

Half of Canadians disapprove of airstrike on Suleimani; two-thirds say the world is now more dangerous

Politics drives opinion: past CPC voters say strike was the right call, most Liberal, NDP voters disagree

January 21, 2020 – As Canadians continue to grieve for the 57 fellow citizens who were killed when Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 was shot down by Iran, they are also expressing opinions about events that occurred in the days leading up to the tragedy.

The results of a new public opinion survey from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute indicate just over half (52%) disapprove of the U.S. airstrike that resulted in the death of a key Iranian general, Qassim Suleimani.

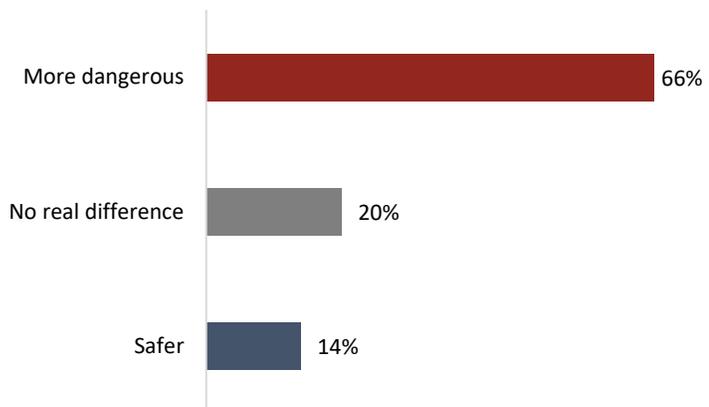
In retaliation for that airstrike, Iran launched ballistic missile strikes on two military bases housing U.S. and Canadian troops. Flight 752 crashed shortly after takeoff from Tehran's airport, hours later.

Despite the relative calm that has descended in the Middle East after the [U.S.](#) and [Iran](#) each claimed victory in the escalating tensions, two-thirds of Canadians (66%) now see the world as a "more dangerous place" after Suleimani's death.

About ARI

*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 foundation 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.*

**Overall, do you think the U.S. action of killing the Iranian General has made the world a safer or more dangerous place, or makes no real difference either way?
(All respondents, n=1,538)**



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from January 13 - 15 among a representative randomized sample of 1,538 Canadian adults who are members of [Angus Reid Forum](#). For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Executive Director: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl
Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 dave.korzinski@angusreid.org

INDEX:

- **The Suleimani Strike: More than half of Canadians disapprove of U.S. action**
 - Cross-border perspectives
 - Canadian Conservatives agree with Republicans on strike
 - Men and women diverge on decision to strike
- **Two-thirds fear the world is now a more dangerous place**
 - Political divide in assessments

The Suleimani Strike: More than half of Canadians disapprove of U.S. action

Cross-border perspectives

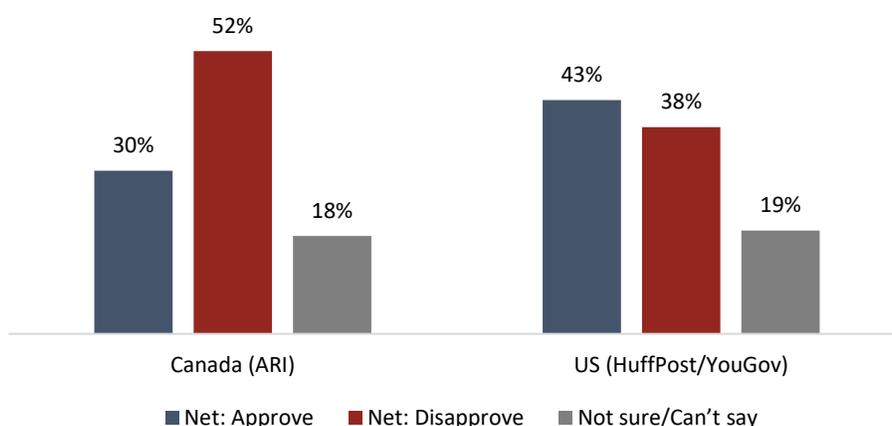
On January 3, United States President Donald Trump authorized a drone strike that killed Iranian General Qassim Suleimani. This event provided the impetus for Iran’s missile strikes on January 8, the evening that Flight 752 was accidentally shot down over the Iranian capital of Tehran.

[Related: Flight 752: Canadians don’t believe full and accurate accounting of aviation tragedy will ever be revealed](#)

The investigation into who ultimately shoulders the blame for the plane crash continues, but a majority of Canadians believe the initial strike to kill Suleimani should never have happened in the first place. Half (52%) say that they disapprove of the decision, while three-in-ten approve (30%). One-in-five (18%) are not sure.

