



2007 Lethbridge Public Opinion (Fall)

Social Issues Report







October 19, 2007

Dr. Faron Ellis
Citizen Society Research Lab
Lethbridge College
3000 College Drive South
Lethbridge AB T1K 1L6

www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/go/csrl



Methodology

-  **Population** The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 81,692 residents (2007 municipal census) approximately 80% of which are 18 years of age or older (65,832). A total of 39,941 Lethbridge residents are male (48.9%) while 41,751 are female (51.1%). South Lethbridge is home to 29,225 residents (35.8%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 28,443 residents (34.8%). There are 24,024 north Lethbridge residents (29.4%). Unless otherwise specified, the data presented below represent the city of Lethbridge population.
-  **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 2007. Students interviewed 866 adult city of Lethbridge residents and 140 Coaldale adult residents by telephone from September 26th to 30th 2007. Telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from Info Canada 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 and the town of Coaldale. The sample has been statistically weighted where necessary to even better reflect the demographic distribution of the population (gender and area of the city of Lethbridge).
-  **Confidence** The weighted sample yields a margin of error of $\pm 3.3\%$, 19 times out of 20 for the full 2007 Lethbridge sample and $\pm 8.2\%$, 19 times out of 20 for the full Coaldale sample. 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 LCC. This particular set of question was derived from the research interests of Lethbridge College faculty and students.

Social Issues



Same-sex Marriage

A slight majority of Lethbridge residents (52.2%) continue to support same-sex marriages being treated equal in law with traditional marriages. Coaldale residents are much less supportive (33.3%).



Abortion Choice

A clear and substantial majority of Lethbridge residents (77.9%) support a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion. Coaldale residents are less supportive (60.4%), but still more supportive than opposed.



Capital Punishment

A clear majority of Lethbridge residents (60.9%) support Canada reintroducing capital punishment for people convicted of first degree murder. Coaldale residents are even more supportive (69.5%).



Legal Medical Marijuana Similar Council

A clear and substantial majority of Lethbridge residents (75.8%) support marijuana being legal for medical purposes. Coaldale residents are much less supportive (55.6%), but still more supportive than opposed.



Decriminalize Recreational Marijuana

One-third of all Lethbridge residents (33.4%) support decriminalizing marijuana for recreational purposes. Coaldale residents are somewhat less supportive (27.8%).



Get Tough With Serious Young Offenders

A clear and substantial majority of Lethbridge residents (78.4%) support the federal government getting tougher with youth who are convicted of serious crimes. Coaldale residents are even more supportive (84.2%).



Legalize Doctor-Assisted Suicide

A majority of Lethbridge residents (63.9%) support making doctor-assisted suicide legal in Canada. Coaldale residents are slightly less supportive (56.0%).

Social Issues (city of Lethbridge) (%)

Same-sex Marriage	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07
Agree	—	33.5	—	—	38.9	40.5	45.0	39.4	50.8	53.4	51.7	52.2
Disagree	—	66.5	—	—	61.1	59.5	55.0	60.6	49.2	46.6	48.3	47.8

Abortion Choice	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07
Agree	74.5	73.5	75.7	69.9	71.9	75.3	73.3	70.3	75.4	74.8	73.0	77.9
Disagree	25.5	26.5	24.3	30.1	28.1	24.7	26.7	29.7	24.6	25.2	27.0	22.1

Capital Punishment	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07
Agree	65.3	68.1	59.5	60.8	60.8	60.6	60.0	56.4	60.6	58.4	62.9	60.9
Disagree	34.7	31.9	40.5	39.2	39.2	39.4	40.0	43.6	39.4	41.6	37.1	39.1

Medical marijuana	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07
Agree	—	—	70.8	73.1	73.4	72.0	73.3	70.4	71.7	72.6	73.7	75.8
Disagree	—	—	29.2	26.9	26.6	28.0	26.7	29.6	28.3	27.4	26.3	24.2

Recreational marijuana	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07
Agree	—	—	28.1	36.1	34.2	35.2	37.6	31.5	34.2	36.3	37.9	33.4
Disagree	—	—	71.9	63.9	65.8	64.8	62.4	68.5	65.8	63.7	62.1	66.6

Tougher on youth crime	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07
Agree	—	—	—	—	—	82.0	76.1	74.4	74.6	77.3	76.1	78.4
Disagree	—	—	—	—	—	18.0	23.9	25.6	25.4	22.7	23.9	21.6

Doctor-assisted suicide	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07
Agree	—	55.4	—	—	—	—	60.7	59.2	67.9	62.3	63.4	63.9
Disagree	—	44.6	—	—	—	—	39.3	40.8	32.1	37.7	36.6	36.1

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

Same-sex marriage by demographic group (Lethbridge – October 2007) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	Lethbridge Residents
Agree	46.8	56.1	52.2
Disagree	53.2	43.9	47.8

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge	Coaldale
Agree	51.0	52.3	53.5	33.3
Disagree	49.0	47.7	46.5	66.7

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	51.3	49.8	65.0
Disagree	48.7	50.2	35.0

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	29.5	63.0	64.9
Disagree	70.5	37.0	35.1

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	45.8	52.6	46.2	65.3
Disagree	54.2	47.4	53.8	34.7

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	64.0	59.0	55.4	32.0
Disagree	36.0	41.0	44.6	68.0

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	36.5	70.0	78.5	71.7	66.2
Disagree	63.5	30.0	21.5	28.3	33.8

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

Abortion choice by demographic group (Lethbridge – October 2007) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	79.8	76.5	77.9
Disagree	20.2	23.5	22.1

