



CANADA IN AFGHANISTAN

CANADIANS GROW IMPATIENT WITH AFGHAN MISSION

More Canadians (52%) support a troop withdrawal before the mandate ends, compared to last February (46%)

Three-in-Five (61%) say the Harper government has not properly explained the mission, up seven points since February

57% of Canadians now see the operation in Afghanistan as a war mission, up four points in two months

From April 19 to 20, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,009 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample 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.

**Public Release:
National Public Opinion Poll**

[TORONTO - Apr. 25, 2007] – Compared to two months ago, more Canadians are feeling uninformed about the country's military engagement in Afghanistan, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found. More than 60% of respondents think the government of Stephen Harper has failed to explain what the troops are doing there. Fewer people (54%) agreed with this same idea in a survey conducted in late February 2007.

The online survey of a national representative sample also found that more Canadians assess the military effort in Afghanistan as a war mission (57%) rather than a peace mission (31%). The number of Canadians who deem the operation as war has increased by four percentage points since February. This perception has shifted sharply in British Columbia, where only 12 per cent respondents see it as peace-building operation.

A general feeling of misinformation is also reflected in the fact that many Canadians (33%) are still unsure about whether the country's military efforts in Afghanistan are benefiting the Afghan people or not. In addition, about two-thirds of the population (64%) say Canada is shouldering too much of the burden of the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

The amount of people who believe Canada should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan before the country's commitment ends in February 2009 has increased dramatically. Now, more than half of all respondents (52%) support the early pull-out, while two months ago the total number was six points lower. Conversely, just over a third (34%) of respondents think Canada should live up to its commitment and leave the troops there, down seven points since February.

People in Quebec (66%) and in British Columbia (52%) are still the most likely to support the early return of the troops, and so are voters identified with the NDP (61%) or the Bloc Québécois (71%). Conversely, Conservative voters (58%) and respondents in Alberta (57%) are the most likely to encourage the troops to stay in Afghanistan. In fact, Alberta is the only province where less than half of respondents favour an early pull-out (27%).

Canada in Afghanistan: Canadians grow impatient
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61% feel uninformed about the mission

Understanding the mission – April poll results							
<i>Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The Harper government has effectively explained the mission in Afghanistan</i>							
		Region					
	Total	BC	Alberta	Man/Sask	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
Agree	23%	12%	43%	18%	26%	20%	15%
Disagree	61%	73%	44%	71%	59%	57%	70%
Not sure	16%	14%	13%	11%	14%	23%	15%

Understanding the mission – February poll results							
<i>Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The Harper government has effectively explained the mission in Afghanistan</i>							
		Region					
	Total	BC	Alberta	Man/Sask	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
Agree	27%	21%	42%	39%	29%	22%	19%
Disagree	54%	54%	42%	42%	56%	57%	65%
Not sure	18%	24%	16%	19%	15%	21%	16%

57% say Canada's mission in Afghanistan is war

Afghanistan: peace building or war mission? – April poll results

Q. In your view, is the Canadian mission in Afghanistan...

	Total	Region					
		BC	Alberta	Man/Sask	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
A peace mission	31%	35%	27%	24%	33%	28%	36%
A war mission	57%	60%	57%	67%	49%	63%	60%
Not sure	12%	5%	16%	9%	18%	9%	4%

Afghanistan: peace building or war mission? – February poll results

Q. In your view, is the Canadian mission in Afghanistan...

	Total	Region					
		BC	Alberta	Man/Sask	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
A peace mission	29%	44%	25%	31%	30%	22%	24%
A war mission	53%	40%	51%	55%	55%	56%	59%
Not sure	18%	16%	24%	13%	15%	21%	17%

52% of Canadians want to bring the troops home before February 2009

When should the troops return home? – April poll results												
<i>Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Canada should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan before their mandate ends in February 2009</i>												
	Region							Party Affiliation				
	Total	BC	Alberta	MB / SK	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Other
Agree	52%	56%	27%	53%	50%	66%	49%	31%	53%	61%	71%	58%
Disagree	34%	27%	57%	38%	36%	22%	35%	58%	33%	27%	17%	25%
Not Sure	14%	17%	15%	9%	14%	12%	16%	11%	13%	12%	12%	18%

When should the troops return home? – February poll results							
<i>Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Canada should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan before their mandate ends in February 2009</i>							
	Region						
	Total	BC	Alberta	Man/Sask	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
Agree	46%	35%	41%	34%	41%	64%	41%
Disagree	41%	45%	46%	50%	47%	23%	48%
Not sure	14%	20%	13%	16%	13%	13%	11%

64% think Canada is shouldering too much of the NATO mission in Afghanistan

Is Canada doing too much? - April poll results							
<i>Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Canada is shouldering too much of the burden of NATO's mission in Afghanistan</i>							
		Region					
	Total	BC	Alberta	Man/Sask	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
Agree	64%	64%	44%	72%	64%	67%	71%
Disagree	19%	21%	35%	12%	16%	17%	17%
Not sure	17%	16%	21%	17%	20%	15%	12%

Is Canada doing too much? - February poll results							
<i>Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Canada is shouldering too much of the burden of NATO's mission in Afghanistan</i>							
		Region					
	Total	BC	Alberta	Man/Sask	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
Agree	65%	59%	52%	64%	64%	73%	69%
Disagree	18%	18%	23%	16%	19%	14%	16%
Not sure	18%	23%	25%	20%	17%	13%	14%

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.

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF_WHITE_PAPER.pdf

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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**