



## 2008 Lethbridge Public Opinion (Winter)

### Social Issues Report







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# 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%).
-  **Sample** Data were collected by Lethbridge College students enrolled in STS270 – Social Science Research Methods in the winter of 2008. Students interviewed 502 adult city of Lethbridge residents by telephone on February 9 and 10, 2008. 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](http://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  $\pm 4.4\%$ , 19 times out of 20 for the full winter 2008 Lethbridge sample and  $\pm 6.2\%$  19 times out of 20 for each of Lethbridge West (n=256) and Lethbridge East (n=246). The margin of error increases when analyzing further 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 students and faculty.

## Social Issues



### **Same-sex Marriage**

A slight majority of Lethbridge residents (54.1%) continue to support same-sex marriages being treated equal in law with traditional marriages.



### **Abortion Choice**

A clear and substantial majority of Lethbridge residents (75.0%) support a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion.



### **Capital Punishment**

A clear majority of Lethbridge residents (57.6%) support Canada reintroducing capital punishment for people convicted of first degree murder.



### **Legal Medical Marijuana**

A clear and substantial majority of Lethbridge residents (74.8%) support marijuana being legal for medical purposes.



### **Decriminalize Recreational Marijuana**

One-third of all Lethbridge residents (35.4%) support decriminalizing marijuana for recreational purposes.



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

A majority of Lethbridge residents (61.5%) support making doctor-assisted suicide legal in Canada.

## 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	Feb. '08
Agree	—	33.5	—	—	38.9	40.5	45.0	39.4	50.8	53.4	51.7	52.2	54.1
Disagree	—	66.5	—	—	61.1	59.5	55.0	60.6	49.2	46.6	48.3	47.8	45.9

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	Feb. '08
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	75.0
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	25.0

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	Feb. '08
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	57.6
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	42.4

Marijuana-medical	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07	Feb. '08
Agree	—	—	70.8	73.1	73.4	72.0	73.3	70.4	71.7	72.6	73.7	75.8	74.8
Disagree	—	—	29.2	26.9	26.6	28.0	26.7	29.6	28.3	27.4	26.3	24.2	25.2

Marijuana-recreation	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07	Feb. '08
Agree	—	—	28.1	36.1	34.2	35.2	37.6	31.5	34.2	36.3	37.9	33.4	35.4
Disagree	—	—	71.9	63.9	65.8	64.8	62.4	68.5	65.8	63.7	62.1	66.6	64.6

Doctor-ass't 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	Feb. '08
Agree	—	55.4	—	—	—	—	60.7	59.2	67.9	62.3	63.4	63.9	61.5
Disagree	—	44.6	—	—	—	—	39.3	40.8	32.1	37.7	36.6	36.1	38.5

Tougher youth justice	Oct. '01	Feb. '02	Oct. '02	Feb. '03	Oct. '03	Feb. '04	Oct. '04	Feb. '05	Oct. '05	Feb. '06	Oct. '06	Oct. '07	Feb. '08
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	—

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

## Same-sex marriage by demographic group (Lethbridge – February 2008) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Lethbridge
Agree	49.1	58.6	54.1
Disagree	50.9	41.4	45.9

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Agree	58.5	46.8	56.1
Disagree	41.5	53.2	43.9

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	47.1	51.9	66.9
Disagree	52.9	48.1	33.1

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	29.9	60.5	67.9
Disagree	70.1	39.5	32.1

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	41.0	57.1	52.4	64.2
Disagree	59.0	42.9	47.6	35.8

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	64.0	63.1	55.7	31.4
Disagree	36.0	36.9	44.3	68.6

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	39.0	69.9	81.8	67.6	47.8
Disagree	61.0	30.1	18.2	32.4	52.2

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

## Abortion choice by demographic group (Lethbridge – February 2008) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Lethbridge
Agree	73.9	76.1	75.0
Disagree	26.1	23.9	25.0

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Agree	74.4	73.9	76.8
Disagree	25.6	26.1	23.2

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	73.2	74.8	78.4
Disagree	26.8	25.2	21.6

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	52.9	85.2	85.5
Disagree	47.1	14.8	14.5

