



## **ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY**

# **CANADIANS WANT ACTION TO CLAIM ARCTIC— BUT AREN'T SURE HARPER CAN DO IT**

**75% think Canada should invest heavily in  
claiming sovereignty over Arctic territory**

**Opinion split over whether the Harper gov't  
can secure Canada's Arctic sovereignty**

**53% think Russia represents a bigger threat than  
the U.S. in matters related to Arctic sovereignty**

**Over half (51%) think Canada should  
plant a flag on the Arctic seabed**

*From August 10 to 13, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,075 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.*

[VANCOUVER – Aug. 20, 2007] – Three-in-four Canadians want to pour federal money into securing Arctic sovereignty, but they are divided over whether the Harper government can successfully claim control of the Arctic, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 75 per cent of Canadians say that Canada should invest heavily in securing sovereignty over Arctic territory. But while 44 per cent are confident the Harper government can secure Canada's claim to the Arctic, 43 per cent are not confident it can.

And probably due to recent overtures by the Russians, over half (53%) of Canadians think Russia is a bigger threat than America to our claim to the Arctic. The Russians' strategy of planting their country's flag in a capsule on the seabed is also one that resonates with Canadians – over half (51%) think Canada should plant their own flag on the seabed to announce their national presence.

More men than women express agreement with all of the statements in the survey, with especially strong confidence that the Harper government can successfully lay claim to the Arctic. Conservative supporters also show the same agreement with all of the survey statements, and again show far higher confidence in the Harper government (82%) than either Liberal (32%) or NDP voters (24%).

As well, Canadians aged 55 and older and those in households earning \$100,000 or more a year are more inclined to agree with all the statements in the survey.

## 75% think Canada should invest heavily in securing sovereignty over its Arctic territory

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
Canada should invest heavily on securing sovereignty over its Arctic territory

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Strongly agree	40%	45%	43%	39%	43%	36%	35%	48%	33%
Moderately agree	34%	34%	36%	52%	32%	30%	43%	34%	34%
Moderately disagree	11%	13%	10%	5%	11%	16%	5%	11%	12%
Strongly disagree	4%	2%	7%	0%	4%	6%	3%	4%	5%
Not sure	10%	6%	5%	4%	11%	12%	14%	4%	15%
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>Total Disagree</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>18%</b>

	Total	Age			Household Income			Vote in next federal election		
		18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly agree	40%	34%	41%	47%	38%	41%	49%	49%	37%	39%
Moderately agree	34%	32%	34%	36%	31%	38%	34%	35%	37%	33%
Moderately disagree	11%	15%	10%	10%	12%	10%	10%	8%	14%	15%
Strongly disagree	4%	8%	3%	2%	4%	5%	4%	1%	5%	3%
Not sure	10%	11%	11%	6%	14%	6%	3%	7%	6%	9%
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Total Disagree</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>18%</b>

Arctic sovereignty  
Contact: Craig Worden, Vice-President, Public Affairs  
416-644-4038 or [craig.worden@angus-reid.com](mailto:craig.worden@angus-reid.com)

## 53% think Russia is a bigger threat than the U.S. in the matter of Arctic sovereignty

*Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?*

*Russia represents a bigger threat than the United States to Canada in matters related to Arctic sovereignty*

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Strongly agree	22%	24%	23%	25%	21%	20%	20%	24%	19%
Moderately agree	31%	33%	26%	28%	31%	33%	30%	32%	30%
Moderately disagree	18%	18%	28%	13%	18%	17%	17%	22%	15%
Strongly disagree	10%	8%	7%	6%	10%	12%	11%	12%	9%
Not sure	19%	16%	17%	28%	19%	17%	22%	10%	27%
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Total Disagree</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>24%</b>

	Total	Age			Household Income			Vote in next federal election		
		18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly agree	22%	15%	18%	35%	18%	22%	31%	39%	16%	14%
Moderately agree	31%	31%	32%	30%	28%	36%	29%	28%	36%	27%
Moderately disagree	18%	19%	19%	17%	19%	17%	19%	15%	23%	20%
Strongly disagree	10%	11%	11%	8%	12%	8%	12%	3%	11%	11%
Not sure	19%	23%	21%	11%	23%	17%	9%	15%	14%	28%
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Total Disagree</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>31%</b>

Arctic sovereignty  
Contact: Craig Worden, Vice-President, Public Affairs  
416-644-4038 or [craig.worden@angus-reid.com](mailto:craig.worden@angus-reid.com)

## 44% think the Harper government can secure Arctic sovereignty; 43% do not

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

*I have confidence in the government of Stephen Harper to secure Canada's Arctic sovereignty*

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Strongly agree	15%	7%	17%	10%	13%	25%	11%	18%	12%
Moderately agree	29%	30%	33%	37%	28%	29%	14%	32%	26%
Moderately disagree	22%	26%	15%	28%	27%	13%	19%	20%	23%
Strongly disagree	22%	25%	24%	16%	21%	16%	38%	21%	22%
Not sure	13%	11%	10%	9%	10%	17%	18%	8%	17%
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Total Disagree</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>45%</b>

	Total	Age			Household Income			Vote in next federal election		
		18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly agree	15%	9%	14%	23%	14%	17%	16%	38%	6%	6%
Moderately agree	29%	28%	28%	32%	27%	30%	34%	43%	26%	18%
Moderately disagree	22%	28%	17%	23%	21%	24%	16%	6%	33%	36%
Strongly disagree	22%	25%	24%	15%	21%	19%	24%	4%	29%	31%
Not sure	13%	10%	18%	8%	17%	9%	11%	9%	7%	10%
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Total Disagree</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>66%</b>

## 51% say Canada should plant a flag on the Arctic seabed

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
Canada should plant a flag on the Arctic's seabed

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Strongly agree	27%	27%	29%	27%	25%	29%	22%	30%	24%
Moderately agree	25%	26%	26%	39%	25%	19%	23%	27%	23%
Moderately disagree	15%	10%	19%	21%	16%	13%	12%	14%	16%
Strongly disagree	18%	24%	15%	4%	19%	22%	13%	20%	17%
Not sure	16%	14%	12%	9%	15%	17%	29%	10%	21%
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Total Disagree</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>33%</b>

	Age				Household Income			Vote in next federal election		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly agree	27%	21%	27%	31%	24%	28%	30%	29%	27%	22%
Moderately agree	25%	21%	24%	30%	23%	28%	26%	33%	23%	18%
Moderately disagree	15%	20%	11%	15%	14%	15%	17%	11%	17%	24%
Strongly disagree	18%	20%	19%	15%	21%	16%	17%	16%	17%	20%
Not sure	16%	18%	18%	10%	18%	12%	9%	12%	15%	15%
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Total Disagree</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>45%</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 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](http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF_WHITE_PAPER.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)**