



The Strategic Counsel

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A Report To The Globe and Mail and CTV

**The State of Canadian Public
Opinion on Afghanistan, Conrad
Black**

July 16, 2007

Introduction and Methodology

- ◆ Gregg, Kelly, Sullivan & Woolstencroft: *The Strategic Counsel* is pleased to present findings of a national survey of 1000 Canadians.
- ◆ Results are based on tracking among a proportionate national sample of Canadians 18 years of age or older.
- ◆ Interviews were conducted between July 12th and July 15th, 2007.
- ◆ 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 12-15	
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		2007	
	May 7-8	Jun 8-9	Aug 6-7	Nov 3-4	Nov 24-27	Jan 4-5	Jul 12-15	Jan 11-14	Jul 12-15
	<i>n</i> =	<i>n</i> =	<i>n</i> =	<i>n</i> =	<i>n</i> =	<i>n</i> =	<i>n</i> =	<i>n</i> =	<i>n</i> =
Environmental issues	3	7	9	3	3	4	12	26	23
Healthcare	20	15	16	24	20	25	20	18	16
Terrorism (includes all mentions of Afghanistan)	-	2	8	1	<1	1	7	6	10
Government leadership/stability/foreign policy	8	18	7	8	6	8	7	6	9
Economic issues (excl. Govt. spending/unemployment)	5	5	7	4	7	6	6	6	7
Taxes	4	1	3	5	5	3	4	3	3
Education	3	3	2	4	5	2	4	3	3
Unemployment/employment	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	4	2
Crime/violence	1	3	3	-	2	10	3	3	2
Government spending	4	6	5	2	6	2	3	3	1
Gas prices	-	<1	2	-	-	1	4	<1	1
Sponsorship scandal/Gomery Inquiry/Corruption	23	11	2	16	13	8	1	1	1

Q. In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Canada today – that is the one that you are most concerned about?
 Base: All respondents

What is the most important issue facing Canada?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
Environmental issues	23	29	21	25	17
Healthcare	16	13	17	15	19
Terrorism (includes all mentions of Afghanistan)	10	11	9	7	10
Government leadership/stability/foreign policy	9	11	8	8	9
Economic issues (excl. Govt. spending/unemployment)	7	6	7	5	10
Taxes	3	<1	4	6	3
Education	3	1	3	4	4
Unemployment/employment	2	3	2	2	2
Crime/violence	2	1	2	2	3
Government spending	1	3	1	1	1
Gas prices	1	1	1	2	<1
Sponsorship scandal/Gomery Inquiry/Corruption	1	2	<1	-	<1

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Canada today – that is the one that you are most concerned about?

Base: All respondents

How would Canadians vote today?

		Canada																		
		2006										2007								
n=	2004	2006	Feb 16-19	Apr 6-9	May 3-4	June 7-8	July 12-15	July 27-30	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Dec 3	Jan 11-14	Feb 15-18	Mar 10-13	Mar 20-21	Apr 21-24	May 14-17	Jun 8-11	July 12-15	
			1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
	Liberal candidate	37	30	28	29	31	27	26	29	26	32	37	35	29	31	31	30	31	31	31
	Conservative candidate	30	36	39	39	35	36	37	38	35	32	31	31	34	36	39	36	34	34	31
	NDP candidate	16	18	19	14	16	19	18	15	19	17	14	15	14	15	13	13	16	13	17
	Bloc Quebecois candidate	12	11	9	11	10	9	11	11	12	11	11	11	11	9	8	9	10	11	10
	Green Party candidate	4	5	5	7	9	9	8	7	8	9	7	8	12	10	9	12	9	11	10

		Quebec																		
		2006										2007								
n=	2004	2006	Feb 16-19	Apr 6-9	May 3-4	June 7-8	July 12-15	July 27-30	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Dec 3	Jan 11-14	Feb 15-18	Mar 10-13	Mar 20-21	Apr 21-24	May 14-17	Jun 8-11	July 12-15	
			247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
	Liberal candidate	34	21	19	19	16	17	16	21	18	28	28	25	22	22	24	19	24	23	25
	Conservative candidate	9	25	31	29	30	25	24	23	16	16	16	15	18	26	24	21	20	16	16
	NDP candidate	5	8	10	4	6	12	5	6	11	6	6	9	8	9	8	9	6	6	10
	Bloc Quebecois candidate	49	42	37	42	40	39	50	43	48	44	44	46	43	36	33	39	41	45	40
	Green Party candidate	3	4	3	5	8	7	6	8	7	6	6	5	9	7	11	12	9	10	9

