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## Majority (54%) Believe Troops Should Stay In Afghanistan Past 2009

Minority (44%) Believe Troops Should be Brought Home in 2009, While Majority (54%) Believe Canada Should Continue either in Current Role (14%) or in Training Capacity (40%)

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Contact [Darrell Bricker](#) at 416.324.2900

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**Ottawa, ON** – In light of Prime Minister Harper's appointment of a five-person panel to review the future of Canada's role in Afghanistan, a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted exclusively on behalf of CanWest News Service and Global Television reveals that a majority (54%) of Canadians want Canadian troops to continue to be stationed in Afghanistan, while those who want a full withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan are in the minority (44%). Two percent (2%) do not know what they would prefer.

However, it appears that many Canadians would prefer to have Canada's current mission altered away from the current combat-intensive mission, with four in ten (40%) agreeing that Canada should 'keep troops there, but have them do something like train Afghani soldiers or police officers'. Just 14% of Canadians believe that the government should 'extend our current role and mission as required'.

Canadians across the country are not uniform in their opinions on this matter. Those most likely to indicate that they would like to see a full withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan are most likely to come from Quebec (51%), followed by residents of Atlantic Canada (47%), Ontario (43%), British Columbia (42%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (42%) and Alberta (33%). Younger Canadians, aged 18 to 34, are more likely (49%) to adopt this stance than are middle-aged (43%), aged 35 to 54, or older Canadians (40%). Women (51%) are much more likely than men (36%) to believe that Canada's troops

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should be withdrawn from Afghanistan when the current mission ends in 2009.

Those most likely to support the notion that Canadian soldiers should be redeployed to activities which primarily include the training of Afghan police and soldiers are most likely to come from Alberta (45%), followed by British Columbia (43%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (41%), Ontario (41%), Quebec (36%) and Atlantic Canada (35%). Older Canadians are more likely (43%) to support this type of mission than are middle-aged (41%) or younger Canadians (36%). Men (46%) are more likely than women (35%) to support this type of mission.

And the Canadians who most likely to support an extension of our current role and mission as required are most likely to come from Alberta (22%), followed by Saskatchewan/Manitoba (21%), Atlantic Canada (18%), British Columbia (14%), Ontario (13%), and Quebec (12%). There are no significant differences among age categories, however men (17%) are more likely (12%) than women to support extending Canada's current combat role as required.

*These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from Oct 9 -14, 2007. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1,001 adult Canadians was interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the aggregate results are considered accurate to within  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error will be larger within each sub-grouping of the survey population. These data were weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data.*

**For more information on this news release, please contact:**

Dr. Darrell Bricker

President & COO

Ipsos Reid

Public Affairs

416-509-8460

[Darrell.Bricker@Ipsos-Reid.com](mailto:Darrell.Bricker@Ipsos-Reid.com)

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