

Liberty, Security and Equality: How Prepared are Canadians to sacrifice privacy in the name of security?

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Exclusive to Canwest

1. Security over privacy and support for biometrics
2. If the government perceived an imminent terrorist attack what powers would we be willing to concede to them
3. Should extremists be allowed to meet in public: Canadian and International Opinion
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It is widely contended that after September 11th there has been an shift globally in our sense of security and in this regard more people are prepared to sacrifice their privacy and the privacy of others in order to foster a more "secure" climate. In he current climate it may be that the notion of fraternity could be substituted with security in thinking about the widely quoted French national mantra "liberte, fraternite, egalite". Increasingly while democracies wish to preserve fundamental, liberties and equality the concern over security has become a growing preoccupation to the point where the notion of the right to privacy may be modified. Canada is no exception and to illustrate this, four surveys conducted over the last three years will be contrasted to provide relevant insight in this regard.

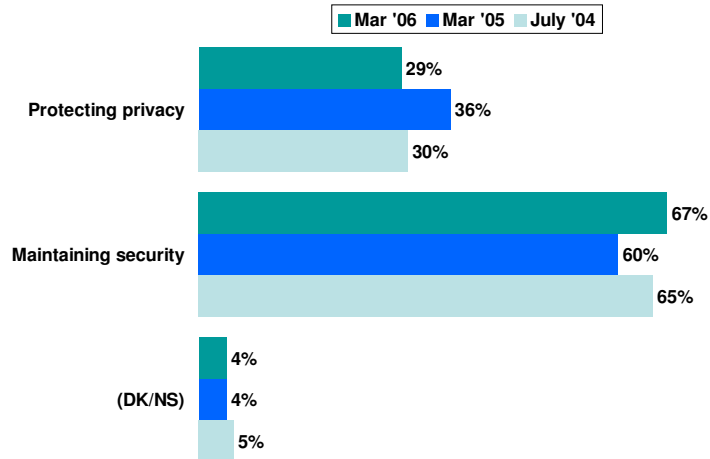
1. Security over privacy and support for biometrics

As observed below, a survey conducted between February and March 2006 by Ipsos for Citizenship and Immigration Canada reveals that the population prioritizes the maintaining of security over privacy concerns (67% vs. 29% selecting "protecting privacy"). The survey which is part of tracking done by CIC on the matter revealed an increase of 7 percentage points since March 2005 in favour of security.



Main Priority for Government: Protecting Privacy vs. Maintaining Security

All things considered, what should the federal government's main priority be in trying to balance the needs of Canadians, protecting privacy or maintaining security?



Base March 2006: All respondents n=1,200

Amongst the groups most likely to think that the federal government's main priority should be maintaining security over protecting privacy are:

- residents of Quebec (74%) and compared to residents of BC (64%) and Ontario (63%);
- older Canadians (peaking at 73% for those who are 55 years of age or older);
- unemployed Canadians (72%) compared to those who are employed (64%); and,

When Canadians are asked whether they support the use of biometrics for the purposes of travel it is deemed acceptable under several circumstances. It is particularly so when it comes to verifying a non-Canadian's identity as part of a screening process. When entering Canada Canadians believe it is very acceptable for biometrics to be used - "conducting background checks on non-Canadians seeking to enter Canada" (67% "strongly support") and "verify the identity of non-Canadians applying for an immigration visa to enter Canada" (66%).



Support for Biometrics – Travel Purposes

For the purposes of travel, would you support or oppose the federal government using biometrics for the following purposes?



Base March 2006: All respondents n=1,200

2. If the government perceived an imminent terrorist attack what powers would we be willing to concede to them

When the security concerns are heightened Canadians are divided over the degree of authority they are prepared to provide government to address perceived terrorist threats. This is revealed in a survey conducted in the fall of 2006 by the Carleton University Centre (with the support of the Association for Canadian Studies). If the government suspected an imminent terrorist threat half of Canadians would agree to extend the right to detain people for long periods of time without charging them with a crime. As observed below Anglophone Canadians are slightly more favourable to such measures than francophones but even 45% of the latter group are favourable despite historic concerns with extending such powers to the state.

