

CANADIANS SUPPORT AFGHANISTAN MISSION (57%) BUT NOT KEEN ON TWO YEAR MISSION EXTENSION (44%)



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Toronto, ON – According to an Ipsos Reid survey conducted on behalf of CanWest/Global, support from Canadians for the mission in Afghanistan is strong, but they are not keen on the Prime Minister's plans to extend the mission to February 2009.

The survey, which was conducted over the days of the short Parliamentary debate and subsequent narrow vote win for the Minority ruling Conservatives in extending the Canadian Afghanistan mission until 2009 and the announcement of the death of Captain Nichola Goddard, Canada's Latest casualty in Afghanistan, shows that while a majority of Canadians (57%, 29% *strongly*) support the "use of Canada's troops for security and combat efforts against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan", that support falls to just 44% among those initially predisposed when asked if they support the two year extension.

Support for the original mission is up from the 52% recorded at the end of March 2006. Forty percent oppose Canada's troop operations in Afghanistan (25% strongly oppose).

Support/Oppose: Use of Canada's troops for security and combat efforts against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan?

Support	National	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL
March 2-6, '06	54%	60%	58%	54%	65%	33%	51%
Mar 21-23, '06	52%	52%	67%	51%	57%	37%	58%
May 16-18, 06	57%	60%	70%	57%	63%	37%	69%
Change	5%	8%	3%	6%	6%	0%	11%

- Support is highest Alberta (70%) and Atlantic Canada (69%), and is lowest in Quebec (37%).



As noted, among those who offer their support for the mission in Afghanistan (57%), three-quarters (77%) support the Conservative's plan to extend Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan to February 2009 (36% strongly support). As such, **the extension of the mission in Afghanistan is only supported by 44% of all Canadians.**

Support/Oppose: Conservative government extending Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan to February 2009.

	National	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL
Support among all Canadians	44%	44%	66%	48%	47%	27%	54%

- Support is highest in Alberta (66%) and Atlantic Canada (54%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest/Global News and fielded from May 16-18th, 2006. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1003 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	1003	140	97	67	386	237	76
Margin of Error +/-%	3.1	8.3	10.0	12	5.0	6.4	11.2

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