

# PULSE OF TORONTO: PART II

## A CITY UNDER SIEGE: PERFORMANCE AND RESPONSE



Ipsos Reid

**Ipsos Reid Public Release Date: Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 6:00 a.m. (EDT)**

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## **PULSE OF TORONTO: PART II**

### **A CITY UNDER SIEGE: PERFORMANCE AND RESPONSE**

**Toronto, ON** – Torontonians offer mixed reviews for their city leaders when it comes to their performance and response to the recent rash of gun violence in the City of Toronto, according to a survey of Torontonians conducted by Ipsos Reid for the National Post, Global News and CFRB.

Torontonians offer low average grades across the board to their elected politicians, community leaders, and justice administrators when considering their performance in battling gun crimes in the city of Toronto. Police Chief Bill Blair and the Toronto Police Services get the highest marks with only a C average grade, followed by community leaders (C-), Mayor David Miller (D+), City Council (D), The Attorney General of Ontario (D), and the Judges and Justices of the Peace (D-).

But despite their giving him low grades on the issue of gun crime, Torontonians are not entirely upset with Bill Blair's performance as Police Chief: Sixty-four percent say they "approve" of the job he has been doing -- while 19% say it is "too soon to tell". Among those who offer either approval or disapproval of his performance (81% of Torontonians), Bill Blair receives an approval rating of 80% (a good approval rating in relation to past Toronto Police Chief ratings).

There is a very strong feeling among Torontonians (90% agree) that that the Court Judges and Justices of the Peace are not strict enough in their enforcement of the law (69% strongly agree).

In the face of what appears to be a sense among Torontonians that the response of their leaders and justice system towards gun crime has been inadequate, a substantial portion



(18%) agrees with the statement that “more and more I want to have a firearm in my household to protect my family and myself”. And, two-thirds (66%) feel a “city-wide curfew should be introduced for all youth under the age of 16 in Toronto” (35% strongly agree).

*These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for the National Post, Global News and CFRB fielded from October 6th to October 12<sup>th</sup> 2005. For the survey, a representative sample of 500 residents of the City of Toronto was interviewed via an on-line survey vehicle. The sample used in this study has been weighted according to 2001 Census data to accurately reflect the general population of the City of Toronto (see chart below). With a sample of this size, the aggregate results are considered accurate to within  $\pm 4.4$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire population of Toronto been polled. The margin of error will be larger within each sub-grouping of the survey population.*

		On-line sample	General population	Variance
Sex	Male	48%	48%	0
	Female	52%	52%	0
Age	18-34	29%	33%	-4
	35-54	41%	39%	+2
	55+	29%	28%	+1
Educ.	High school or less	18%	23%	-5
	Post-secondary	83%	79%	+4
Income	<\$30K	13%	16%	-3
	\$30K-<\$60K	30%	31%	-1
	>\$60K	56%	53%	+3



## ***Low Grades For Leaders When It Comes To Their Performance In Fighting Gun Crimes...***

Torontonians were asked to give a grade of A,B,C, D or F to each in list of people or groups who are involved in fighting gun crimes in the City of Toronto for their performance in providing leadership and solutions.

Overall none of the groups listed receive good marks, with Police Chief Bill Blair and The Toronto Police Services leading the way with only a C average grade. Following behind in terms of their average grades in this area are: community leaders in the communities that are most affected (C-), Mayor David Miller (D+), City Council (D), The Attorney General of Ontario (D), and the Judges and Justices of the Peace (D-).

	A	B	C	D	F	Avg. Grade
Police Chief Bill Blair and The Toronto Police Services	7%	42%	39%	9%	3%	C
Community leaders in the communities that are most affected	6%	25%	38%	19%	11%	C-
Mayor David Miller	3%	23%	41%	19%	14%	D+
City Council	0%	11%	43%	29%	17%	D
The Attorney General of Ontario	1%	12%	37%	28%	22%	D
Judges and Justices of the Peace	1%	10%	31%	28%	30%	D-

## ***But Sixty-four Percent Approve Of The Job Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair Has Been Doing – 80% Among Those Who Have An Opinion...***

Sixty-four percent of all Torontonians say that they “approve” the job Bill Blair has been doing as Toronto’s Police Chief (9% strongly approve), but 19% say that it is “too soon to tell”. Approximately one in seven says they “disapprove” (16%) of the job he’s been doing.



Excluding those who say that it is “too soon to tell” (19%), Police Chief Bill Blair receives an approval rating of 80% among those who offer either approval or disapproval of his performance.

Tracking Toronto Police Chiefs approval ratings:

	Date	Approval Rating
Bill Blair	Oct-04	80%*
Julian Fantino	Aug-04	65%
Julian Fantino	Sep-03	84%
Julian Fantino	Jan-02	78%
David Boothby	Oct-98	74%

\*Approval rating is calculated by excluding those who answered “too soon to tell”.

### ***A Very Strong Majority (90%) Believe Court Judges And Justices Of The Peace Not Strict Enough Enforcing Law When It Comes To Gun Violence And Gang Activity...***

Nine in ten (90%) agree with the statement “Court Judges and Justices of the Peace are not strict enough in their enforcement of the law when it comes to gun violence and gang activity” (69% strongly agree). The remaining 10% disagree with this statement.

- Torontonians age 35 and over are significantly more likely than those age 18-34 to agree with this statement (93% vs. 84%).

### ***One In Five (18%) Agree That More And More They Want To Have A Firearm In Their House To Protect Their Family...***

One in five (18%) agree with the statement that “more and more I want to have a firearm in my household to protect my family and myself” (5% strongly agree). A strong majority (82%) disagrees with this statement (65% strongly disagree).

Those most likely to agree with this statement are:



- Men (21% vs. 14% among women); and
- Younger adults aged 18-34 (18% vs. 10% among those ages 35 and over).

***Two-Thirds (66%) Think Citywide Curfew Of 11 p.m. Should Be Introduced For All Youth Under The Age Of 16 In Toronto...***

Two-thirds (66%) agree with the statement "a citywide curfew of 11 p.m. should be introduced for all youth under the age of 16 in Toronto" (35% strongly agree). The remaining third (34%) disagree with this statement (15% strongly disagree).

- Women are significantly more likely than men to agree with this statement (71% vs. 61%).

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