

THRONE SPEECH

# Canadians Back Plan to Freeze MP Wages and Departmental Budgets

*Public also greatly receptive to biometric passports.*

[VANCOUVER – Mar. 8, 2010] – Canadians are clearly in favour of some of the cost-cutting proposals that the federal government presented last week, but are not as keen on plans to allow foreign investment in the satellite and telecommunications industries or build a national Holocaust memorial, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative sample of 1,011 adult Canadians reviewed how respondents felt about 11 specific ideas outlined in the latest Speech from the Throne, read by Governor-General Michaëlle Jean on Mar. 3.

A separate survey (<http://bit.ly/aYSAGd>) revealed that English-speakers overwhelmingly rejected the plan to alter the lyrics to "O Canada", which was ultimately abandoned by the government.

More than four-in-five Canadians endorsed the government's proposal to freeze wages for MPs, cabinet ministers and senators (92%) and freeze the overall budgets for the offices of ministers, as well as departmental operating budgets (81%).

At least seven-in-ten Canadians also welcome the possibility of issuing passports with biometric information (such as an iris scan, fingerprints, or facial recognition data) (72%) and acting to create a Canadian securities regulator (71%).

## KEY FINDINGS

- **92% support freezing wages for MPs, cabinet ministers and senators; 81% support freezing the overall budgets for the offices of ministers, as well as departmental operating budgets**
- **72% support issuing passports with biometric information (such as an iris scan, fingerprints, or facial recognition data)**
- **50% support implementing a free trade agreement with Peru and allowing foreign investment in the satellite and telecommunications industries**
- **49% support building a national Holocaust memorial**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From March 4 to March 5, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,011 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

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About two-thirds of respondents support implementing a free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) (67%) and establishing a national Seniors Day (65%). In addition, 59 per cent support endorsing the United Nations (UN) declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and 55 per cent are in favour of establishing Pier 21 in Halifax as Canada's National Museum of Immigration.

The most contentious proposals relate to trade, the telecommunications industries, and a Holocaust memorial. Half of Canadians (50%) support implementing a free trade agreement with Peru and allowing foreign investment in the satellite and telecommunications industries. The proposal to build a national Holocaust memorial was backed by 49 per cent of respondents.

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### Throne Speech

Here are a few ideas that were outlined in the latest Speech from the Throne. Do you support or oppose each one of them?

	Support	Oppose	Not sure
Freezing wages for MPs, cabinet ministers and senators	92%	4%	3%
Freezing the overall budgets for the offices of ministers, as well as departmental operating budgets	81%	10%	9%
Issuing passports with biometric information (such as an iris scan, fingerprints, or facial recognition data)	72%	21%	7%
Acting to create a Canadian securities regulator	71%	10%	19%
Implementing a free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland)	67%	14%	19%
Establishing a national Seniors Day	65%	24%	11%
Endorsing the United Nations (UN) declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People	59%	22%	19%
Establishing Pier 21 in Halifax as Canada's National Museum of Immigration	55%	20%	25%
Implementing a free trade agreement with Peru	50%	22%	28%
Allowing foreign investment in the satellite and telecommunications industries	50%	31%	19%
Building a national Holocaust memorial	49%	35%	16%

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	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Freezing wages for MPs, cabinet ministers and senators	92%	91%	94%	81%	94%	93%	94%
Freezing the overall budgets for the offices of ministers, as well as departmental operating budgets	81%	79%	71%	71%	82%	88%	75%
Issuing passports with biometric information (such as an iris scan, fingerprints, or facial recognition data)	72%	80%	71%	65%	70%	75%	70%
Acting to create a Canadian securities regulator	71%	76%	66%	61%	77%	64%	75%
Implementing a free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland)	67%	70%	67%	70%	66%	66%	73%
Establishing a national Seniors Day	65%	64%	61%	61%	66%	65%	68%
Endorsing the United Nations (UN) declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People	59%	66%	57%	48%	61%	53%	72%
Establishing Pier 21 in Halifax as Canada's National Museum of Immigration	55%	64%	66%	46%	55%	44%	73%
Implementing a free trade agreement with Peru	50%	52%	51%	59%	46%	52%	50%
Allowing foreign investment in the satellite and telecommunications industries	50%	55%	49%	40%	49%	52%	57%
Building a national Holocaust memorial	49%	57%	57%	44%	53%	35%	64%

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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 Public Opinion 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.*

*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.*

*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. More information on our electoral record can be found at:*  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

*More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at*  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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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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