



Government has found balance between maintaining national security and protecting civil liberties, but underlying potential for security to trump liberty

Higher levels of perceived personal threat of terrorism increases support for national security over civil liberties

Toronto – June 21, 2006 – A survey conducted this week by Innovative Research Group, Inc. on its Canada 20/20 online panel for the Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute has found that nearly four in ten (37%) Canadians feel that the government has been able to strike a balance between protection of national security and the preservation of civil rights. Roughly equal portions of the population believe that belief that the federal government has gone too far in protecting national security at the expense of civil liberties (23%), or that the federal government has gone too far protecting civil liberties at the expense of national security (18%).

Belief that we have gone too far in protecting national security at the expense of civil liberties is highest in Quebec (30%), followed distantly by BC (22%) and Ontario (21%). Coordinately, English-speaking Canadians (20%) were more likely than French-speaking Canadians (7%) to say that we have gone too far protecting civil liberties at the expense of national security.

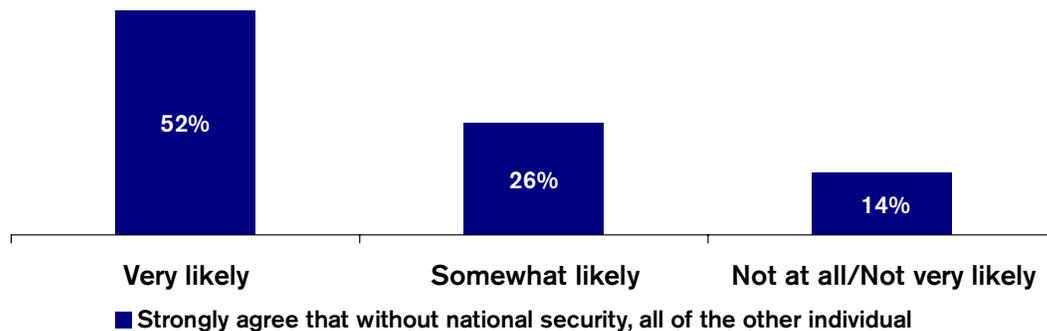
When we probe further, civil liberties appears to lose out to national security. While a slight majority of Canadians agree (52%) that if we lower our protection of civil rights when dealing with accused terrorists, we are “letting the terrorists win”, nearly four in ten (39%) do not agree. On the other side of the coin, when asked a question based on Bernard Laprade’s argument before the Supreme Court that without national security, all other rights “become theoretical,” agreement among Canadians stood at 62% - a full 10% more than who agreed with the previous question concerning support for civil liberties.

Canadians over the age of 45 and older are significantly more likely than those under 45 strongly agree that “without national security, all of the other rights become theoretical.” Strong agreement was also more prevalent among English-speaking Canadians (21%) than French-speaking Canadians (12%) and more among men (22%) than women (16%).

Concern about being a victim of terrorism influences a person’s strength of agreement that national security should have priority over civil liberties. This could lead to stronger reactions by the community should people begin to feel more threatened by possible acts of terrorism.

Among those who are very concerned about being or knowing a victim of a potential terrorist attack, 45% strongly agree that without national security, all other individual rights become theoretical.

Q *Earlier this month, 17 people from the Greater Toronto Area were arrested as suspected terrorists. From what you have read, seen or heard, how likely is it that you personally, a friend, or a relative could have been a victim of this alleged terrorist plot, or do you not know enough to say **BY** Without national security, all of the other individual rights become theoretical*



Among those who are somewhat concerned about same, strong agreement declines to 26%; among those who are not very concerned, strong agreement declines again to 15%, and those not at all concerned agree the least (9%). Conversely, strong disagreement climbs if the respondent is less concerned with their or a relative's victimization in a potential attack, though not nearly to the same extent.

Just over one in three concerned about being the victim in a terror attack

Most Canadians do not feel a terrorist attack is a likely to threat to themselves or anyone they care about. When asked how concerned they were that they, a friend or relative would be victims of a future terror attack in Canada, Canadians more often responded that they were not concerned (64%) than that they were concerned about this (36%). Further, those who are intensely concerned (7%) are outnumbered three to one by those who are not at all concerned (22%) – so, not only is overall opinion on the side of lesser concern, but so too is intensity.

Those in the youngest age group (18-24) are most likely to respond that they are “not concerned at all” that they would be or know a victim of a potential terrorist attack (43%). Interestingly, as age increases, the frequency of “not concerned at all” responses decreases: one quarter of those aged 25-44 chose this option (25%), one in five of those aged 45-64 selected same (18%), and roughly one in ten of those 65 and over were not at all concerned

about being or knowing a victim (12%). Being not at all concerned is also more prevalent among men (28%) than women (17%).

Almost one in four feel they or their friends may have been a victim of the alleged Toronto terror plot

While most Canadians (61%) feel that they, a friend or relative were unlikely to have been a victim of the alleged terrorist plot surrounding the arrest of 17 individuals in the Toronto area, a sizable 23% feel this alleged plot could have injured them or someone they care about. Roughly one in eight felt they did not know.

Generally, those who were most concerned that they would have been affected by the alleged terrorist plot reside in Ontario (32%), are female (24%), or are English-speaking Canadians (26%). Those to respond that it was not at all likely that they would be affected by the alleged terrorist plot were most often aged 18-24 (43%), residents of Quebec (41%), men (33%), or French-speaking Canadians (42%).

About This Survey

Innovative Research Group, Inc. (www.innovativeresearch.ca), a national research firm with offices in Toronto and Vancouver, surveyed 2,333 Canadians from its online Canada 20/20 panel. The survey was conducted between Monday, June 19th, and Wednesday, June 21st, 2006 and has a margin of error of $\pm 2.03\%$, 19 times out of 20. The data was weighted in accordance to the 2001 census. The portions of the survey mentioned above were commissioned by the Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute.

Attribution

In the first instance of mentioning the poll results the survey should be identified as a "Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute survey conducted by Innovative Research Group using their Canada 20/20 online panel".

All subsequent mentions can use the convention "CDFAI/INNOVATIVE poll" or "the CDFAI poll."

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Full Question Text

Now we would like to ask you some questions about national security.

TER1. From what you have read, seen or heard, do you think the federal government has ... **[ROTATE responses 2 and 3 / 1 always first and 8 always last]**

- 1 Found the right balance between protecting national security and protecting civil liberties,
- 2 Gone too far towards protecting national security at the expense of civil liberties
- 3 Gone to far protecting civil liberties at the expense of national security
- 8 Don't Know

For each of the following statements, please tell us if you agree or disagree. **(READ AND RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS)**

- Strongly agree 1
- Somewhat agree 2
- Somewhat disagree 3
- Strongly disagree 4
- Don't Know 8

TER2. If we lower our protection of civil rights when we deal with potential terrorists, we are letting the terrorists win

TER4. Without national security, all of the other individual rights become theoretical

END BATTERY

TER5. How concerned are you personally about you yourself, a friend, or a relative being a victim of a future terrorist attack in Canada?

- Very concerned 1
- Somewhat concerned 2
- Not very concerned 3
- Not concerned at all 4
- Don't Know 8

TER6. Earlier this month, 17 people from the Greater Toronto Area were arrested as suspected terrorists. From what you have read, seen or heard, how likely is it that you personally, a friend, or a relative could have been a victim of this alleged terrorist plot, or do you not know enough to say?

Very likely	1
Somewhat likely	2
Not very likely	3
Not likely at all	4
Don't know enough to say	8