

PROROGATION

Majority of Canadians Disagree with Prorogation of Parliament

About two-in-five respondents think the decision was taken to curtail the inquiry into the treatment of Afghan detainees.

[VANCOUVER – Jan. 7, 2010] – The recent prorogation of Parliament does not sit well with a majority of Canadians, and supporters of opposition parties are particularly dismayed by the decision, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll conducted in partnership with the *Toronto Star* has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,019 Canadian adults, 53 per cent of respondents disagree with the decision to prorogue Parliament.

Conversely, only 19 per cent agree with the move. Almost three-in-ten Canadians (28%) are undecided.

The rejection of the decision to prorogue Parliament is highest in Ontario (59%) and lowest in the Prairies (50% in Alberta, 48% in Manitoba and Saskatchewan).

Political Allegiance

A large proportion of respondents who voted for the Liberal Party (78%), the Green Party (75%), the New Democratic Party (NDP) (72%) and the Bloc Québécois (65%) in the 2008 federal election disagree with the prorogation of Parliament. Almost half of Conservative voters (46%) agree with the decision.

KEY FINDINGS

- **53% disagree with the decision to prorogue Parliament, including large majorities of opposition party supporters**
- **38% think prorogation is being invoked to curtail an inquiry into the treatment of Afghan detainees; 23% think it was necessary to review the next stage of the government's economic plan**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From January 5 to January 6, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,019 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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Taking Sides

About two-in-five Canadians (38%) side with the view of opposition parties, and believe prorogation was invoked in order to curtail an inquiry into the treatment of Afghan detainees. About one quarter of respondents (23%) agree with the federal government's position that prorogation was necessary to recalibrate, consult and deliver the next stage of the economic plan.

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Prorogation

As you may know, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has prorogued Parliament, that is, suspended all activities and delayed the return of MPs and Senators. Have you followed this story in the media?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Yes, very closely	11%	18%	15%	3%	11%	8%	16%
Yes, moderately closely	23%	22%	20%	18%	29%	16%	23%
Yes, but not too closely	31%	33%	27%	49%	35%	22%	33%
No, I have not followed this story at all	34%	26%	38%	31%	25%	53%	28%

Prorogation

As you may know, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has prorogued Parliament, that is, suspended all activities and delayed the return of MPs and Senators. Have you followed this story in the media?

	Political Allegiance					
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Grn
Yes, very closely	11%	10%	22%	17%	14%	8%
Yes, moderately closely	23%	26%	30%	22%	26%	39%
Yes, but not too closely	31%	40%	27%	43%	22%	28%
No, I have not followed this story at all	34%	24%	21%	18%	39%	26%

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Prorogation							
Do you agree or disagree with the decision to prorogue Parliament?							
Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Strongly agree	7%	13%	7%	15%	4%	9%	3%
Moderately agree	12%	10%	14%	16%	13%	9%	8%
Moderately disagree	15%	21%	24%	20%	16%	10%	7%
Strongly disagree	38%	31%	26%	28%	43%	36%	54%
Not sure	28%	24%	29%	22%	24%	36%	28%

Prorogation						
Do you agree or disagree with the decision to prorogue Parliament?						
Political Allegiance						
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Grn
Strongly agree	7%	20%	1%	1%	4%	0%
Moderately agree	12%	26%	6%	6%	7%	5%
Moderately disagree	15%	17%	17%	15%	8%	14%
Strongly disagree	38%	18%	61%	57%	57%	61%
Not sure	28%	19%	15%	20%	23%	20%

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Prorogation

The Federal Government claims that prorogation was necessary to recalibrate, consult and deliver the next stage of its economic plan. The Opposition claims that prorogation is being invoked in order to curtail an inquiry into the treatment of Afghan detainees. Thinking about this, which side do you agree with the most?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
The Federal Government	23%	27%	26%	39%	20%	22%	19%
The Opposition	38%	38%	29%	22%	40%	41%	49%
Neither / Not sure	39%	35%	44%	39%	41%	37%	32%

Prorogation

The Federal Government claims that prorogation was necessary to recalibrate, consult and deliver the next stage of its economic plan. The Opposition claims that prorogation is being invoked in order to curtail an inquiry into the treatment of Afghan detainees. Thinking about this, which side do you agree with the most?

	Political Allegiance					
	Total	Con	Lib	NDP	BQ	Grn
The Federal Government	23%	54%	8%	11%	6%	7%
The Opposition	38%	12%	60%	56%	69%	67%
Neither / Not sure	39%	35%	33%	33%	25%	26%

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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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