Suppose the government suspected that a terrorist act was about to happen. Do you think the government should have the right to... detain people for long periods without charging them with a crime

Women are more favorable to extending such rights than men

% within R: Sex

		R: Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Q9a: Gov. detain people	Definitely should have right	15.8%	16.9%	16.3%
	Probably should have right	32.6%	36.3%	34.5%
	Probably should not have right	24.0%	27.4%	25.7%
	Definitely should not have right	27.7%	19.4%	23.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

On the issue of tapping into people's telephone conversations in the event the government suspected an imminent terrorist attack a majority of Canadians would concede such authority and indeed francophones would be somewhat more favorable to the practice than Anglophones.

Suppose the government suspected that a terrorist act was about to happen. Do you think the government should have the right to tap people's telephone conversations

% within Language used to respond to questionnaire

		Language used to respond to questionnaire		Total
		English	French	
Q9b: Gov. tap telephone	Definitely should have right	18.8%	32.4%	22.1%
	Probably should have right	38.8%	31.0%	36.9%
	Probably should not have right	25.8%	16.2%	23.4%
	Definitely should not have right	16.6%	20.5%	17.6%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Again older Canadians would be more favorable than younger ones

Gov. tap telephone * Grouped Age Crosstabulation

% within Grouped Age

		Grouped Age						Total
		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
Q9b:	Definitely should have right	28.9%	25.2%	14.9%	24.2%	20.6%	22.9%	22.3%
Gov. tap telephone	Probably should have right	23.3%	34.3%	40.5%	42.9%	43.9%	35.9%	37.6%
	Probably should not have right	23.3%	27.3%	25.6%	19.9%	22.4%	22.1%	23.5%
	Definitely should not have right	24.4%	13.3%	19.0%	13.0%	13.1%	19.1%	16.6%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Men slightly more than women

Gov. tap telephone * R: Sex Crosstabulation

% within R: Sex

		R: Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Q9b:	Definitely should have right	22.2%	22.3%	22.2%
Gov. tap telephone	Probably should have right	39.8%	34.5%	37.0%
	Probably should not have right	21.0%	25.5%	23.3%
	Definitely should not have right	17.0%	17.7%	17.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Only on the matter of stopping people and searching them at random do a majority of Canadians draw the line as even of the government suspected an imminent terrorist attack they would not concede such authority. Indeed as observed below no demographic group extends majority support to such a practice.

Suppose the government suspected that a terrorist act was about to happen. Do you think the government should have the right to stop and search people at Random

Gov. stop/search people randomly * R: Sex Crosstabulation

% within R: Sex

		R: Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Q9c: Gov. stop/search people randomly	Definitely should have right	12.1%	13.1%	12.6%
	Probably should have right	27.2%	25.2%	26.1%
	Probably should not have right	25.4%	32.2%	28.9%
	Definitely should not have right	35.3%	29.6%	32.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

3. Should extremists be allowed to meet in public: Canadian and International Opinion

While Canadians identify some limits on the powers they are willing to extend to government in the face of a terrorist threat they are willing to support measures that might deter groups that represent a perceived threat from gathering in public. A survey conducted in 2004 by the international social survey program (done in Canada by the Carleton University Survey Centre) reveals that a majority of Canadians would support disallowing either religious extremists or racists to gather in public. Sixty would disallow religious extremists to gather while 80% would disallow racists. Yet despite such percentages Canada is amongst countries that would be more tolerant of such gatherings which some would argue are not inconsistent with freedom of association guarantees. This is clearly the more prevalent view in the United States amongst the country's most inclined to permit such public gatherings.

