

MULRONEY-SCHREIBER CONTROVERSY

Canadians Tired of Mulroney-Schreiber Affair, But Still Want Wide Inquiry

Three-in-four say we'll never get to the bottom of what happened between the two men

[VANCOUVER – Apr. 23, 2008] – Canadians are growing weary over discussions pertaining to the relationship between former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and German-Canadian businessman Karl-Heinz Schreiber, and while many believe a public inquiry would be a waste of money, a majority still want the process to cast a wider net, an Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 74 per cent of respondents think we'll never get to the bottom of what happened between Mulroney and Schreiber. Roughly three-in-five Canadians acknowledge being tired of hearing about the Mulroney-Schreiber controversy (59%); and believe a public inquiry would be a waste of money (58%).

Still, Canadians are not satisfied with the terms of reference for an eventual inquiry tabled by University of Waterloo President David Johnston. While at least seven-in-ten respondents agree with determining the source of the cash paid to Mulroney by Schreiber (75%) and finding out what happened to the money after Mulroney accepted it (71%), only 32 per cent believe it is correct to refuse to review Mulroney's successful libel suit against the federal government. In addition, 58 per cent of respondents disagree with making the hearings more efficient by holding parts of the inquiry in secret, and 60 per cent believe the panel should explore questions related to the Airbus affair.

The survey also shows confusion over the actual capacity of a public inquiry. Only 32 per cent of Canadians correctly pointed out that a public inquiry cannot make findings of criminal or civil liability.

KEY FINDINGS

- » **74% think we'll never get to the bottom of what happened between Mulroney and Schreiber**
- » **59% are tired of hearing about the Mulroney-Schreiber controversy**
- » **58% believe a public inquiry into the Mulroney-Schreiber controversy would be a waste of money**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From April 16 to April 17, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,015 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.0 %, 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.

Mulroney - Schreiber Controversy

As you may know, University of Waterloo President David Johnston has issued his final recommendations on how to hold an inquiry into the relationship between former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and German-Canadian businessman Karl-Heinz Schreiber. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
Determining the source of the cash paid to Mulroney by Schreiber	75%	11%	14%
Finding out what happened to the money after Mulroney accepted it	71%	16%	13%
Refusing to review Mulroney's successful libel suit against the federal government	32%	45%	23%
Making the hearings more efficient by holding parts of the inquiry in secret	28%	58%	15%
Declining to explore any questions related to the Airbus affair	21%	60%	19%

Mulroney - Schreiber Controversy			
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?			
	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
We'll never get to the bottom of what happened between Mulroney and Schreiber	74%	17%	10%
I am tired of hearing about the Mulroney-Schreiber controversy	59%	33%	7%
A public inquiry into the Mulroney-Schreiber controversy would be a waste of money	58%	34%	7%

Mulroney - Schreiber Controversy							
Do you believe that the following statement is true or not true? – “A public inquiry can make findings of criminal or civil liability.”							
	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QU	AT
True	33%	36%	38%	38%	30%	33%	37%
Not true	32%	36%	26%	27%	32%	37%	19%
Not sure	35%	28%	37%	36%	38%	30%	43%

Angus Reid Strategies is a full-service polling 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.

Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its four offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices San Francisco, New York and London, England. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which 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. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Over the last year, Angus Reid has covered five 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. <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>

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.WP.pdf>

- 30 -

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

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