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	73.8	74.6	71.6	79.3
Disagree	26.2	25.4	28.4	20.7

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	74.8	78.3	75.5	71.0
Disagree	25.2	21.7	24.5	29.0

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	68.9	81.0	81.4	88.2	78.0
Disagree	31.1	19.0	18.6	11.8	22.0

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

## Capital punishment by demographic group (Lethbridge – February 2008) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Lethbridge
Agree	59.2	56.0	57.6
Disagree	40.8	44.0	42.4

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Agree	56.0	69.9	48.8
Disagree	44.0	30.1	51.2

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	57.8	62.1	50.4
Disagree	42.2	37.9	49.6

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	51.0	60.9	60.8
Disagree	49.0	39.1	39.2

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	74.8	45.7	65.4	46.3
Disagree	25.2	54.3	34.6	53.7

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	46.7	64.1	55.6	66.7
Disagree	53.3	35.9	44.4	33.3

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	72.3	38.9	35.6	52.8	61.7
Disagree	27.7	61.1	64.4	47.2	38.3

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

## Medical marijuana by demographic group (Lethbridge – February 2008) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Lethbridge
Agree	77.0	72.7	74.8
Disagree	23.0	27.3	25.2

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Agree	79.4	74.5	70.3
Disagree	20.6	25.5	29.7

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	69.2	75.2	80.6
Disagree	30.8	24.8	19.4

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	55.4	72.4	88.4
Disagree	44.6	27.6	11.6

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	72.2	80.7	71.3	75.0
Disagree	27.8	19.3	28.7	25.0

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	81.1	74.8	74.3	68.9
Disagree	18.9	25.2	25.7	31.1

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	68.8	76.9	86.0	94.3	68.0
Disagree	31.2	23.1	14.0	5.7	32.0

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



## Recreational marijuana by demographic group (Lethbridge – February 2008) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Lethbridge
Agree	37.6	33.3	35.4
Disagree	62.4	66.7	64.6

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Agree	35.3	32.4	38.2
Disagree	64.7	67.6	61.8

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	30.7	38.9	40.9
Disagree	69.3	61.1	59.1

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	21.2	31.8	46.0
Disagree	78.8	68.2	54.0

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	33.1	37.3	34.6	36.6
Disagree	66.9	62.7	65.4	63.4

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	43.7	36.7	39.9	17.6
Disagree	56.3	63.3	60.1	82.4

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	26.7	43.9	52.4	58.8	26.5
Disagree	73.3	56.1	47.6	41.2	73.5

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

## Legalize doctor-assisted suicide by demographic group (Lethbridge – February 2008) (%)

Gender	Male	Female	All Lethbridge
Agree	62.3	60.8	61.5
Disagree	37.7	39.2	38.5

Area	South Lethbridge	North Lethbridge	West Lethbridge
Agree	63.0	60.6	61.3
Disagree	37.0	39.4	38.7

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	Over \$80,000
Agree	52.0	65.4	69.0
Disagree	48.0	34.6	31.0

Religious Attendance	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	35.1	62.7	78.8
Disagree	64.9	37.3	21.2

Education	High School or less	Some Post Secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	55.0	63.8	67.3	60.8
Disagree	45.0	36.2	32.7	39.2

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	60.8	68.8	65.1	50.5
Disagree	39.2	31.3	34.9	49.5

Federal Vote Intention	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	59.7	59.1	57.1	72.2	62.5
Disagree	40.3	40.9	42.9	27.8	37.5

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

# Demographics

Gender (%)		Area of City (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
Male	48.8	South	35.4	Under \$40,000	34.8	H-School/less	25.9	18-29	25.9
Female	51.2	North	29.0	\$40-\$80,000	37.0	Some P-Sec.	24.3	30-44	21.2
		West	35.6	Over \$80,000	28.2	Col-Tech-Grad	22.1	45-64	30.8
						University Grad	27.7	65 or older	22.1

Federal Vote Intention (%)		Religious Participation (%)	
Conservative	47.4	2-3/month-more	31.8
Liberal	24.6	Several/year	18.0
NDP	9.6	Rarely-never	50.2
Green	7.7		
Undecided	10.8		

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