		Rest of Canada*																		
		2006										2007								
n=	2004	2006	Feb 16-19	Apr 6-9	May 3-4	June 7-8	July 12-15	July 27-30	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Dec 3	Jan 11-14	Feb 15-18	Mar 10-13	Mar 20-21	Apr 21-24	May 14-17	Jun 8-11	July 12-15	
			753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
	Liberal candidate	38	33	31	33	35	30	29	32	29	33	40	38	31	33	34	34	33	34	33
	Conservative candidate	37	40	41	43	36	39	41	43	41	37	36	36	40	39	43	40	39	40	36
	NDP candidate	19	21	22	17	19	21	22	18	21	20	17	17	16	17	14	15	19	15	20
	Bloc Quebecois candidate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Green Party candidate	5	5	6	7	10	10	8	7	9	10	7	9	13	11	9	11	9	11	11

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

How would Canadians vote today? (cont'd)

		Ontario																	
		2006										2007							
n=	2004	2006	Feb 16-19	Apr 6-9	May 3-4	June 7-8	July 12-15	July 27-30	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Dec 3	Jan 11-14	Feb 15-18	Mar 10-13	Mar 20-21	Apr 21-24	May 14-17	Jun 8-11	July 12-15
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Liberal candidate	45	40	38	40	42	35	36	39	37	36	48	45	39	41	40	41	40	42	41
Conservative candidate	32	35	36	36	34	36	34	41	35	33	32	32	34	34	40	33	37	35	34
NDP candidate	18	19	20	15	16	20	21	16	19	19	15	14	14	15	13	16	15	11	13
Bloc Quebecois candidate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Party candidate	4	5	6	9	9	9	9	5	9	11	5	9	13	10	7	11	9	12	12

		West																	
		2006										2007							
n=	2004	2006	Feb 16-19	Apr 6-9	May 3-4	June 7-8	July 12-15	July 27-30	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Dec 3	Jan 11-14	Feb 15-18	Mar 10-13	Mar 20-21	Apr 21-24	May 14-17	Jun 8-11	July 12-15
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Liberal candidate	27	23	21	20	25	23	21	20	17	27	28	26	21	19	24	23	22	22	25
Conservative candidate	46	49	49	53	42	45	51	50	50	42	45	42	48	50	50	50	42	44	40
NDP candidate	20	22	25	19	21	22	20	20	23	22	18	23	18	18	14	14	26	21	24
Bloc Quebecois candidate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Party candidate	5	5	5	8	12	10	8	10	10	10	9	9	13	13	12	13	10	13	11

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

Do Canadians Support or Oppose Sending Troops To Afghanistan?

	Canada											Region																							
												Quebec							Rest of Canada*																
	2006					2007						2006				2007			2006				2007												
	Mar 9-12	May 3-4	Jun 7-8	Jul 12-15	Aug 10-13	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Dec 3	Apr 21-24	May 14-17	July 12-15	Mar 9-12	May 3-4	Jun 7-8	Jul 12-15	Aug 10-13	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Dec 3	Apr 21-24	May 14-17	July 12-15	Mar 9-12	May 3-4	Jun 7-8	Jul 12-15	Aug 10-13	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Dec 3	Apr 21-24	May 14-17	July 12-15		
n=	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753	753
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total Support	55	40	48	39	37	42	44	35	36	40	36	43	27	39	24	21	27	30	23	24	24	22	59	44	51	44	42	47	49	38	39	45	41		
Strongly support	11	6	11	8	6	11	10	5	6	10	7	3	1	5	-	<1	3	4	2	3	5	3	14	8	13	11	8	13	12	6	6	12	9		
Support	44	34	37	31	31	32	34	30	30	30	29	40	26	34	24	21	23	26	21	21	19	19	45	36	38	33	34	35	37	32	33	33	32		
Oppose	26	31	26	31	31	26	26	35	31	27	31	32	39	33	36	41	33	29	38	32	33	34	24	28	23	29	29	24	25	35	31	26	30		
Strongly oppose	15	23	18	25	24	23	27	26	26	28	27	21	31	23	35	34	34	39	37	40	40	41	13	20	16	22	20	20	23	22	21	24	23		
Total Oppose	41	54	44	56	55	49	53	61	57	55	59	53	70	56	71	75	67	68	75	72	73	75	37	49	39	51	49	44	48	57	52	50	53		
DK/NA/Ref	4	6	8	5	8	8	3	4	7	5	5	4	3	5	5	4	6	3	2	4	3	3	4	7	9	5	9	9	3	5	8	5	6		

