

## AFGHANISTAN MISSION – FEBRUARY 2008

# Canadians Agree with Key Points in Manley Report on Afghan Mission

*More think the effort is about war, not peace—feel government is not adequately informing the public.*

[VANCOUVER – Feb. 6, 2008] – Canadians are increasingly identifying the country's military presence in Afghanistan as a war mission rather than a peace-building effort, an Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 57 per cent of respondents say the Canadian presence in Afghanistan amounts to a war mission as opposed to a peace mission. This number has increased by 10 percentage points in only one month.

In January, a panel chaired by Liberal party member and former deputy prime minister John Manley released a full report on Canada's participation in Afghanistan and included advice on what to do next.

The majority of Canadians agree with the panel's key recommendations regarding the future of the mission. Half of respondents think Canada should continue with its security operations in Kandahar beyond 2009, including its combat role.

Seven-in-ten respondents support the early appointment of a high-level civilian representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure greater coherence in the civilian and military effort in Afghanistan. Seven-in-ten also think NATO should adopt a comprehensive political-military plan to address security concerns and imbalances in the mission. Almost four-in-five Canadians (78%) also want Canada should play a greater role in development and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

## KEY FINDINGS

- » **At least 70% of Canadians agree with Manley's recommendations**
- » **More Canadians (57%) see Afghan mission as war, not peace, comparing to last year (47%)**
- » **76% think Canada is shouldering too much of the burden of NATO's mission**
- » **58% want mission to end in 2009**
- » **61% think Harper has not properly explained the mission to Canadians**
- » **59% believe Afghans are benefiting from Canadian efforts**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From January 31 to February 1, 2008, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,018 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.1 %, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

The Manley report suggested that the federal government has done a poor job in informing Canadians about the mission in Afghanistan, and urged for "franker and more frequent" reporting. The poll found that 61 per cent of respondents think Prime Minister Stephen Harper has failed to effectively explain the mission to Canadians—a number that has remained high for most of the past year. More than four-in-five respondents would like the government to systematically assess the effectiveness of Canadian contributions and the extent to which benchmarks and timelines have been met. An even greater number (84%) think the government should abide by Manley's recommendation and provide the public with franker and more frequent reporting on events in Afghanistan.

One of Manley's key suggestions was that Canada should condition the extension of the military presence in Afghanistan to an increase of troops by other NATO members. Canadians seem to share Manley's view. Seventy-six per cent of respondents think Canada is shouldering too much of the burden of NATO's mission, up five points since our last poll in December. The majority of Canadians (58%) want the military effort to end in February 2009 when the current mandate expires. An additional 48 per cent want the troops to be withdrawn from Afghanistan even before that date, while 47 per cent disagree with this option. Fifty nine per cent of respondents think the Afghan people are clearly benefiting from Canada's presence in their country.

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### Manley Report

As you may know, a special panel—chaired by Liberal member and former deputy prime minister John Manley—has released a report on the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. Do you support or oppose implementing each of these recommendations made by the panel?

A. Canada continuing with its responsibility for security in Kandahar beyond February 2009, including its combat role, but with increasing emphasis on training the Afghan National Security Forces to take lead responsibility for security in Kandahar and Afghanistan as a whole.

	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>Support</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>13%</b>

### Manley Report

As you may know, a special panel—chaired by Liberal member and former deputy prime minister John Manley—has released a report on the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. Do you support or oppose implementing each of these recommendations made by the panel?

B. The early appointment of a high-level civilian representative of the UN Secretary-General to ensure greater coherence in the civilian and military effort in Afghanistan

	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>Support</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>22%</b>

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As you may know, a special panel—chaired by Liberal member and former deputy prime minister John Manley—has released a report on the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. Do you support or oppose implementing each of these recommendations made by the panel?

C. The early adoption by NATO of a comprehensive political-military plan to address security concerns and imbalances, especially the need for more troops to bolster security and expedite training and equipment for the Afghan National Security Forces

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>Support</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>17%</b>

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As you may know, a special panel—chaired by Liberal member and former deputy prime minister John Manley—has released a report on the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. Do you support or oppose implementing each of these recommendations made by the panel?

D. Revamping Canada's contribution to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan by giving higher priority to direct, bilateral project assistance that addresses the immediate, practical needs of the Afghan people.

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>Support</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>14%</b>

### Manley Report

As you may know, a special panel—chaired by Liberal member and former deputy prime minister John Manley—has released a report on the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. Do you support or oppose implementing each of these recommendations made by the panel?

E. The Canadian government systematically assessing the effectiveness of Canadian contributions and the extent to which benchmarks and timelines have been met

	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>Support</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>14%</b>

### Manley Report

As you may know, a special panel—chaired by Liberal member and former deputy prime minister John Manley—has released a report on the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. Do you support or oppose implementing each of these recommendations made by the panel?

F. The Canadian government providing the public with franker and more frequent reporting on events in Afghanistan, offering more assessments of Canada's role and giving greater emphasis to the diplomatic and reconstruction efforts as well as those of the military.

	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>Support</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>12%</b>

**Mission in Afghanistan**  
In your view, is the Canadian mission in Afghanistan...

	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>A peace mission</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>A war mission</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>19%</b>

<b>Trend – In your view, is the Canadian mission in Afghanistan...</b>			
	January 2008	December 2007	July 2007
<b>A peace mission</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>A war mission</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>20%</b>

<b>The Government's Role</b> Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – The Harper government has effectively explained the mission in Afghanistan									
		Region						Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>Agree</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>10%</b>

<b>Trend – The Harper government has effectively explained the mission in Afghanistan</b>			
	January 2008	December 2007	July 2007
<b>Agree</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>21%</b>

Canada and NATO									
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – Canada is shouldering too much of the burden of NATO's mission in Afghanistan									
	Total	Region						Gender	
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>Agree</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>11%</b>

Trend – Canada is shouldering too much of the burden of NATO's mission in Afghanistan			
	January 2008	December 2007	July 2007
<b>Agree</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>24%</b>



<b>An early withdrawal?</b> Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – Canada should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan before their mandate ends in February 2009									
		Region						Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>Agree</b>	48%	43%	43%	32%	47%	55%	55%	36%	59%
<b>Disagree</b>	47%	48%	55%	64%	50%	38%	41%	60%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	8%	2%	4%	3%	7%	4%	4%	6%

<b>Trend – Canada should withdraw its troops from Afghanistan before their mandate ends in February 2009</b>			
	January 2008	December 2007	July 2007
<b>Agree</b>	48%	53%	49%
<b>Disagree</b>	47%	39%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	8%	18%

<b>Are Afghans benefiting?</b> Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – The Afghan people are clearly benefiting from Canadian efforts in their country									
		Region						Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
<b>Agree</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>16%</b>

<b>Trend – The Afghan people are clearly benefiting from Canadian efforts in their country</b>			
	January 2008	December 2007	July 2007
<b>Agree</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>39%</b>

<b>Extending the mission</b>									
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – Canada should extend the mission in Afghanistan beyond February 2009									
		<b>Region</b>						<b>Gender</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>MB/SK</b>	<b>ONT</b>	<b>PQ</b>	<b>ATL</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>

<b>Trend – Canada should extend the mission in Afghanistan beyond February 2009</b>			
	<b>January 2008</b>	<b>December 2007</b>	<b>July 2007</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>22%</b>

Angus Reid Strategies is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies has been successful in predicting the outcome of this year's provincial elections in:

Quebec: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=37>

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More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.pdf>

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:  
[www.angusreidstrategies.com](http://www.angusreidstrategies.com)**