

**DESPITE RECENT TROOP FATALITIES, MAJORITY OF CANADIANS
(52%) SUPPORT ROLE OF CANADA'S TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN**
*However, Two Thirds (63%) Want Canada's Troops to Come Home on
Schedule by February 2009*



Ipsos Reid

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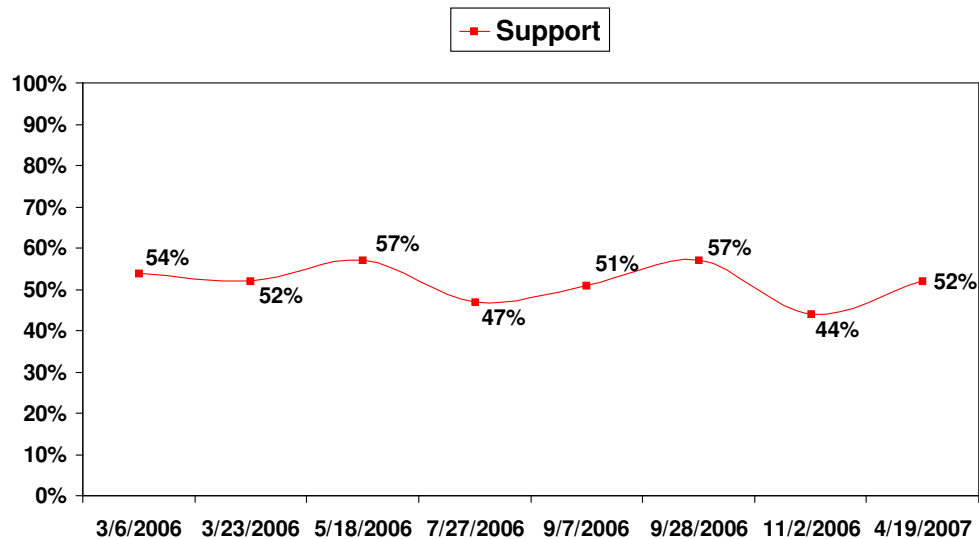
Toronto, ON – Despite a week that witnessed the death of eight Canadian troops in Afghanistan and their repatriation to Canada, a majority of Canadians (52%) expressed their support for the role of Canada's troops in Afghanistan according to the latest poll conducted by Ipsos Reid for CanWest and Global TV. However, nearly two thirds of Canadians (63%) say that the country's troops in Afghanistan should be brought home on schedule, in February 2009.

Tracking support for the role of Canada's troops in Afghanistan over time shows that support has rebounded since November 2, 2006, when fewer than half of Canadians (44%) lent their support to the mission. Since last March, support for the war in Afghanistan has hovered in the mid-fifty-percent range, with a high of 57% support measured on two occasions (September 28 and May 18, 2006) and the lowest levels of support measured on November 2 (44%) and July 27, 2006 (47%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from April 17-19, 2007. 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.

Support for Role of Canada's Troops in Afghanistan

"Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the use of Canada's troops for security and combat efforts against the Taliban and Al Qaida in Afghanistan?"



CanWest News Service/ Global News IpsosReid Survey, April 17-19, 2007. All respondents (n=1,001)

Support for Role of Canada's Troops in Afghanistan By Region

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of Canada's troops for security and combat efforts against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan?

	Total	BC	Alb	Sask/Man	Ont	Que	Atl
March 6, '06	54%	60%	58%	54%	65%	33%	51%
March 23, '06	52%	52%	67%	51%	57%	37%	58%
May 18, '06	57%	60%	70%	57%	63%	37%	69%
July 27, '06	47%	42%	65%	48%	52%	35%	44%
September 7, '06	51%	44%	63%	44%	55%	45%	57%
September 28, '06	57%	56%	66%	67%	59%	45%	67%
November 2, '06	44%	47%	71%	50%	46%	31%	35%
April 19, 07	52%	53%	66%	59%	54%	37%	57%
% Change	+8	+6	-5	+9	+8	+6	+22

Majority Support the Involvement of Canada's Troops in Afghanistan

Just over half of Canadians (52%) support the use of Canada's troops for security and combat efforts against the Taliban and Al Qaida in Afghanistan, while 43% oppose. At either extreme, the proportion that *strongly* supports (23%) the use of Canada's troops in Afghanistan equals the proportion that *strongly* opposes the use of Canada's troops in Afghanistan (24%).

Those significantly more likely to support the use of Canada's troops in Afghanistan include:

- Residents of Alberta (66%), Saskatchewan and Manitoba (59%) and Atlantic Canada (57%) compared to Quebec (37%);
- Older respondents (35-54 years, 56% and 55 years and older, 55%) compared to younger respondents (18-34 years: 44%);
- Men (57%) compared with women (47%); and,
- Those with a higher household income (\$60,000 or more: 55%) compared to those with a lower income (less than \$30,000: 44%).

Most Canadians Want Troops Home on Schedule

Nearly two in three Canadians (63%) say that Canada's troops should come home in February 2009 as scheduled. One in three (32%) say the troops should have their mission extended to a time when joint political and military officials feel the country is stable and self supporting.

Those significantly more likely to say Canada's troops should come home in February 2009 as scheduled include:

- Residents of Atlantic Canada (73%) and Quebec (69%);
- Younger respondents (18-34 years: 67%); and,
- Women (68%).

Those significantly more likely to say that Canada's troops should have their mission extended to a time when joint political and military officials feel the country is stable and self-supporting include:

- Residents of Alberta (45%); and,
- Men (38%).



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