

## GardaWorld

# Survey on the use of security firms in support of police services

NOVEMBER 2017

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# METHODOLOGY

- The results presented in this report are from an Ipsos survey conducted between October 27 and November 1, 2017. A total of 1,007 Canadians aged 18 or older took part in this survey through our online platform i-Say.
- Weighting was applied to the total sample depending on age, gender, region, and language to ensure that the final sample was representative of Canadian adults according to Statistics Canada census data.
- Ipsos online survey accuracy is measured using a credibility interval. The online portion of this survey is accurate to  $\pm 3.5\%$ , 19 times out of 20. The credibility interval is larger for population subgroups.

# FINDINGS

# PRIVATE FIRMS AND SUPPLEMENTARY TASKS IN SUPPORT OF POLICE SERVICES – THE MAJORITY OF CANADIANS AGREE

■ Completely agree   ■ Somewhat agree   ■ Somewhat disagree   ■ Completely disagree   ■ Don't know



Q1) Some private security companies in Canada are proposing to offer supplementary tasks (e.g., traffic management, prisoner detention and transportation services, follow-up for non-priority and non-criminal calls) in support of police services, which could help lower government spending on police services and allow police officers to focus on other police duties. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this idea?

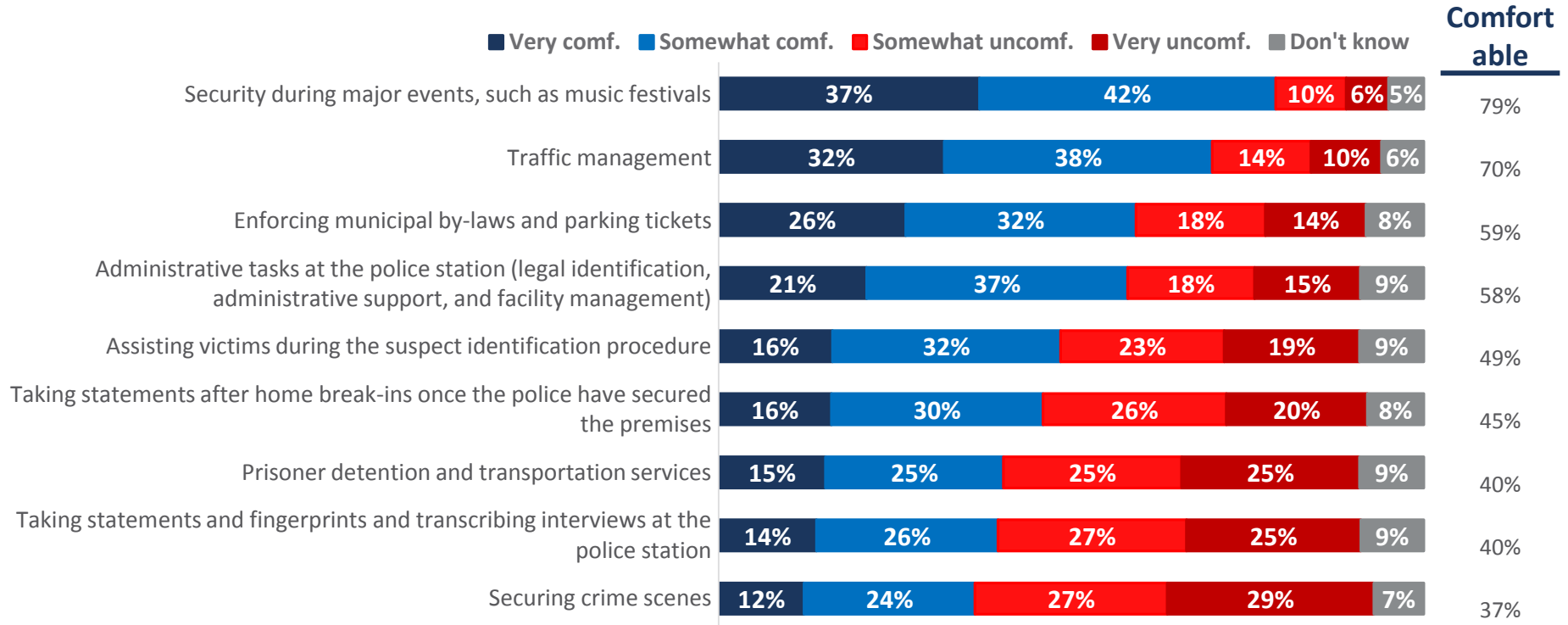
# PRIVATE FIRMS AND SUPPLEMENTARY TASKS – DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS

