

CANADIAN PRESS/ LEGER MARKETING

**How Canadians Feel About
Military Action
Against Iraq**

Report



1.0 Study Highlights

- Canadians think military action against Iraq is imminent.

Question : *How likely do you think it is that military action will be launched against Iraq in the next few months?*

n=1502	Very likely	Quite likely	Not very likely	Not likely at all
Canada	36%	41%	11%	6%

77%

- Canadians would be in favour of UN-sanctioned military action against Iraq.

Question : *Are you ... ?*

n=1502	...against military action against Iraq whatever the circumstances	...in favour of military action against Iraq if sanctioned by the UN	...in favour of unilateral military action by the US and its allies against Iraq	Do not know / Refusal
Canada	36%	46%	10%	8%

- Canadian opinion about military support is split down the middle.

Question : *If military action goes ahead against Iraq, do you think Canada ...?*

n=1502	...should support this action	...should not support this action	Don't know / Refusal
Canada	44%	43%	13%

- One in two Canadians feels US foreign policy has a negative effect on Canada.

Question : *Generally, do you think American foreign policy has a positive effect, a negative effect or no effect at all on Canada ?*

n=1502	Positive effect	Negative effect	No effect at all	Don't know / Refusal
Canada	22%	53%	10%	15%

2. Results


2.1 Canadians think military action against Iraq is imminent

Three quarters of Canadians (77%) think that the likelihood of military action against Iraq in the coming months is rather high. In fact, 36% think it very likely, 41% find it quite likely, 11% think it not very likely, and 6% not likely at all.

Men (41%) and those with a household income over \$60,000 (45%) are more likely to believe that the likelihood of military action is very high.

Question : *How likely do you think it is that military action will be launched against Iraq in the next few months?*

n=1502	Very likely	Quite likely	Not very likely	Not likely at all
Men	41%	40%	10%	5%
Women	31%	42%	11%	6%
Canada	36%	41%	11%	6%


77%

2.2 Canadians would be in favour of UN-sanctioned military action against Iraq

Although half of Canadians gave their unconditional support to the US within the context of a terrorist attack following September 11, their perception toward a possible military attack against Iraq is something else. To start with, 36% of Canadians are against a military attack against Iraq, whatever the circumstances. However, 46% say they are in favour of a military attack against Iraq if it is sanctioned by the UN. Lastly, only 10% of Canadians are in favour of unilateral military action against Iraq by the US and its allies.

There seems to be a marked difference in opinion between men and women. Women appear to have greater doubts, with 43% of them being against military action, compared to 29% of men. Furthermore, only 40% of women are in favour of UN-sanctioned action, whereas men (53%) strongly favour this option.

Although support for UN-sanctioned military action is high in all areas of Canada, the opposite is true of Quebec with 49% against the war in Iraq and 37% in favour of a UN-sanctioned attack. The results in Quebec seem to place Francophone and Anglophone opinions at opposite ends.

Question : *Are you ... ?*

n=1502	...against military action against Iraq whatever the circumstances	...in favour of military action against Iraq if sanctioned by the UN	...in favour of unilateral military action by the US and its allies against Iraq	Do not know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	34%	45%	12%	9%
Quebec	49%	37%	7%	6%
Ontario	35%	47%	11%	7%
Prairies	27%	47%	19%	7%
Alberta	27%	53%	9%	11%
British Columbia	28%	52%	8%	11%
Canada	36%	46%	10%	8%

2.3 Canadian opinion about military support is split down the middle

44% of Canadians think Canada should support military action against Iraq, while 43% think the contrary. Once again opinions seem to be split along gender and linguistic lines. 52% of men and the same proportion of anglophones believe that Canada should support the US. In comparison, 47% of women, 64% of Francophones and 53% of Allophones disagree. It should be highlighted that a large proportion of Allophones (16%) didn't venture an opinion.

Quebecers once more differed from the rest of the country with over 6 in ten Quebecers (62%) thinking that Canada should not support military action. In the October 2002 poll, 51% of Canadians did not think that the US had justified an attack against Iraq. Within this context, the greatest number of opponents against Canadian participation in such an attack were also in Quebec (76%).

However, the number of Canadians in favour of supporting such an attack has risen from 33% last October to 44% today.

Question : *If military action goes ahead against Iraq, do you think Canada ...?*

n=1502	...should support this action	...should not support this action	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	54%	34%	11%
Quebec	30%	62%	8%
Ontario	48%	39%	12%
Prairies	54%	31%	15%
Alberta	50%	36%	14%
British Columbia	42%	38%	20%
Canada	44%	43%	13%

2.4 One in two Canadians feels US foreign policy has a negative effect on Canada

The majority of Canadians (53%) from all areas agree that US foreign policy has a negative effect on Canada. 22% feel it is positive and 10% that it has no effect at all. In April 2002, in a similar international survey, 36% of Americans, themselves, felt that US foreign policy had a negative effect on the rest of the world.

Question : *Generally, do you think American foreign policy has a positive effect, a negative effect or no effect at all on Canada ?*

n=1502	Positive effect	Negative effect	No effect at all	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	19%	50%	10%	20%
Quebec	18%	60%	11%	11%
Ontario	26%	48%	10%	16%
Prairies	34%	42%	7%	16%
Alberta	24%	52%	9%	15%
British Columbia	14%	65%	8%	13%
Canada	22%	53%	10%	15%

3.0 Methodology

The current study was conducted by Leger Marketing and was carried out simultaneously in over 25 countries as part of a joint study with Gallup International Association. In Canada, the survey was conducted through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1502 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal and Winnipeg call centres between January 22 and January 26, 2003. Up to ten call-backs were made in the case of non-response.

Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to geographic location, gender and language spoken at home to ensure a sample representative of the entire Canadian adult population. In the end, the maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1502 respondents is of ± 2.5 , 19 times out of 20.