

WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

Americans Still Support Afghanistan Mission; Canadians and Britons Do Not

Two-in-five respondents in the United Kingdom would consent to negotiations with the Taliban.

[VANCOUVER – Jul. 21, 2009] – A new three-country survey conducted by Angus Reid Strategies shows that people in the United States support their country's involvement in Afghanistan, while a majority of respondents in Canada and the United Kingdom voice opposition to the military mission.

In the online survey of representative national samples in each one of the three countries, 55 per cent of Americans express support for the military operation involving American soldiers in Afghanistan, while 35 per cent voice opposition.

In Canada, support for the mission stands at 43 per cent, and a majority of respondents (52%) are opposed. A similar scenario ensues in Britain, where 39 per cent of respondents support the military operation, and 53 per cent oppose it.

Strong opposition to the mission reaches 31 per cent in Canada and 29 per cent in Britain, compared to 19 per cent in the U.S. Conversely, strong support is highest in the U.S. (25%), and markedly lower in the other two countries (Canada 17%, United Kingdom 14%).

The Mission

Roughly half of Americans (49%) believe their country did the right thing in sending military forces to Afghanistan in October 2001, a view shared by only 38 per cent of Canadians and 28 per cent of Britons. In the United Kingdom, more than half of respondents (53%) believe the UK made a mistake in sending military forces to Afghanistan.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Support for the Afghanistan mission: U.S. 55%, Can. 43%, UK 39%**
- **Support for negotiating with the Taliban: UK 43%, Can. 34%, U.S. 33%**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 15 to July 18, 2009, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among 1,007 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists, 1,000 American adults who are Springboard America panelists, and 1,887 British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1% for Canada, +/- 3.1% for the United States, and 2.2 per cent for the United Kingdom. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada, the US and the UK. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 604-647-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

A majority of respondents in the three countries (Canada 60%, United Kingdom 53%, United States 52%) claim to have a clear idea of what the war in Afghanistan is all about.

The Taliban

Canadians are much more adamant than respondents in the other two countries to decline an eventual negotiation involving their government and the Taliban. A majority of respondents in Canada (51%) reject this possibility, along with 44 per cent of Americans. In Britain, respondents appear divided, with 43 per cent favouring negotiations with the Taliban, and 37 per cent rejecting this notion.

Since the military mission began in October 2001, 738 Americans, 186 Britons and 125 Canadians have died in support of the U.S.-led Operation Enduring Freedom or as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

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CANADA - Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan?

UNITED STATES - Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving American soldiers in Afghanistan?

UNITED KINGDOM - Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	UNITED KINGDOM 
<i>Strongly support</i>	17%	25%	14%
<i>Moderately support</i>	26%	30%	25%
NET – Support	43%	55%	39%
<i>Moderately oppose</i>	21%	19%	24%
<i>Strongly oppose</i>	31%	16%	29%
NET – Oppose	52%	35%	53%
Not sure	5%	9%	9%

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CANADA - Do you think Canada made a mistake or did the right thing in sending military forces to Afghanistan?




UNITED STATES - Do you think the United States made a mistake or did the right thing in sending military forces to Afghanistan?

UNITED KINGDOM - Do you think the UK made a mistake or did the right thing in sending military forces to Afghanistan?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	UNITED KINGDOM 
Made a mistake	43%	32%	53%
Did the right thing	38%	49%	28%
Not sure	19%	19%	19%

War in Afghanistan

CANADA, UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM - Do you feel that you have a clear idea of what the war in Afghanistan is all about?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	UNITED KINGDOM 
Yes, I do	60%	52%	53%
No, I do not	40%	48%	47%

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CANADA - Some people have stated that officials from foreign nations should reach out to the Taliban if this helps the peace efforts led by the elected Afghan government. Would you agree or disagree with the Canadian government actively negotiating with the Taliban?

UNITED STATES - Some people have stated that officials from foreign nations should reach out to the Taliban if this helps the peace efforts led by the elected Afghan government. Would you agree or disagree with the American government actively negotiating with the Taliban?

UNITED KINGDOM - Some people have stated that officials from foreign nations should reach out to the Taliban if this helps the peace efforts led by the elected Afghan government. Would you agree or disagree with the UK government actively negotiating with the Taliban?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	UNITED KINGDOM 
<i>Strongly agree</i>	8%	8%	9%
<i>Moderately agree</i>	26%	25%	34%
NET – Agree	34%	33%	43%
<i>Moderately disagree</i>	20%	13%	16%
<i>Strongly agree</i>	31%	32%	21%
NET – Disagree	51%	44%	37%
Not sure	14%	22%	20%

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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 five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. 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 (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panels are maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

http://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2008.10.15_Election.pdf

Since 2006, Angus Reid Strategies has covered eight provincial 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.

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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**

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