	Total	Gender		Age			Region					
		Male	Female	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older	BC	AB	SK/MB	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
		A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	F
<i>Base: All respondents (unweighted)</i>	1,007	471	536	243	395	369	124	97	98	364	239	85
<b>Agree (%)</b>	59%	61%	58%	<b>64%<sup>E</sup></b>	61%	54%	56%	62%	60%	58%	59%	67%

Q1) Some private security companies in Canada are proposing to offer supplementary tasks (e.g., traffic management, prisoner detention and transportation services, follow-up for non-priority and non-criminal calls) in support of police services, which could help lower government spending on police services and allow police officers to focus on other police duties. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Base: All respondents n = 1007

# COMFORT LEVEL WITH PRIVATE INVOLVEMENT IN VARIOUS AREAS

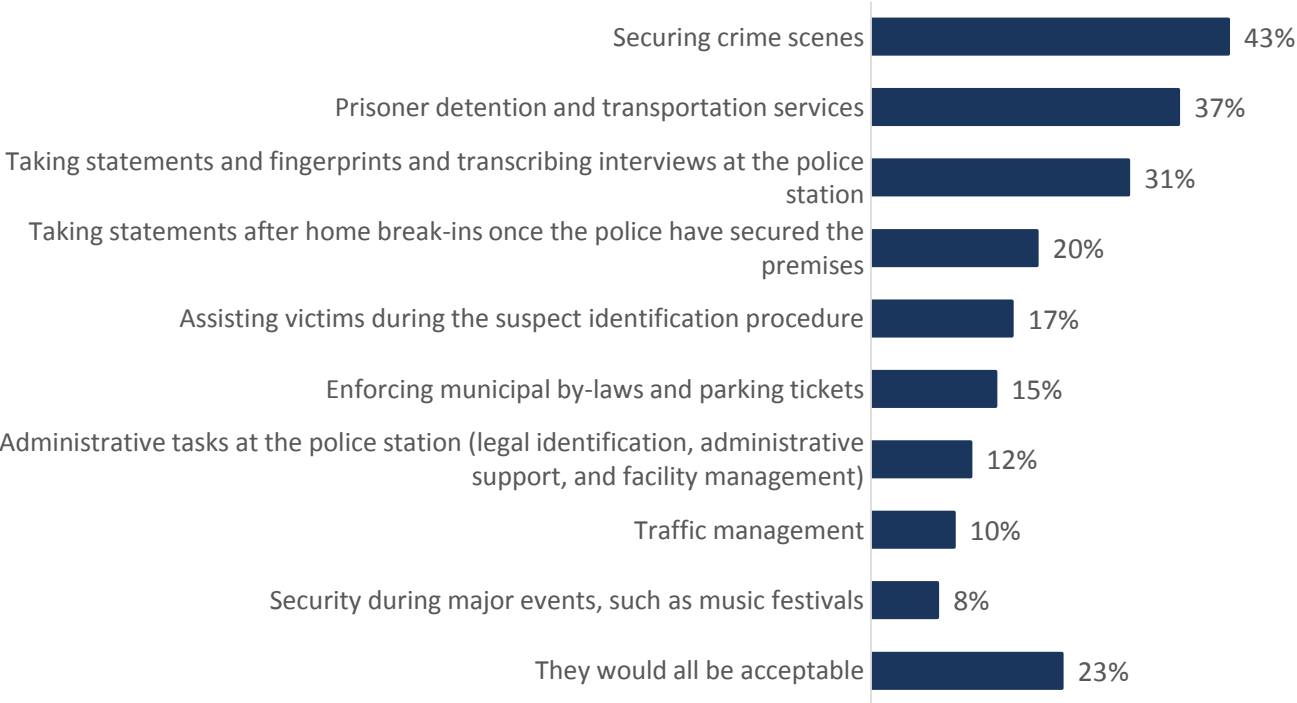


Q2) How comfortable are you with the idea of private security companies performing the following supplementary tasks, which are currently performed by the police?

