

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Canadians Want Anglican Church to Ordain Women and Homosexuals

Majority of respondents agrees with more liberal branch of the Church.

[TORONTO – Jul. 23, 2008] – The majority of Canadians think both women and homosexuals should be allowed to be ordained as priests and bishops of the Church of England, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 75 per cent of respondents support a recent decision by the Church of England—the mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion—to ordain women as bishops.

Notably, more Canadian women (81%) than men (68%) support the resolution to have women ordained as bishops—a decision that has provoked a major controversy within the Church, even though women are already allowed to serve as priests.

Canadians are also supportive of the Church's directive to allow homosexuals to be ordained as priests or bishops. More than half of respondents (55%) think the Anglican Church should maintain this policy—first introduced in 2003—while 27 per cent want it to reverse this decision.

Again, women (65%) appear to be more open to the idea of having homosexuals ordained than men (45%). Younger respondents are also more likely to agree with the policy supported by the more liberal branch of the Church. While two-thirds of respondents aged 18 to 34 (65%) say the Anglican Church should continue to ordain homosexuals as priests or bishops, the proportion stands at 55 per cent for those between the ages of 35 and 54, and 49 per cent for those over the age of 55.

KEY FINDINGS

- **75% of Canadians think the Anglican Church should allow women to be ordained as bishops**
- **More women (81%) than men (68%) share this view**
- **55% of Canadians support decision to allow homosexuals to be ordained as Anglican priests or bishops**
- **Women (65%) are also more inclined than men (45%) to agree with this directive**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From July 18 to July 20, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of **1,005 adult Canadians**. The margin of error for the total sample is **+/- 3.1%**, **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.*

Anglican Church

As you may know, the Church of England—the mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion—allows women to become priests. Recently, the Church agreed to ordain women as bishops. Hundreds of Anglican bishops who disagree with the decision have threatened to leave the Church. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
The Anglican Church should allow women to be ordained as bishops	75%	74%	77%	70%	75%	75%	73%
The Anglican Church should not allow women to be ordained as bishops	10%	9%	16%	6%	9%	9%	10%
Not sure	16%	17%	7%	23%	16%	15%	17%

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	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
The Anglican Church should allow women to be ordained as bishops	68%	81%	78%	75%	71%	71%	78%	79%	71%	74%	82%
The Anglican Church should not allow women to be ordained as bishops	12%	7%	6%	7%	16%	10%	10%	9%	10%	11%	7%
Not sure	20%	12%	15%	18%	13%	19%	12%	13%	20%	15%	11%

Anglican Church

As you may know, the first homosexual Anglican bishop was ordained in the United States in 2003. This prompted a major crisis within the Church, since hundreds of bishops oppose allowing homosexuals to be ordained. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
The Anglican Church should forbid homosexuals from being ordained as priests or bishops	27%	25%	27%	33%	27%	23%	33%
The Anglican Church should continue to allow homosexuals to be ordained as priests or bishops	55%	59%	59%	54%	53%	57%	53%
Not sure	18%	16%	13%	13%	19%	20%	14%

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	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College/ Tech school	Univ+
The Anglican Church should forbid homosexuals from being ordained as priests or bishops	34%	20%	18%	25%	36%	26%	29%	25%	29%	29%	18%
The Anglican Church should continue to allow homosexuals to be ordained as priests or bishops	45%	65%	65%	55%	49%	53%	57%	60%	49%	54%	69%
Not sure	20%	15%	17%	20%	15%	21%	14%	15%	22%	17%	13%

Angus Reid Strategies is a 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.

Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its four offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices San Francisco, New York and London, England. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

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.

Over the last year, Angus Reid has covered five elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes. <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=194>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.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**