

2006 • 2007

PART OF THE **SECURITY MONITOR** STUDY



EKOS

Decision-Maker Wave

Decision-Maker Wave

Part of the **Security Monitor** 2006-7 Study



January 2007

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Overview	3
Government Responses	5
Security and Civil Liberties	13
Perception of Threat	19
Appendix: Research Methodology	27

Introduction

In the immediate aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, EKOS launched its Security Monitor study. Now in its sixth year, the study continues to demonstrate how dynamic the safety and security landscape is in Canada. These shifts are sometimes unexpected and can alter the public context in terms of policy and the delivery of security services.

The salience of security and threat is much higher today than it was at the close of the last decade and issues related to public security are increasingly critical to the evaluation of broad government performance. Security issues are also becoming crucial yardsticks by which citizens measure the performance of governments.

Today, the Security Monitor study is one of the most important examinations of the public's perceptions of issues of safety and security in Canada. Findings from the past year's Monitor reinforced the need for ongoing monitoring of the public's continually evolving outlook. Pertinent events such as the London transit bombings, rising chaos in Iraq, gun violence in Toronto, Hurricane Katrina, the changing role of the Canadian Forces, and the global focus on a potential influenza pandemic have all had an impact on the public's outlook. Likewise, the continued, intense, and rising concerns about threats linked to climate and the environment demonstrated the breadth of concerns about the nature of threats today. Events such as these have reinforced the dominance of what we have labelled the "security ethic" which has implications for the public's expectations of the state to act as a guardian of risk or risk manager.

The results presented in this report are based on a survey of 321 decision-makers in the public and private sectors in Canada undertaken in November and December 2006.¹ 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 October and December 2006 waves.

Overview

Since its inception, 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. For the first time last year, we decided to broaden our scope and examine Canadian decision-makers' view of the security landscape. The results were surprising and added depth to our understanding of the Canadian outlook on security. For this reason, we decided to continue our examination of this elite population in the 2006-7 iteration.

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. When it comes to the area of security, however, last year's results revealed that the attitudes of decision-makers and the general public tend to converge more often than diverge. The trend towards convergence continues to emerge in this year's examination.

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. And while decision-makers express considerably higher levels of awareness of the federal government's current security efforts, recall of specific measures is very similar to the general public.

Attitudes towards civil liberties are also comparable. Here we see that, when forced to choose, security tends to trump civil liberties for both decision-makers and the general public. That said decision-makers tend to be slightly more concerned with the civil liberties side of the equation, although this difference is not overwhelming.

Even in the area of risk perception we see more similarities than differences. Both decision-makers and the general public agree that the world has become a more dangerous place over the past five years, and that Canada, on the other hand, has remained relatively unchanged. For those that think we live in an increasingly risky world or country, the threat of terrorism is cited by both populations as the primary source for their concerns. Somewhat surprisingly, decision-makers' perception of the threat of terrorism is amplified (e.g., they are considerably more likely than other Canadians to name terrorism as a source for their concerns and are more inclined to believe that a terrorist attack in Canada is inevitable).

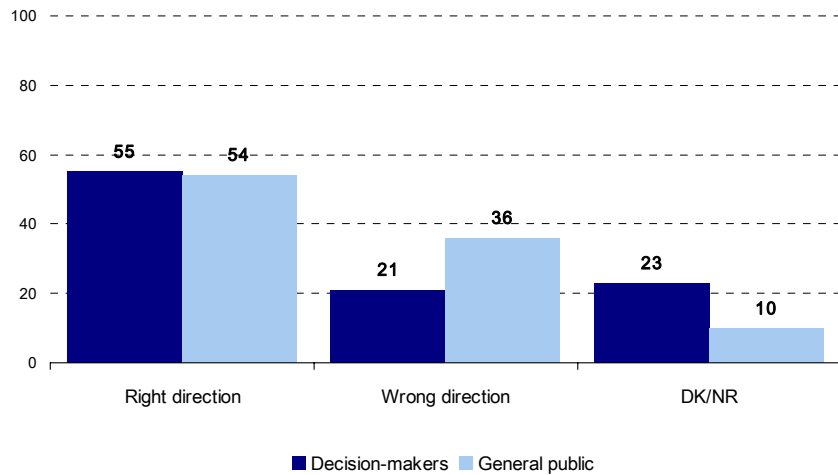


Government Responses

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Direction of Government on national security

Q: All things considered, would you say that the Government of Canada is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction in terms of national security?



