



CLASH ON PARLIAMENT HILL
HARPER SHOULD APOLOGIZE, CANADIANS SAY

49% of Canadians say the Prime Minister should apologize to Liberal MP Navdeep Bains for linking his relative to the Air India inquiry

57% say it was wrong to use a newspaper article to bring up the connection

But most Canadians (65%) side with Harper on extending special provisions in the Anti-Terrorism Act

From February 22 to 23, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,152 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +2.9%, 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.

**Public Release:
National Public Opinion Poll**

[TORONTO - Feb. 27, 2007] – Almost half of Canadians (49%) believe Prime Minister Stephen Harper should apologize to a Liberal member of Parliament for linking his relative to the Air India investigation, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

Atlantic Canadians (65%), Quebeckers (52%) and half of respondents in Ontario (50%) are most inclined to request an apology for Mississauga-Brampton MP Navdeep Bains; a majority of Liberal voters (78%) agree. Conversely, only one fifth (20%) of Conservative supporters concur.

Most Canadians (57%) also disapprove of how Harper brought up the issue in the first place – by quoting a newspaper article connecting Bains' relative to the criminal investigation. Respondents in Ontario (60%) and Atlantic Canada (66%) are most upset by the incident.

On a different note, the Prime Minister does enjoy of high support for an important issue being discussed right now. Almost two thirds of Canadians (65%) think some special provisions included in the 2001 Anti-Terrorism Act are adequate and should be extended. These provisions, which are due to expire on Mar. 1, include giving police the power to make preventive arrests of people suspected of planning a terrorist attack, and requiring anyone with information relevant to the investigation of a terrorist act to appear before a judge.

Support for these measures, which the Conservative government is keen to keep, is notably high in Alberta (86%), and among Conservative voters (88%). The provisions have the lowest popularity in British Columbia, at 58%.

Canadians say Harper should apologize
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49% of Canadians say Harper should apologize to Navdeep Bains
Atlantic Canadians (65%), Quebecers (52%) and half of respondents in Ontario (50%) are most inclined to request an apology
A majority of Liberal voters (78%) agree, but only one fifth (20%) of Conservative supporters concur

Should Stephen Harper apologize?									
<i>Q. Mississauga-Brampton South MP Navdeep Bains claims the Prime Minister's actions attacked his integrity and the integrity of his family, and has requested an apology from Stephen Harper. Do you think the Prime Minister should apologize?</i>									
		Region						Vote in last federal election	
	Total	BC	Alberta	Man/Sask	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Conservative	Liberal
Yes	49%	46%	35%	34%	50%	52%	65%	20%	78%
No	28%	25%	43%	43%	31%	20%	17%	57%	11%
Not sure	23%	29%	22%	22%	19%	28%	17%	23%	12%

57% of Canadians disapprove of Harper quoting a newspaper article connecting Bains' relative to the criminal investigation. Respondents in Ontario (60%) and Atlantic Canada (66%) are most upset by the incident.

Should Harper have quoted a newspaper article to attack Bains?							
<i>Q. Last Wednesday in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Stephen Harper relied on a newspaper article to link the relative of a Liberal Member of Parliament to the ongoing criminal investigation into the 1985 Air India bombings. Do you approve or disapprove of Harper using the newspaper article in this manner?</i>							
		Region					
	Total	BC	Alberta	Man/Sask	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
Approve	23%	23%	33%	34%	25%	17%	16%
Disapprove	57%	58%	52%	48%	60%	55%	66%
Not sure	19%	19%	15%	18%	16%	28%	18%

**65% of Canadians support extending special provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act
Support is high in Alberta (86%) and among Conservative voters (88%)
BC shows the lowest support with 58%**

Should the anti-terrorism provisions be extended?									
<i>Q. As you may know, some provisions in the Canadian Anti-Terrorism Act, which was implemented in December 2001, will expire at the end of this month. These measures include giving police the power to make preventive arrests of people suspected of planning a terrorist attack, and requiring anyone with information relevant to the investigation of a terrorist act to appear before a judge. Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?</i>									
	Total	Region						Vote in last federal election	
		BC	Alberta	Man/Sask	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Conservative	Liberal
The provisions are adequate and should be extended	65%	58%	86%	73%	60%	62%	70%	88%	49%
The provisions are excessive and should not be extended	24%	26%	12%	16%	25%	27%	21%	7%	35%
Not sure	12%	16%	2%	11%	15%	11%	9%	5%	16%

The Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com) 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. Moreover, Angus Reid Strategies' 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 is a dynamic North American full-service public affairs 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. Stationed in offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of 100 research and operational specialists provide research solutions across every type and sector of research.

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

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**