

COPENHAGEN CLIMATE SUMMIT

# Canadians Urge PM Harper to Attend Copenhagen Climate Summit

*Most Canadians wish to see the summit resulting in a legally-binding agreement to reduce greenhouse gases, but few expect this to happen.*

[TORONTO – Nov. 26, 2009] – Despite low expectations, the vast majority of Canadians think it is important that Prime Minister Stephen Harper attend an upcoming climate summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,010 Canadian adults, 76 per cent of respondents say Harper should go to the summit, which is set to begin on Dec. 6.

## Low Expectations

Countries attending the Copenhagen summit are supposed to draft a new agreement to replace the 1998 Kyoto Protocol for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, which is due to expire in 2012. Expectations on what will result from the summit are extremely low across Canada.

Most Canadians (58%) want participant countries to come up with a legally binding agreement setting specific targets to reduce greenhouse gases for all signatories. In reality, however, only five per cent of Canadians expect this to actually happen.

A fifth of Canadians (20%) wish to see a political compromise to meet certain milestones on a voluntary basis, and only 12 per cent would be happy to see that there is no agreement at all. The latter is what

## KEY FINDINGS

- **76% of Canadians want PM Harper to go to Copenhagen**
- **58% want to see a legally-binding resolution coming out of summit; but only 5% expect this to happen**
- **58% say Canada should ratify any document resulting from Copenhagen**
- **Cap-and-trade (60%) better than carbon tax (48%) for Canadians**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From November 24 to November 25, 2009, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,010 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

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Canadians really expect—43 per cent say no agreement will be reached amongst the 170 countries meeting at Copenhagen, and 38 per cent say there will only be a non-binding pact.

### **Commitments**

One of the main issues that delegates at Copenhagen will address is whether industrialized nations—including Canada—should offer financial assistance to developing countries in order to help them combat climate change. About four-in-ten Canadians (39%) agree with this rationale, while almost half (49%) disagree with it.

If an agreement does emerge from the Copenhagen Climate Summit, most Canadians (58%) want the federal government to ratify it.

### **Cap-and-Trade vs. Carbon Tax**

If Canadians had to choose between implementing a cap-and-trade system and implementing a carbon tax in this country, the former would be more popular. Two-thirds of respondents (66%) support the trading of carbon permits, while roughly half of respondents (48%) would embrace a carbon tax.

### **Importance of Climate Change**

Most Canadians (63%) believe that climate change is a real problem, caused by polluting emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities.

At least 18 per cent of respondents think combating climate change is more urgent than fighting terrorism (27%), the global financial crisis (25%), HIV/AIDS (23%), world hunger (17%), and global poverty (18%). A greater proportion of respondents say that confronting global warming is just as urgent as confronting world hunger (50%), global poverty (50%), HIV/AIDS (42%), the global financial crisis (41%), and terrorism (38%).

### **Analysis**

Canadians approach the Climate Summit in Copenhagen with both hope and caution. While almost three-in-five respondents would like to see a legally binding agreement that sets specific targets for all signatories, only one-in-twenty think this will actually happen. Still, an overwhelming proportion of respondents—even in the Tory stronghold of Alberta—want the Prime Minister to represent Canada at the international conference.

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**Copenhagen Climate Summit**

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of global warming (or climate change)?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>

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### Copenhagen Climate Summit

As you may know, representatives from 170 countries will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, next month to participate in a Climate Summit organized by the United Nations. Which of these scenarios would you prefer to see when the Climate Summit is over?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>A legally binding agreement that sets specific targets for all signatories</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>A political compromise to meet certain milestones on a voluntary basis</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>No agreement—countries dealing with climate change independently of each other</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>15%</b>

### Copenhagen Climate Summit

And which of these scenarios do you expect will actually happen when the Climate Summit is over?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>A legally binding agreement that sets specific targets for all signatories</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>A political compromise to meet certain milestones on a voluntary basis</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>No agreement—countries dealing with climate change independently of each other</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>23%</b>

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### Copenhagen Climate Summit

One of the main discussions at the Copenhagen Climate Summit will revolve around whether industrialized nations should help developing nations combat climate change by providing financial assistance. Would you agree or disagree with a decision to implement a system in which Canada gave financial assistance to developing nations to help them combat climate change?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Moderately agree</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Moderately disagree</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>17%</b>

### Copenhagen Climate Summit

Do you think that dealing with climate change is more urgent, just as urgent, or less urgent than dealing with each one of the following issues?

	More urgent	Just as urgent	Less urgent	Not sure
<b>Terrorism</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>The global financial crisis</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Global poverty</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>AIDS</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>World hunger</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2%</b>

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### Copenhagen Climate Summit

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has not yet announced whether he will attend the Copenhagen Climate Summit or not. Do you think Prime Minister Harper should go to Copenhagen?

Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Yes</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>12%</b>

### Copenhagen Climate Summit

In 1998, several countries signed the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement that commits nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Canada ratified the treaty, which is due to expire in 2012. If the Copenhagen Climate Summit results in a new binding agreement, do you think Canada should ratify it?

Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Yes</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>28%</b>

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### Copenhagen Climate Summit

There are different approaches to encourage a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Here are two examples of what some countries are doing. Would you support or oppose implementing each one of these ideas in Canada?

A Cap-and-Trade System: a carbon emissions trading system that aims to reduce pollution by giving businesses a permit to release up to a certain amount of greenhouse gas emissions. The mechanism will apply to stationary energy, transport, fugitive emissions, industrial processes, and the waste and forestry sectors.

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Strongly support</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Moderately support</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Moderately oppose</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>18%</b>

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### Copenhagen Climate Summit

There are different approaches to encourage a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Here are two examples of what some countries are doing. Would you support or oppose implementing each one of these ideas in Canada?

A Carbon Tax: a tax on each ton of emitted carbon dioxide aimed at discouraging the use of polluting sources of energy, such as oil, gas, and coal. The mechanism will apply to households and enterprises.

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Strongly support</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Moderately support</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Moderately oppose</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>

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*Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995*

*Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), Springboard America ([www.springboardamerica.com](http://www.springboardamerica.com)) and Springboard UK ([www.springboarduk.com](http://www.springboarduk.com)) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.*

*Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.*

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

*Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.*

*More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>*

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

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