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge	Coaldale
Agree	79.6	76.5	77.6	60.4
Disagree	20.4	23.5	22.4	39.6

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	77.3	75.2	83.4
Disagree	22.7	24.8	16.6

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	54.5	85.8	92.7
Disagree	45.5	14.2	7.3

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	79.0	76.3	73.7	80.4
Disagree	21.0	23.7	26.3	19.6

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	73.4	76.4	78.9	79.5
Disagree	26.6	23.6	21.1	20.5

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	71.5	87.1	85.5	87.0	86.2
Disagree	28.5	12.9	14.5	13.0	13.8

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

Capital punishment by demographic group (Lethbridge – October 2007) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	66.0	57.1	60.9
Disagree	34.0	42.9	39.1

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge	Coaldale
Agree	56.5	68.8	56.9	69.5
Disagree	43.5	31.3	43.1	30.5

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	63.4	61.5	53.5
Disagree	36.6	38.5	46.5

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	59.5	54.6	64.2
Disagree	40.5	45.4	35.8

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	76.0	59.7	64.4	44.1
Disagree	24.0	40.3	35.6	55.9

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	48.9	56.1	64.3	70.8
Disagree	51.1	43.9	35.7	29.2

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	70.3	43.5	40.7	46.7	61.4
Disagree	29.8	56.5	59.3	53.3	38.6

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

Medical marijuana by demographic group (Lethbridge – October 2007) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	78.7	73.8	75.8
Disagree	21.3	26.2	24.2

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge	Coaldale
Agree	74.2	78.2	75.0	55.6
Disagree	25.8	21.8	25.0	44.4

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	73.0	75.9	85.0
Disagree	27.0	24.1	15.0

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	60.8	83.3	85.7
Disagree	39.2	16.7	14.3

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	74.3	74.2	74.4	80.4
Disagree	25.7	25.8	25.6	19.6

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	79.5	77.6	81.5	63.7
Disagree	20.5	22.4	18.5	36.3

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	67.5	83.1	92.3	89.6	80.7
Disagree	32.5	16.9	7.7	10.4	19.3

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

Recreational marijuana by demographic group (Lethbridge – October 2007) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	40.7	28.5	33.4
Disagree	59.3	71.5	66.6

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge	Coaldale
Agree	31.4	36.9	31.7	27.8
Disagree	68.6	63.1	68.3	72.2

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	34.9	32.0	41.6
Disagree	65.1	68.0	58.4

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	21.3	38.5	43.1
Disagree	78.7	61.5	56.9

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	32.7	30.7	32.1	37.7
Disagree	67.3	69.3	67.9	62.3

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	36.4	31.3	40.3	21.6
Disagree	63.6	68.8	59.7	78.4

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	26.2	43.1	50.8	66.7	27.3
Disagree	73.8	56.9	49.2	33.3	72.7

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

Tougher youth crime sentences by demographic group (Lethbridge – October 2007) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	74.7	81.1	78.4
Disagree	25.3	18.9	21.6

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge	Coaldale
Agree	77.8	79.7	77.7	84.2
Disagree	22.2	20.3	22.3	15.8

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	78.8	78.9	74.9
Disagree	21.2	21.1	25.1

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	81.6	76.8	78.4
Disagree	18.4	23.2	21.6

Educatoion	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	81.0	74.2	87.7	70.1
Disagree	19.0	25.8	12.3	29.9

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	69.9	83.9	79.5	78.8
Disagree	30.1	16.1	20.5	21.2

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	82.6	69.0	73.0	73.3	79.3
Disagree	17.4	31.0	27.0	26.7	20.7

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

Legalize doctor-assisted suicide by demographic group (Lethbridge – October 2007) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Residents
Agree	69.6	59.9	63.9
Disagree	30.4	40.1	36.1

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge	Coaldale
Agree	65.4	64.4	61.9	56.0
Disagree	34.6	35.6	38.1	44.0

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	56.9	63.7	74.7
Disagree	43.1	36.3	25.3

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	40.6	74.8	80.9
Disagree	59.4	25.2	19.1

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	68.6	63.1	57.7	66.2
Disagree	31.4	36.9	42.3	33.8

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	55.6	62.0	70.6	58.5
Disagree	44.4	38.0	29.4	41.5

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	57.1	72.5	71.9	80.4	67.5
Disagree	42.9	27.5	28.1	19.6	32.5

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	35.8	H-School/less	27.8	18-29	22.9
Female	51.4	North	29.3	\$40-\$80,000	39.3	Some P-Sec.	19.1	30-44	23.3
		West	35.7	Over \$80,000	24.9	Col-Tech-Grad	25.6	45-64	31.9
						University Grad	27.4	65 or older	21.8

Federal Vote Intention (%)		Religious Participation (%)	
Conservative	57.1	2-3/month-more	41.0
Liberal	17.2	Several/year	16.2
NDP	7.4	Rarely-never	42.9
Green	6.6		
Undecided	11.8		

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

Questions

- Q. The federal government should continue to recognize same sex marriages giving them equal legal standing with traditional marriages.
- Q. Abortion is a matter of choice that should be decided between a woman and her doctor.
- Q. Canada should re-introduce capital punishment for people convicted of first-degree murder.
- Q. Marijuana should be legal for medical purposes.
- Q. Marijuana should be decriminalized for recreational purposes.
- Q. Youth convicted of serious crimes should receive sentences similar to those given to adult offenders.
- Q. People with terminal illnesses should be allowed to legally access doctor assisted suicides.