# COMFORT LEVEL WITH PRIVATE INVOLVEMENT – DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS

Comfortable (%)	Total	Gender		Age			Region					
		Male	Female	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older	BC	AB	SK/MB	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
		A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	F
<i>Base: All respondents (unweighted)</i>	1,007	471	536	243	395	369	124	97	98	364	239	85
Security during major events, such as music festivals	79%	80%	78%	73%	79%	<b>82%<sub>C</sub></b>	<b>83%<sub>B</sub></b>	68%	74%	<b>81%<sub>B</sub></b>	79%	80%
Traffic management	70%	67%	73%	66%	72%	71%	<b>71%<sub>B</sub></b>	54%	65%	<b>72%<sub>B</sub></b>	<b>74%<sub>B</sub></b>	69%
Enforcing municipal by-laws and parking tickets	59%	58%	59%	42%	<b>62%<sub>C</sub></b>	<b>67%<sub>C</sub></b>	<b>60%<sub>B</sub></b>	41%	<b>60%<sub>B</sub></b>	<b>65%<sub>BE</sub></b>	<b>56%<sub>B</sub></b>	54%
Administrative tasks at the police station (legal identification, administrative support, and facility management)	58%	56%	61%	53%	<b>63%<sub>C</sub></b>	58%	53%	52%	67%	61%	57%	61%
Assisting victims during the suspect identification procedure	49%	50%	47%	47%	49%	49%	41%	43%	48%	49%	54% <sub>A</sub>	55%
Taking statements after home break-ins once the police have secured the premises	45%	45%	46%	43%	46%	47%	41%	42%	43%	47%	47%	52%
Prisoner detention and transportation services	40%	<b>47%<sub>B</sub></b>	34%	43%	42%	37%	31%	39%	40%	43% <sub>A</sub>	41%	41%
Taking statements and fingerprints and transcribing interviews at the police station	40%	43%	37%	40%	40%	39%	35%	34%	40%	39%	45%	45%
Securing crime scenes	37%	<b>43%<sub>B</sub></b>	30%	41%	38%	33%	31%	33%	36%	35%	<b>44%<sub>A</sub></b>	35%

# OPPOSITION TO PRIVATE FIRMS PERFORMING SUPPLEMENTARY TASKS



Q3) Would you be completely opposed to any of the following supplementary tasks being performed by a private security firm, regardless of the situation? (Please choose up to three responses.)  
Base: All respondents n = 1007. The total may exceed 100% as multiple responses are possible.

# OPPOSITION TO PRIVATE FIRMS PERFORMING SUPPLEMENTARY TASKS – DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS

	Total	Gender		Age			Region					
		Male	Female	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older	BC	AB	SK/MB	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic
		A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	F
<i>Base: All respondents (unweighted)</i>	1,007	471	536	243	395	369	124	97	98	364	239	85
Securing crime scenes	43%	39%	<b>47%<sub>A</sub></b>	38%	42%	47%	39%	44%	50%	44%	39%	47%
Prisoner detention and transportation services	37%	31%	<b>42%<sub>A</sub></b>	29%	34%	<b>44%<sub>CD</sub></b>	<b>44%<sub>B</sub></b>	28%	42%	36%	36%	32%
Taking statements and fingerprints and transcribing interviews at the police station	31%	31%	30%	28%	25%	<b>37%<sub>CD</sub></b>	34%	34%	32%	31%	26%	36%
Taking statements after home break-ins once the police have secured the premises	20%	19%	21%	16%	23%	20%	21%	15%	<b>26%<sub>E</sub></b>	<b>23%<sub>E</sub></b>	15%	20%
Assisting victims during the suspect identification procedure	17%	13%	<b>20%<sub>A</sub></b>	16%	15%	18%	16%	16%	19%	17%	18%	13%
Enforcing municipal by-laws and parking tickets	15%	<b>18%<sub>B</sub></b>	12%	13%	15%	16%	19%	20%	11%	16%	10%	12%
Administrative tasks at the police station (legal identification, administrative support, and facility management)	12%	14%	11%	11%	11%	13%	13%	10%	14%	14%	11%	5%
Traffic management	10%	12%	9%	10%	9%	11%	9%	14%	11%	10%	7%	<b>16%<sub>E</sub></b>
Security during major events, such as music festivals	8%	10%	6%	6%	9%	8%	7%	10%	4%	9%	7%	8%
They would all be acceptable	23%	25%	21%	<b>29%<sub>E</sub></b>	<b>25%<sub>E</sub></b>	17%	21%	18%	20%	22%	29%	24%

