



The Strategic Counsel



A Report To The Globe and Mail and CTV

Perceptions of the Conservative Government, Troops in Afghanistan and Terrorism

July 18, 2006

Gregg, Kelly, Sullivan & Woolstencroft:
The Strategic Counsel

www.thestrategiccounsel.com

21 St. Clair Avenue East
Suite 1100
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1L9
Tel 416 975-4465
Fax 416 975-1883

440 Laurier Avenue West
Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 7X6
Tel 613 751-2855
Fax 613 751-2852

Introduction and Methodology

- ◆ Gregg, Kelly, Sullivan & Woolstencroft: *The Strategic Counsel* is pleased to present findings of The Globe and Mail/CTV Polling Program for July 2006.
- ◆ Results are based on tracking among a proportionate national sample of Canadians 18 years of age or older.
- ◆ Interviews were conducted between July 13th and July 16th, 2006.
- ◆ The following table outlines the sample distribution and associated margin of error.
- ◆ Note: Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Sample Distribution and Margin of Error

	July 13 – 16	
Region	Sample Size	Margin of Error (\pm)
Canada	1000	3.1
Quebec	247	6.3
Rest of Canada	753	3.6
Ontario	379	5.0
West	297	5.7

Detailed Tables

What is the most important issue facing Canada?

	Canada						
	2005					2006	
	May 7-8	Jun 8-9	Aug 6-7	Nov 3-4	Nov 24-27	Jan 4-5	Jul 13-16
	1000	1000	1000	1000	1500	1500	1000
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Healthcare	20	15	16	24	20	25	20
Environmental issues	3	7	9	3	3	4	12
Government leadership/stability	8	18	7	8	6	8	7
Terrorism (includes all mentions of Afghanistan)	-	2	8	1	<1	1	7
Economic issues (excl. Govt. spending/unemployment)	5	5	7	4	7	6	6
Taxes	4	1	3	5	5	3	4
Education	3	3	2	4	5	2	4
Gas prices	-	<1	2	-	-	1	4
Government spending	4	6	5	2	6	2	3
Unemployment/employment	2	2	3	2	2	2	3
Crime/violence	1	3	3	-	2	10	3
Sponsorship scandal/Gomery Inquiry/Corruption	23	11	2	16	13	8	1

Q. In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Canada today – that is the one that you are most concerned about? *[question wording in Nov polls: As you may know there has been considerable discussion about the possibility of a federal election in the near future. In your view what is the most important issue in the next election – that is the one about which you are most concerned?]*

Base: Total Sample

How would Canadians vote today?

	Canada							Region																											
								Quebec					Rest of Canada*					Ontario					West												
	2006							2006					2006					2006					2006												
	N=	2004 Results	2006 Results		2006 Results		2006 Results	2004 Results	2006 Results		2006 Results		2004 Results	2006 Results		2006 Results		2004 Results	2006 Results		2006 Results		2004 Results	2006 Results		2006 Results									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%								
Liberal candidate	37	30	28	29	31	27	26	34	21	19	19	16	17	16	38	33	31	33	35	30	29	45	40	38	40	42	35	36	27	23	21	20	25	23	21
Conservative candidate	30	36	39	39	35	36	37	9	25	31	29	30	25	24	37	40	41	43	36	39	41	32	35	36	36	34	36	34	46	49	49	53	42	45	51
NDP candidate	16	18	19	14	16	19	18	5	8	10	4	6	12	5	19	21	22	17	19	21	22	18	19	20	15	16	20	21	20	22	25	19	21	22	20
Bloc Quebecois candidate	12	11	9	11	10	9	11	49	42	37	42	40	39	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Party candidate	4	5	5	7	9	9	8	3	4	3	5	8	7	6	5	5	6	7	10	10	8	4	5	6	9	9	9	9	5	5	5	8	12	10	8

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

- Q. If the federal election was being held tomorrow, do you think you'd be supporting the (ROTATE LIST) Liberal candidate in your area, Conservative candidate in your area, the NDP candidate in your area, or the Green Party candidate in your area or (QUEBEC ONLY) Bloc Quebecois candidate in your area?
- Q. In that case, which party's candidate in your local area would you be leaning towards at this time? Would it be the (ROTATE LIST) Liberal candidate in your area, Conservative candidate in your area, the NDP candidate in your area, Green Party candidate in your area or (QUEBEC ONLY) Bloc Quebecois candidate in your area?

