

BRAIDWOOD INQUIRY

Canadians Agree with Conclusions of Inquiry into Dziekanski Death

A majority of respondents welcome the decision to name a special prosecutor to review whether criminal charges are warranted.

[VANCOUVER – Jun. 26, 2010] – Canadians agree with the conclusions of the Braidwood Inquiry and welcome the decision to appoint a special prosecutor to review the actions of four Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers who used a taser on a Polish immigrant in 2007.

The judicial inquiry, headed by retired judge Thomas Braidwood, issued its final report on the death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski on Jun. 18. The report concludes that there was no justification for RCMP officers to use a taser, and that Dziekanski did not pose a threat to the officers.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,009 Canadian adults, two-thirds of respondents (69%) agree with the conclusions of the Braidwood Inquiry.

In addition, three-in-five Canadians (61%) support the decision of British Columbia's Attorney-General to name a special prosecutor to look at whether criminal charges should be laid against the four RCMP officers who used the taser on Robert Dziekanski.

KEY FINDINGS

- **69% of Canadians (79% in BC) agree with the conclusions of the Braidwood Inquiry**
- **61% of Canadians (78% in BC) support the decision to name a special prosecutor to look at whether criminal charges should be laid against four RCMP officers who used the taser on Robert Dziekanski**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From June 22 to June 23, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,009 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.

In British Columbia, the level of agreement with the conclusions of the inquiry stands at 79 per cent, and support for the decision to name a special prosecutor reaches 78 per cent.

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Views on Tasers

Two-thirds of respondents (68%) believe tasers should remain off limits for Canadians, while 28 per cent would allow the stun guns to be acquired and used by law-abiding residents. In addition, half of respondents (49%) support issuing a moratorium on the use of tasers by Canada's law enforcement agencies, while 36 per cent disagree.

On both of these questions, the views of Canadians have not gone through a fundamental shift since May 2008, when 49 per cent of Canadians backed a moratorium and 74 per cent oppose the use of tasers by civilians.

Our May 2008 survey on the tasers can be accessed here:

http://www.visioncritical.com/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/2008.05.21_Tasers.pdf

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Braidwood Inquiry

In Canada, tasers—also known as stun guns—can only be operated by law enforcement agencies. Do you agree or disagree with allowing law-abiding Canadians to acquire and use a taser for their personal safety?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Agree	28%	22%	27%	47%	28%	29%	20%
Disagree	68%	77%	67%	53%	69%	68%	67%
Not sure	4%	0%	6%	1%	3%	3%	13%

Braidwood Inquiry

From what you have seen, heard, or read, would you support or oppose issuing a moratorium on the use of tasers by Canada's law enforcement agencies?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Agree	49%	46%	48%	52%	48%	55%	40%
Disagree	36%	40%	34%	38%	37%	29%	48%
Not sure	15%	13%	17%	10%	15%	17%	12%

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Braidwood Inquiry

A judicial inquiry, headed by retired judge Thomas Braidwood, has issued its final report on the death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski in 2007. The report concludes that there was no justification for RCMP officers to use a taser, and that Dziekanski did not pose a threat to the officers. From what you have seen, read or heard about this case, do you agree or disagree with these conclusions?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Agree	69%	79%	69%	49%	69%	67%	75%
Disagree	6%	8%	11%	14%	4%	5%	7%
Not sure	14%	2%	14%	27%	12%	19%	10%

Braidwood Inquiry

British Columbia's Attorney-General has named a special prosecutor to look at whether criminal charges should be laid against four RCMP officers who used the taser on Robert Dziekanski. Do you support or oppose this course of action?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Support	61%	78%	67%	50%	60%	55%	62%
Oppose	27%	18%	26%	30%	32%	25%	23%
Not sure	12%	4%	8%	20%	8%	20%	15%

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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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