

VEIL BAN IN QUEBEC

Four-in-Five Canadians Approve of Quebec's Face Veil Legislation

Proposal gets highest level of support among Quebecers and respondents over the age of 55.

[MONTREAL – Mar. 27, 2010] – Quebec's proposal to compel people to show their faces in order to receive government services is supported by a large proportion of Canadians, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 1,004 Canadians, 80 per cent of respondents approve of the bill, while 16 per cent disapprove of it.

Earlier this month, Quebec introduced legislation which requires people to show their faces in order to receive government services, for reasons of identification, security and communication.

Under this new legislation, Muslim women who wear a niqab would not be able to consult a doctor in a hospital or attend classes in a university unless they remove their face veil.

Quebec (95%) and Alberta (82%) hold the highest levels of support for the bill, along with respondents over the age of 55 (86%). Women (75%) are slightly less likely than Men (83%) to support the legislation.

Bloc Québécois voters (95%) are clearly in favor of the bill, along with Conservatives (86%) and Liberals (81%). Conversely, respondents who would vote for the New Democratic Party (NDP) (75%) or the Green Party (63%) in the 2008 federal election are less likely to support Quebec's legislation.

KEY FINDINGS

- **80% approve of Quebec's proposed legislation; 16% disapprove**
- **Support highest in Quebec and Alberta**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From March 25 to March 26, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,004 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.5%, 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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Veil Ban in Quebec

As you may know, Quebec has introduced legislation which requires people to show their faces in order to receive government services, for reasons of identification, security and communication. Under this new legislation, Muslim women who wear a niqab would not be able to consult a doctor in a hospital or attend classes in a university unless they remove their face veil. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you approve or disapprove of this law?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Strongly approve	59%	48%	56%	43%	51%	83%	46%
Moderately approve	21%	22%	26%	22%	26%	12%	27%
Moderately disapprove	11%	15%	12%	18%	12%	3%	17%
Strongly disapprove	5%	10%	4%	12%	6%	2%	3%
Not sure	4%	5%	2%	5%	4%	1%	7%

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	Gender			Age		
	Total	Male	Female	Age 18-34	Age 35-54	Age 55+
Strongly approve	59%	64%	53%	44%	61%	68%
Moderately approve	22%	19%	24%	25%	22%	18%
Moderately disapprove	11%	8%	13%	16%	8%	10%
Strongly disapprove	5%	6%	5%	10%	5%	2%
Not sure	4%	3%	5%	4%	5%	2%

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Political Support

	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Strongly approve	59%	69%	54%	48%	85%	47%
Moderately approve	22%	17%	27%	27%	10%	16%
Moderately disapprove	11%	11%	12%	7%	2%	15%
Strongly disapprove	5%	2%	5%	11%	1%	17%
Not sure	4%	1%	2%	7%	2%	5%

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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), 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.

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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