

Terrorism and Counter terrorism: Knowledge, Fears and Perceived Root Cause(s)

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- The findings were collected from a survey of 2200 Canadians conducted by the firm Leger Marketing during the week of November 5th, 2012 and commissioned by the Association for Canadian Studies. Done via web panel, the probabilistic margin of error is 2.9 percent 19 times out of 20

Methodology

Efforts to Combat Terrorism

Significant Majority of Canadians do not think that terrorism has declined in the world

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement Over the last decade terrorism has declined in the world

Total

	Total	French	English	Other	Maritimes	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Total pondéré :	2207	481	1271	449	164	525	851	145	227	294
Total absolu :	2207	878	1151	176	242	656	843	143	152	171
TOTAL YES	20%	15%	21%	21%	14%	17%	25%	18%	18%	15%
Strongly agree	4%	1%	4%	5%	1%	2%	6%	2%	2%	4%
Somewhat agree	16%	13%	17%	17%	13%	15%	19%	16%	16%	11%
TOTAL NO	66%	72%	65%	64%	68%	70%	61%	69%	74%	65%
Somewhat disagree	34%	43%	31%	33%	36%	43%	29%	33%	38%	30%
Strongly disagree	32%	29%	34%	30%	33%	27%	32%	36%	36%	35%
I don't know	13%	12%	13%	13%	13%	12%	13%	11%	8%	18%
I prefer not to answer	1%	1%	1%	2%	4%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%

Canadians relatively divided when asked about effectiveness of int'l efforts to combat terrorism

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements?
International efforts to combat terrorism are working well

	Total		Maritimes	QC	ON	MB/S	K	AB	BC
Total pondéré :	2207		164	525	851	145	227	294	
Total absolu :	2207		242	656	843	143	152	171	
TOTAL YES	39%	39%	42%	42%	41%	28%	34%		
Strongly agree	4%	3%	3%	6%	5%	1%	2%		
Somewhat agree	35%	36%	40%	36%	36%	27%	32%		
TOTAL NO	45%	44%	42%	41%	47%	59%	54%		
Somewhat disagree	31%	27%	33%	27%	36%	41%	32%		
Strongly disagree	14%	17%	9%	14%	11%	18%	22%		
I don't know	14%	13%	16%	15%	11%	12%	12%		
I prefer not to answer	2%	4%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%		

Significant Minority of Canadians mostly older worry about possible terrorist attack in Canada

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
I am worried about the possibility of a terrorist attack in Canada							
Total pondéré :	2207	260	187	170	226	204	220
Total absolu :	2207	358	223	194	161	132	177
TOTAL YES	44%	30%	32%	37%	42%	48%	50%
Strongly agree	10%	9%	12%	7%	8%	8%	15%
Somewhat agree	34%	21%	20%	30%	34%	39%	35%
TOTAL NO	52%	63%	62%	56%	53%	49%	47%
Somewhat disagree	33%	33%	34%	35%	34%	31%	28%
Strongly disagree	19%	30%	28%	22%	19%	19%	20%
I don't know	3%	4%	6%	4%	5%	1%	2%
I prefer not to answer	1%	3%	0%	3%	0%	2%	0%

**What are Canadians
willing to sacrifice to
combat terrorism**

Majority of Canadians not ready to give up civil liberties to curb terrorism

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
In order to curb terrorism in this country, I am ready to give up some civil liberties							
Total pondéré :	2157	247	180	168	222	204	220
Total absolu :	2161	345	216	191	159	132	177
TOTAL YES	30%	21%	28%	17%	31%	30%	31%
Strongly agree	7%	8%	3%	5%	5%	3%	9%
Somewhat agree	24%	12%	25%	12%	27%	27%	22%
TOTAL NO	59%	61%	62%	69%	58%	62%	62%
Somewhat disagree	26%	25%	22%	29%	31%	23%	21%
Strongly disagree	33%	36%	39%	39%	27%	39%	41%
I don't know	9%	13%	10%	10%	10%	6%	6%
I prefer not to answer	2%	5%	1%	4%	1%	2%	1%

Root Causes of Terrorism

Majority of Canadians think that terrorism is attributable to religious fundamentalism

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	French	English	Other
Which of the following is the most important factor behind terrorist activities according to you?										
Total pondéré :	2207	260	187	170	226	204	220	481	1271	449
Total absolu :	2207	358	223	194	161	132	177	878	1151	176
Poverty and economic inequality	18%	25%	22%	18%	11%	9%	18%	17%	17%	22%
Religious fundamentalism	52%	31%	46%	38%	63%	54%	51%	62%	52%	43%
Western foreign policy (military intervention in overseas conflict)	16%	25%	16%	23%	12%	24%	17%	14%	15%	21%

Vast Majority of Canadians agree there is no justification for terrorism though younger cohorts raise more questions

Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements
Terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances

Total		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Total pondéré :	2207	260	187	170	226	204	220
Total absolu :	2207	358	223	194	161	132	177
TOTAL YES	86%	70%	75%	79%	87%	83%	91%
Strongly agree	75%	54%	56%	68%	79%	73%	77%
Somewhat agree	11%	16%	18%	11%	7%	9%	14%
TOTAL NO	8%	17%	17%	11%	11%	9%	2%
Somewhat disagree	5%	9%	11%	7%	7%	9%	2%
Strongly disagree	3%	8%	6%	4%	4%	0%	0%
I don't know	4%	9%	8%	8%	1%	6%	5%
I prefer not to answer	1%	4%	0%	2%	2%	2%	2%

Defining Terrorism and Do Canadians Know What is Done

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	French	English	Other
In one sentence, please tell us how you would define terrorism										
****The use of force/violence motivated by religion or religious beliefs	11%	6%	7%	9%	10%	16%	13%	13%	10%	11%
****Impose your values/beliefs on others through the use of violence/coercion	9%	4%	6%	3%	8%	8%	17%	7%	10%	7%
****The use of force/violence to instigate fear among a group or individuals	9%	9%	13%	12%	9%	7%	7%	8%	10%	6%
****Use of force/violence for political objectives/ideology	8%	8%	9%	8%	7%	8%	7%	9%	8%	8%
****The killing/harming of innocent people	7%	3%	4%	5%	8%	7%	10%	4%	8%	8%
I don't know	21%	26%	27%	27%	25%	23%	15%	19%	21%	21%
I prefer not to answer	12%	15%	11%	13%	9%	14%	10%	14%	11%	13%

Enhanced Airport Security cited more than other factors when Canadians are asked about counter-terrorism

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Name one or two actions that Canada has taken over the past five years to combat terrorism							
Total pondéré :	2207	260	187	170	226	204	220
Total absolu :	2207	358	223	194	161	132	177
I prefer not to answer	35%	50%	43%	42%	33%	30%	29%
***Enhanced airport security/ new flight restrictions/ No-fly list	19%	10%	9%	16%	16%	18%	25%
***Enhanced border security/ stronger border patrol/ prevention of known terrorists from entering Canada	14%	4%	10%	4%	15%	16%	13%
***Participation in UN actions in Afghanistan : war, the Taliban, rebuilding the country...	9%	6%	9%	7%	12%	9%	14%
***I don't know	9%	10%	7%	10%	9%	13%	7%