Allow public meetings – religious extremists Crosstabulation

	Definitely allowed	Probably allowed	Probably not allowed	Definitely not allowed
BG-Bulgaria	.6%	1.9%	10.5%	87.0%
AT-Austria	1.5%	7.6%	17.5%	73.4%
FLA-Flanders	1.2%	6.0%	19.8%	73.0%
DE-E-Germany (East)	1.5%	4.2%	22.6%	71.7%
CL-Chile	8.0%	11.7%	11.2%	69.1%
PT-Portugal	3.0%	11.2%	18.8%	67.0%
JP-Japan	1.3%	3.5%	29.3%	65.8%
NL-Netherlands	5.4%	12.2%	18.1%	64.3%
LV-Latvia	1.4%	10.9%	25.2%	62.4%
HU-Hungary	3.5%	15.3%	19.2%	62.0%
DE-W-Germany (West)	3.5%	4.9%	30.4%	61.1%
CH-Switzerland	4.0%	15.6%	20.1%	60.3%
RU-Russia	2.0%	7.0%	31.0%	59.9%
FR-France	6.1%	14.3%	19.9%	59.8%
SK-Slovakia	5.4%	12.2%	28.9%	53.6%
ES-Spain	6.2%	18.0%	23.5%	52.3%
CZ-Czech Republic	4.1%	16.2%	29.3%	50.4%
AU-Australia	6.4%	21.9%	24.4%	47.4%
Total Universe	9.8%	20.1%	24.1%	46.1%
MX-Mexico	14.3%	24.2%	17.0%	44.5%
DK-Denmark	10.0%	22.8%	22.8%	44.4%
NO-Norway	10.4%	23.5%	23.6%	42.5%
UY-Uruguay	20.8%	23.7%	13.7%	41.8%
VE-Venezuela	16.8%	23.7%	19.7%	39.7%
SI-Slovenia	8.1%	26.7%	26.0%	39.2%
PL-Poland	4.2%	21.9%	36.7%	37.2%
IE-Ireland	9.5%	31.6%	22.6%	36.4%
GB-Great Britain	8.4%	27.6%	27.7%	36.3%
SE-Sweden	9.0%	26.1%	28.7%	36.2%
ZA-South Africa	25.8%	22.2%	16.7%	35.3%
TW-Taiwan	6.3%	19.1%	45.7%	28.9%
CA-Canada	9.9%	30.0%	31.8%	28.3%
KR-South Korea	2.4%	17.6%	53.6%	26.4%
PH-Philippines	23.2%	35.5%	17.1%	24.2%
NZ-New Zealand	14.9%	42.5%	21.8%	20.8%
IL-Israel	35.9%	30.2%	14.9%	19.0%
CY-Cyprus	15.0%	36.7%	30.2%	18.0%
FI-Finland	13.1%	38.6%	31.2%	17.2%
US-United States	32.0%	41.3%	16.7%	9.9%

