

STANLEY CUP RIOTS

British Columbians Want Vancouver Rioters and Looters to Face Justice

Most respondents are satisfied with the way the VPD handled the situation, but call for new security measures for future events.

[VANCOUVER – Jun. 20, 2011] – Residents of British Columbia and Metro Vancouver are dismayed at the events that unfolded after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final, and call for those responsible for the rioting and looting that took place in Downtown Vancouver to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative provincial sample of 906 adult British Columbians also shows support for new measures to deal with crowds, and opposition to the idea of banning street parties.

Feelings

Large majorities of respondents in British Columbia say they feel Disgust (90%), Shame (78%), Sadness (75%) and Anger (69%) at the events that unfolded in Vancouver after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final.

Four-in-five British Columbians (79%)—and three-in-four Metro Vancouver residents (76%)—agree with the notion that the riots were caused by a small group of people. About two-thirds (67% in BC, 65% in Metro Vancouver) also believe that police officers handled the situation in a proper manner.

KEY FINDINGS

- **79% in BC and 76% in Metro Vancouver agree with the notion that the riots were caused by a small group of people**
- **67% in BC and 65% in Metro Vancouver believe that police officers handled the situation in a proper manner**
- **56% in BC and 60% in Metro Vancouver are opposed to an outright ban on street parties**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From June 16 to June 17, 2011, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 906 randomly selected British Columbia adults, including 515 Metro Vancouver adults, who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.3% for the British Columbia sample and +/- 4.3% for the Metro Vancouver sample. 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 British Columbia. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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There is one issue where respondents differ from some of the recent official statements. At least seven-in-ten British Columbians (73%) and Metro Vancouver residents (74%) disagree with the idea that there was no way to know that the crowd assembled in Downtown Vancouver would become violent.

Police and the Law

Two-thirds of British Columbians (66%) and Metro Vancouver residents (64%) are satisfied with the way the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) handled the events that took place after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final. In addition, practically all respondents (96% in BC, 95% in Metro Vancouver) want the people who took part in riots to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

However, respondents are not certain that all the rioters and looters will actually be brought to justice. On average, respondents expect only about a third of those who broke the law (32%) to be prosecuted, and about half British Columbians actually believe that 20 per cent or less of these alleged perpetrators will be brought to court.

Three-in-five Metro Vancouver residents (59%) support creating a single police force that would oversee the entire Lower Mainland. A majority of respondents have agreed to this course of action since November 2007.

The Future

Respondents agree with the perception that the riots should not deter the City of Vancouver from hosting public celebrations. In fact, 56 per cent of British Columbians, and 60 per cent of Metro Vancouver residents, are opposed to an outright ban on street parties. However, practically all respondents (93% in BC, 94% in Metro Vancouver) believe that a larger police presence for crowd control on the streets should be established.

About three-in-five respondents (58% in BC, 59% in Metro Vancouver) support banning the sale of alcohol on the day of the sporting event, and four-in-five (79% in BC, 81% in Metro Vancouver) would authorize the use of non-lethal alternatives (such as rubber bullets, bean bags shotguns) for crowd dispersal.

A majority of respondents (62% in both BC and Metro Vancouver) support holding a comprehensive public inquiry into the events that took place after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final in Vancouver.

Conclusion

For the most part, British Columbians agree with some of the prevailing arguments that have emerged in the aftermath of the riots: that they were caused by a small group of people, that police officers handled the situation properly, and that those who broke the law must be brought to justice. However, respondents disagree with the idea that there was no way to tell that the crowd would become violent.

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The level of satisfaction with the way the VPD handled the events is high, and most Metro Vancouver residents do not want the riots to lead to the outright cancellation of street parties. If anything, the people are asking for a larger police presence, a curb on the sale of alcohol, and go as far as endorsing the use of non-lethal alternatives for crowd dispersal.

About Angus Reid Public Opinion

Angus Reid Public Opinion is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.

About Vision Critical®

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**For more information, please contact
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Next, we'd like to ask you some questions about the events that unfolded in Vancouver after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final in Vancouver. Here are some feelings that you may have about these events. Please select up to four feelings.

