

Canadian Viewpoints : Some Polls

Reasonable Accommodation

Over the past few months, there have been many discussions across Canada about the concept of "Reasonable Accommodation", which entails modifying specific laws and norms when they could affect minorities. Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?

Laws and norms should not be modified to accommodate minorities	54%
On some occasions, it makes sense to modify specific laws and norms to accommodate minorities	36%
Not sure	9%

Source: Angus Reid Strategies Methodology: Online interviews with 1,006 Canadian adults, conducted from May 29 to May 30, 2008. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

The Senate

As you may know, several proposals have been made over the past few years to reform the Senate of Canada, do you support or oppose each of these ideas? ("Support" answers only)

	May 2008	Jan. 2008
Limiting appointed Canadian senators to eight-year terms	64%	62%
Allowing Canadians to directly elect their senators	60%	63%
Creating a panel of distinguished Canadians to choose senators, instead of the prime minister	32%	29%
Abolishing the Senate of Canada altogether	30%	37%

Legalization of Drugs

Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs? ("Support" listed)

	May 2008	Oct. 2007	Jun. 2007
Marijuana	53%	51%	55%
Ecstasy	9%	9%	8%
Powder cocaine	9%	8%	8%
Heroin	8%	9%	9%
Crack cocaine	8%	7%	7%
Methamphetamine or "crystal meth"	7%	7%	7%

Canadians Review What is Morally Acceptable

Regardless of whether or not you think each of the following issues should be legal, please indicate whether you personally believe they are morally acceptable or morally wrong.

	Acceptable	Wrong
Contraception	93%	3%
Divorce	83%	12%
Sexual relations between an unmarried man and woman	81%	15%
Having a baby outside of marriage	77%	17%
Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos	64%	21%
Doctor-assisted suicide	62%	25%
Abortion	61%	27%
Gambling	61%	28%
Sexual relations between two people of the same sex	59%	33%
Buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur	51%	36%
The death penalty	47%	41%
Medical testing on animals	40%	47%
Pornography	38%	54%
Prostitution	36%	55%
Cloning animals	29%	56%
Suicide	25%	62%
Using illegal drugs	20%	68%
Married men and/or women having an affair	17%	76%
Cloning humans	11%	78%
Polygamy, when one husband has more than one wife at the same time	10%	84%
Paedophilia	1%	91%

Expanded DNA Bank

In Canada, offenders convicted of serious crimes—such as sexual assault or murder—are compelled to provide a blood sample for the DNA data bank in Ottawa. Would you support or oppose expanding this program to collect DNA samples from any person who is charged by a federal law enforcement agency?

Support 65%

Oppose 32%

Not sure 3%

Security Cameras

Overall, do you think the use of security cameras is necessary to prevent and solve crime?

Yes 69%

No 21%

Not sure 10%

Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

On the topic of surveillance cameras, the need for safety trumps individual privacy rights 63%

On the topic of surveillance cameras, individual privacy rights should always come before safety concerns 20%

Not sure 17%

Next, we'd like to ask you some questions about the monarchy. Under the terms of the Canadian Constitution, Queen Elizabeth II holds the position of Canada's head of state. Would you support or oppose Canada ending its formal ties to the British monarchy?

Support 53%

Oppose 35%

Not sure 12%

In the future, Prince Charles may become King of the United Kingdom and Canada. If Prince Charles does become King, would you then support or oppose Canada ending its formal ties to the British monarchy?

Support 55%

Oppose 31%

Not sure 13%

Thinking about the future King of the United Kingdom and Canada, which of these options would you prefer?

Prince Charles should become King after Queen Elizabeth II	20%
Prince William should become King after Queen Elizabeth II	35%
Neither, there should be no monarch after Queen Elizabeth II	29%
Not sure	16%

Source: Angus Reid Strategies

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,032 Canadian adults, conducted from Sept. 20 to Sept. 22, 2007. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.