Country * Allow public meetings - racist people Crosstabulation

% within Country

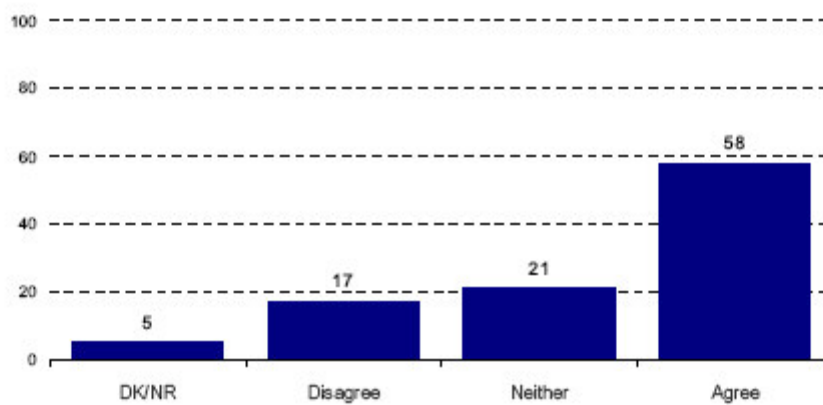
	Definitely allowed	Probably allowed	Probably not allowed	Definitely not allowed
CL-Chile	3.5%	5.7%	7.1%	83.8%
BG-Bulgaria	1.4%	2.5%	14.8%	81.4%
HU-Hungary	1.5%	7.3%	15.9%	75.3%
PT-Portugal	1.9%	6.8%	15.9%	75.3%
UY-Uruguay	9.4%	7.5%	12.0%	71.1%
AT-Austria	1.6%	3.9%	25.1%	69.4%
MX-Mexico	5.5%	11.0%	14.8%	68.7%
ES-Spain	3.2%	7.2%	21.1%	68.5%
VE-Venezuela	5.5%	9.7%	16.5%	68.3%
SK-Slovakia	4.1%	7.1%	22.3%	66.5%
CH-Switzerland	2.8%	11.0%	20.1%	66.1%
RU-Russia	1.6%	5.1%	27.5%	65.9%
DE-W-Germany (West)	2.5%	6.5%	26.1%	65.0%
DE-E-Germany (East)	2.0%	5.2%	27.9%	64.9%
NL-Netherlands	5.2%	10.8%	20.3%	63.7%
LV-Latvia	1.4%	11.7%	23.2%	63.7%
FR-France	7.7%	11.8%	17.0%	63.6%
PH-Philippines	5.0%	10.2%	21.6%	63.2%
JP-Japan	1.9%	6.3%	32.2%	59.6%
Total Universe	5.2%	12.4%	24.3%	58.0%
AU-Australia	4.8%	12.9%	24.8%	57.5%
IE-Ireland	4.4%	12.6%	26.4%	56.6%
IL-Israel	9.4%	17.4%	17.4%	55.8%
CZ-Czech Republic	3.7%	13.0%	27.8%	55.4%
FLA-Flanders	2.7%	12.5%	29.9%	54.8%
ZA-South Africa	9.0%	13.6%	22.7%	54.7%
PL-Poland	2.7%	10.1%	33.1%	54.1%
SE-Sweden	8.2%	16.8%	22.5%	52.5%
CA-Canada	4.3%	14.3%	29.1%	52.3%
SI-Slovenia	5.5%	17.0%	26.6%	50.9%
GB-Great Britain	5.6%	19.1%	26.2%	49.1%
DK-Denmark	10.1%	19.3%	23.0%	47.6%
TW-Taiwan	4.3%	11.6%	37.9%	46.2%
NZ-New Zealand	9.5%	22.7%	25.7%	42.0%
US-United States	16.6%	22.8%	21.2%	39.5%
NO-Norway	11.6%	25.7%	24.2%	38.4%
FI-Finland	6.6%	20.8%	35.1%	37.6%
KR-South Korea	1.6%	16.1%	51.1%	31.2%
CY-Cyprus	.7%	26.2%	46.4%	26.7%

4. Perception of Border Security: Canada Versus the United States

Finally in a survey conducted amongst some 3 025 Canadians by the firm Ekos in February of 2007 for the Canadian Border Service Agency most Canadians feel that the Canada-US border is more secure today than it was five years earlier. As observed below some 58% of Canadians are more secure in this regard.

Perceptions of security at the Canada-U.S. border

Q: I feel that the Canada-U.S. border is more secure now than FIVE years ago.

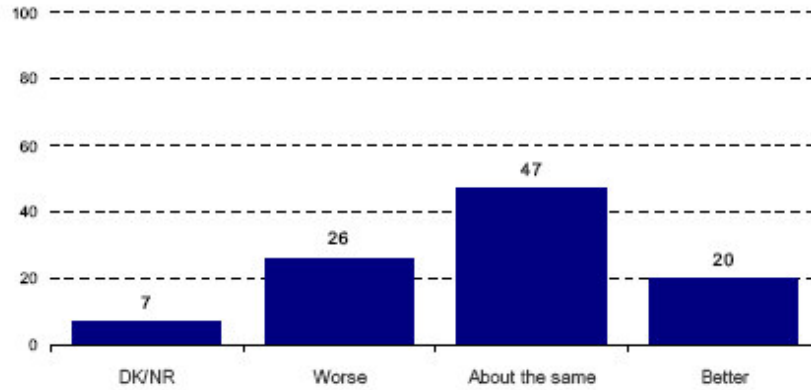


Base: All Canadians; Feb. 07 n=3025

When it comes to border management 47% of Canadians think that we are doing just as good a job as the US. But amongst the rest more think that US is doing a better job than us.

