

CLIMATE SUMMIT

Canadians Unhappy with Harper's Performance at Copenhagen Summit

Many also express dissatisfaction with the commitments made at last month's global meeting on climate change.

[TORONTO – Jan. 5, 2010] – Canadians are generally unhappy with the results of last month's Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,013 Canadian adults, 28 per cent of respondents are content with the leadership shown by Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the summit to discuss climate change sponsored by the United Nations (UN). Conversely, almost half of Canadians (48%) express dissatisfaction with Harper's performance at the meeting.

The Copenhagen Accord

Last month, representatives from 170 countries struggled to agree on a way to curb global warming. In the end, leaders issued a common statement including certain commitments to act. Most Canadians (56%) express frustration with the fact that the agreement that was finally reached is not legally binding.

A third of respondents (34%) are satisfied with the commitment to hold the increase of global temperatures below two degrees Celsius, but slightly more Canadians (36%) were left dissatisfied with this.

KEY FINDINGS

- **48% are dissatisfied with PM Stephen Harper's performance at Copenhagen**
- **56% are dissatisfied with the fact that the summit's accord is not legally binding**
- **46% agree with the commitment to help poorer nations cope with climate change**
- **73% say nations will not reach the goal of keeping the increase of global temperatures below 2°**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From December 22 to December 23, 2009, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,013 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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More respondents express satisfaction with the idea to create a fund to help developing nations adapt to climate change (46%), and with a commitment to reduce worldwide greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020 (58%).

Over two-in-five Canadians (44%) don't expect the Copenhagen Accord to ever become legally binding, and 73 per cent say are not confident that the world will reach the goal of holding the increase in global temperatures below two degrees Celsius.

Copenhagen and Climate Change: An Analysis

Canadians can be roughly divided into those who believe global warming is a fact and say it is caused by human activity (1); those who think global warming is a reality but is caused by natural changes (2), and those who think global warming is an unproven theory (3).

Those in the first group express a higher degree of dissatisfaction with their Prime Minister's performance at Copenhagen (60%) than those in the second (38%) and third groups (30%).

Amongst respondents in the first group, 73 per cent are dissatisfied with the fact that the Copenhagen Accord is not legally binding, while this is true for fewer Canadians in the second (47%) and third groups (32%). Canadians in the first category are also more likely to express dissatisfaction with the commitment to hold warming temperatures below two degrees Celsius (44%) than those in the second (35%) and third groups (26%).

Respondents in the first group are the most enthusiastic about the creation of a fund to help developing nations cope with climate change (60% are satisfied with the idea); fewer people in the second (32%) and third groups (24%) agree with it.

Satisfaction with the commitment to lower global emission levels by half below 1990 levels by 2020 is high across the board, but highest amongst Canadians in the first group (66%, compared to 48% in the other groups).

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Climate Summit

As you may know, representatives from 170 countries met earlier this month in Copenhagen, Denmark, to participate in a Climate Summit organized by the United Nations (UN). Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper during the conference?

	TOTAL	Who thinks: Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	Who thinks: Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	Who thinks: Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven
Very satisfied	9%	3%	15%	25%
Moderately satisfied	19%	18%	24%	19%
Moderately dissatisfied	15%	18%	15%	11%
Very dissatisfied	33%	42%	23%	19%
Not sure	25%	20%	22%	26%

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Climate Summit				
From what you have seen, read or heard, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following characteristics of the Copenhagen Accord? – Very/Moderately satisfied summary				
	TOTAL	Who thinks: Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	Who thinks: Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	Who thinks: Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven
The fact that the accord is not legally binding	20%	8%	37%	41%
Signatories agreeing to hold the increase in global temperatures below two degrees Celsius	34%	33%	39%	34%
Creating a fund to help poor nations adapt to climate change that will grow to \$100-billion U.S. annually by 2020	46%	60%	32%	24%
Aiming to reduce worldwide emissions by 50 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020	58%	66%	48%	47%

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Climate Summit

From what you have seen, read or heard, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following characteristics of the Copenhagen Accord? – **Very/Moderately dissatisfied summary**

	TOTAL	Who thinks: Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	Who thinks: Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	Who thinks: Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven
The fact that the accord is not legally binding	56%	73%	47%	32%
Signatories agreeing to hold the increase in global temperatures below two degrees Celsius	36%	44%	35%	26%
Creating a fund to help poor nations adapt to climate change that will grow to \$100-billion U.S. annually by 2020	34%	23%	55%	52%
Aiming to reduce worldwide emissions by 50 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020	23%	20%	39%	28%

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Climate Summit				
How confident are you that the goal of holding the increase in global temperatures below two degrees Celsius will be reached?				
	TOTAL	Who thinks: Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	Who thinks: Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	Who thinks: Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven
Completely confident	2%	1%	2%	5%
Moderately confident	14%	15%	17%	12%
Not too confident	43%	49%	42%	37%
Not confident at all	30%	30%	34%	29%
Not sure	12%	6%	5%	16%

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Climate Summit				
Do you think the Copenhagen Accord will become a legally binding treaty in the future?				
	TOTAL	Who thinks: Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	Who thinks: Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	Who thinks: Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven
Yes	12%	17%	9%	4%
No	44%	38%	54%	56%
Not sure	43%	45%	37%	40%

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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
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by emissions from vehicles and industrial facilities	52%	51%	38%	44%	51%	61%	58%
Global warming is a fact and is mostly caused by natural changes	17%	18%	17%	12%	16%	20%	11%
Global warming is a theory that has not yet been proven	17%	17%	27%	40%	18%	9%	11%
Not sure	13%	14%	18%	5%	15%	10%	20%

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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), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (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>

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**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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