	Region																					
	Ontario											West										
n=	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	379	297	297	297	297	297	297	297	297	297	297	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total Support	58	42	49	39	42	46	46	35	38	45	40	61	49	56	50	42	49	53	45	40	42	41
Strongly support	15	8	10	9	7	11	11	5	8	11	9	12	8	17	12	10	14	13	7	4	14	9
Support	43	34	39	30	35	35	36	30	30	34	31	49	41	39	38	32	35	40	38	36	28	32
Oppose	22	30	23	31	30	27	27	35	31	27	31	25	25	21	28	29	21	26	34	31	26	31
Strongly oppose	16	20	18	23	19	18	25	24	22	24	24	10	20	14	19	21	21	18	18	21	25	22
Total Oppose	38	50	41	54	49	44	51	59	53	51	55	35	45	35	47	50	42	44	51	52	51	53
DK/NA/Ref	4	8	10	7	9	10	3	6	9	4	5	4	6	10	3	8	9	3	4	8	7	6

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

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

Base: Total sample

What do Canadians think is the main reason for our involvement in Afghanistan?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
Canada is in Afghanistan mainly because of pressure from the U.S. in response to the attack on 9/11	44	54	41	40	43
Canada is in Afghanistan because it has an obligation within the broader international community to respond to the threat of global terrorism	53	42	56	57	54
DK/NA/Ref	3	4	3	3	3

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. Some people say that Canada is in Afghanistan mainly because of pressure from the United States in response to the attack on 9/11. Other people say that Canada is in Afghanistan because it has an obligation within the broader international community to respond to the threat of global terrorism. Which is closer to your point of view?

Base: Total sample

Canadian casualties: is it the price we have to pay, or is the price too high?

	Canada						Region																							
	2006		2007				Quebec		Rest of Canada*						Ontario						West									
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007								
	Mar 9-12	Aug 10-13	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Apr 21-24	Jul 12-15	Mar 9-12	Aug 10-13	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Apr 21-24	Jul 12-15	Mar 9-12	Aug 10-13	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Apr 21-24	Jul 12-15	Mar 9-12	Aug 10-13	Sep 14-17	Oct 12-15	Apr 21-24	Jul 12-15						
*	some	20	32	40	50	65	some	20	32	40	50	65	some	20	32	40	50	65	some	20	32	40	50	65	some	20	32	40	50	65
n=	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	247	247	247	247	247	247	753	753	753	753	753	753	379	379	379	379	379	379	297	297	297	297	297	297
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
That is the price that must be paid	59	36	36	42	34	36	47	23	24	27	24	26	63	41	40	46	37	39	61	42	38	43	33	36	65	41	43	52	42	42
Price is too high	39	58	57	55	61	60	51	74	72	69	73	72	35	53	53	50	56	56	36	50	56	53	60	60	33	53	48	45	52	53
DK/NA/Ref	2	6	6	4	6	4	2	3	4	5	2	2	2	6	7	3	7	5	3	8	6	4	7	4	2	6	8	3	7	5

Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. To date, more than 65 Canadian soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan. Some say that is the price that must be paid by countries like Canada to help bring stability and peace to Afghanistan. Others say it is too high a price to pay. Which is closer to your point of view?
 (Question wording in March 2006 survey slightly different: As you may know, the Canadian troops have experienced some casualties in Afghanistan. Some people say this is the price we have to pay to be part of international efforts to achieve security and stability in the region. Other people say this is too high a price to pay and if it means Canadian lives will be lost, we shouldn't be there. Which one of these two views best represents your own?)

Base: Total sample

* Indicates number of soldiers killed to date stated in question

Which leader would Canadians trust the most to make the right decisions about Canada’s involvement in Afghanistan?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
Stephen Harper	32	21	35	32	41
Stephane Dion	14	14	14	18	10
Jack Layton	13	14	13	12	14
Gilles Duceppe	7	24	1	1	2
Elizabeth May	3	1	3	3	2
DK/NA/Ref	32	26	34	34	30

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. Which ONE of the federal party leaders ... Stephen Harper, Stephane Dion, Jack Layton, Gilles Duceppe or Elizabeth May ... would you trust the most to make the right decisions about Canada’s involvement in Afghanistan?

