

ELECTION 2006 - CRIME AND VIOLENCE ISSUES

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In Toronto, 28% Give Paul Martin an "F" for Providing Leadership and Solutions on Fighting Gun Crime



Ipsos Reid

Public Release Date: January 3, 2006 – 6:00am (EST)

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In Toronto, 28% Give Paul Martin a Failing Grade for Providing Leadership and Solutions on Fighting Gun Crime

Toronto, ON – Canadians are coming back from their holidays somewhat shell shocked from Toronto's high-profile Boxing Day gang shooting that left an innocent by-stander dead. A new Ipsos Reid/CanWest Global survey of Canadian voters shows that on the issue of gangs and gun violence, Stephen Harper and the Conservatives (36%) have a clear lead over Paul Martin and the Liberals (24%). Jack Layton and the NDP come in third at 19%. In Toronto specifically, almost three-in-ten (28%) give Paul Martin an "F" for providing leadership and solutions on fighting gun crime.

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid/CanWest Global poll conducted December 30th 2005 to January 2nd, 2006. A total of 8336 Canadian voters were surveyed via the internet, yielding results which are accurate to within $\pm 1.1\%$ (19 times out of 20). A total of 790 interviews were conducted in the City of Toronto and 581 interviews were conducted in the 905 Belt. The respective margin of error for these areas is $\pm 3.5\%$ and $\pm 4.1\%$ (19 times out of 20). The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. The data were statistically weighted to ensure that the sample's age, sex, regional and party support composition reflects that of the actual Canadian voter population. The sample was drawn from a pre-recruited panel of over 12,000 voters drawn from Ipsos Reid's internet panel.

Conservatives (36%) Lead Liberals (24%) and NDP (19%) When it Comes to Dealing with Gangs and Gun Violence

The recent spate of gang violence in Toronto and Vancouver has launched crime and guns onto the election agenda. Thinking about these incidents, Canadians say Stephen Harper and the Conservatives (36%) have the best ideas and policies for dealing with gangs and gun violence. Paul Martin and the Liberals are 12 points behind at 24% and Jack Layton and the NDP are third at 19%. In Quebec, the Conservatives (25%) and BQ (24%) are essentially tied while the Liberals place third at 20%.

	CANADA	ATL	PQ	ON	MB/SK	AB/NU/NT	BC/YT
Sample Size	8336	581	1928	3128	566	802	1331
Paul Martin and the Liberals	24%	33%	20%	27%	24%	15%	24%
Stephan Harper and the Conservatives	36%	30%	25%	36%	39%	63%	39%
Jack Layton and the NDP	19%	23%	18%	20%	18%	10%	22%
Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois	6%	-	24%	-	-	-	-
Other	16%	15%	14%	17%	20%	12%	16%

In Toronto, the site of the most high-profile shooting, the Liberals (30%) are essentially tied with the Conservatives (28%) but in the suburban areas that make up Toronto's "905 Belt" the Conservatives (40%) have a 17 point lead over the Liberals (23%).

	Toronto	905 Belt
Sample Size	790	581
Paul Martin and the Liberals	30%	23%
Stephan Harper and the Conservatives	28%	40%
Jack Layton and the NDP	23%	19%
Gilles Duceppe and the Bloc Quebecois	-	-
Other	20%	18%

- Men (40%) are more likely than women (31%) to say that Stephen Harper and the Conservatives have the best ideas and policies for dealing with gangs and gun violence.

In Toronto, 28% Give Paul Martin a Failing Grade for Providing Leadership and Solutions on Fighting Gun Crime

Overall, almost three-in-ten (28%) Torontonians give Paul Martin an “F” for “providing leadership and solutions” for fighting gun crimes in the City of Toronto. This contrasts with only 3% who give him an “A” grade and 14% who give him a “B” grade. Meanwhile, 31% say his performance merits a “C” and 24% say his performance merits a “D” grade.

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