

THE BRENDA MARTIN CASE

Canadians Want Harper to Intervene on Behalf of Brenda Martin

Half are ready to boycott Mexico as a holiday destination; and 61% call for an official travel warning

[VANCOUVER – Mar. 19, 2008] – A large proportion of Canadians want the Prime Minister to become personally involved in the case of Brenda Martin, and half say they would avoid Mexico as a holiday destination, according to the *Toronto Star* / Angus Reid poll.

Martin has spent more than two years in a Mexican jail on money laundering and criminal conspiracy charges. Martin—who has not been convicted, but remains incarcerated before her trial takes place—maintains that she has never confessed to the alleged crimes. Two-in-five Canadians (41%) are following the developments of this story "very" or "moderately" closely.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 71 per cent of respondents believe Stephen Harper should urge for the release of the Canadian woman on humanitarian grounds, and 61 per cent think an official travel warning for Canadians to avoid Mexico is in order.

In addition, 50 per cent of respondents would boycott Mexico as a holiday destination, and 44 per cent would stop buying Mexican products sold in Canada. Another measure—facilitating Martin with an application for transfer so that, if convicted, she could serve her sentence in Canada—was supported by four-in-five (80%) respondents.

Majorities in both Ontario (54%) and Alberta (51%) are willing to boycott Mexican products, while fewer Quebecers (30%) would actually avoid travelling to Mexico.

KEY FINDINGS

- » **71% want a direct plea from the Prime Minister to Mexico, urging for Martin's release on humanitarian grounds**
- » **61% believe an official travel warning for Canadians to avoid Mexico is in order**
- » **50% would boycott Mexico as a holiday destination**
- » **44% would boycott Mexican products sold in Canada**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From March 17 to March 18, 2008, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,045 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.0 %, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

In the survey, only 20 per cent of Canadians expressed confidence in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) coming to their assistance if they were detained in a foreign country. The results are consistent with an Angus Reid Strategies survey conducted in June 2007.

An official document published by the federal government—called "A Guide for Canadians Imprisoned Abroad"—states that Canada cannot actually interfere in the judicial affairs of another country; that if a Canadian breaks the laws of another country, he/she is subject to the judicial system of that country; and that DFAIT can neither protect Canadians from the consequences of their actions, nor override the decisions of local authorities.

The poll shows some misconceptions about what the Government of Canada can actually accomplish in these situations. While 86 per cent of respondents correctly identified that Canadians who break the laws of another country are subject to the judicial system of that country, only 50 per cent know that DFAIT cannot override the decisions of local authorities, and just 47 per cent are aware that Canada cannot interfere in another country's judicial affairs.

Related release:

06.26.07

Angus Reid Poll: Arrested in a foreign country -- would Canada help you out?

<http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=77>

The Brenda Martin Case

Suppose that you were detained in a foreign country. Are you confident that Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) would come to your assistance?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Yes	20%	19%	17%	9%	17%	30%	19%	24%	17%
No	52%	65%	70%	43%	61%	33%	51%	50%	55%
Not sure	27%	17%	14%	48%	22%	36%	30%	26%	28%

The Brenda Martin Case

As you may know, a Canadian woman named Brenda Martin has spent more than two years in a Mexican jail on money laundering and criminal conspiracy charges. Martin—who has not been convicted, but remains incarcerated before her trial takes place—maintains that she has never confessed to the alleged crimes. How closely have you been following this story in the media?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Very closely	9%	11%	11%	11%	11%	1%	17%	8%	9%
Moderately closely	32%	36%	33%	39%	40%	14%	33%	31%	32%
Not too closely	18%	27%	21%	11%	21%	12%	14%	19%	17%
Not closely at all	33%	26%	34%	37%	29%	41%	33%	32%	34%
Not sure	9%	0%	2%	2%	0%	31%	4%	10%	8%

The Brenda Martin Case

Some people have argued that the case of Brenda Martin calls for specific action from both Canadians and the federal government. Would you support or oppose each of the following measures? - A direct plea from the Prime Minister to Mexico, urging for Martin's release on humanitarian grounds.

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Support	71%	67%	76%	66%	76%	64%	75%	65%	75%
Oppose	17%	23%	15%	20%	15%	16%	17%	23%	12%
Not sure	12%	11%	9%	14%	8%	19%	8%	12%	13%

The Brenda Martin Case

Some people have argued that the case of Brenda Martin calls for specific action from both Canadians and the federal government. Would you support or oppose each of the following measures? - Facilitating Martin with an application for transfer so that, if convicted, she could serve her sentence in Canada.

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Support	80%	80%	92%	64%	82%	77%	87%	78%	83%
Oppose	13%	16%	5%	26%	13%	12%	13%	18%	9%
Not sure	6%	4%	3%	10%	5%	11%	0%	4%	8%

The Brenda Martin Case

Some people have argued that the case of Brenda Martin calls for specific action from both Canadians and the federal government. Would you support or oppose each of the following measures? - An official travel warning for Canadians to avoid Mexico.

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Support	61%	59%	70%	46%	75%	42%	59%	60%	61%
Oppose	33%	36%	26%	39%	21%	47%	34%	36%	30%
Not sure	7%	5%	4%	15%	3%	11%	7%	4%	9%

The Brenda Martin Case

Some people have argued that the case of Brenda Martin calls for specific action from both Canadians and the federal government. Would you support or oppose each of the following measures? - A boycott of Mexican products sold in Canada.

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Support	44%	40%	51%	37%	54%	32%	45%	44%	44%
Oppose	46%	55%	40%	52%	40%	54%	40%	49%	44%
Not sure	10%	4%	9%	12%	6%	14%	16%	7%	12%

The Brenda Martin Case

Some people have argued that the case of Brenda Martin calls for specific action from both Canadians and the federal government. Would you support or oppose each of the following measures? - A boycott of Mexico as a holiday destination.

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Support	50%	48%	55%	39%	65%	30%	53%	49%	51%
Oppose	41%	49%	37%	48%	29%	54%	35%	45%	37%
Not sure	9%	3%	8%	13%	5%	16%	12%	6%	12%

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Do you believe that the following statements are true or not true?

	True	Not true	Not sure
The Government of Canada cannot actually interfere in the judicial affairs of another country	47%	33%	20%
If a Canadian breaks the laws of another country, he/she is subject to the judicial system of that country	86%	3%	11%
The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) can neither protect Canadians from the consequences of their actions, nor override the decisions of local authorities.	50%	24%	26%

Angus Reid Strategies is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies has been successful in predicting the outcome of last year's provincial elections in:

*Quebec: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=37>
Manitoba: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=56>
Ontario: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=129>
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More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF%20WHITE%20PAPER.pdf>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**