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## Fall 2006 Lethbridge Public Opinion Study

### Social Issues Report

October 10, 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 set of questions arose out of student interest and our ongoing tracking of Lethbridge residents' opinion on important public policy issues.

## Social Issues



### **Same-sex Marriage**

A slight majority of Lethbridge residents (51.7%) continue to support same-sex marriages being treated equal in law with traditional marriages.



### **Abortion Choice**

A clear and substantial majority of Lethbridge residents support a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion (73.0%).



### **Capital Punishment**

A clear majority of Lethbridge residents support Canada reintroducing capital punishment for people convicted of first degree murder (62.9%).



### **Legal Medical Marijuana Similar Council**

A clear and substantial majority of Lethbridge residents support marijuana being legal for medical purposes (73.7%).



### **Decriminalize Recreational Marijuana**

Over one-third of all Lethbridge residents (37.9%) support decriminalizing marijuana for recreational purposes.



### **Get Tough With Serious Young Offenders**

A clear and substantial majority of Lethbridge residents support the federal government getting tougher with youth who are convicted of serious crimes (76.1%).



### **Legalize Doctor-Assisted Suicide**

A majority of Lethbridge residents support making doctor-assisted suicide legal in Canada (63.4%).

# Social Issues

Same-sex Marriage	Feb. '01	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06
Agree	–	–	33.5	–	–	38.9	40.5	45.0	39.4	50.8	53.4	<b>51.7</b>
Disagree	–	–	66.5	–	–	61.1	59.5	55.0	60.6	49.2	46.6	<b>48.3</b>

Abortion Choice	Feb. '01	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06
Agree	76.8	74.5	73.5	75.7	69.9	71.9	75.3	73.3	70.3	75.4	74.8	<b>73.0</b>
Disagree	23.2	25.5	26.5	24.3	30.1	28.1	24.7	26.7	29.7	24.6	25.2	<b>27.0</b>

Capital Punishment	Feb. '01	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06
Agree	58.1	65.3	68.1	59.5	60.8	60.8	60.6	60.0	56.4	60.6	58.4	<b>62.9</b>
Disagree	41.9	34.7	31.9	40.5	39.2	39.2	39.4	40.0	43.6	39.4	41.6	<b>37.1</b>

Medical marijuana	Feb. '01	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06
Agree	62.0	–	–	70.8	73.1	73.4	72.0	73.3	70.4	71.7	72.6	<b>73.7</b>
Disagree	38.0	–	–	29.2	26.9	26.6	28.0	26.7	29.6	28.3	27.4	<b>26.3</b>

Recreational marijuana	Feb. '01	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06
Agree	24.7	–	–	28.1	36.1	34.2	35.2	37.6	31.5	34.2	36.3	<b>37.9</b>
Disagree	75.3	–	–	71.9	63.9	65.8	64.8	62.4	68.5	65.8	63.7	<b>62.1</b>

Tougher youth crime	Feb. '01	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06
Agree	92.7	–	–	–	–	–	82.0	76.1	74.4	74.6	77.3	<b>76.1</b>
Disagree	7.3	–	–	–	–	–	18.0	23.9	25.6	25.4	22.7	<b>23.9</b>

Doctor-assisted suicide	Feb. '01	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06
Agree	–	–	55.4	–	–	–	–	60.7	59.2	67.9	62.3	<b>63.4</b>
Disagree	–	–	44.6	–	–	–	–	39.3	40.8	32.1	37.7	<b>36.6</b>

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

## Same-sex marriage by demographic group (October 2006)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	44.3	58.9	51.7
Disagree	55.7	41.1	48.3

	South	North	West
Agree	47.7	47.0	60.2
Disagree	52.3	53.0	39.8

	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	51.1	49.5	59.5
Disagree	48.9	50.5	40.5

(religious attendance)	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	30.8	52.8	67.9
Disagree	69.2	47.2	32.1

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	38.1	57.7	48.1	59.6
Disagree	61.9	42.3	51.9	40.4

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	69.2	61.1	45.5	28.7
Disagree	30.8	38.9	54.5	71.3

(federal vote intention)	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	35.0	73.1	83.6	55.6	54.5
Disagree	65.0	26.9	16.4	44.4	45.5

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

## Abortion choice by demographic group (October 2006)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	71.8	74.1	73.0
Disagree	28.2	25.9	27.0

	South	North	West
Agree	72.5	73.9	72.5
Disagree	27.5	26.1	27.5

	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	67.0	71.5	82.1
Disagree	33.0	28.5	17.9

(religious attendance)	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	52.8	82.7	83.5
Disagree	47.2	17.3	16.5

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	69.9	77.4	70.1	72.5
Disagree	30.1	22.6	29.9	27.5

