

WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

Just Over a Third of Canadians Support the Mission in Afghanistan

Practically half of Quebecers “strongly oppose” the military operation.

[VANCOUVER – Oct. 22, 2010] – Public support for Canada’s engagement in Afghanistan has hit a low point, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,009 Canadian adults, just over a third of respondents (35%, -4 since August) support the military operation involving Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan—the lowest level recorded over the past two years. More than half of respondents (55%, +2) oppose the war.

The Mission

The level of “strong opposition” to the war outranks the level of “strong support” by a 3-to-1 margin (34% to 11%). Practically half of Quebecers (49%) say they “strongly oppose” the operation.

Almost half of Canadians (47%, -4) think Canada made a mistake in sending military forces to Afghanistan, while one third (32%, -6) believe it was the right thing to do. The only area where a plurality of respondents stands by Canada’s decision is Alberta (43% to 38%). Across the country, 53 per cent of respondents feel that they have a clear idea of what the war in Afghanistan is all about.

When the War is Over

There was little fluctuation on the question related to the outcome of the war. More than a quarter of respondents (27%) expect to see a negotiated settlement from a position of U.S. and NATO strength that gives the Taliban a small role in the Afghan government.

KEY FINDINGS

- **55% (+2 since August) oppose the military operation involving Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan; 35% (-4) support it**
- **47% (+4) say Canada made a mistake sending troops**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From October 13 to October 14, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,009 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—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.

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Only six per cent foresee a clear victory by U.S. and NATO forces over the Taliban, 15 per cent believe that the Taliban will play a significant role in Afghanistan after the war is over, and the same proportion (15%) think that U.S. and NATO forces will ultimately be defeated.

Obama's Plan

Three-in-ten Canadians (31%, -1) continue to express confidence in the Obama Administration being able to "finish the job" in Afghanistan. It is important to note that the level of confidence in the way the U.S. government will deal with the conflict is much higher in Quebec (33%) than in Western Canada (23% or less).

The Media and the Government

Around half of Canadians (47%, -1) say that the national media has provided the right amount of information about the Afghan mission. For a quarter of respondents (25%, -3), the media is paying too little attention to Afghanistan.

A majority of Canadians (55%, -2) claim that the federal government has provided too little information about the conflict, while one-in-four (25%, -1) say the amount of information has been appropriate.

For all previous Afghanistan War polls and more, go to our [website](#) / Follow us on [Twitter](#)

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War in Afghanistan

Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Strongly support	11%	11%	15%	9%	12%	3%	23%
Moderately support	25%	27%	26%	37%	24%	19%	29%
Moderately oppose	21%	21%	21%	16%	23%	23%	5%
Strongly oppose	34%	27%	23%	33%	31%	49%	31%
Not sure	10%	13%	15%	5%	10%	6%	12%

War in Afghanistan - TREND

Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan?

	Oct. 2010	Aug. 2010	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010
Strongly support	11%	15%	13%	14%
Moderately support	25%	25%	24%	25%
Moderately oppose	21%	23%	26%	26%
Strongly oppose	34%	30%	33%	30%
Not sure	10%	8%	4%	6%

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War in Afghanistan

Do you think Canada made a mistake or did the right thing in sending military forces to Afghanistan?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Made a mistake	47%	47%	38%	34%	41%	65%	40%
Did the right thing	32%	37%	43%	22%	39%	18%	36%
Not sure	21%	16%	19%	43%	20%	17%	24%

War in Afghanistan - TREND

Do you think Canada made a mistake or did the right thing in sending military forces to Afghanistan?

	Oct. 2010	Aug. 2010	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010
Made a mistake	47%	43%	48%	42%
Did the right thing	32%	38%	34%	36%
Not sure	21%	20%	17%	21%

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War in Afghanistan

Do you feel that you have a clear idea of what the war in Afghanistan is all about?

Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Yes	53%	62%	62%	37%	50%	55%	58%
No	47%	38%	38%	63%	50%	45%	42%

War in Afghanistan - TREND

Do you feel that you have a clear idea of what the war in Afghanistan is all about?

	Oct. 2010	Aug. 2010	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010
Yes	53%	56%	56%	57%
No	47%	44%	44%	43%

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War in Afghanistan

Now, thinking about the war in Afghanistan, what do you think is the most likely outcome?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Clear military victory by U.S. and NATO forces over the Taliban	6%	11%	5%	3%	8%	5%	0%
A negotiated settlement from a position of U.S. and NATO strength that gives the Taliban a small role in the Afghan government	27%	26%	26%	46%	26%	24%	25%
A negotiated settlement from a position of U.S. and NATO weakness that gives the Taliban a significant role in the Afghan government	15%	21%	15%	19%	16%	12%	12%
Military defeat of U.S. and NATO forces by the Taliban	15%	11%	9%	4%	9%	32%	13%
Not sure	37%	31%	45%	28%	41%	27%	50%

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War in Afghanistan

How confident are you that the Obama Administration will be able to “finish the job” in Afghanistan?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Very confident	4%	1%	2%	4%	4%	6%	7%
Moderately confident	27%	22%	17%	14%	32%	27%	28%
Not too confident	35%	36%	38%	18%	35%	39%	32%
Not confident at all	22%	23%	32%	37%	21%	15%	20%
Not sure	13%	18%	11%	26%	8%	13%	14%

War in Afghanistan - TREND

How confident are you that the Obama Administration will be able to “finish the job” in Afghanistan?

	Oct. 2010	Aug. 2010	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010
Very confident	4%	4%	4%	7%
Moderately confident	27%	27%	27%	29%
Not too confident	35%	38%	38%	35%
Not confident at all	22%	21%	23%	19%
Not sure	13%	9%	9%	10%

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War in Afghanistan

Thinking about the media in Canada, do you think it has provided too much attention, too little attention, or the right amount of attention to Afghanistan?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Too much	13%	10%	20%	12%	9%	19%	11%
The right amount	47%	45%	38%	34%	47%	54%	48%
Too little	25%	34%	22%	29%	28%	17%	25%
Not sure	15%	11%	19%	25%	16%	10%	15%

War in Afghanistan - TREND

Thinking about the media in Canada, do you think it has provided too much attention, too little attention, or the right amount of attention to Afghanistan?

	Oct. 2010	Aug. 2010	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010
Too much	13%	12%	12%	15%
The right amount	47%	48%	51%	51%
Too little	25%	28%	25%	22%
Not sure	15%	13%	12%	12%

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War in Afghanistan

Thinking about the federal government, do you think it has provided too much information, too little information, or the right amount of information about the war in Afghanistan?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Too much	4%	1%	2%	1%	5%	4%	6%
The right amount	25%	22%	37%	20%	26%	21%	30%
Too little	55%	65%	39%	44%	51%	67%	51%
Not sure	16%	12%	22%	34%	18%	9%	13%

War in Afghanistan - TREND

Thinking about the federal government, do you think it has provided too much information, too little information, or the right amount of information about the war in Afghanistan?

	Oct. 2010	Aug. 2010	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010
Too much	4%	5%	2%	6%
The right amount	25%	26%	29%	27%
Too little	55%	57%	57%	53%
Not sure	16%	13%	12%	13%

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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.angus-reid.com/services/record-of-accuracy/>

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

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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.angus-reid.com>

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