Perceptions of border management – Canada versus the United States

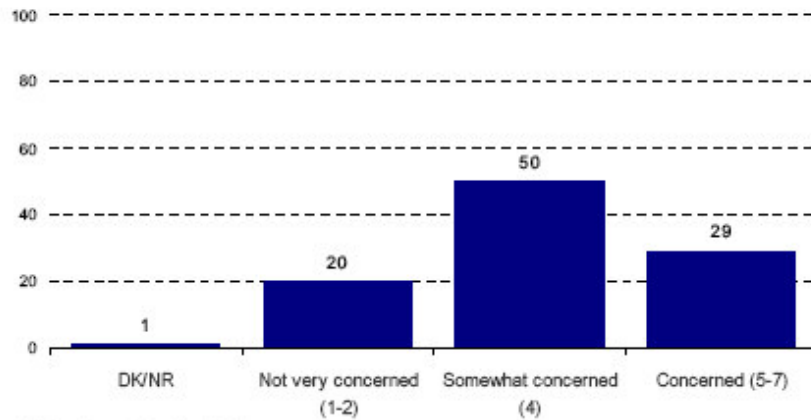
Q: Compared to the United States, do you think Canada does better, worse, or about the same on border management?



But even if we feel the border is more secure some 80% of Canadians remain either very (29%) or somewhat concerned (50%) with threats emanating from outside our borders. And when asked which threat most concerns them half say it is terrorism.

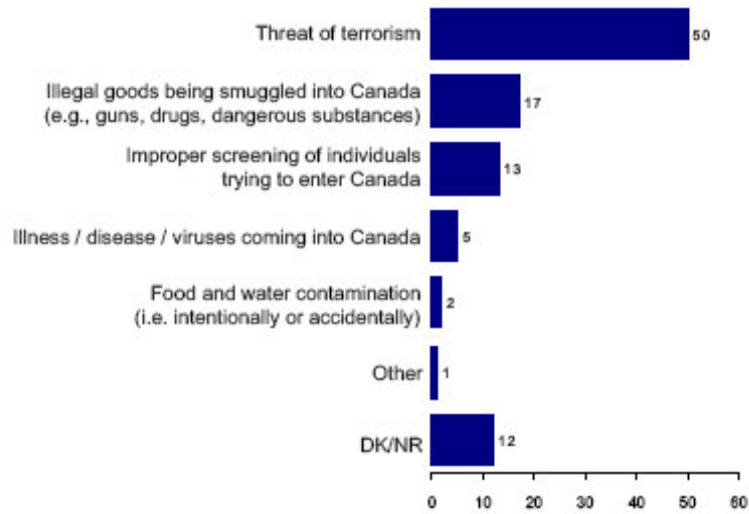
Concern about threats emanating from the border

Q: Every day, over 250,000 travellers enter Canada by air, land or water. Billions of dollars worth of goods also enter the country on a daily basis. How concerned are you that some of the people or goods entering Canada could threaten the safety and security of Canadians?



Base: All Canadians; Feb. 07 n=3025

Q: What type of threat are you most concerned about?* (OPEN)



*Base: Those concerned about threats emanating from the border (4-7 on 7-point scale); Feb. 07 n=2230

Below are the reasons listed amongst those who feel that Canada is doing either a better or worse job than the US

Reasons why Canada is “better” / “worse” at border management

Q: What is the main reason why you think that Canada does BETTER compared to the United States? (OPEN)

	per cent
Canada has tighter security / screening procedures	28
Canadian border policy more reasonable (U.S. more paranoid)	20
Canada has less terrorism / enemies to worry about	13
Canadian border officials superior (e.g., more compassionate / understanding, educated)	12
Canada doesn't have illegal immigration problem (i.e. unlike U.S. and Mexico)	5
Other	2
DK/NR	20

Base: Those who say Canada is BETTER than the United States at managing the border; Feb. 07 n=619

Q: What is the main reason why you think that Canada does WORSE compared to the United States? (OPEN)

	per cent
Harder to get into the United States (e.g., more screening, manpower)	40
Border security not taken as seriously in Canada	38
Canada has issues with immigration and deportation (e.g., anyone can get into country)	6
Word-of-mouth / media accounts (i.e. heard Canada was worse at border management)	5
Other	2
DK/NR	9

Base: Those who say Canada is WORSE than the United States at managing the border; Feb. 07 n=782

