

AFGHANISTAN

Canadians Support Non-Combat Role for Troops in Afghanistan

A majority of respondents disagree with extending the training mission beyond its 2014 deadline.

[VANCOUVER – Feb. 2, 2012] – Most Canadians are in favour of their government’s decision to keep soldiers in Afghanistan to help train the local military, but many also believe this mission should not be extended beyond 2014, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,001 Canadian adults, 40 per cent of respondents believe Canada made a mistake in sending military forces to Afghanistan in 2002, while 36 per cent think Canada did the right thing.

The federal government’s decision to keep 950 soldiers in Afghanistan until 2014 in a strictly non-combat role to help train the Afghan military is endorsed by a majority of Canadians (54%), including two thirds of respondents in British Columbia and Alberta (66%).

However, about three-in-five respondents (58%) disagree with extending Canada’s non-combat role after 2014.

Across Canada, two thirds of respondents (65%) disagree with the assertion that Afghanistan will never again become a safe haven for international terrorism, and a similar proportion (69%) believe the war in Afghanistan was not worth the human and financial toll.

KEY FINDINGS

- **54% support the federal government’s decision to keep 950 soldiers in Afghanistan until 2014 in a strictly non-combat role to help train the Afghan military**
- **58% disagree with extending Canada’s non-combat role after 2014**
- **65% disagree with the assertion that Afghanistan will never again become a safe haven for international terrorism**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From January 27 to January 28, 2012, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,001 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists. 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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Quebecers are more likely to call the mission in Afghanistan a mistake (52%), to disagree with an extension of Canada's non-combat role (67%), and to state that the war was not worth the human and financial toll (77%).

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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.

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**For more information, please contact
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Afghanistan

Next, we'd like to ask you some questions about the war in Afghanistan. Do you think Canada made a mistake or did the right thing in sending military forces to Afghanistan in 2002?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Made a mistake	40%	37%	29%	25%	38%	52%	38%
Did the right thing	36%	42%	46%	38%	38%	21%	44%
Not sure	25%	20%	24%	37%	24%	26%	18%

Afghanistan

As you may know, Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan ended in July 2011. Canada will keep 950 soldiers in Afghanistan until 2014 in a strictly non-combat role to help train the Afghan military. All things considered, do you agree or disagree with this decision?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Agree	54%	66%	66%	58%	53%	43%	58%
Disagree	39%	25%	27%	29%	39%	53%	40%
Not sure	7%	9%	7%	14%	7%	4%	2%

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Afghanistan

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has called on foreign governments to maintain a presence in Afghanistan after 2014. All things considered, do you support or oppose extending Canada's non-combat role to help train the Afghan military after 2014?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Agree	33%	45%	37%	36%	29%	27%	40%
Disagree	58%	44%	55%	49%	59%	67%	54%
Not sure	10%	11%	8%	15%	12%	6%	5%

Afghanistan

All things considered, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? –
Afghanistan will never again become a safe haven for international terrorism

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Agree	20%	10%	20%	17%	23%	14%	35%
Disagree	65%	74%	67%	56%	62%	72%	54%
Not sure	15%	16%	13%	27%	14%	14%	11%

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Afghanistan

All things considered, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? –
The war in Afghanistan was worth the human and financial toll

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Agree	22%	20%	23%	27%	22%	17%	31%
Disagree	69%	65%	67%	62%	68%	77%	67%
Not sure	9%	15%	10%	11%	10%	6%	3%

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