Base: Total sample

Right Track or Wrong Track?

		Canada					Quebec					Rest of Canada*							
		May 12-15 2005	BENCHMARK Nov 24-27	Dec 7-8	Dec 12-13	Dec 13,15	July 13-16 2006	May 12-15	BENCHMARK Nov 24-27	Dec 7-8	Dec 12-13	Dec 13,15	July 13-16 2006	May 12-15	BENCHMARK Nov 24-27	Dec 7-8	Dec 12-13	Dec 13,15	July 13-16 2006
N=		1500	1500	1000	1000	1000	1000	370	370	247	247	247	247	1130	1130	753	753	753	753
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
On the right track		38	47	46	46	45	61	29	47	39	38	34	55	41	47	49	49	48	63
On the wrong track		49	43	42	40	43	28	65	47	55	55	59	33	44	42	37	36	38	26
DK/NA/Ref		13	10	12	14	12	11	6	6	6	7	7	11	15	11	14	15	14	11

		Ontario					West						
		May 12-15	BENCHMARK Nov 24-27	Dec 7-8	Dec 12-13	Dec 13,15	July 13-16 2006	May 12-15	BENCHMARK Nov 24-27	Dec 7-8	Dec 12-13	Dec 13,15	July 13-16 2006
N=		569	569	379	379	379	379	445	446	297	297	297	297
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
On the right track		39	46	51	47	46	60	43	48	43	51	49	69
On the wrong track		46	44	35	38	40	29	42	41	42	32	35	22
DK/NA/Ref		15	11	14	15	14	11	15	11	15	17	16	9

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. Right now, do you think that overall the country is on the right track or the wrong track?
 Base: Total sample

Do Canadians approve of Stephen Harper's and the Conservatives' performance so far?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL Approve	67	64	68	64	75
Strongly approve	10	7	11	9	14
Approve	57	57	57	55	61
Disapprove	19	20	19	21	14
Strongly disapprove	8	9	8	8	6
TOTAL Disapprove	27	29	27	29	20
DK/NA/Ref	6	7	5	7	5

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. As you probably know, it's been almost six months since Stephen Harper and the Conservatives formed the Government of Canada. Overall, how would you judge their performance in that period of time ... would you say you strongly approve, approve, disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the job they have done?

Base: Total sample

Are the Conservatives performing better or worse than Canadians originally expected?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL Better	38	41	36	36	36
Much better	10	8	10	10	9
Somewhat better	28	33	26	26	27
About the same	46	45	46	44	49
Somewhat worse	8	7	9	10	8
Much worse	4	3	4	5	3
TOTAL Worse	12	10	13	15	11
DK/NA/Ref	4	4	5	5	4

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. And compared to when they first took over, would you say they are performing much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse or much worse than you originally expected?

Base: Total sample

Do Canadians Support or Oppose Sending Troops To Afghanistan?

	Canada				Region															
					Quebec				Rest of Canada*				Ontario				West			
	Mar 9-12	May 3-4	Jun 7-8	Jul 13-16	Mar 9-12	May 3-4	Jun 7-8	Jul 13-16	Mar 9-12	May 3-4	Jun 7-8	Jul 13-16	Mar 9-12	May 3-4	Jun 7-8	Jul 13-16	Mar 9-12	May 3-4	Jun 7-8	Jul 13-16
n=	1000	1000	1000	1000	247	247	247	247	753	753	753	753	379	379	379	379	297	297	297	297
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total Support	55	40	48	39	43	27	39	24	59	44	51	44	58	42	49	39	61	49	56	50
Strongly support	11	6	11	8	3	1	5	-	14	8	13	11	15	8	10	9	12	8	17	12
Support	44	34	37	31	40	26	34	24	45	36	38	33	43	34	39	30	49	41	39	38
Oppose	26	31	26	31	32	39	33	36	24	28	23	29	22	30	23	31	25	25	21	28
Strongly oppose	15	23	18	25	21	31	23	35	13	20	16	22	16	20	18	23	10	20	14	19
Total Oppose	41	54	44	56	53	70	56	71	37	49	39	51	38	50	41	54	35	45	35	47
DK/NA/Ref	4	6	8	5	4	3	5	5	4	7	9	5	4	8	10	7	4	6	10	3

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. Overall, would you say you strongly support, support, oppose or strongly oppose the decision to send Canadian troops to Afghanistan?