American perspectives on the drone strike are more divided. According to a [HuffPost/YouGov survey](#), 43 per cent of Americans approve of the decision, while 38 per cent say the opposite. Equal numbers in each country say they do not know whether or not this was the right call by the Trump administration.

Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. airstrike in Iraq that killed Qassim Suleimani, a top Iranian general?

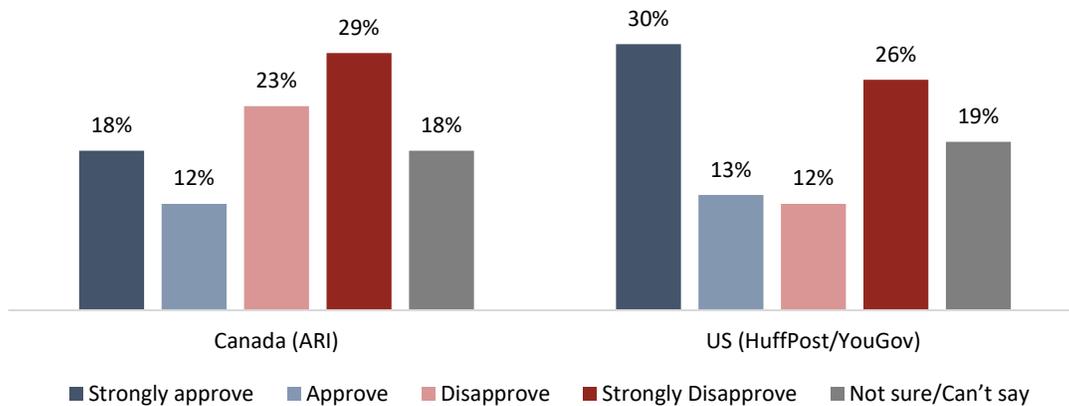


CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Executive Director: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl
 Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 dave.korzinski@angusreid.org

The divergence in support for the airstrike largely comes from the difference in those who say they “strongly approve” of the decision. Three-in-ten Americans say this (30%), compared to close to one-in-five (18%) of Canadians. Equal numbers in each country strongly disapprove of the decision:

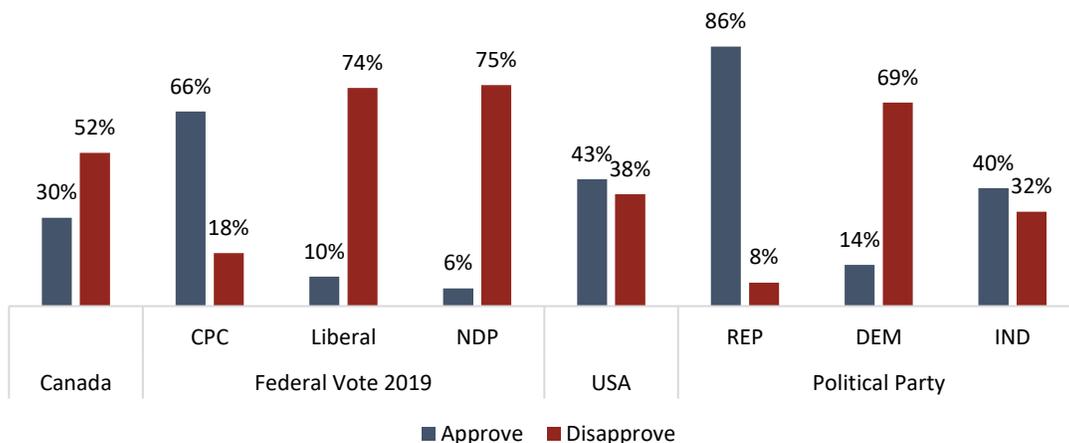
Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. airstrike in Iraq that killed Qassim Suleimani, a top Iranian general?



Canadian Conservatives agree with Republicans on strike

Division over the decision to initiate the drone strike in Iraq runs along political lines in both Canada and the United States. In each case, those on the right of the political spectrum are overwhelmingly supportive of the call made by President Trump. In Canada, 66 per cent of past CPC voters approve of it, as do 88 per cent of Republicans in the U.S. On the political left, three-quarters of past Liberal (74%) and NDP (75%) voters disapprove of the decision, aligning them closely with U.S. Democrats, among whom 69 per cent disapprove.

