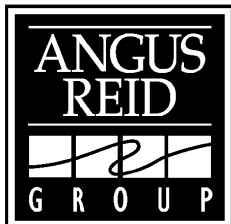

CANADIANS' VIEWS ON A GLOBAL BAN ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS



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This Canada-wide poll was conducted by The Angus Reid Group on behalf of the Canadian Peace Alliance by telephone between February 4th and 10th among a representative cross-section of 1,500 adult Canadians.

The data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's age composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to the 1996 Census data.

With a national sample of 1,500, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results are within ± 2.3 percentage points of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error will be larger within the various sub-groupings of the survey population.

STRONG SUPPORT (93%) FOR CANADIAN INVOLVEMENT IN GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- Three quarters (76%) strongly support a leadership role for Canada in global negotiations --***
 - Majority (55%) support Canada's membership in military alliances such as NATO despite nuclear weapons --***
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On the heels of Canada's leadership in the movement to abolish anti-personnel mines world-wide, Canadians are almost unanimous in supporting Canadian involvement in global negotiations to abolish nuclear weapons. Noting Canada's adherence to global bans on *chemical* and *biological* weapons, fully 93% of Canadians support the idea -- this includes 79% who say they *strongly support* the idea.

Further, three-quarters (76%) strongly support the idea of a leadership role for Canada in global negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons. However, a slim majority (55%) still supports Canada's involvement with military alliances such as NATO which include nuclear weapons in their military strategies.

These are some of the key findings of a Canada-wide poll was conducted by The Angus Reid Group on behalf of the Canadian Peace Alliance by telephone between February 4th and 10th among a representative cross-section of 1,500 adult Canadians. The data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's age composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to the 1996 Census data.

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Canadians want to lead the way to a nuclear-weapons-free world

In addition to supporting global abolition of nuclear weapons, Canadians are virtually unanimous in believing Canada should take a *lead role* in this process. Noting that Canada lead the effort to ban anti-personnel land mines, 97% of Canadians say they either *somewhat support* or *strongly*

support a leadership role for Canada in global negotiations -- this includes 76% who *strongly support* the idea to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Canadians believe nuclear weapons pose a threat to world security

The majority of Canadians believe that nuclear weapons pose a threat to world security rather than enhancing world security. When asked to choose between these two alternate perceptions, 75% of Canadians say that the existence of nuclear weapons make the world a more dangerous place. Only 22% believe that nuclear weapons make the world a safer place.

Women (82%) are more likely than men (69%) to believe that nuclear weapons make the world a more dangerous place. This perception is otherwise largely constant across all socio-economic groups. Quebecers (80%) are most likely to believe that nuclear weapons make the world more dangerous.

Nuclear weapons considered a threat to peace and the environment

When asked to rate the seriousness of six possible threats posed by nuclear weapons, the majority of Canadians rate all but one as *serious threats*. Specifically, more than one-half of Canadians believe there is a *serious threat* of the use of nuclear weapons by terrorists (67%), a world war involving nuclear weapons (58%), an environmental disaster caused by damage to a nuclear weapon (58%), nuclear proliferation (53%), or the accidental firing of a nuclear weapon (52%). Just under one-half (49%) believe there is a *serious threat* of a nuclear war between countries in the developing world.

Even those Canadians who do not believe these incidents are a *serious threat*, nonetheless believe they are either a *moderate* or *mild* threat. Fewer than 10% say any of these incidents pose *no threat at all*.

Women generally perceive a graver threat from these incidents than men.

Mirroring their greater dislike for nuclear weapons noted above, Quebecers are roughly 20% more likely than other Canadians to perceive each of these possible incidents as a *serious threat*. In contrast, more educated Canadians tend to see these possible incidents as less of a threat.

Slim majority (55%) support Canada's membership in military alliances such as NATO

Notwithstanding the widespread support for a global ban on nuclear weapons and the perception that such weapons make the world more dangerous, a slight majority of Canadians (55%) support Canada's membership in military alliances, such as NATO, which include nuclear weapons in their military strategies. Forty-two percent oppose Canada's membership in such alliances.

Support for Canadian membership in alliances with military strategies involving nuclear weapons is higher among men (61%) than among women (49%). It is also somewhat higher among more educated Canadians. Albertans (67%) are most likely to support Canadian membership in these alliances, while Quebecers (38%) are least supportive.

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Full survey details are available at the Angus Reid Group website at: www.angusreid.com