

Canadian Participation
in
USA-led War With Iraq

Lethbridge Public Opinion Study
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City of Lethbridge

A garden city located in southwestern Alberta, the city of Lethbridge is home to 72,717 residents, 57,674 of which are 18 years of age or older.



The city is divided into six census areas, two each for its South, North and West geographic areas. It is divided north and south by Alberta highway 3, and east west by the Oldman River.

The south side's 27,941 residents represent 38.4% of the city's total population. West Lethbridge (22,429) and north Lethbridge (22,347) represent 30.8% and 30.7% respectively.

Methodology

This report is based on data collected by Interdisciplinary Studies students enrolled in STS270 – Social Science Research Methods at Lethbridge Community College in the winter of 2003. Students conducted 469 telephone interviews over a three-week period from February 4 to 25 2003 using numbers drawn randomly from the Lethbridge telephone directory.

Using this method, the sample yields a margin of error of $\pm 4.7\%$, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data.

The demographic data analysis indicated that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the voting age population within the city of Lethbridge.

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.

The following represents a selection of our results.

Questionnaire

- The Canadian government has a number of options to choose from when deciding whether or not to participate in a USA-led war against Iraq. Please tell me which of the following options you think the Canadian government should choose.
 - Not participate under any circumstances
 - Participate only if the United Nations also decides a war is necessary
 - Participate irrespective of what the United Nations decides
- Gender – Area of City – Income – Education – Age

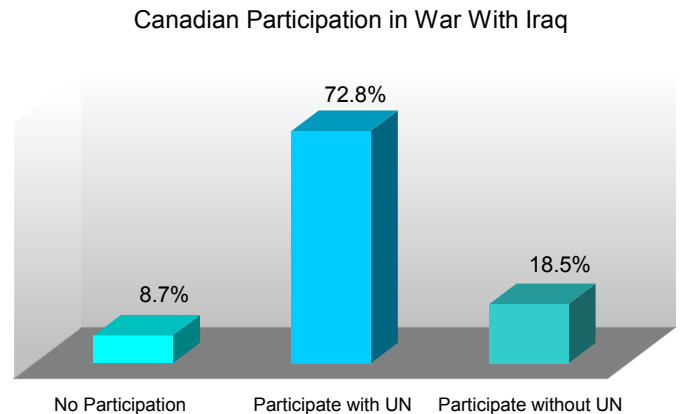
Canadian Participation in War With Iraq

Lethbridge residents have mixed opinions when considering which option the Canadian government should choose when deciding whether or not to participate in a USA-led war with Iraq.

The vast majority of Lethbridge residents (72.8%) support Canada joining a USA-led war against Iraq, but only if the United Nations also decides that war is necessary. The next largest groups of Lethbridge residents (18.5%) support going to war with the United States irrespective of what the United Nations decides.

Only 8.7% of Lethbridge residents are opposed to Canadian participation in a USA-led war on Iraq under any circumstances.

When contrasted, those who support joining a USA-led war without also having UN backing (hawks) outnumber those who are opposed to war under any circumstances (doves) by more than two-to-one.



War With Iraq - Sub-group Comparisons

Some interesting and predictable patterns emerge when sub-groupings of opinion are analyzed.

For example, men are almost three times more likely (29.1%) than women (10.8%) to support joining a USA-led war without UN backing. Women (11.9%), on the other hand, are more almost three-times more likely than men (4.3%) to be opposed to Canada joining a war under any circumstances.

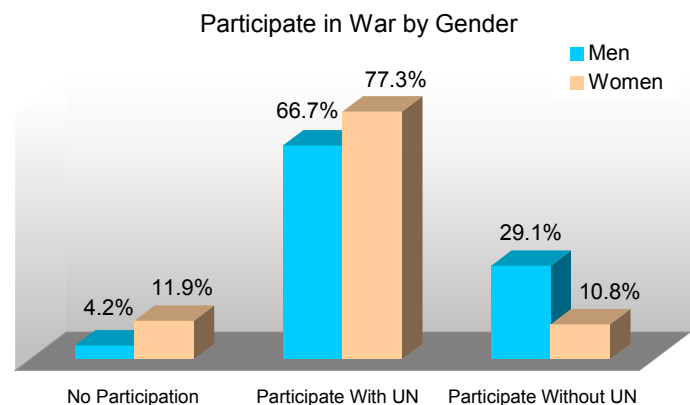
Lower-income Lethbridge residents are more likely to fall into the dove category (11.0%) than are middle-income (8.6%) and upper-income (5.5%) residents. Middle-income earners are, however, the most hawkish with (24.7%) supporting Canadian participation without UN backing.

Education has an interesting impact on opinion. Those with the lowest levels of formal education are the most opposed to Canadian participation in a war (12.5%), with opposition dropping as formal education increases.

Age also has an interesting impact in that seniors are most opposed to war (15.5%) while the youth (18 to 29 years old) are the most supportive of joining the USA without UN approval (21.0%).

Northside residents are slightly less hawkish than Southside and Westside residents, but these differences are slight.

Overall, these data indicate that Lethbridge residents believe the Canadian government should become involved in a USA-led war with Iraq, but their preference would be to do so with the support of the United Nations.



Canadian Participation in War With Iraq (%)

Canadian Participation in War With Iraq by Gender (%)

	Male	Female	Total
No Participation	4.2	11.9	8.7
With United Nations	66.7	77.3	72.8
With USA	29.1	10.8	18.5

Canadian Participation in War With Iraq by Area of City (%)

	South	North	West
No Participation	8.3	9.4	8.3
With United Nations	73.1	76.4	70.4
With USA	18.6	14.2	21.3

Canadian Participation in War With Iraq by Income (%)

	Under \$30,000	\$30,000 to \$60,000	Over \$60,000
No Participation	11.0	8.6	5.5
With United Nations	74.0	66.7	72.7
With USA	14.9	24.7	21.9

Canadian Participation in War With Iraq by Education (%)

	High School or less	Some Post- Secondary	Col-Tech- Trade Grad	University Grad
No Participation	12.5	9.8	7.3	5.3
With United Nations	69.6	75.9	67.9	77.0
With USA	17.9	14.3	24.8	17.7

Canadian Participation in War With Iraq by Age (%)

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 or older
No Participation	8.4	5.4	7.8	15.5
With United Nations	70.6	76.1	74.3	69.0
With USA	21.0	18.5	18.0	15.5