Base: Total sample

Are things in Afghanistan going better or worse than expected?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL Better	12	10	13	12	12
Much better	3	1	3	3	4
Somewhat better	9	9	10	9	8
About the same	35	36	35	33	40
Somewhat worse	25	21	26	27	27
Much worse	23	24	22	24	18
TOTAL Worse	48	45	48	51	45
DK/NA/Ref	5	9	4	4	3

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. And from what you've heard, would you say things in Afghanistan are going much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse or much worse than you originally expected?

Base: Total sample

How long should Canadian troops stay in Afghanistan?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
Stay as long as it takes to stabilize the country	21	14	23	19	28
Stay for a limited period of time – 2 or more years	34	28	36	39	35
Bring the troops home now	41	54	36	38	31
DK/NA/Ref	5	4	5	4	6

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. If you had your way, would you have Canada keep troops in Afghanistan for as long as it takes to stabilize that country, for a limited period of time – say 2 or more years – and then bring them home, or bring them home right now?

Base: Total sample

Has Canada's relationship with the U.S. improved or worsened since the Conservatives have been in government?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL Improved	51	53	51	49	52
Improved significantly	15	17	15	14	13
Improved somewhat	36	36	36	35	39
Stayed about the same	35	33	36	36	35
Worsened somewhat	5	5	5	5	5
Worsened significantly	3	3	3	5	3
TOTAL Worsened	8	8	8	10	8
DK/NA/Ref	5	6	5	5	5

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. How would you describe Canada's relationship with the United States since Stephen Harper and the Conservatives have been in government. Would you say relations have improved significantly, improved somewhat, stayed about the same, worsened somewhat or worsened significantly?

Base: Total sample

Is that a good thing or a bad thing?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
Good thing	57	54	59	55	63
Bad thing	31	34	29	31	28
DK/NA/Ref	12	12	12	14	9

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. And do you think that is a good thing or bad thing?

Base: Total sample

Do Canadians think there is more or less terrorist activity in Canada compared to other countries in the Western world?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL More	16	13	16	20	13
Significantly more	5	3	5	6	4
Somewhat more	11	10	11	14	9
About the same	31	28	32	28	37
Somewhat less	28	31	27	26	31
Significantly less	18	22	17	18	12
TOTAL Less	46	53	44	44	43
DK/NA/Ref	7	6	8	9	7

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. As you probably know, terrorist suspects continue to be rounded up and charged around the world, including recently in Canada. Do you think there is significantly more, somewhat more, about the same, somewhat less or significantly less terrorist activity in Canada, compared to other countries in the Western world?

Base: Total sample

What do Canadians think about our ability to find and charge terrorists compared to other countries in the Western world

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL More Able	26	21	27	32	22
Significantly more able	6	8	5	5	5
Somewhat more able	20	13	22	27	17
About the same	44	47	43	41	44
Somewhat less able	19	17	19	17	23
Significantly less able	6	9	5	5	5
TOTAL Less Able	25	26	24	22	28
DK/NA/Ref	6	6	5	5	6

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. And how able do you think Canada is to find and charge these terrorist suspects compared to other countries in the Western world?

Base: Total sample

Will the requirement to have a passport to enter the U.S. make Canadians more or less likely to travel there?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL More Likely	5	6	5	5	4
Significantly more likely	2	3	2	3	1
Somewhat more likely	3	3	3	2	3
About the same	72	73	72	71	72
Somewhat less likely	11	10	12	12	13
Significantly less likely	10	10	10	9	12
TOTAL Less Likely	21	20	22	21	25
DK/NA/Ref	1	2	1	2	-

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. As part of the war on terror, the United States has said that all foreign travelers entering or Americans returning to their country, will be required to carry a passport. How, if at all, will this affect your travel plans to the United States. Do you think this will make you significantly more likely, somewhat more likely, won't have an effect, somewhat less likely, or significantly less likely to travel to the United States?

Base: Total sample