

# BRINGING CANADIANS HOME: THE EVACUATION FROM LEBANON, PART I



**Ipsos Reid**

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# BRINGING CANADIANS HOME: THE EVACUATION FROM LEBANON, PART I

**Toronto, ON**– Most Canadians give the Harper government a good passing grade when it comes to how they have reacted to and conducted the evacuation of Canadian citizens from Lebanon, according to a new Ipsos Reid survey undertaken on behalf of CanWest Global.

A majority of Canadians (66%) would describe their government's response to the situation so far as either being "fairly responsive and acceptable" (58%) or "extraordinarily well managed and conducted" (8%). Only one-third (34%) feel their response has been "slow and unacceptable" (this sentiment is particularly strong among residents of Quebec).

When it comes to the actual evacuation, most Canadians are of the opinion that "the government is **absolutely obligated** to get these Canadians out of this conflict area as soon as possible regardless of the risk or cost" (55%). However, a fairly sizable minority (45%) feel "the government can only do so much and it is up these individual Canadians to bear most of the responsibility in figuring out how to get out of the area".

In a broader context, while a majority (78%) agree that every citizen has a right to be evacuated by their government in a situation such as this, most feel that individuals should be held accountable for at least some of the costs:

- 61% agree "those evacuated should be made to pay a minimum amount of money within three months of their re-entry into Canada" to reimburse taxpayers; and



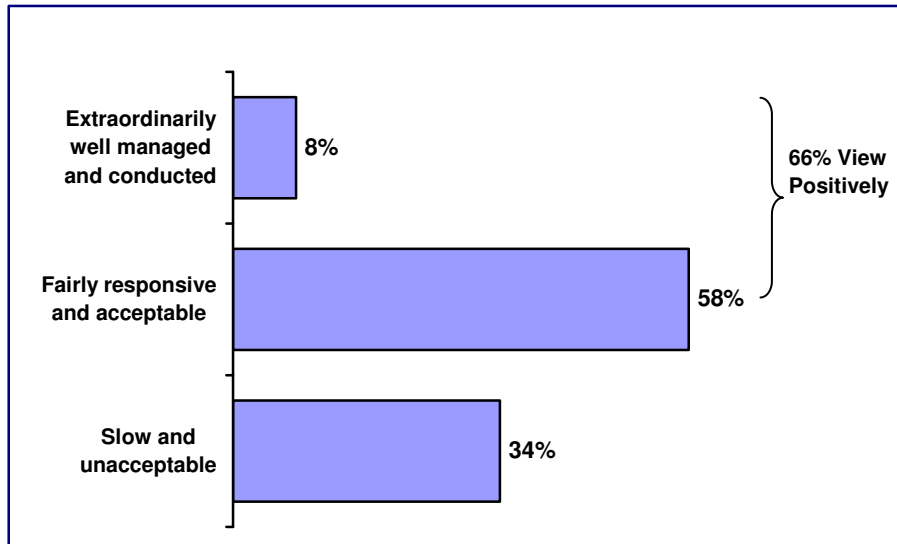
- 58% disagree that “the costs of evacuating Canadian citizens out of dangerous areas should come at the taxpayers expense as opposed to those individuals who are being evacuated”.

Further, 56% agree that “Canadian citizens who are now being evacuated from Lebanon **have been unreasonable** in their demands that their government get them out of that war zone quicker and without cost”.

*These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on the evening of July 20<sup>th</sup>. 2006 for CanWest/Global News. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1023 adult Canadians were interviewed via an on-line survey. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within  $\pm 3.1$  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 regions and for other subgroupings 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.*

## ***Majority (66%) View Government's Evacuation Response Positively – One In Ten (8%) Describe As “Extraordinarily Well Managed”***

*This will be the largest evacuation of Canadian citizens in history. In your opinion, has the Canadian Government's response to the situation so far been:*



- Residents of Quebec (50%), by far, are the most likely to feel that the response has been “slow and unacceptable”.
- Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba and Alberta are the most likely to view the government's response positively.

## ***Over Half (55%) Feel It Is Government's Obligation to Evacuate Canadian Citizens from Areas of Armed-Conflict...***

*There are upwards of 50,000 Canadian citizens currently residing in Lebanon who need to be evacuated because of this conflict but are in a difficult circumstance because the airport has been bombed, there is a naval blockade of the ports and there is bombing and shelling.*