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	64.5	74.8	76.7	73.6
Disagree	35.5	25.2	23.3	26.4

(federal vote intention)	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	65.8	81.7	83.9	82.2	73.3
Disagree	34.2	18.3	16.1	17.8	26.7

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

## Capital punishment by demographic group (October 2006)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	63.9	62.1	62.9
Disagree	36.1	37.9	37.1

	South	North	West
Agree	65.2	68.1	56.5
Disagree	34.8	31.9	43.5

	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	64.3	62.1	55.4
Disagree	35.7	37.9	44.6

(religious attendance)	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	57.9	69.8	65.1
Disagree	42.1	30.2	34.9

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	77.4	54.6	79.1	46.1
Disagree	22.6	45.4	20.9	53.9

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	51.2	62.1	65.5	74.4
Disagree	48.8	37.9	34.5	25.6

(federal vote intention)	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	74.3	45.3	43.3	57.4	60.0
Disagree	25.7	54.7	56.7	42.6	40.0

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

## Medical marijuana by demographic group (October 2006)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	75.1	72.3	73.7
Disagree	24.9	27.7	26.3

	South	North	West
Agree	78.2	71.5	71.0
Disagree	21.8	28.5	29.0

	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	71.6	72.7	80.8
Disagree	28.4	27.3	19.2

(religious attendance)	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	61.7	73.6	83.9
Disagree	38.3	26.4	16.1

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	63.5	74.5	74.8	80.9
Disagree	36.5	25.5	25.2	19.1

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	76.4	75.6	76.8	60.7
Disagree	23.6	24.4	23.2	39.3

(federal vote intention)	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	67.0	78.9	83.9	87.2	75.6
Disagree	33.0	21.1	16.1	12.8	24.4

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



## Recreational marijuana by demographic group (October 2006)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	42.6	33.8	37.9
Disagree	57.4	66.2	62.1

	South	North	West
Agree	41.3	42.3	30.6
Disagree	58.7	57.7	69.4

	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	36.5	42.7	35.5
Disagree	63.5	57.3	64.5

(religious attendance)	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	23.2	36.4	49.1
Disagree	76.8	63.6	50.9

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	27.1	43.4	38.5	40.4
Disagree	72.9	56.6	61.5	59.6

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	43.8	47.4	37.5	19.3
Disagree	56.3	52.6	62.5	80.7

(federal vote intention)	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	28.6	46.8	54.0	57.4	28.9
Disagree	71.4	53.2	46.0	42.6	71.1

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

## Increase penalties for young offenders by demographic group (October 2006)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	73.8	78.3	76.1
Disagree	26.2	21.7	23.9

	South	North	West
Agree	69.8	84.9	75.5
Disagree	30.2	15.1	24.5

	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	76.6	80.0	64.5
Disagree	23.4	20.0	35.5

(religious attendance)	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	72.7	80.2	76.8
Disagree	27.3	19.8	23.2

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	83.3	73.7	85.1	63.5
Disagree	16.7	26.3	14.9	36.5

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	80.2	79.1	72.5	73.0
Disagree	19.8	20.9	27.5	27.0

(federal vote intention)	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	81.1	63.3	71.7	73.9	80.4
Disagree	18.9	36.7	28.3	26.1	19.6

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

## Legalize doctor-assisted suicide by demographic group (October 2006)

	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	64.0	62.7	63.4
Disagree	36.0	37.3	36.6

	South	North	West
Agree	64.1	63.5	62.4
Disagree	35.9	36.5	37.6

	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	59.1	61.8	77.4
Disagree	40.9	38.2	22.6

(religious attendance)	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	41.0	71.7	76.1
Disagree	59.0	28.3	23.9

	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	55.2	65.5	72.1	59.7
Disagree	44.8	34.5	27.9	40.3

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	56.6	74.6	65.8	51.2
Disagree	43.4	25.4	34.2	48.8

(federal vote intention)	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	57.3	67.6	70.0	72.1	74.4
Disagree	42.7	32.4	30.0	27.9	25.6

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 (%)		Religious Participation	
Conservative	51.6	2-3/month-more	36.8
Liberal	20.1	Several/year	20.3
NDP	11.2	Rarely-never	42.8
Green	8.5		
Undecided	8.6		

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

## Questions

The federal government should continue to recognize same sex marriages giving them equal legal standing with traditional marriages.

Abortion is a matter of choice that should be decided between a woman and her doctor.

Canada should re-introduce capital punishment for people convicted of first-degree murder.

Marijuana should be legal for medical purposes.

Marijuana should be decriminalized for recreational purposes.

Young offenders convicted of serious crimes should receive sentences similar to those given to adult offenders.

People with terminal illnesses should be allowed to legally access doctor assisted suicides.