

U.S. MILITARY DESERTERS

Most Canadians Would Grant Permanent Residence to U.S. Military Deserters

Albertans, males, and those with a high school education or less are least likely to agree.

[VANCOUVER – Jun. 27, 2008] – A majority of Canadians would agree with the decision to let American military deserters stay in Canada as permanent residents, a new Angus Reid Strategies survey reveals.

Earlier this month, the House of Commons recently passed a **non-binding** motion calling on the federal government to grant residence to all U.S. soldiers who fled to Canada after refusing to take part in the Iraq War.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, three-in-five Canadians (64%) say they would agree to give these U.S. soldiers the opportunity to remain in Canada as permanent residents.

Quebec (70%) houses the highest proportion of respondents who agree with the motion, while Alberta (52%) has the fewest supporters.

A gender breakdown reveals that while both males and females would agree to let U.S. military deserters remain in Canada, females are much more sympathetic (69% versus 57%).

An analysis of the different education groups shows that the discrepancy between respondents with a university degree (67%), those with a college or technical school diploma (64%), and those with a high school education or less (58%) is also quite significant.

KEY FINDINGS

- **64% of Canadians would let U.S. military deserters stay in Canada**
- **More females (69%) than males (57%) want U.S. military deserters to be allowed to stay in Canada**
- **Highest support in Quebec (70%); lowest support in Alberta (52%)**
- **University graduates (67%) more likely to grant permanent residence than college graduates (64%) and those with a high school diploma or less (58%)**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From June 6 to June 7, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,001 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample 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.

Finally, the age and income brackets do not reveal many notable differences amongst the respondents. Respondents aged 35-54 seem most supportive of granting permanent residency to the U.S. military deserters (66%), while the 18-34 group follows closely behind with 64 per cent, and Canadians aged 55 and over with 61 per cent. Respondents in households earning less than \$50,000 a year (68%) are also more likely to agree with the decision to let the U.S. soldiers stay.

The U.S. Army's maximum penalty for desertion is five years in confinement, dishonourable discharge and loss of all pay and benefits. There are thought to be about 200 U.S. military deserters in Canada.

Military Deserters

As you may now, the House of Commons recently passed a non-binding motion calling on the federal government to grant permanent residence to U.S. soldiers who fled to Canada after refusing to take part in the Iraq War. There are thought to be about 200 American military deserters in Canada. Do you agree or disagree with allowing these U.S. soldiers to become permanent residents of Canada?

	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Agree	64%	64%	52%	63%	63%	70%	63%
Disagree	32%	34%	44%	33%	33%	26%	29%
Not sure	4%	1%	4%	4%	4%	4%	8%

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	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
Agree	57%	69%	64%	66%	61%	68%	63%	63%	58%	64%	67%
Disagree	40%	26%	30%	30%	35%	28%	35%	34%	34%	32%	31%
Not sure	3%	5%	6%	3%	4%	4%	2%	2%	7%	3%	2%

Angus Reid Strategies is a full-service polling and market research firm which 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 Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995.

Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its four offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices San Francisco, New York and London, England. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Over the last year, Angus Reid has covered five 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. <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.pdf>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**