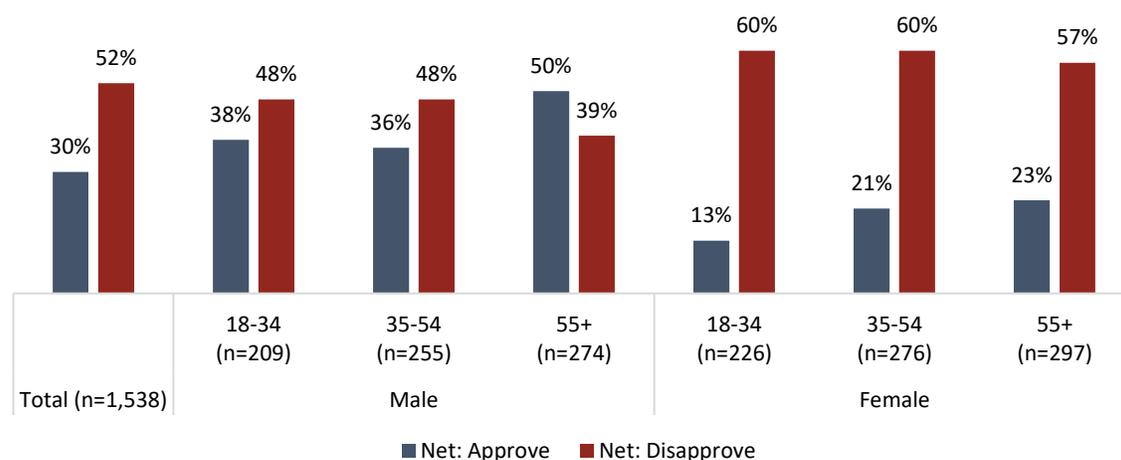
Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. airstrike in Iraq that killed Qassim Suleimani, a top Iranian general?



Men and women diverge on decision to strike

Older men – those aged 55 and over – are most likely to approve of the decision and are the only age and gender combination that approve more than they disapprove. That said, close to four-in-ten men in younger generations also agree, nearly twice as many as their female counterparts. Overall, 42 per cent of men approve while just 19 per cent of women say the same ([see detailed tables for more demographic information](#)):

Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. airstrike in Iraq that killed Qassim Suleimani, a top Iranian general?



Two-thirds fear the world is now a more dangerous place

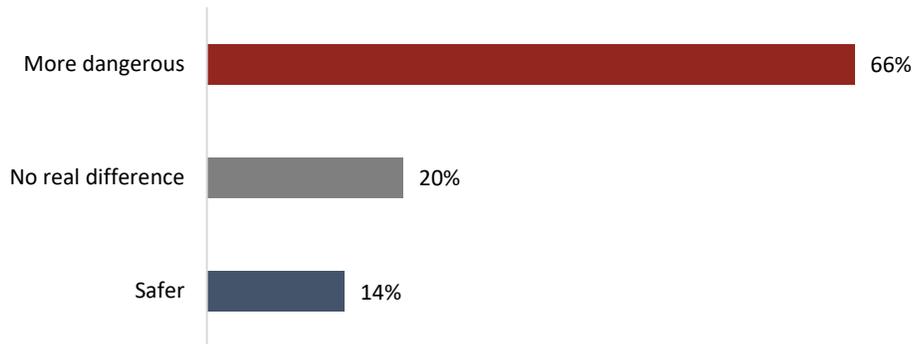
Tensions were extremely high in the hours and days after the initial drone strike, as the world waited for Iran's response. Global leaders [called for calm](#) as Iranian officials vowed revenge for the killing of Suleimani. Ultimately, [Iran gave notice](#) of forthcoming strikes which did not lead to any American fatalities (though [reportedly 11](#) soldiers were treated for concussions and other injuries).

Now, two-thirds (66%) of Canadians believe the world is a more dangerous place than it was before the initial airstrikes, while 14 per cent agree with [U.S. officials' claims](#) that the world is safer.

CONTACT:

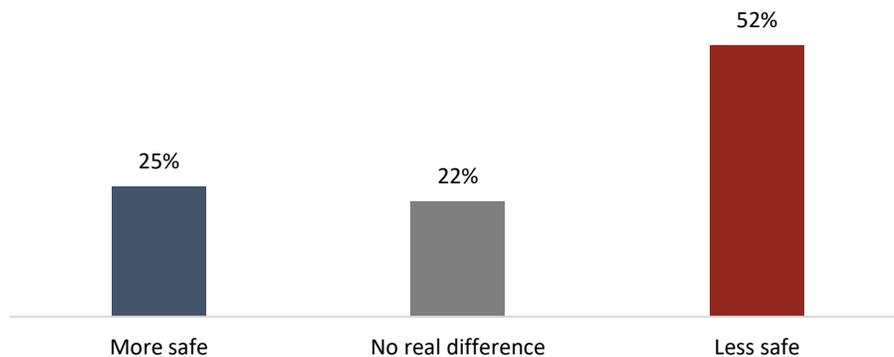
Shachi Kurl, Executive Director: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl
 Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 dave.korzinski@angusreid.org

