

Decision-Makers Report

OVERVIEW

Part of the **Security Monitor 2005-6 Study**

Overview

For the past four years, EKOS' Security Monitor study has focused exclusively on understanding the attitudes of the Canadian public with respect to the safety and security landscape in Canada. This year, we decided to broaden our scope by examining Canadian decision-makers' view of the security landscape.

In other studies, EKOS has regularly found many differences when comparing the attitudes of decision-makers and general public, primarily in relation to value-based lines of questioning.

In the area of security, however, attitudes appear to converge more often than they diverge. For example, decision-makers share the general public's strong security ethic; both populations generally approve of the government's handling of the security file, and where there are detractors, the lean is towards adopting a more, not less aggressive approach. We also find that attitudes towards civil liberties are similarly divided. Although security tends to trump civil liberties, acceptance of this is not unconditional, and decision-makers are slightly more sceptical of the government's ability to strike a balance between security and civil liberties. One area where significant differences emerge is in terms of threat perception. Somewhat surprisingly, decision-makers' perception of risk is amplified (e.g., they are considerably more likely than other Canadians to believe that a terrorist attack in Canada is inevitable).

The results presented in this report are based on a survey of 458 decision-makers in the public and private sectors in Canada undertaken in October

2005.¹ Throughout the report the views of decision-makers are compared to those of the Canadian public.²

¹ The methodological details are shown in the appendix to this report.

² The Canadian public results are taken from past iterations of the Security Monitor, and are primarily drawn from the September and October 2005 waves.

