

MP EXPENSES

Canadians Want Auditor-General to Dig Deeper into MP Expenses

Proposal to probe only some cases "does not go far enough" for majority of respondents, who want to review every single expense incurred by MPs.

[TORONTO – Jun. 23, 2010] – An overwhelming proportion of Canadians welcome the assessment of MP expenses initiated by Auditor-General Sheila Fraser, but a majority would like this process to be more thorough, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,031 Canadian adults, 82 per cent of respondents say the audit is necessary, while only six per cent deem it unnecessary.

The Proposal

The Auditor-General has proposed to look only into some cases—through the analysis of a statistical sample of MP expense files—and make no mention of individual MPs who are found to have violated existing guidelines.

The announced course of action is not particularly well received by Canadians. Almost three-in-five respondents (57%) say the probe into MP expenses does not go far enough, while one-in-four (26%) think it is about right and eight per cent believe it goes too far.

What Canadians Prefer

More than half of Canadians (53%) would prefer to reveal every single expense made by each MP with his or her stipend in a year, while 29 per cent would be content with disclosing the total that each

KEY FINDINGS

- **82% say the audit into MP expenses is necessary**
- **57% say the Auditor-General's proposal does not go far enough**
- **53% would reveal every single expense made by each MP with his or her stipend in a year**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From June 16 to June 17, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,031 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.

CONTACT:

Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com

individual MP spent in a year, and 10 per cent think revealing an average of how much all MPs spent in a year would suffice.

It is important to note that the level of agreement on all three questions—the need for an audit into MP expenses, the impression that the Auditor-General's probe does not go far enough and the wish to disclose every single expense made by each MP—is equally high in all Canadian provinces and among supporters of the five main federal parties.

Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AngusReidGlobal>

CONTACT:

Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com

MP Expenses

As you may know, Members of Parliament are entitled to a stipend, additional to their salary, in order to perform their duties. Auditor-General Sheila Fraser will soon probe how MPs are spending their allowances. Fraser said the probe will look only into some cases, and in the end no individual cases will be mentioned. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you think the audit into MPs' allowances goes too far, is about right, or does not go far enough?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Goes too far	8%	6%	5%	15%	11%	4%	7%
Is about right	26%	28%	17%	22%	28%	30%	17%
Does not go far enough	57%	58%	71%	62%	55%	53%	60%
Not sure	9%	7%	7%	1%	7%	13%	17%

MP Expenses

As you may know, Members of Parliament are entitled to a stipend, additional to their salary, in order to perform their duties. Auditor-General Sheila Fraser will soon probe how MPs are spending their allowances. Fraser said the probe will look only into some cases, and in the end no individual cases will be mentioned. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you think the audit into MPs' allowances goes too far, is about right, or does not go far enough?

	Party supported in 2008 election					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
Goes too far	8%	6%	11%	6%	3%	3%
Is about right	26%	29%	26%	33%	33%	15%
Does not go far enough	57%	60%	57%	57%	59%	77%
Not sure	9%	4%	6%	4%	4%	5%

CONTACT:

Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com

MP Expenses

The Board of Internal Economy, an all-party body that oversees the expenditures of Parliament, had initially rejected the probe requested by Ms. Fraser, arguing that an independent organization already audits Parliament's finances. Thinking about this, which of the following statements comes closest to your own view?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
The audit into MP expenses by Auditor-General Sheila Fraser is necessary	82%	80%	89%	84%	84%	80%	78%
The audit into MP expenses by Auditor-General Sheila Fraser is unnecessary	6%	7%	5%	5%	6%	7%	2%
Not sure	12%	13%	6%	11%	10%	14%	21%

MP Expenses

The Board of Internal Economy, an all-party body that oversees the expenditures of Parliament, had initially rejected the probe requested by Ms. Fraser, arguing that an independent organization already audits Parliament's finances. Thinking about this, which of the following statements comes closest to your own view?

	Party supported in 2008 election					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
The audit into MP expenses by Auditor-General Sheila Fraser is necessary	82%	85%	87%	87%	88%	89%
The audit into MP expenses by Auditor-General Sheila Fraser is unnecessary	6%	7%	4%	5%	6%	4%
Not sure	12%	8%	9%	8%	6%	7%

CONTACT:

Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com

MP Expenses							
If it were up to you, how detailed would you like the Auditor-General's report into MPs expenses to be?							
	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
It should reveal an average of how much all MPs spent in a year	10%	13%	9%	5%	11%	9%	9%
It should reveal the total that each individual MP spent in a year	29%	33%	28%	29%	33%	26%	23%
It should reveal every single expense made by each MP with his or her stipend in a year	53%	52%	56%	60%	51%	54%	48%
None of these	1%	0%	5%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Not sure	7%	1%	2%	4%	5%	11%	20%

MP Expenses						
If it were up to you, how detailed would you like the Auditor-General's report into MPs expenses to be?						
	Party supported in 2008 election					
	Total	Con.	Lib.	NDP	BQ	Grn.
It should reveal an average of how much all MPs spent in a year	10%	10%	13%	9%	6%	8%
It should reveal the total that each individual MP spent in a year	29%	30%	33%	29%	31%	35%
It should reveal every single expense made by each MP with his or her stipend in a year	53%	56%	50%	56%	59%	55%
None of these	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Not sure	7%	2%	4%	5%	3%	2%

CONTACT:

Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com

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/>

- 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>**

CONTACT:

Jodi Shanoff, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, 416-712-5498, jodi.shanoff@angus-reid.com