

MAXIME BERNIER

# Canadian Majority Wants RCMP to Probe Bernier's Security Breach

*53% of respondents believe the situation raises questions about Stephen Harper's judgment.*

[VANCOUVER – May 29, 2008] – Many Canadian adults believe the recently revealed security breach involving former Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier should be investigated, a new *Toronto Star* / Angus Reid poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 57 per cent of respondents think an RCMP investigation into the security breach—which involves classified documents left in the home of Bernier's former girlfriend—is warranted.

Atlantic Canada (76%) and Quebec (60%) garner the largest proportion of respondents who demand an RCMP probe, along with Canadians over the age of 55 (61%).

In addition, 53 per cent of respondents in Canada—including 64 per cent of Quebecers and 61 per cent of Atlantic Canadians—think the Bernier situation raises questions about the Prime Minister's judgment.

In the Conservative stronghold of Alberta (57%) and in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (51%), respondents believe the incident does not call Stephen Harper's judgment into question.

The survey also asked Canadians about International Trade Minister David Emerson taking over as Foreign Affairs Minister on an interim basis. While a third of respondents (33%) agree with the appointment, half of Canadians (50%) are not sure. The highest level of rejection for Emerson comes in his home province of British Columbia (28%), where he faced public protests following his decision to join the Conservative cabinet despite being elected in the 2006 ballot as a Liberal candidate.

## KEY FINDINGS

- » **57% think an RCMP investigation into the security breach is warranted**
- » **53% think the Bernier situation raises questions about the Prime Minister's judgment**
- » **33% agree with David Emerson's interim appointment; 50% are not sure**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From May 27 to May 28, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,001 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.*

### Maxime Bernier

As you may know, Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier submitted his resignation on Monday. Bernier has been substituted on an interim basis by International Trade Minister Emerson. Do you agree or disagree with Emerson's appointment?

	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Agree	33%	35%	33%	27%	33%	29%	43%
Disagree	17%	28%	3%	25%	19%	15%	11%
Not sure	50%	37%	64%	48%	48%	57%	45%

### Maxime Bernier

As you may know, Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier submitted his resignation on Monday. Bernier has been substituted on an interim basis by International Trade Minister Emerson. Do you agree or disagree with Emerson's appointment?

	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College / Tech school	Univ+
Agree	37%	29%	28%	31%	39%	36%	34%	33%	38%	28%	34%
Disagree	18%	16%	13%	18%	20%	14%	18%	22%	12%	17%	21%
Not sure	45%	55%	58%	51%	41%	50%	48%	45%	49%	54%	45%

<b>Maxime Bernier</b>							
Bernier resigned over a security breach, after some classified documents were left in the home of his former girlfriend. From what you have seen, read, or heard, do you think an RCMP investigation into the security breach is warranted?							
	Region						
	National	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Yes	57%	54%	52%	58%	54%	60%	76%
No	27%	26%	27%	27%	32%	23%	18%
Not sure	16%	20%	20%	16%	15%	17%	6%

<b>Maxime Bernier</b>											
Bernier resigned over a security breach, after some classified documents were left in the home of his former girlfriend. From what you have seen, read, or heard, do you think an RCMP investigation into the security breach is warranted?											
	Gender		Age			Income			Education		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College / Tech school	Univ+
Yes	56%	58%	52%	59%	61%	57%	62%	51%	53%	62%	54%
No	33%	21%	28%	26%	27%	25%	27%	29%	26%	23%	33%
Not sure	10%	21%	21%	15%	12%	18%	10%	20%	21%	15%	12%

<b>Maxime Bernier</b>							
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – “The Bernier situation raises questions about the Prime Minister’s judgment.”							
	<b>Region</b>						
	<b>National</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>MB/SK</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>PQ</b>	<b>ATL</b>
<b>Agree</b>	53%	54%	30%	44%	51%	64%	61%
<b>Disagree</b>	40%	37%	57%	51%	41%	32%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	9%	13%	5%	8%	4%	1%

<b>Maxime Bernier</b>											
Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – “The Bernier situation raises questions about the Prime Minister’s judgment.”											
	<b>Gender</b>		<b>Age</b>			<b>Income</b>			<b>Education</b>		
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>18-34</b>	<b>35-54</b>	<b>55+</b>	<b>&lt;\$50K</b>	<b>\$50-99K</b>	<b>\$100K+</b>	<b>HS or less</b>	<b>College / Tech school</b>	<b>Univ+</b>
<b>Agree</b>	50%	56%	42%	53%	62%	54%	50%	53%	51%	53%	54%
<b>Disagree</b>	47%	33%	45%	41%	35%	36%	45%	42%	40%	39%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	11%	13%	5%	4%	10%	5%	4%	9%	8%	4%

*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](http://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>*

- 30 -

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

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:  
[www.angusreidstrategies.com](http://www.angusreidstrategies.com)**