

Angus Reid Institute
Air India Bombing 40th Anniversary
June 13-17, 2025

Q11. [T]
Base=All
Single choice

Based on what you've seen read or heard, and your own general knowledge, which of the following would you say represents the worst mass murder of Canadians in our nation's history?

[randomize]

The attacks of 9/11 in 2001
The bombing of Air India flight 182 in 1985
The mass shootings around Portapique, Nova Scotia in 2020
The Montreal massacre in 1989
[Fixed] Something else: _____
[fixed] Really don't know

Q12. [T]
Base=All
Single choice

In fact, the correct answer is the terrorist bombing of Air India flight 182, which departed from Canada and crashed off the coast of Ireland **40 years ago** on **June 23, 1985**. Everyone on board died, including at least 280 Canadian citizens. Please note, there has been another Air India crash in the news in recent days, and we are NOT referencing that tragedy.

How much would you say you know about this incident from 1985?

I know a lot about what happened and the aftermath
I know a little bit, just the main details
I've never heard of this until now

Q13. [T]
Base=Exclude never heard of in Q12
Single choice

To the best of your knowledge, were the people mainly responsible for this terror attack ever convicted of murder in court?

Yes
No
Not sure

Q14. [T]
Base=Exclude never heard of in Q12

Single choice

In your opinion, has Canada done enough to mark this event and remember the victims?

Canada has not done enough
Canada has done enough
Canada has done too much
Not sure/Can't say

Q16. [New]

Base=All

Single choice

Here are some measures the relatives of the bombing victims have suggested would increase awareness and understanding of the event and honour the victims. For each, please tell us whether you support or oppose its implementation:

[randomize]

An exhibit about the bombing and murders at the Canadian Museum of History
Consistently teaching students about the bombing and its history in Canadian schools
Repatriating wreckage from the bombed plane for display in Canada

Strongly support
Support
Oppose
Strongly oppose
Not sure/ Can't say

[Text box]

There have been two Canadian public inquiries into the causes of the bombing of the flight and murders of Canadians. One was led by Bob Rae, now Canada's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations. The other was led by former Supreme Court Justice John Major.

Q17. [New]

Base = all

Single choice

Both inquiries concluded the bombing was the result of a conspiracy by some – not all - members of the Sikh community in Canada to create an independent country, to be called "Khalistan".

However, some people say the bombing was not the result of a conspiracy by Khalistani separatists, but a so-called "false flag" operation by the Indian government to bomb one of its own planes in order to blame Sikh separatists.

What do you believe about the causes of the bombing and murders?

[rotate]

The bombing and murders were caused by violent factions within Khalistan movement

The Indian government bombed its own plane and murdered all the passengers

Not sure/ Can't say **[Fixed]**

QI8. [New]

Base = all

Single choice

There are memorial ceremonies planned in some Canadian cities this June 23rd, the 40th anniversary of the bombing and murders. If you were aware of a memorial in your own city, would you plan to attend?

Definitely

Probably

Probably not

Definitely not

Not sure/can't say

QI9. [New]

Base = all

Single choice

Last year, some supporters of the Khalistan movement attended some of the public memorial services. The supporters said they were attending out of solidarity with the victims' families, although other people said it was more like a protest of the memorials and their presence was distressing to the families.

Was the presence of these Khalistan supporters at the public memorial appropriate or inappropriate? Which is closer to your own point of view?

[rotate]

Appropriate – they have as much right to be there as anyone else

Inappropriate – even if they had a right to be there, it was in bad taste

QI10. [New]

Base=All

Single choice grid

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements about the 1985 bombing of Air India flight 182.

The bombing and its aftermath has never been treated like a Canadian tragedy

There is too much disinformation about the bombing

Strongly agree
Agree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Not sure/ Can't say