 7, 2007] – Canadians remain dissatisfied with the nation's mission in Afghanistan, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

Similar to two Angus Reid polls on Afghanistan from February and April, the online survey of a representative national sample shows half of Canadians (50%) want the troops withdrawn before their commitment ends in February 2009.

As well, over half (55%) feel that Canada is shouldering too much of the burden of NATO's Afghan undertaking, and over half (55%) feel the Harper government has not adequately explained the Afghan exercise. Over one-third (36%) are also unsure whether the Afghan people are benefiting from the Canadian presence in Afghanistan.

Across Canada, almost half (49%) are convinced that the Afghan operation is a war mission and not a peace mission. Roughly half of all provinces also call it a war mission, with the exception of BC, where 38 per cent think it is a peace operation, and 40 per cent see it as a war mission.

Atlantic Canada appears especially displeased with the mission. A whopping 72 per cent of Atlantic Canadians believe the Harper government has not properly explained the undertaking, and 56 per cent want the troops withdrawn early.

On the other side, Conservative voters are the one segment that is particularly satisfied with the Afghan mission. Of this group, 63 per cent say the Harper government has explained the mission well, and 61 per cent do not think the troops should be brought home early. As well, 70 per cent believe that the Afghan people are benefiting from the Canadian presence in their country.

Related releases:

Canadians impatient with Afghan mission (April 2007)

<http://angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=47>

Afghan mission about war, not peace (Feb 2007)

<http://angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=24>

Canadians still unhappy with Afghan mission
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War mission or peace mission?

Q. In your view, is the Canadian mission in Afghanistan...

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Cons	Lib	NDP
A peace mission	30%	38%	29%	30%	30%	24%	35%	44%	32%	23%
A war mission	49%	40%	51%	48%	46%	55%	52%	43%	55%	46%
Not sure	22%	22%	20%	22%	25%	22%	13%	13%	13%	30%

55% believe the Harper government has not explained the mission effectively

Q. The Harper government has effectively explained the mission in Afghanistan

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Cons	Lib	NDP
Agree	23%	21%	26%	28%	24%	23%	19%	63%	6%	7%
Disagree	55%	52%	52%	50%	56%	53%	72%	17%	83%	73%
Not sure	22%	27%	22%	22%	21%	25%	9%	20%	11%	21%

55% believe Canada is shouldering too much of the NATO mission

Q. Canada is shouldering too much of the burden of NATO's mission in Afghanistan

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Cons	Lib	NDP
Agree	55%	56%	47%	45%	58%	58%	52%	48%	63%	55%
Disagree	19%	18%	21%	38%	16%	20%	16%	32%	17%	14%
Not sure	25%	27%	32%	17%	26%	21%	32%	19%	19%	31%

Half think Canada should leave Afghanistan early

Q. Canada should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan before their mandate ends in February 2009

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Cons	Lib	NDP
Agree	50%	54%	43%	32%	47%	60%	56%	25%	51%	64%
Disagree	32%	26%	39%	43%	36%	23%	25%	61%	27%	18%
Not sure	18%	20%	18%	25%	17%	18%	18%	14%	22%	17%

Over one-third (36%) not sure whether Afghan people are benefiting from Canadian presence

Q. The Afghan people are clearly benefiting from Canadian efforts in their country

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Cons	Lib	NDP
Agree	43%	34%	41%	42%	44%	43%	52%	70%	43%	33%
Disagree	22%	29%	11%	17%	22%	23%	20%	10%	24%	33%
Not sure	36%	37%	48%	41%	34%	33%	28%	21%	33%	35%

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), 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 this year's provincial elections:

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

In Manitoba: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=56>

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_WHITE_PAPER.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**