

CANADIANS AND PUBLICLY MOURNING THEIR FALLEN TROOPS

*More (53%) Disagree Than Agree (45%) With Decision To Not Fly
Flag At Half-Mast Every Time A Soldier Is Killed*

*Majority (66%) Feel Media Ban From Return Of Killed Soldiers Is
Really A Government Muzzle and Should Be Left Up To Families
To Decide*



Ipsos Reid

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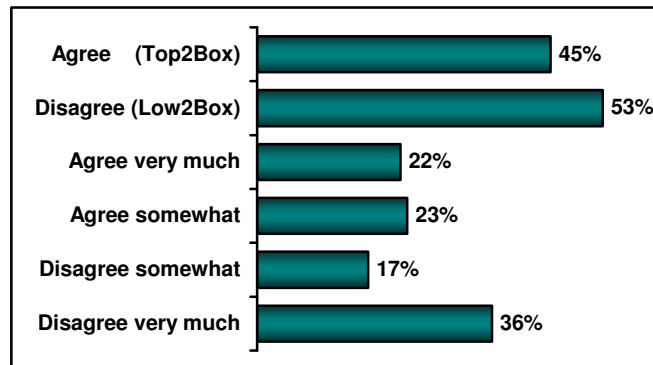
Majority (66%) Feel Media Ban From Return Of Killed Soldiers Is Really A Government Muzzle and Should Be Left Up To Families To Decide

Toronto, ON – More Canadians “disagree” (53%) than “agree” (45%) with Prime Minister Harper’s recent decision to return to the eighty year tradition of lowering flags to half mast only on Remembrance Day to honour all those from Canada’s military who have died - breaking from the former government’s practice of doing this every time a Canadian Soldier was killed. According to a new Ipsos Reid survey conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News.

And when it comes to the newly introduced media ban from televising the return of dead Canadian soldiers, a majority (66%) feel this is “really a muzzle and it should be up to the families that it be televised to all Canadians”, while just 31% feel the “Prime Minister wants the return of fallen soldiers off limits to media for the sake of the family”.

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from April 25-27th, 2006. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 944 adult Canadians were interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the aggregate results are considered accurate to within ± 3.2 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 the 2001 Census data.

More (53%) Disagree With Flag Flying Decision Than Agree (45%)...



Prime Minister Harper has decided to return to the previous practice of only flying the Canadian flag at half mast on Remembrance day for soldiers killed in action as opposed to having it done each time it happens. Do you agree very much, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree very much with his decision?

There are some regional variances when it comes to this issue:

- Residents of British Columbia (52%) and Alberta and Quebec (both at 48%) are the most likely to agree with this decision; while
- Residents of Ontario and Atlantic Canada (both at 57%) and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (56%) are the most likely to disagree with this decision.

And there are some differences when it comes to age and gender:

- Those age 18-54 are more likely to disagree with this decision (57% vs. 44% among those age 55 and over); and
- Women are more likely than men to disagree (62% vs. 43%).



Majority (66%) Feel Media Ban From Return Of Killed Soldiers Is Really A Government Muzzle – Just 31% Think It's Being Done For The Families' Sake...

		REGION					
	TOTAL	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL
It is really a muzzle and it should be up to the families that it be televised to all Canadians	66%	70%	53%	55%	67%	73%	56%
The Prime Minister wants the return of fallen soldiers off limits to media for the sake of the family	31%	27%	43%	38%	30%	26%	39%

There was also a practice under the previous government that the media was allowed to televise the return of the Canadian soldiers who had died when their caskets were offloaded, draped in a Canadian flag, from the back of transport planes and met by representatives of the soldiers' family, military and the government. Prime Minister Harper has now said that the media is banned from such things in order to respect the privacy of soldiers' families whereas others who say it is really a muzzle and it should be up to the families that it be televised to all Canadians. Which do you agree with:

- Residents of Quebec (73%), British Columbia (70%), and Ontario (67%) are the most likely to believe this decision is really a muzzle and that it should be up to the families that it be televised to Canadians.
- Residents of Alberta (43%) and Atlantic Canada (39%) are the most likely to believe the Prime Minister wants the return of fallen soldiers off limits to media for the sake of the family.

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