

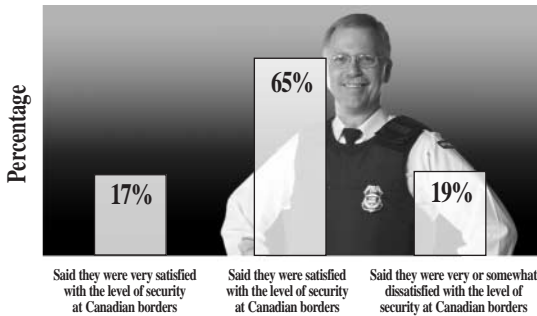


# The Poll Station

With Linda Banister

The United States government continues to bolster its homeland security. Beginning in 2007, Canadians without a passport will be barred from entering the U.S. by air or sea, unless they have a special U.S. border crossing card or other accepted documents. In 2008, this requirement will be the norm for land entry as well. This month we asked Edmontonians for their thoughts regarding homeland security.

## HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH BORDER SECURITY?



Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the level of security at Canadian borders. Approximately two-thirds (65 percent) were satisfied with border security with 17 percent very satisfied. Nineteen percent were very or somewhat dissatisfied with the level of security at Canadian borders.

Almost two-thirds (63 percent) of respondents indicated they hold passports, and 65 percent agreed that passports are an effective way to help secure the country. Almost half (48 percent) agreed the government is doing the best it can to protect the country, while 33 percent disagreed. Only half (49 percent) felt that a passport should be a requirement to enter the United States.

## HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT TERRORISM?



Respondents were then asked to rate their level of concern that Canada is a target for terrorism. Sixty-six percent expressed some level of concern, while 30 percent were very concerned. Almost 60 percent did not feel that Canada is safe from terrorism, while 30 percent feel it is.

## WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE BORDER SECURITY?



Finally, survey participants were asked to identify what could be done to improve the security at our borders. The most common response, made by 12 percent of respondents, was mandatory passport/photo identification requirement. Eleven percent suggested increasing security staff on patrol as a method to improve security at our borders. Numerous other suggestions were made including: stricter immigration standards (five percent); more checks and more consistent screenings (four percent); and stricter monitoring and documentation of inbound and out-bound activities (four percent).

Over three-quarters (80 percent) of respondents believe that an increase in safety is worth some inconvenience caused by tightened security.

The Poll Station surveyed 100 City of Edmonton residents on the topic and, while the results of the research are not statistically reliable, they do provide a qualitative indication of what Edmontonians are thinking. ✓

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