Base: Total sample

Would Canadians support Canada being in Afghanistan for 10 years or more?

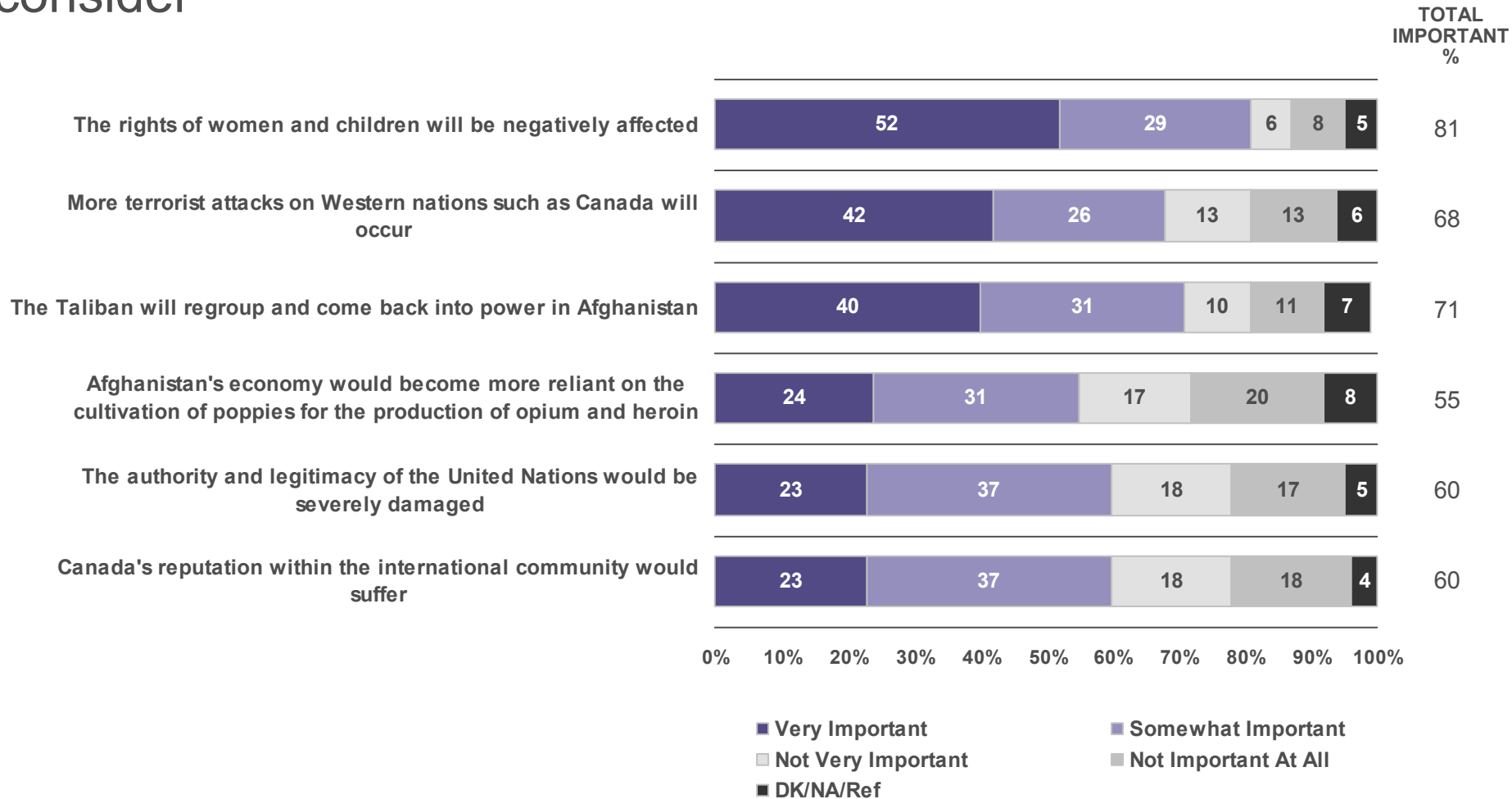
	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL Support	28	16	32	32	33
Strongly support	8	3	10	10	10
Somewhat support	20	13	22	22	23
Somewhat oppose	21	28	19	17	22
Strongly oppose	49	55	47	49	43
TOTAL Oppose	70	83	66	66	65
DK/NA/Ref	2	1	2	2	2

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. The Chief of Canada's Defence Staff, General Hillier, has said that it may take up to 10 years or more to make real progress in Afghanistan. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Canada being in Afghanistan for that length of time?

