For Immediate Release Canadian Public Opinion Poll

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# Bill C-51: Strong support for proposed anti-terror legislation, but additional oversight wanted too

Nearly half of Canadians say draft law "strikes right balance", fully one-third say it doesn't go far enough

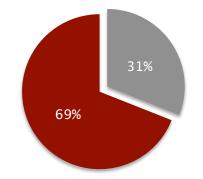
February 19, 2015 – Canadians are firmly supportive of Bill C-51, the federal government's proposed anti-terror legislation that contains a range of measures that would, among other things, provide law enforcement agencies with expanded powers.

Four-in-five (82%) adult Canadians surveyed online by the Angus Reid Institute say they support the draft law, with fully one-quarter (25%) saying they "strongly" support C-51.

#### **Key Findings:**

- Support for some individual elements of the legislation is stronger than for the draft law as a whole
- One-in-three (36%)
   respondents say the bill
   "does not go far enough"
- Most Canadians (69%)
   want additional oversight
   to ensure law
   enforcement's powers
   aren't abused

People point out the proposed anti-terror legislation provides for no additional oversight of law enforcement agencies as they use these expanded powers. Which of the following broad views is the closest to your point of view?



- We already have adequate oversight of the police agencies, nothing additional is required in this new legislation
- ■There should be additional oversight to ensure the police agencies do not go overboard with these new powers

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey among 1509 randomly selected Canadian adults who are <u>Angus Reid Forum</u> panelists from February 9-11, 2015. A probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20.

This survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

• The majority (63%) also say they trust those agencies to access and use Canadians' personal information only for anti-terrorism purposes and nothing else

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#### Support for C-51: loud echoes of past attacks?

In the aftermath of deadly terror attacks last October on Parliament Hill, in Quebec – and in Paris more recently – Canadians are expressing broad support for the federal government's proposed new anti-terror legislation.

Overall, two-thirds (64%) say they believe there is a serious threat of terrorism here in Canada, while one-third (36%) say the threat has been overblown by politicians and the media. This sentiment is essentially unchanged from a <u>November 2014 Angus Reid Institute survey</u> that posed the same question.

Most Canadians (80%) profess to having at least heard about the legislation, and four-in-five respondents either strongly support (25%) or support (57%) Bill C-51. Opposition to the draft law stands at 17 per cent in total, with just five per cent saying they are "strongly" against the legislation.

# All things considered, do you yourself support or oppose the proposed new anti-terrorism legislation? 57% 25% 12% Strongly support Support Oppose Strongly Oppose

It is of note that no significant differences in opinion occur based on region, age, gender or other demographic categories, or based on how closely Canadians have been following the story: the results show consistent broad overall support for the bill among Canadians from all walks of life (see detailed tables at the end of this release).

When the bill is deconstructed into individual elements, support either holds steady or hardens further:

- 91% favour making it illegal to "promote terrorism", with sentences of up to five years
- 89% favour blocking websites that promote terrorism
- 87% support making it easier for law enforcement agencies to add a terror suspect's name to airline no-fly lists
- 80% favour extending the length of time a terrorism suspect can be detained without charge to seven days from three days
- 81% support giving government departments the authority to share private information such as passport applications or commercial data – with law enforcement agencies

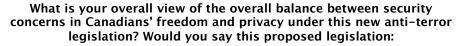
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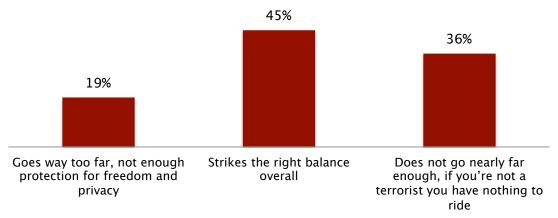
Underlining the extent of public support for the specific elements in the bill: a full majority of Canadians voiced *strong* support for the first three listed above, and a large plurality over four-in-ten did so for the other two measures.

#### Oversight of law enforcement; Overstepping Rights?

Despite strong support across regional and demographic groups for Bill C-51, Canadians are almost equally emphatic about their desire for additional police and law enforcement oversight to accompany expanded powers. Seven-in-ten (69%) are of this opinion, while three-in-ten (31%) say existing oversight of law enforcement in this country is adequate, and nothing further is needed.