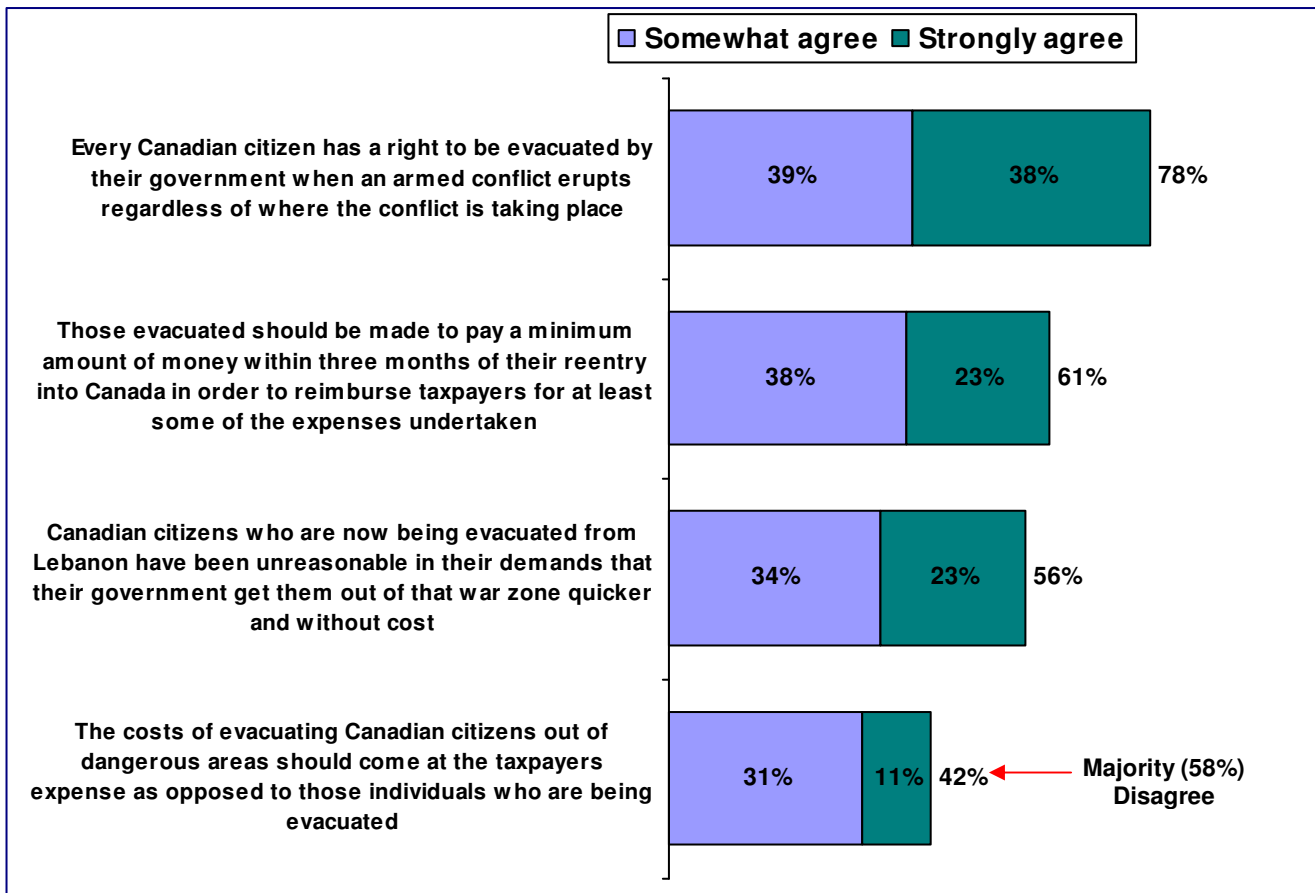
*Which is closest to your own point of view?*

	Total
The Government is absolutely obligated to get these Canadians out of this conflict area as soon as possible regardless of the risk or cost	55%
The government can only do so much and it is really up to these individual Canadians to bear most of the responsibility in figuring how they personally get out of the area and for their own safety	45%

- Residents of Quebec (65%) are the most likely to feel it is the government is absolutely obligated to evacuate Canadians from this type of situation, followed by those in Atlantic Canada (60%).
- Those residing in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (57%) and Alberta (51%) are most likely to believe it is up to the individuals themselves.

***And, 78% Feel It Is Every Citizen's Right To Be Evacuated By Their Government In A Case Like This, But Most Feel They Should Be Made To Pay Something (61%) And Feel Evacuee's Demands Have Been Unreasonable (56%)...***

*Thinking about the evacuation which is under way, do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements:*



- Residents of Quebec (88%) are the most likely to agree that “every Canadian citizen has a right to be evacuated”, followed by those in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (78%) and Ontario (76%).



- Those in Alberta (64%) and Ontario (63%) are the most likely to disagree with the statement that “the costs of evacuating Canadian citizens out of dangerous areas should come at the taxpayers expense as opposed to those individuals who are being evacuated”.
- Those in Alberta (66%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (65%) and Ontario (60%) are the most likely to agree that those evacuated are being unreasonable in their demands”.

**-30-**

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