

GUNS

Almost Half of Canadians Would Abolish the Long Gun Registry

Respondents who reside in rural areas are more likely to call for the registry to be scrapped than those in urban centres.

[MONTREAL – Sept. 20, 2010] – As the House of Commons prepares for a vote on the future of the Canadian Firearms Registry, many Canadians remain skeptical about the success of the legislation, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative sample of 1,011 Canadian adults also finds that people who live in rural areas continue to be more likely to call for the registry to be scrapped than those who reside in urban centres.

Views on a Complete Ban

Canadians are evenly divided on the possibility of implementing a complete ban on handguns.

Since August, the proportion of respondents who support a ban fell by five points to 44 per cent, while the proportion of Canadians who believe a ban would be unjustified increased by four points to reach 44 per cent. Majorities in every Western Canadian province believe a ban would be unjustified, while most Quebecers would agree to implement one.

The Registry

The Canadian Firearms Registry, also known as the long gun registry, requires the registration of all non-restricted firearms in Canada. More than a third of Canadians (38%, -5 since August) believe the registry has been unsuccessful in preventing crime in Canada, while three-in-ten (31%, +2) think it has had no

KEY FINDINGS

- **46% support scrapping the long gun registry; 40% oppose such a move**
- **38% believe the Canadian Firearms Registry has been unsuccessful in preventing crime in Canada**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From September 15 to September 16, 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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effect on crime. Only 16 per cent of respondents (+3) believe the Canadian Firearms Registry has been successful.

Almost half of Canadians (46%, +2) call for the long gun registry to be scrapped—including large majorities in the Prairies (65%) and Alberta (69%). Two-in-five respondents (40%, +5) are opposed to this course of action, including 59 per cent of Quebecers.

While 44 per cent of Urban Canadians would scrap the long gun registry, the proportion jumps to 53 per cent among Rural Canadians. For the purpose of this analysis, Rural Canadians are defined as persons living outside centres with a population of 1,000 inhabitants, and outside areas with 400 persons per square kilometre.

Analysis

The discussions about the Canadian Firearms Registry have led to an increased awareness among the population, and a reduction in the number of respondents who are undecided about its effect and its future.

While there was a five-point increase in the proportion of Canadians who want to save the registry, the overall number is still smaller than the plurality of respondents who call for its demise. Still, there is little fluctuation in the views of Urban Canadians and Rural Canadians since the survey conducted in August.

Our previous surveys on guns can be accessed here:

[November 2009](#) / [August 2010](#)

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

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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
A complete ban would be justified, since current regulations are not working and guns stolen from legal owners are being used in crimes	44%	37%	26%	38%	44%	54%	49%
A complete ban would be unjustified, as it would affect law-abiding Canadians such as collectors and target shooters	44%	54%	65%	57%	44%	29%	43%
Not sure	12%	9%	9%	6%	12%	17%	8%

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
Successful	16%	12%	10%	13%	16%	22%	18%
Unsuccessful	38%	48%	39%	52%	36%	34%	29%
It has had no effect on crime	31%	30%	39%	31%	26%	33%	42%
Not sure	15%	11%	12%	4%	21%	11%	11%

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Guns

Do you support or oppose scrapping the long gun registry?

	Region							Area	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL	Urban	Rural
Support	46%	54%	69%	63%	44%	30%	46%	44%	53%
Oppose	40%	34%	18%	27%	35%	59%	45%	40%	36%
Not sure	15%	12%	13%	10%	21%	11%	9%	15%	11%

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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 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>

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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