It is a striking result, especially given opinion on whether the legislation "goes too far" in the context of Canadians' freedom and privacy. On this question, most respondents – but not the majority - actually say the proposed law "strikes the right balance overall" (45%). One-fifth (19%) say C-51 "goes way too far", while slightly more than one-third (36%) say the legislation "doesn't go far enough".





Contrast this with sentiment about Bill C-44 - another piece of anti-terrorism legislation introduced with a so-called "sunset clause" in the days after the attack on Parliament Hill. While it must be underscored that the contents of C-44 were not identical to C-51, the former also broadly dealt with expanded powers for law enforcement agencies, specifically the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

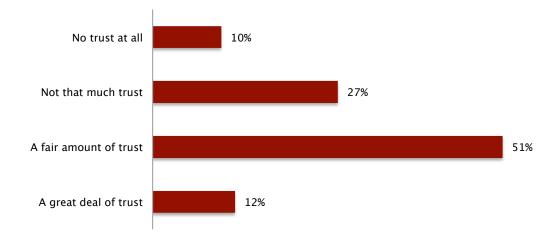
The Angus Reid Institute <u>canvassed Canadians on C-44</u> at the time of its introduction in the House of Commons. At that time, half (51%) felt the legislation hit the mark, while nearly three-in-ten (27%) felt it went too far and "stepped on civil liberties"; one-fifth (22%) felt it was too anemic. This current poll has the latter two views essentially reversed with Canadians twice as likely to say this new legislation doesn't go far enough as opposed to goes too far; the largest group in both cases expressed overall satisfaction that the appropriate balance has been achieved.

#### Trust in government to use personal data:

As noted earlier, components of Bill C-51 would give government departments the authority to share private information – such as passport applications or commercial data – with law enforcement agencies. On this, most Canadians say they trust government and its agencies to use such data only for the purposes the legislation intends them to. The results can be seen in the chart below:

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Thinking about Canadian law enforcement agencies having expanded powers and access to people's personal information, to what extent do you trust them to use this only for anti-terror purposes and nothing else? Do you have:



Here again, these results are a notable contrast in Canadian opinion to a similar line of questioning in <u>an October 2013 poll</u> regarding, among other things, anti-terrorism and government surveillance in the wake of former CIA employee Edward Snowden's defection to Russia.

At the time, Canadians were asked what the most likely use of information gathered via their own government's mass surveillance would be. Only one-fifth (18%) responded that the data would be used for "strictly national security/anti-terrorism efforts" while nearly half (46%) said the information would be used for "any purposes the government chooses".

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The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research organization established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.

Some people say there is a serious threat of terrorism in Canada. Others believe this threat has been overblown by politicians and the media. Which of these two views is closest to your own?

Total

	Total	Region							
	(1509)	BC (200)	AB (152)	SK (102)	MB (100)	ON (504)	PQ (353)	ATL (98)	
There is a serious threat of terrorism here in Canada	64%	58%	65%	64%	65%	63%	66%	66%	
Politicians and the media have overblown the threat of terrorism in Canada	36%	42%	35%	36%	35%	37%	34%	34%	

Some people say there is a serious threat of terrorism in Canada. Others believe this threat has been overblown by politicians and the media. Which of these two views is closest to your own?

	Total	Ger	nder	Age			
	(1509)	Men (733)	Women (776)	18 – 34 (416)	35 – 54 (554)	55+ (539)	
There is a serious threat of terrorism here in Canada	64%	64%	64%	48%	65%	75%	
Politicians and the media have overblown the threat of terrorism in Canada	36%	36%	36%	52%	35%	25%	

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The federal government introduced new anti-terror legislation, Bill C-51, it would expand the powers of police agencies and CSIS. How familiar are you with the proposed legislation?											
	Total				Region						
	(1509)	BC (200)	AB (152)	SK (102)	MB (100)	ON (504)	PQ (353)	ATL (98)			
Read/saw stories about it and discussed it with friends and family	18%	19%	18%	13%	20%	23%	13%	12%			
Saw a story or two and had the odd conversation about it	25%	29%	29%	28%	26%	27%	18%	31%			
Just scanned/saw the headlines	36%	34%	34%	39%	28%	31%	47%	35%			
Not read/seen anything at all	20%	18%	18%	21%	27%	19%	22%	22%			