Base: Total sample

Should Canada stay in Afghanistan beyond 2009: Factors to consider



Q. Canada has made a commitment to be in Afghanistan until 2009. In considering whether Canada should stay beyond 2009, how important are each of the following ... Would you say this is a very important, somewhat important, not very important consideration, or is it not important at all?

Base: Total sample

Should Canada stay in Afghanistan beyond 2009: Factors to consider

% Very/Somewhat Important Consideration

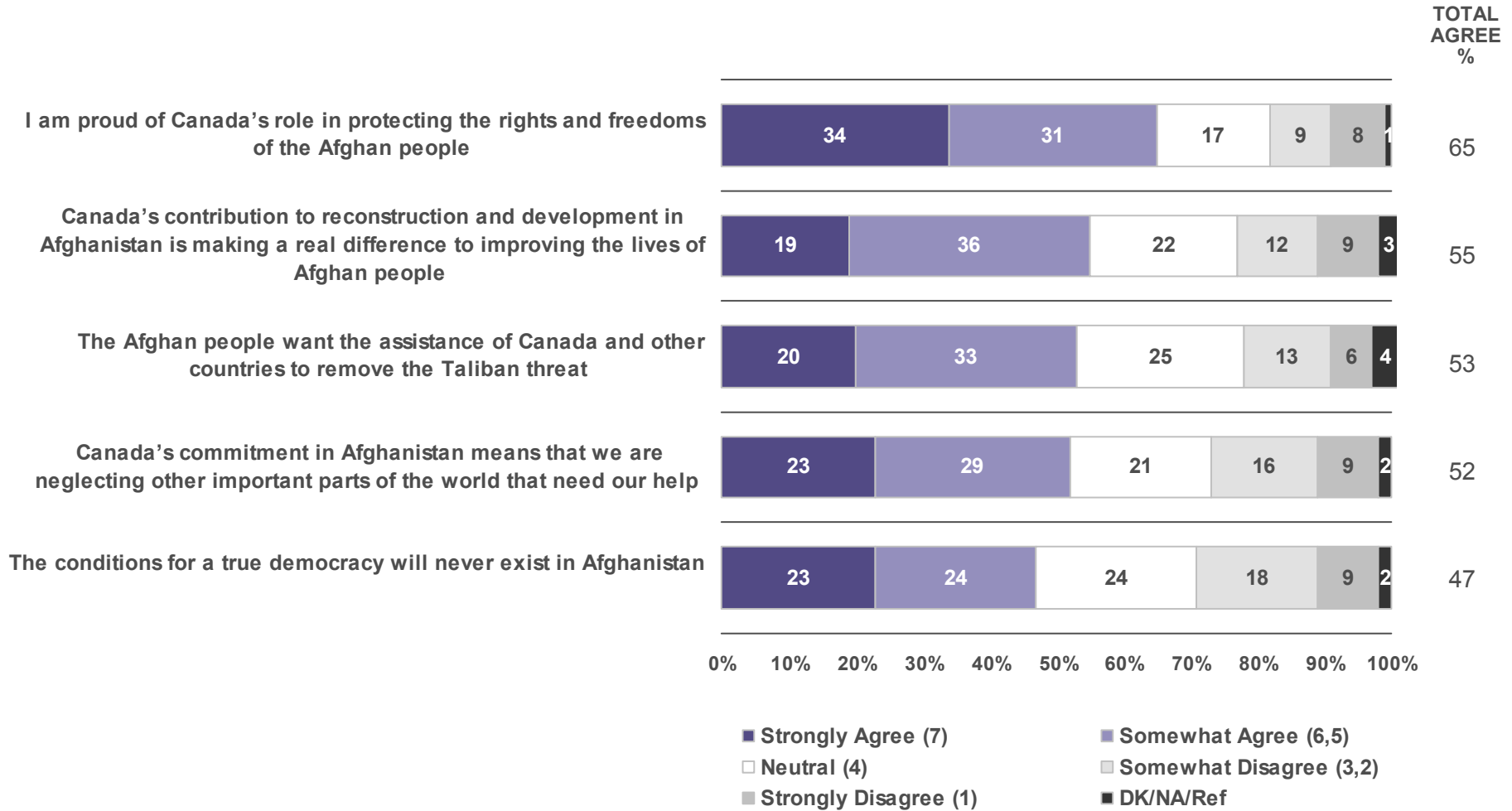
	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
The rights of women and children will be negatively affected	81	79	81	83	77
The Taliban will regroup and come back into power in Afghanistan	71	63	75	73	73
More terrorist attacks on Western nations such as Canada will occur	68	58	72	74	67
The authority and legitimacy of the United Nations would be severely damaged	60	51	62	65	57
Canada's reputation within the international community would suffer	60	45	65	66	62
Afghanistan's economy would become more reliant on the cultivation of poppies for the production of opium and heroin	55	43	58	58	58

**Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec*

Q. Canada has made a commitment to be in Afghanistan until 2009. In considering whether Canada should stay beyond 2009, how important are each of the following ... Would you say this is a very important, somewhat important, not very important consideration, or is it not important at all?

Base: Total sample

Agreement with statements ...



Q. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements using a 7-point scale where 7 means you strongly agree, 1 means you strongly disagree, and the mid-point, 4, means you neither agree nor disagree?

Base: Total sample

Agreement with statements ...

% Agree (7,6,5 on a 7-point scale)

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
I am proud of Canada's role in protecting the rights and freedoms of the Afghan people	65	48	71	70	71
Canada's contribution to reconstruction and development in Afghanistan is making a real difference to improving the lives of Afghan people	55	45	57	55	58
The Afghan people want the assistance of Canada and other countries to remove the Taliban threat	53	43	56	57	53
Canada's commitment in Afghanistan means that we are neglecting other important parts of the world that need our help	52	62	49	53	46
The conditions for a true democracy will never exist in Afghanistan	47	49	45	47	44

**Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec*

Q. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements using a 7-point scale where 7 means you strongly agree, 1 means you strongly disagree, and the mid-point, 4, means you neither agree nor disagree?

Base: Total sample

What is the most relevant role Canada can play in today's world?

	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15	Jul 12-15
n=	1000	247	753	379	297
	%	%	%	%	%
To work with the United Nations as peacekeepers, that is to maintain peace by monitoring and observing peace processes and implement peace agreements	65	63	66	69	64
To work with the United Nations to enforce peace and defend countries or groups around the world that are being attacked by terrorists	32	36	31	29	30
DK/NA/Ref	3	1	3	2	6

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. Given the state of today's world and the changing nature of conflict, which of the following is the most relevant role that Canada can play?
 Base: Total sample

Do Canadians believe Conrad Black is Guilty or Innocent?

Total Sample	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
	%	%	%	%	%
Guilty	53	57	52	52	51
Guilty/innocent of some charges	18	18	18	21	16
Innocent	2	1	2	3	2
DK/NA/Ref	27	24	28	25	31

Among those with an opinion	Canada	Region			
		Quebec	Rest of Canada*	Ontario	West
	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16	Jul 13-16
n=	729	187	542	285	205
	%	%	%	%	%
Guilty	72	75	71	69	74
Guilty/innocent of some charges	25	23	26	28	23
Innocent	3	2	3	3	3

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. As you may know, Conrad Black, the former owner of Hollinger International, has been charged with fraud, racketeering, and obstruction of justice and has been found guilty on some charges. Based on your opinion, do you think he is guilty or innocent of some or all of these charges?

Base: Total sample

Do Canadians support reinstating Conrad Black's Canadian citizenship

	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
	%	%	%	%	%
Support	20	19	20	20	19
Oppose	71	76	70	73	67
DK/NA/Ref	9	5	10	7	14

*Note: Rest of Canada includes all provinces except Quebec

Q. As you may know, Conrad Black gave up Canadian citizenship to gain a seat in the British House of Lords. He has recently applied to have his Canadian citizenship re-instated. Given that he has been found guilty on some charges, would you support or oppose Black's application to get his Canadian citizenship re-instated?

Base: Total sample