



Lethbridge Public Opinion Study – Fall 2008







Canada's Combat Role in Afghanistan

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Dr. Faron Ellis
Citizen Society Research Lab
Lethbridge College
3000 College Drive South
Lethbridge AB T1K 1L6
fellis@lethbridgecollege.ab.ca
www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/go/csrl



Methodology

-  **Population** The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 83,960 residents (2008 municipal census) approximately 80% of which are 18 years of age or older (67,168). A total of 41,160 Lethbridge residents are male (49.0%) while 42,800 are female (51.0%). South Lethbridge is home to 29,773 residents (35.5%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 29,673 residents (35.3%). There are 24,514 north Lethbridge residents (29.2%).
-  **Sample** Data were collected by Lethbridge College and Athabasca University students enrolled in STS270 – Social Science Research Methods and PSC150 – Local Government in the fall of 2008. Students interviewed 955 adult city of Lethbridge residents by telephone on October 4 and 5, 2008 under the supervision of School of Liberal Arts faculty members Faron Ellis, PhD and Marda Schindeler, MA. Telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoCanada directories. We sincerely appreciate and thank all those who took time out of their day to respond to our survey. Full methodological notes for samples from previous Lethbridge Public Opinion Studies can be obtained by visiting the CSRL web pages at: www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/go/csrl
-  **Representativeness** Analysis of the demographic data indicates that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the adult population within the city of Lethbridge. The sample has been statistically weighted where necessary to even better reflect the demographic distribution of the population (gender, age and area of the city of Lethbridge).
-  **Confidence** The weighted sample yields a margin of error of ± 3.15 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data.
-  **IB Commons Call Centre** Students conducted interviews using the facilities of the Lethbridge College IB Commons Call Centre and applications developed by the Open Source Learning Lab. We thank Dr. James Manis and the OSL for their efforts in working with us to establish and maintain the IB Commons Call Centre.
-  **Sponsorship** These data are part of a larger study of the opinions and attitudes of Lethbridge residents conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at Lethbridge College. This particular set of question was derived from the research interests of College students and faculty.

Continuing Canada's Combat Role in Afghanistan (%)

- Support for Canada continuing its combat role in Afghanistan continues to decline. Whereas a clear majority (54.5%) supported continuing with the combat role just two years ago, only 42.3% currently favor continuing with combat operations. The decline in support has been gradual, but unmistakable, as Lethbridge residents continue to evaluate developments in the ongoing war.
- Lethbridge men (50.8% support) are almost evenly split on this issue, while women are more likely to be opposed (65.9%). Lethbridge residents with the least amount of formal education (63.8%), the youth (66.5%) and lower income residents (66.4%) are most opposed. Federal party preference is an important predictor of opinion on this issue with Conservative supporters most supportive (53.8%). The majority of all other party supporters are opposed (Liberal, 68.2%; NDP, 68.0%; Green, 71.4%). Undecided voters in Lethbridge are more than twice as likely to be opposed (70.7%) to continuing Canada's combat role as they are to be supportive (29.3%).

Afghanistan Combat (%)	October 2006	October 2007	February 2008	October 2008
Agree	54.5	47.0	45.5	42.3
Disagree	45.5	53.0	54.5	57.7

Afghanistan Combat (%)	October 2006	October 2007	February 2008	October 2008
Strongly Agree	10.4	9.0	5.5	5.4
Somewhat Agree	44.0	37.9	40.0	36.9
Somewhat Disagree	31.0	36.9	43.0	39.5
Strongly Disagree	14.5	16.1	11.5	18.2

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Continuing Canada's Combat Role in Afghanistan (October 2008) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	Lethbridge Residents
Agree	50.8	34.1	42.3
Disagree	49.2	65.9	57.7

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Agree	43.9	40.9	42.2
Disagree	56.1	59.1	57.8

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	33.6	46.7	44.2
Disagree	66.4	53.3	55.8

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	47.8	38.0	40.9
Disagree	52.2	62.0	59.1

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	36.2	38.3	50.9	43.6
Disagree	63.8	61.7	49.1	56.4

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	33.5	46.9	45.3	41.3
Disagree	66.5	53.1	54.7	58.7

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	53.8	31.8	32.0	28.6	29.3
Disagree	46.2	68.2	68.0	71.4	70.7

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Demographics

Gender (%)		Area of City (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
Male	48.9	South	35.3	Under \$40,000	33.6	H-School/less	24.9	18-29	23.9
Female	51.1	North	29.4	\$40-\$80,000	36.8	Some P-Sec.	22.0	30-44	21.8
		West	35.3	Over \$80,000	29.6	Col-Tech-Grad	25.1	45-64	31.5
						University Grad	28.0	65 or older	22.9

Federal Vote Intention (%)		Religious Participation (%)	
Conservative	56.3	2-3/month-more	30.0
Liberal	16.5	Several/year	24.0
NDP	14.0	Rarely-never	46.0
Green	10.9		
Undecided	2.3		

Questions

Canada should continue with its combat role in Afghanistan.