The federal government introduced new anti-terror legislation, Bill C-51, it would expand the powers of police agencies and CSIS. How familiar are you with the proposed legislation?											
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	(1509)	Men (733)	Women (776)	18 – 34 (416)	35 – 54 (554)	55+ (539)					
Read/saw stories about it and discussed it with friends and family	18%	23%	13%	14%	17%	23%					
Saw a story or two and had the odd conversation about it	25%	30%	22%	22%	22%	33%					
Just scanned/saw the headlines	36%	33%	39%	30%	42%	35%					
Not read/seen anything at all	20%	14%	26%	34%	19%	14%					

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#### Below is a summary of some of the measures included in this proposed legislation, are you in favour or opposed to each of these specific measures? [Summary of in favour] Region Total (1509)AB (152) ON (504) BC SK (102) MB PQ ATL (200) (100) (353) (98)Make it illegal to promote terrorism, with sentences 91% 90% 91% 94% 91% 89% 94% 92% of up to 5 years **Block internet websites** 89% 88% 86% 91% 86% 87% 94% 92% that promote terrorism Make it easier for law enforcement agencies to 87% 82% 87% 89% 90% 85% 92% 89% add a terror suspect's name to airline no-fly lists Extend to seven days instead of three the length 80% 77% 74% 84% 82% 79% 83% 80% of time a terrorism suspect can be detained without charge Give government departments the authority to share private information - such as 81% 78% 83% 78% 81% 79% 86% 81% passport applications or commercial data - with law

enforcement agencies

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# Below is a summary of some of the measures included in this proposed legislation, are you in favour or opposed to each of these specific measures? [Summary of in favour] Total (1509) | Gender | Age | Age | Men | Women | 18 – 34 | 35 – 54 | 55+

	Total	Ger	nder	Age			
	(1509)	Men (733)	Women (776)	18 – 34 (416)	35 – 54 (554)	55+ (539)	
Make it illegal to promote terrorism, with sentences of up to 5 years	91%	90%	92%	87%	93%	93%	
Block internet websites that promote terrorism	89%	88%	90%	83%	91%	93%	
Make it easier for law enforcement agencies to add a terror suspect's name to airline no-fly lists	87%	85%	89%	80%	89%	90%	
Extend to seven days instead of three the length of time a terrorism suspect can be detained without charge	80%	79%	80%	70%	82%	85%	
Give government departments the authority to share private information – such as passport applications or commercial data – with law enforcement agencies	81%	81%	82%	73%	85%	86%	

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### Below is a summary of some of the measures included in this proposed legislation, are you in favour or opposed to each of these specific measures?

	[Summary of opposed]										
	Total		Region								
	(1509)	BC (200)	AB (152)	SK (102)	MB (100)	ON (504)	PQ (353)	ATL (98)			
Make it illegal to promote terrorism, with sentences of up to 5 years	9%	10%	9%	6%	9%	11%	6%	8%			
Block internet websites that promote terrorism	11%	12%	14%	9%	14%	13%	6%	8%			
Make it easier for law enforcement agencies to add a terror suspect's name to airline no-fly lists	13%	18%	13%	11%	10%	15%	8%	11%			
Extend to seven days instead of three the length of time a terrorism suspect can be detained without charge	20%	23%	26%	16%	18%	21%	17%	19%			
Give government departments the authority to share private information – such as passport applications or commercial data – with law enforcement agencies	19%	22%	17%	22%	19%	21%	14%	18%			

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## Below is a summary of some of the measures included in this proposed legislation, are you in favour or opposed to each of these specific measures? [Summary of opposed]

	Total	Ger	nder	Age			
	(1509)	Men (733)	Women (776)	18 – 34 (416)	35 – 54 (554)	55+ (539)	
Make it illegal to promote terrorism, with sentences of up to 5 years	9%	10%	8%	13%	7%	7%	
Block internet websites that promote terrorism	11%	12%	10%	17%	9%	7%	
Make it easier for law enforcement agencies to add a terror suspect's name to airline no-fly lists	13%	15%	11%	20%	11%	10%	
Extend to seven days instead of three the length of time a terrorism suspect can be detained without charge	20%	21%	20%	30%	18%	15%	
Give government departments the authority to share private information – such as passport applications or commercial data – with law enforcement agencies	19%	19%	18%	27%	15%	14%	

People point out the proposed anti-terror legislation provides for no additional oversight of the police agencies as they use these expanded powers. Which of the following broad views is the closest to your point of view?