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Pride	3%	3%	2%	5%	3%
Shame	78%	78%	78%	78%	71%
Joy	1%	2%	0%	0%	5%
Sadness	75%	75%	77%	77%	68%
Trust	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Disgust	90%	88%	93%	90%	88%
Fear	8%	10%	5%	6%	3%
Anger	69%	70%	66%	70%	66%
Enthusiasm	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Indifference	4%	3%	4%	4%	16%
None of these	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%

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Stanley Cup Riots

Here are some statements that have been made about the events that took place after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final in Vancouver. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you agree or disagree with each one of these statements? –

“The riots were caused by a small group of people.”

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
Agree	79%	76%
Disagree	18%	21%
Not sure	3%	3%

Stanley Cup Riots

Here are some statements that have been made about the events that took place after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final in Vancouver. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you agree or disagree with each one of these statements? –

“Police officers handled the situation in a proper manner.”

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
Agree	67%	65%
Disagree	28%	32%
Not sure	5%	3%

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Here are some statements that have been made about the events that took place after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final in Vancouver. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you agree or disagree with each one of these statements? –

“There was no way to know that the crowd would become violent.”

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
Agree	35%	24%
Disagree	73%	74%
Not sure	2%	2%

Stanley Cup Riots

Here are some statements that have been made about the events that took place after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final in Vancouver. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you agree or disagree with each one of these statements? –

“The people who took part in riots should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.”

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
Agree	96%	95%
Disagree	2%	3%
Not sure	2%	2%

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Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) handled the events that took place after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final in Vancouver?

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
Satisfied	66%	64%
Dissatisfied	29%	31%
Not sure	6%	5%

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The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) has vowed to track down the people who broke the law. Overall, how many people who actually participated in rioting and looting do you think will be prosecuted? Please indicate your response in the form of a percentage, from 0% to 100%.

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
0%	3%	5%
1%-10%	35%	33%
11%-20%	14%	14%
21%-30%	11%	12%
31%-40%	5%	4%
41%-50%	13%	14%
51%-60%	3%	3%
61%-70%	3%	3%
71%-80%	5%	6%
81%-90%	1%	1%
91%-100%	6%	7%
Mean	32%	32%

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Do you support or oppose taking each of the following actions for future sporting events? –

“Banning street parties.”

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
Support	41%	37%
Oppose	56%	60%
Not sure	3%	3%

Stanley Cup Riots

Do you support or oppose taking each of the following actions for future sporting events? –

“Establishing a larger police presence for crowd control on streets.”

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
Support	93%	94%
Oppose	5%	4%
Not sure	2%	2%

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Do you support or oppose taking each of the following actions for future sporting events? –

“Banning the sale of alcohol on the day of the sporting event.”

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
Support	58%	59%
Oppose	38%	37%
Not sure	4%	4%

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Do you support or oppose taking each of the following actions for future sporting events? –

“Authorizing the use of non-lethal alternatives (such as rubber bullets, bean bags shotguns) for crowd dispersal.”

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver
Support	79%	81%
Oppose	18%	16%
Not sure	3%	2%

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All things considered, do you support or oppose holding a comprehensive public inquiry into the events that took place after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final in Vancouver?

	British Columbia	Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Island	Interior	North
Support	62%	62%	68%	62%	34%
Oppose	32%	31%	28%	34%	60%
Not sure	6%	8%	4%	5%	6%

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All things considered, do you support or oppose holding a comprehensive public inquiry into the events that took place after the conclusion of the Stanley Cup Final in Vancouver?

	British Columbia	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Support	62%	60%	63%	66%	56%	65%
Oppose	32%	37%	28%	25%	39%	29%
Not sure	6%	3%	9%	9%	5%	5%

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Asked only to respondents who reside in Metro Vancouver –

Do you support or oppose creating a single police force that would oversee the entire Lower Mainland?

	Metro Vancouver	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Support	59%	63%	54%	52%	59%	65%
Oppose	23%	22%	23%	27%	20%	21%
Not sure	19%	14%	23%	22%	20%	14%

Stanley Cup Riots

Asked only to respondents who reside in Metro Vancouver –

Do you support or oppose creating a single police force that would oversee the entire Lower Mainland?

	November 2007	May 2008	June 2011
Support	65%	63%	59%
Oppose	21%	24%	23%
Not sure	13%	13%	19%

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