

## GUNS

# Two-in-Five Canadians Would Scrap Long Gun Registry

*Half of respondents believe a complete ban on handguns would be justified, while two-in-five disagree with this notion.*

[VANCOUVER – Aug. 24, 2010] – As a decision on the future of the Canadian Firearms Registry draws near, Canadians hold differing views on whether the so-called long gun registry should be scrapped, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative sample of 1,005 Canadian adults also finds that respondents are almost evenly divided on whether it should be illegal for ordinary citizens to own firearms.

### Gun Violence

Seven-in-ten Canadians (70%) believe gun violence in Canada is a "very serious" or "moderately serious" problem.

About half of respondents (49%) think implementing a complete ban on handguns would be justified, since current regulations are not working and guns stolen from legal owners are being used in crimes. Conversely, two-in-five Canadians (39%) believe a complete ban would be unjustified, as it would affect law-abiding Canadians such as collectors and target shooters.

### KEY FINDINGS

- **49% think a complete ban on handguns would be justified; 39% say the move would be unjustified**
- **43% believe the Canadian Firearms Registry has been unsuccessful in preventing crime in Canada**
- **44% support scrapping the long gun registry; 35% oppose such a move**
- **45% think it should be illegal for ordinary citizens to own firearms**

*Full topline results are at the end of this release.*

*From August 17 to August 18, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,005 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.*

Ontarians, Quebecers and British Columbians tend to side with the pro-ban argument, while Albertans, Atlantic Canadians and those in the Prairie Provinces are more likely to reject this notion.

### CONTACT:

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## The Registry

The Canadian Firearms Registry, also known as the long gun registry, requires the registration of all non-restricted firearms in Canada. Two-in-five Canadians (43%) believe the registry has been unsuccessful in preventing crime in Canada, while three-in-ten (29%) think it has had no effect on crime. Only 13 per cent of respondents believe the Canadian Firearms Registry has been successful.

A plurality of Canadians (44%) calls for scrapping the long gun registry—including large majorities in the Prairies (65%) and Alberta (59%). More than a third of respondents (35%) are opposed to this course of action, including 51 per cent of Quebecers.

Since a survey conducted in November 2009, the proportion of Canadians who oppose the long gun registry has dropped by seven points, while the proportion of supporters has increased by one point.

Canadian are split on another question, with 40 per cent of respondents saying it should be legal for ordinary citizens to own firearms, and 45 per cent wanting to make this illegal. There are some major geographic differences on this question, with majorities in Quebec (54%) and Ontario (53%) wanting to keep firearms away from ordinary citizens, and more than half of Albertans (51%) expressing support for the legality of this practice.

*Our November 2009 survey on guns can be accessed [here](#).*

*For all our polls, go to our [website](#) / Follow us on [Twitter](#)*

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## Guns

In your view, is gun violence in Canada a very serious problem, moderately serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Very serious</b>	28%	22%	17%	23%	28%	38%	23%
<b>Moderately serious</b>	42%	46%	47%	45%	43%	38%	37%
<b>Not too serious</b>	23%	26%	26%	19%	25%	18%	28%
<b>Not a problem</b>	5%	6%	7%	10%	3%	4%	7%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	0%	4%	3%	2%	1%	5%

## Guns

Some people have called for a complete ban on handguns in Canada. Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>A complete ban would be justified, since current regulations are not working and guns stolen from legal owners are being used in crimes</b>	49%	49%	32%	36%	57%	54%	34%
<b>A complete ban would be unjustified, as it would affect law-abiding Canadians such as collectors and target shooters</b>	39%	42%	44%	58%	36%	33%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	11%	8%	24%	6%	8%	13%	17%

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## Guns

The Canadian Firearms Registry, also known as the long gun registry, requires the registration of all non-restricted firearms in Canada. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you think this registry has been successful or unsuccessful in preventing crime in Canada?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Successful</b>	13%	11%	10%	7%	12%	15%	22%
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	43%	41%	48%	56%	40%	39%	51%
<b>It has had no effect on crime</b>	29%	34%	29%	29%	30%	31%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	14%	12%	9%	18%	16%	10%

## Guns

Do you support or oppose scrapping the long gun registry?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
<b>Support</b>	44%	45%	59%	65%	42%	32%	48%
<b>Oppose</b>	35%	28%	24%	25%	34%	51%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	26%	17%	10%	24%	16%	26%

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## Guns

Do you think it should be legal or illegal for ordinary citizens to own firearms?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Legal	40%	45%	51%	65%	35%	28%	53%
Illegal	45%	36%	27%	30%	53%	54%	30%
Not sure	15%	19%	21%	5%	11%	18%	17%

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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 recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a high-quality, multi-streamed approach and an in-depth screening procedure.*

*The panels are highly engaged communities with industry leading response rates and are researched with state-of-the-art sampling techniques, combined with deep profiling on demographic, behavioural and attitudinal characteristics. 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>*

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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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