# OPINION: THE COST OF SAFETY



**59%**

You can't put a price on safety; the government should invest whatever it takes to bolster police services.



**28%**

Safety is important but, like everything else, we should aim to spend less on police services.



**14%**

I don't know/  
I would prefer not to answer

# OPINION: THE COST OF SAFETY



**28%**

Safety is important but, like everything else, we should aim to spend less on police services.

## GENDER



**33%** of men vs.  
23% of women

## INCOME

**\$100K+**

**42%** of respondents have a household income of \$100K or more



**42%** of respondents in Quebec vs. 29% in Ontario, 24% in Saskatchewan/Manitoba, 21% in Alberta, 15% in Atlantic Canada, and 14% in British Columbia

# OPINION: POLICE FORCE CUTS



**61%**

I could get on board with private security companies helping the police with specific duties, but only if there were no jobs cut in the police force.



**19%**

I could get on board with private security companies helping the police with specific duties, even if it meant cutting jobs in the police force.



**20%**

I don't know/  
I would prefer not to answer

# OPINION: POLICE FORCE CUTS – DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS



**19%**

I could get on board with private security companies helping the police with specific duties, even if it meant cutting jobs in the police force.

## GENDER



**27%** of men vs.  
12% of women



## INCOME

**\$100K+**

**35%** of respondents have a household income of \$100K or more

**24%** of respondents in Quebec vs. 23% in Atlantic Canada, 20% in Ontario, 16% in Saskatchewan/Manitoba, 14% in Alberta, and 12% in British Columbia

# OPINION: OUTSOURCING SUPPLEMENTARY TASKS AND PUBLIC SAFETY



**32%**

Outsourcing supplementary tasks to major private security companies in order to assist the police puts public safety at risk.



**45%**

Outsourcing supplementary tasks to major private security companies in order to assist the police does not put public safety at risk.



**23%**

I don't know/  
I would prefer not to answer

# OPINION: OUTSOURCING SUPPLEMENTARY TASKS – DEMOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS



**45%**

Outsourcing supplementary tasks to major private security companies in order to assist the police does not put public safety at risk.

## AGE



**49%** of Generation X (35 to 54) vs. 47% of baby boomers (55 and older) and 38% of millennials (18 to 34). Millennials are more undecided (30% responded don't know)

## GENDER



**Statistical equality**

between men (47%) and women (44%)



**53%** of respondents in Quebec vs. 46% in Saskatchewan/Manitoba, 45% in Ontario, 42% in Atlantic Canada, 40% in Alberta, and 38% in British Columbia

# APPENDIX

# DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Gender	
Male	49%
Female	51%

Age	
18 to 34 (net)	27%
35 to 54 (net)	34%
55 and older (net)	39%

Education	
< High school	11%
High school	34%
College	39%
University degree	15%

Household income	
Less than \$40K	30%
\$40K to \$59K	21%
\$60K to \$99K	23%
\$100K or more	12%

Household composition	
Children	20%
No children	80%

Number of people in the household	
1	28%
2	43%
3	15%
4	9%
5	3%
6	1%
7	*
8	*
12 or more	*

Marital status	
Single/never married	29%
Common-law	14%
Married	41%
Widow/Widower	5%
Divorced or separated	11%

Region	
BC	14%
AB	11%
SK/MB	6%
Ontario	38%
Quebec	23%
Atlantic	7%

Employment status	
Full-time employee	36%
Part-time employee	9%
Self-employed	6%
Unemployed and seeking employment	4%
Unemployed and not seeking employment/long-term illness or disability	5%
Stay-at-home parent, homemaker	5%
Retired	28%
Student	6%
Military	*
Prefer not to answer	1%

# Contact



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