**Overall, do you think the U.S. action of killing the Iranian General has made THE WORLD a safer or more dangerous place, or makes no real difference either way?
(All respondents, n=1,538)**



South of the border, the sentiment is generally the same when it comes to American assessments of their own domestic safety. Ipsos [asked respondents](#) in the U.S. if they felt the strike had made their own country safer or more dangerous and twice as many residents feel less safe:

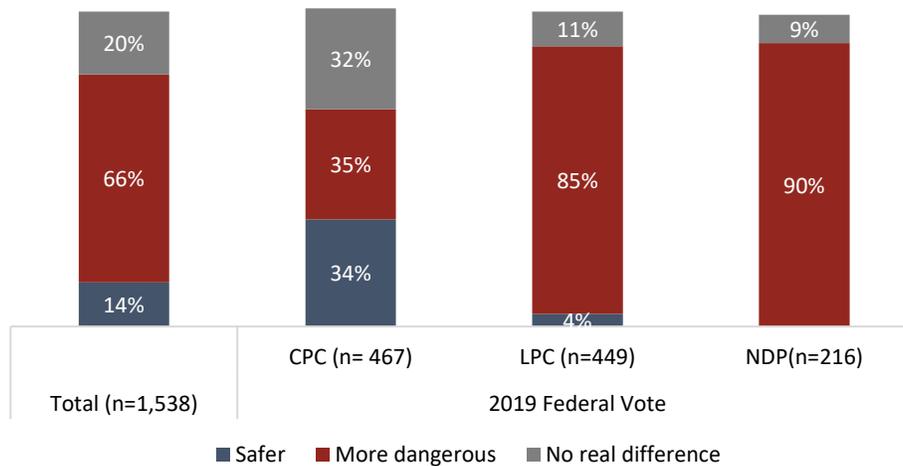
**Do you think the U.S. airstrike in Iraq that killed Iranian General Qassim Soleimani has made THE UNITED STATES:
(Source: Ipsos)**



Political divide in assessments

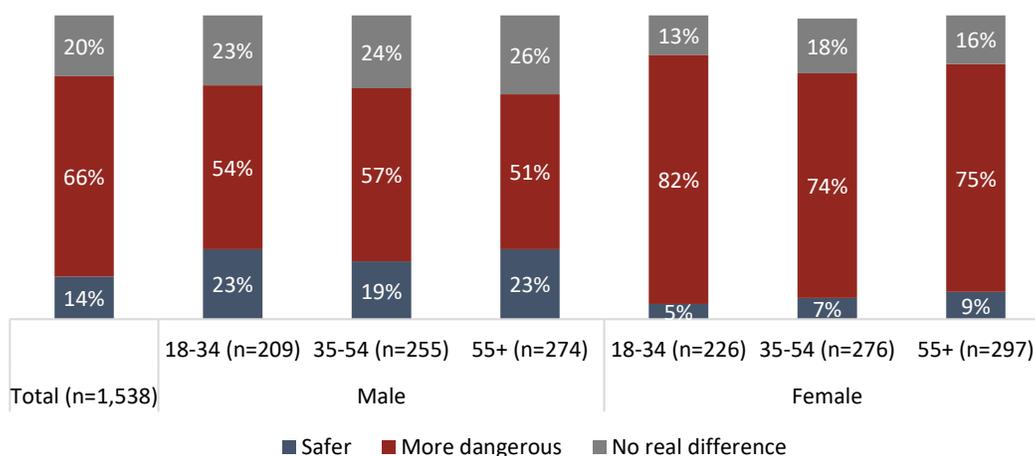
Among 2019 voters, those who supported the CPC are divided evenly into three groups. One-third say the world is safer (34%), while a near identical number feel the opposite (35%) or say nothing has changed (32%). NDP voters are most likely to believe that the world is now a more dangerous place, with nine-in-ten (90%) saying this. Liberal supporters are not far behind, with 85 per cent saying the world is less safe:

Overall, do you think the U.S. action of killing the Iranian General has made the world a safer or more dangerous place, or makes no real difference either way?



While at least half of all age and gender combinations in Canada agree that the strike has made the world more dangerous, men are three times as likely as women to say that this has made the world safer, and also considerably more likely to say that it made no impact:

Overall, do you think the U.S. action of killing the Iranian General has made the world a safer or more dangerous place, or makes no real difference either way?



For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).

Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. airstrike in Iraq that killed Qassim Suleimani, a top Iranian general?		
	Canada (ARI)	US (HuffPost/YouGov)
Strongly approve	18%	30%
Approve	12%	13%
Disapprove	23%	12%
Strongly Disapprove	29%	26%
Not sure/Can't say	18%	19%
Net: Approve	30%	43%
Net: Disapprove	52%	38%

CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, Executive Director: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 dave.korzinski@angusreid.org