

CANADIANS TAKE AIM AT GUN REGISTRY

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And Most (56%) Blame Liberal Politicians, Not Bureaucrats
(37%), For Bungling*

*But Majority Of Canadians (67%) Also Support Idea Of Having
Some Type Of Gun Registry Put In Place By Harper Government*



Ipsos Reid

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Majority (54%) Feel Current Gun Registry Should Be Scrapped And Most (56%) Blame Liberal Politicians, Not Bureaucrats (37%), For Bungling

But Majority Of Canadians (67%) Also Support Idea Of Having Some Type Of Gun Registry Put In Place By Harper Government

Toronto, ON – A new Ipsos Reid survey for CanWest/Global News reports that most Canadians (54%) feel the “gun registry is badly organized, isn’t working properly, and should be scrapped” – a level of opinion essentially unchanged from what was recorded nearly four years, and two Prime Ministers ago (53% expressed this opinion in a December 2002 Ipsos Reid survey).

And, if the Auditor General of Canada produced a report that indicated that there had been widespread mismanagement and waste within the gun registry itself:

- 56% say they would most blame “the former Liberal Government and elected politicians who built the gun registry and oversaw it”, while
- 37% say they would most blame “the government workers who were put in charge of administering the gun registry on a day-to-day basis”.

But while most feel the current gun registry program should be scrapped, there is strong majority support among Canadians (67%), particularly in Ontario (71%) and Quebec (76%), toward the current government maintaining “some sort of system that makes gun owners across the country register their fire-arms”.

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from May 9th to 11th, 2006. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1001 adult Canadians was interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the aggregate results are considered accurate to within ± 3.1 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 Census data.

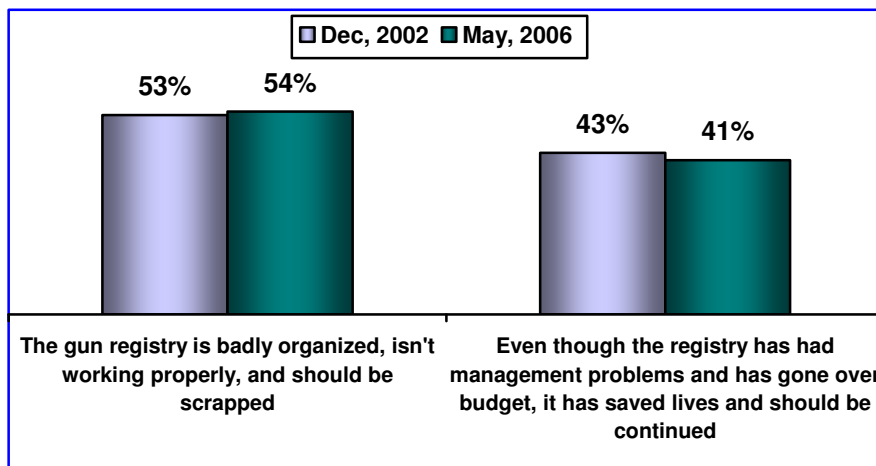
	Total	British Columbia	Alberta	Sask/Man	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
Sample	1001	139	97	67	385	238	75
Margin of Error +/-%	3.1	8.3	10.0	12	5.0	6.4	11.2

Fifty-four Percent of Canadians Feel Current Gun Registry Should Be Scrapped (Level Unchanged Since 2002)...

When it comes to whether or not Canadians feel the federal gun registry should be scrapped or continued, there has been little change in overall opinions since 2002. Currently, 54% feel it should be scrapped (essentially unchanged from 53% in 2002) versus 41% who feel it should be continued (43% thought this way in 2002).

Scrap Vs. Continue Gun Registry

All Respondents



Some people say that the gun registry is badly organized, isn't working properly, and should be scrapped. Other people say that even though the registry has had management problems and has gone over budget, but it has saved lives and should be continued. Which of these two opinions is closest to your own?

Just as it was in 2002, those Canadians:

- Most likely to feel the gun registry should be scrapped reside in Alberta (72%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (71%), and British Columbia (62%); while those
- Most likely to feel it should continue reside in Quebec (56%), Atlantic Canada (45%), and Ontario (40%).

There is also a divide in opinion when it comes to this issue between:

- Men and women (62% of men feel it should be scrapped vs. 48% of women); and
- Young and older Canadians (48% support for continuing it among those aged 18-34 vs. 38% among those aged 35 and older).

More Than Half (56%) Would Blame The Former Liberal Politicians For Gun Registry Mismanagement, 37% Would Blame The Bureaucrats Who Ran It...

If the Auditor General of Canada produced a report that indicated that there had been widespread mismanagement and waste within the gun registry itself:

- 56% say they would most blame “the former Liberal Government and elected politicians who built the gun registry and oversaw it”, while
- 37% say they would most blame “the government workers who were put in charge of administering the gun registry on a day-to-day basis”.

The remaining 7% “don’t know” who they would blame.

There appears to be an east versus west divide on this issue:

- Those in Alberta (70%), British Columbia (62%) and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (62%) being the most likely to say they would blame the **elected Liberal politicians**, while
- Those in Quebec (42%), Atlantic Canada (39%) and Ontario (38%) are most likely to blame the **government workers**.



But A Good Majority of Canadians (67%) Support The Idea Of Current Government Keeping Some Type Of Gun Registry...

Two-thirds of Canadians (67%) are of the opinion that the new Conservative government under Stephen Harper should “keep in place some sort of system that makes gun owners across the country register their fire-arms”, while in comparison 31% feel they should “eliminate the idea of a gun registry entirely” -- 2% say they “don’t know”.

- Residents of Quebec (76%) and Ontario (71%) offer the strongest support for some type of gun registry.
- Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (47%) and Alberta (41%) most strongly oppose a gun registry of any kind.

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