

IMMIGRATION

More Canadians Are Questioning the Benefits of Immigration

Most respondents in Alberta and Ontario perceive immigration negatively and call for the deportation of illegal immigrants.

[MONTREAL – Sept. 9, 2010] – More Canadians are questioning whether immigration is benefitting the country, with Albertans and Ontarians voicing concern over the role of illegal immigrants in Canadian society, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative sample of 1,007 Canadian adults also found that half of respondents would not allow the Tamil migrants who arrived in Canada a few weeks ago to stay in the country as refugees.

Overall, 46 per cent of respondents (+5 since August 2009) say immigration is having a negative effect in Canada, while 34 per cent (-3) believe it is having a positive effect. Albertans (56%) and Ontarians (55%) are more likely to view immigration in a negative light than respondents in all other provinces.

Legal and Illegal Immigration

About two-in-five Canadians (38%) believe the number of legal immigrants who are allowed to relocate in Canada should decrease. A similar proportion (39%) would keep the current levels, and 16 per cent call for more immigrants to be allowed into Canada. Ontario (42%) and Quebec

KEY FINDINGS

- **46% (+5 since August 2009) say immigration is having a negative effect in Canada; 34% (-3) believe it is having a positive effect**
- **50% think the passengers and crew from the Tamil ship should be deported to their country of origin, even if the refugee claims are legitimate and there is no discernible link between the migrants and any terrorist organization; 32% would allow them to stay in Canada as refugees**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From September 2 to September 3, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,007 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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(40%) hold the highest level of support for decreasing legal immigration.

A plurality of respondents (44%) think the illegal immigrants who currently reside in Canada take jobs away from Canadian workers, while a smaller proportion (38%) believe they are employed in jobs that Canadian workers do not want. More than half of Ontarians (52%) think illegal immigrants are taking jobs away from Canadians.

Almost half of Canadians (47%) believe illegal immigrants should be required to leave their jobs and be deported from Canada, while 23 per cent would allow them to stay in Canada and eventually apply for citizenship. Almost one-in-five (17%) would allow these illegal immigrants to work in Canada on a temporary basis, but would not give them a chance to become citizens.

Ontarians (53%) and Albertans (52%) hold the highest level of support for the deportation of illegal immigrants, while British Columbians are at the other end of the spectrum on this question (39%).

The Tamil Ship

There has been little change in the way Canadians feel about the ship carrying about 490 Tamil migrants from Sri Lanka that arrived in British Columbia a few weeks ago. Half of respondents (50%) think the passengers and crew should be deported to their country of origin, even if the refugee claims are legitimate and there is no discernible link between the migrants and any terrorist organization. One third of Canadians (32%) would allow the passengers and crew to stay in Canada as refugees.

Analysis

On questions related to immigration, the views of Canadians appear to be hardening. Alberta, which was particularly unconvinced on the benefits of immigration in the August 2009 survey, has now been joined by Ontario. The two provinces are home to a population that is perceiving immigration negatively, and where a majority calls for the deportation of illegal immigrants. Ontarians also reject the claim that illegal immigrants are simply performing the tasks that Canadians don't want to carry out.

Quebecers still see some benefits to immigration, and are more likely than all other Canadians to assume that illegal immigrants are not taking jobs away from Canadian workers. Still, Quebecers choose a decrease in legal immigration over an increase by a 4-to-1 margin.

British Columbia holds the highest proportion of respondents that regard immigration in a positive light. BC is also the only province where a plurality would allow the Tamil migrants to stay as refugees.

For all our surveys, go to our [website](#) / Follow us on [Twitter](#).

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Immigration

Next, we'd like to ask you some questions about immigration. All things considered, do you think immigration is having a positive effect or a negative effect in Canada?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Positive effect	34%	44%	30%	32%	29%	42%	29%
Negative effect	46%	35%	56%	45%	55%	35%	45%
Not sure	20%	22%	15%	23%	16%	22%	26%

Immigration

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	August 2009	September 2010
Positive effect	37%	34%
Negative effect	41%	46%
Not sure	23%	20%

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Immigration

From what you have seen, read or heard, do you think the number of legal immigrants who are allowed to relocate in Canada should increase, remain the same, or decrease?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Increase	16%	18%	18%	28%	15%	10%	21%
Stay the same	39%	40%	42%	46%	36%	41%	29%
Decrease	38%	32%	33%	24%	42%	40%	38%
Not sure	8%	10%	7%	2%	7%	8%	12%

Immigration

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	August 2009	September 2010
Increase	18%	16%
Stay the same	38%	39%
Decrease	37%	38%
Not sure	7%	8%

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Immigration

There are between 35,000 and 120,000 illegal immigrants in Canada right now. Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
The illegal immigrants in Canada take jobs away from Canadian workers	44%	38%	44%	43%	52%	35%	46%
The illegal immigrants in Canada are employed in jobs that Canadian workers do not want	38%	38%	37%	43%	32%	48%	36%
Not sure	18%	24%	19%	14%	17%	17%	18%

Immigration

There are between 35,000 and 120,000 illegal immigrants in Canada right now. Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	August 2009	September 2010
The illegal immigrants in Canada take jobs away from Canadian workers	43%	44%
The illegal immigrants in Canada are employed in jobs that Canadian workers do not want	40%	38%
Not sure	17%	18%

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Immigration

Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view on the status of illegal immigrants who are currently working in Canada?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
They should be allowed to stay in Canada, and eventually apply for citizenship	23%	26%	24%	35%	22%	19%	25%
They should be allowed to work in Canada on a temporary basis, but they should not become citizens	17%	14%	11%	15%	15%	24%	18%
They should be required to leave their jobs and be deported from Canada	47%	39%	52%	45%	53%	42%	45%
Not sure	13%	20%	13%	4%	10%	15%	12%

Immigration

Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view on the status of illegal immigrants who are currently working in Canada?

	August 2009	September 2010
They should be allowed to stay in Canada, and eventually apply for citizenship	22%	23%
They should be allowed to work in Canada on a temporary basis, but they should not become citizens	21%	17%
They should be required to leave their jobs and be deported from Canada	46%	47%
Not sure	11%	13%

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Immigration

As you may know, a ship carrying about 490 Tamil migrants from Sri Lanka arrived in British Columbia a few weeks ago. The ship's passengers and crew are currently undergoing medical and identification checks to determine the legitimacy of their refugee claims. If the refugee claims are legitimate, and there is no discernible link between the migrants and any terrorist organization, which of these courses of action would you prefer?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Deporting the passengers and crew to their country of origin	50%	39%	52%	49%	55%	50%	43%
Allowing the passengers and crew to stay in Canada as refugees	32%	41%	36%	35%	30%	28%	37%
Not sure	17%	21%	11%	16%	15%	21%	20%

Immigration

As you may know, a ship carrying about 490 Tamil migrants from Sri Lanka arrived in British Columbia a few weeks ago. The ship's passengers and crew are currently undergoing medical and identification checks to determine the legitimacy of their refugee claims. If the refugee claims are legitimate, and there is no discernible link between the migrants and any terrorist organization, which of these courses of action would you prefer?

	August 2010	September 2010
Deporting the passengers and crew to their country of origin	48%	50%
Allowing the passengers and crew to stay in Canada as refugees	35%	32%
Not sure	17%	17%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical 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 Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial 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.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

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