



Canada's Combat Role in Afghanistan

Lethbridge Public Opinion Study – Winter 2009

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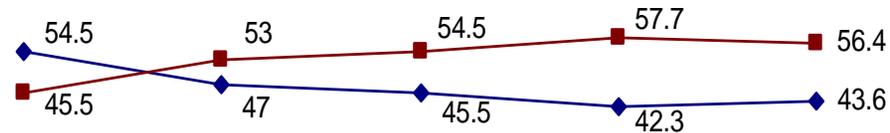
Methodology

-  **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 in the winter of 2008. Students interviewed 637 adult city of Lethbridge residents by telephone on February 4, 7 and 8, 2009 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 ± 3.9 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 OSLL 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 has leveled off with 43.6% of city residents stating that Canada should continue with its combat operations in that country. Whereas a clear majority (54.5%) supported continuing with the combat role just over two years ago, 56.4% are now opposed. The decline in support has been gradual, but appears to be leveling off as Lethbridge residents continue to evaluate developments in the ongoing war.
- Lethbridge men (56.2%) are much more supportive than are women (31.0%), with women among the most likely to disagree (69.0%) with Canada continuing its combat role. Also among those most opposed are the youth (65.6%), lower income residents, those with lower levels of formal education, and the least religious.
- Federal party preference is an important predictor of opinion on this issue with Conservative supporters most supportive (54.8%). The majority of all other party supporters are opposed (Liberal, 64.5%; NDP, 74.1%; Green, 75.9%). Undecided voters in Lethbridge are three times as likely to be opposed (75.7%) to continuing Canada's combat role as they are to be supportive (24.3%).

Afghanistan Combat (%)



	Oct. '06	Oct. '07	Feb. '08	Oct. '08	Feb. 2009
Agree	54.5	47.0	45.5	42.3	43.6
Disagree	45.5	53.0	54.5	57.7	56.4

	Oct. '06	Oct. '07	Feb. '08	Oct. '08	Feb. 2009
Strongly agree	10.4	9.0	5.5	5.4	3.8
Somewhat agree	44.0	37.9	40.0	36.9	39.8
Somewhat disagree	31.0	36.9	43.0	39.5	41.5
Strongly disagree	14.5	16.1	11.5	18.2	14.9

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

Continuing Canada's Combat Role in Afghanistan (February 2009) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	Lethbridge Residents
Agree	56.2	31.0	43.6
Disagree	43.8	69.0	56.4

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Agree	40.0	38.1	51.6
Disagree	60.0	61.9	48.4

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	38.1	46.2	47.8
Disagree	61.9	53.8	52.2

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	56.4	37.5	38.3
Disagree	43.6	62.5	61.7

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	36.5	40.6	48.6	46.9
Disagree	63.5	59.4	51.4	53.1

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	34.4	48.9	44.1	45.7
Disagree	65.6	51.1	55.9	54.3

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	54.8	35.5	25.9	24.1	24.3
Disagree	45.2	64.5	74.1	75.9	75.7

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

Demographics

Gender (%)		Area of City (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
Male	48.6	South	35.0	Under \$40,000	32.4	H-School/less	21.8	18-29	21.0
Female	51.4	North	29.2	\$40-\$80,000	39.5	Some P-Sec.	23.2	30-44	24.1
		West	35.8	Over \$80,000	28.1	Col-Tech-Grad	25.1	45-64	32.5
						University Grad	29.8	65 or older	22.4

Federal Vote Intention (%)		Religious Participation (%)	
Conservative	57.5	2-3/month-more	29.6
Liberal	18.6	Several/year	20.4
NDP	10.6	Rarely-never	49.9
Green	5.7		
Undecided	7.7		

Questions

Canada should continue with its combat role in Afghanistan.