

C-51: Anti-Terror Bill

Second Wave May 20, 2015

We want to ask Canadians their views regarding the issue of terrorism and potential measures against it.

1. In January, the federal government introduced anti-terror legislation, known as Bill C-51, expanding the powers of police agencies and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). In May the bill passed third reading in the House of Commons and it is now with the Senate. How familiar, if at all, are you yourself with this legislation?

Read/saw stories about it and discussed it with friends and family
Saw a story or two, and had the odd conversation about it
Just scanned/saw the headlines
Not read/seen anything at all

2. Below is a summary of some of the specific measures included in C-51. Please indicate whether you yourself are in favour or opposed to each of these specific measures.

[RANDOMIZE ROWS]

Make it illegal to promote terrorism, with sentences of up to 5 years

Block internet websites that promote terrorism

Make it easier for law enforcement agencies to add a terror suspect's name to airline no-fly lists

Extend to seven days instead of three the length of time a terrorism suspect can be detained without charge

Give government departments the authority to share private information – such as passport applications or commercial data – with law enforcement agencies

Strongly in favour
In favour
Opposed
Strongly opposed

3. Since the bill was originally introduced, the government has made some amendments to it. However, some people have criticized the fact that none of the amendments provide for additional oversight of police agencies as they go about using these expanded powers. Which of the following is closest to your view?

[ROTATE ITEMS]

We already have adequate oversight of the police agencies, nothing additional was required in this new legislation

There should have been additional oversight to ensure the police agencies do not go overboard with these new powers

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

Goes way too far, not enough protection for freedom and privacy

Strikes the right balance overall

Does not go nearly far enough

5. As noted, C-51 makes it illegal to "promote terrorism". Some people have raised concerns that this leaves things too open to interpretation by police agencies -- specifically, who gets to determine what is and is not "promoting terrorism"? How confident are you personally that "promoting terrorism" will be appropriately interpreted with this new legislation in place? Are you:

Very confident

Fairly confident

Not that confident

Not confident at all

6. All things considered, do you yourself support or oppose this anti-terrorism legislation (C-51)?

Strongly support

Support

Oppose

Strongly oppose

7. How much will this whole issue of domestic terrorism be a factor for you in this year's federal election? (Please use the 1 to 10 scale below; you can choose any number that best reflects how much of a factor this is for you.)

[1-10 Scale]

Left hand label = 1 – Not a factor at all

Right hand label = 10 – It's the deciding factor

8. Regardless of how important it is to you personally, if domestic terrorism were to become a defining issue of the upcoming federal campaign, which of the main federal party leaders would you say is best to deal with this issue?

[Randomize leaders]]

Stephen Harper

Justin Trudeau

Thomas Mulcair