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## Fall 2006 Lethbridge Public Opinion Study





Canada's Combat Role in Afghanistan  
for  
Global News Lethbridge

October 16, 2006

## Methodology

-  **Population** The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 78,713 residents (2006 municipal census) approximately 80% of which are 18 years of age or older (63,000 est.). Approximately 48% of Lethbridge residents are male while approximately 52% are female. South Lethbridge is home to 28,318 residents (36.0%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 27,154 residents (34.5%). There are 23,241 north Lethbridge residents (29.5%).
-  **Sample** Data were collected by Lethbridge Community College and Athabasca University students enrolled in STS270 – Social Science Research Methods at Lethbridge Community College. In the fall of 2006, students interviewed 577 adult city of Lethbridge residents (September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>) by telephone using the Western Wats Lethbridge call center facility. Telephone numbers were selected using random predictive dialing from a sample drawn from the Telus Superpages. We sincerely thank Western Wats for their hospitality. We also sincerely appreciate and thank all the Lethbridge residents who took time out of their day to respond to our survey.
-  **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 and area of the city).
-  **Confidence** The weighted sample yields a margin of error of  $\pm 4.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data.
-  **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 LCC. This particular question was sponsored by Global News Lethbridge. We thank Global News for their ongoing support of our research endeavors.

## Canada's Combat Role in Afghanistan (October 2006)

-  A majority of Lethbridge residents (54.5%) support Canada continuing with its combat role in Afghanistan. A significant plurality of residents (45.5%) is opposed.
-  Significant differences of opinion are measured between the genders, with men (63.8%) much more likely than women (45.5%) to support Canada continuing its combat role in Afghanistan.
-  Age has a significant impact on opinion on this issue with support increasing amongst each successively older age group. In fact, seniors (67.5%) and boomers (60.7%) are much more supportive than are the youth (43.4%) or gen-xers (48.9%). Interestingly, income has little impact on opinion while levels of formal education have no significant impact.
-  Without question, partisanship impacts opinion on this issue. Federal Conservative supporters are most supportive of continuing Canada's combat role (69.9%), while federal New Democratic Party supporters are the most opposed (73.3%). Only about one-quarter of all NDP voters (26.7%) are supportive. A majority of Liberals (53.6%), Green party supporters (53.7%) are also opposed, as is a clear majority of undecided voters (68.3%).

	Lethbridge Residents	Canadians*
Agree	54.5	57.0
Disagree	45.5	43.0

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

Note: \* Ipsos Reid for Canwest News Service and Global National as reported in the Calgary Herald, Friday, October 6, 2006

## Canada's Combat Role in Afghanistan (October 2006)

	Male	Female	All Residents	Global National*
Agree	63.8	45.5	54.5	57.0
Disagree	36.2	54.5	45.5	43.0

	South	North	West
Agree	54.2	54.7	54.3
Disagree	45.8	45.3	45.7

	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	49.7	56.6	57.5
Disagree	50.3	43.4	42.5

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	54.0	53.7	53.8	56.1
Disagree	46.0	46.3	46.2	43.9

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	43.4	48.9	60.7	67.5
Disagree	56.6	51.1	39.3	32.5

(federal vote intention)	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	69.9	46.4	26.7	46.3	31.7
Disagree	30.1	53.6	73.3	53.7	68.3

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

Note: \* Ipsos Reid for Canwest News Service and Global National as reported in the Calgary Herald, Friday, October 6, 2006

## Canada's Combat Role in Afghanistan (October 2006)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Strongly Agree	15.8	5.4	10.4
Agree	47.9	40.4	44.0
Disagree	25.3	36.4	31.0
Strongly Disagree	10.9	17.9	14.5

	South	North	West
Strongly Agree	11.4	11.4	8.6
Agree	42.6	43.7	45.9
Disagree	33.2	27.2	31.9
Strongly Disagree	12.9	17.7	13.5

	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Strongly Agree	9.7	10.6	10.0
Agree	39.8	46.0	47.5
Disagree	35.2	32.3	26.7
Strongly Disagree	15.3	11.1	15.8

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Strongly Agree	11.4	12.1	9.2	9.5
Agree	42.1	41.6	44.6	46.6
Disagree	35.1	32.2	27.7	31.1
Strongly Disagree	11.4	14.1	18.5	12.8

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

## Canada's Combat Role in Afghanistan (October 2006)

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Strongly Agree	6.6	13.0	12.4	8.4
Agree	36.9	35.9	48.0	59.0
Disagree	37.7	40.5	24.3	22.9
Strongly Disagree	18.9	10.7	15.3	9.6

(federal vote intention)	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Strongly Agree	14.0	3.6	1.7	21.4	9.8
Agree	55.9	42.7	25.4	26.2	22.0
Disagree	23.9	39.1	40.7	38.1	43.9
Strongly Disagree	6.3	14.5	32.2	14.3	24.4

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

# Demographics

Gender (%)		Area of City (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
Male	47.8	South	36.1	Under \$40,000	37.0	H-School/less	21.3	18-29	22.9
Female	52.2	North	29.4	\$40-\$80,000	38.1	Some P-Sec.	27.7	30-44	23.8
		West	34.5	Over \$80,000	24.9	Col-Tech-Grad	24.0	45-64	37.2
						University Grad	27.0	65 or older	16.0

Federal Vote Intention (%)	
Conservative	51.6
Liberal	20.1
NDP	11.2
Green	8.5
Undecided	8.6

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

## Question

Canada should continue with its combat role in Afghanistan.