	J				7					
	Total	Region								
	(1509)	BC (200)	AB (152)	SK (102)	MB (100)	ON (504)	PQ (353)	ATL (98)		
We already have adequate oversight of the police agencies, nothing additional is required in this new legislation	31%	31%	31%	38%	32%	32%	31%	28%		
There should be additional oversight to ensure the police agencies do not go overboard with these new powers	69%	69%	69%	62%	68%	68%	69%	72%		

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People point out the proposed anti-terror legislation provides for no additional oversight of the police agencies as they use these expanded powers. Which of the following broad views is the closest to your point of view?

	Total	Ger	nder	Age			
	(1509)	Men (733)	Women (776)	18 – 34 (416)	35 – 54 (554)	55+ (539)	
We already have adequate oversight of the police agencies, nothing additional is required in this new legislation	31%	34%	29%	26%	30%	37%	
There should be additional oversight to ensure the police agencies do not go overboard with these new powers	69%	66%	71%	74%	70%	63%	

What is your view of the overall balance between security concerns in Canadians' freedom and privacy under this new anti-terror legislation? Would you say this proposed legislation:

	proposed regislation.											
	Total		Region									
	(1509)	BC (200)	AB (152)	SK (102)	MB (100)	ON (504)	PQ (353)	ATL (98)				
Goes way too far, not enough protection for freedom and privacy	19%	26%	20%	20%	20%	20%	14%	13%				
Strikes the right balance overall	45%	42%	46%	45%	39%	43%	51%	46%				
Does not go nearly far enough, if you're not a terrorist you have nothing to ride	36%	33%	34%	35%	42%	37%	35%	41%				

What is your view of the overall balance between security concerns in Canadians' freedom and privacy under this new anti-terror legislation? Would you say this proposed legislation:

	Total	Ger	nder	Age			
	(1509)	Men (733)	Women (776)	18 – 34 (416)	35 – 54 (554)	55+ (539)	
Goes way too far, not enough protection for freedom and privacy	19%	21%	16%	23%	15%	18%	
Strikes the right balance overall	45%	46%	45%	54%	48%	35%	
Does not go nearly far enough, if you're not a terrorist you have nothing to ride	36%	34%	38%	23%	36%	46%	

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Thinking generally about Canadian law enforcement agencies having expanded powers and access to people's personal information, to what extent do you trust them to use this only for anti-terror purposes and nothing else? Do you have:

			Region							
	Total	negion								
	(1509)	BC (200)	AB (152)	SK (102)	MB (100)	ON (504)	PQ (353)	ATL (98)		
A great deal of trust	12%	15%	14%	12%	10%	12%	10%	12%		
A fair amount of trust	51%	45%	53%	52%	53%	46%	61%	51%		
Not that much trust	27%	30%	22%	28%	24%	30%	21%	30%		
No trust at all	10%	11%	11%	8%	13%	11%	8%	6%		

Thinking generally about Canadian law enforcement agencies having expanded powers and access to people's personal information, to what extent do you trust them to use this only for anti-terror purposes and nothing else? Do you have:

	Total (1509)	Gender		Age			
		Men (733)	Women (776)	18 – 34 (416)	35 – 54 (554)	55+ (539)	
A great deal of trust	12%	14%	10%	9%	11%	15%	
A fair amount of trust	51%	47%	55%	47%	53%	53%	
Not that much trust	27%	26%	28%	32%	27%	23%	
No trust at all	10%	13%	7%	12%	9%	9%	

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All things considered, do you yourself support or oppose the proposed new anti- terrorism legislation?									
	Total Region								
	(1509)	BC (200)	AB (152)	SK (102)	MB (100)	ON (504)	PQ (353)	ATL (98)	
Strongly support	25%	25%	27%	21%	24%	26%	25%	22%	
Support	57%	54%	55%	60%	60%	54%	62%	64%	
Oppose	12%	17%	12%	14%	9%	14%	9%	7%	
Strongly Oppose	5%	4%	6%	4%	7%	5%	4%	7%	

All things considered, do you yourself support or oppose the proposed new anti- terrorism legislation?								
	Total	Gender		Age				
	(1509)	Men (733)	Women (776)	18 – 34 (416)	35 – 54 (554)	55+ (539)		
Strongly support	25%	29%	22%	15%	24%	36%		
Support	57%	53%	62%	61%	63%	48%		
Oppose	12%	11%	14%	17%	10%	12%		
Strongly Oppose	5%	7%	2%	7%	4%	5%		