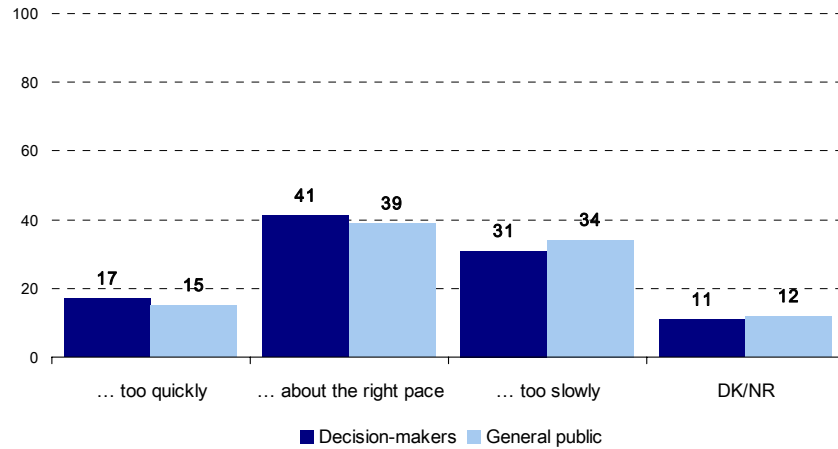
Base: Decision-makers Nov./Dec. 06 n=321; General public Dec. 06 n=1012

With more than 1 in 2 saying “right direction”, the Canadian general public and decision-makers are **similarly supportive of the Government of Canada’s direction on national security**. In terms of opposition, however, the public is more vocal, with 36 per cent disapproving of the government’s direction compared to 21 per cent of decision-makers who say “wrong direction”. Overall, decision-makers are less likely to pass judgment (23 per cent do not offer a position compared to 10 per cent of the public).

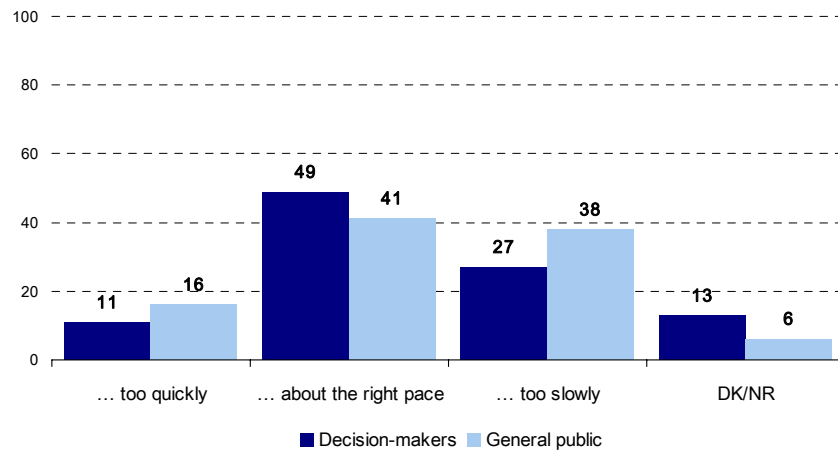
Moving beyond general attitudes towards government direction on security, respondents were also asked about the amount and pace of changes introduced to address security issues / terrorism. While pluralities of the public and decision-makers **approve of the pace at which these changes have been introduced**, there is a strong lean in both groups towards seeing the response as being “too slow” (although notably less pronounced among decision-makers). Fewer than one in five decision-makers or members of the general public characterize the response as being “too quick”.

Attitudes towards the amount/pace of changes

Q: Thinking about the amount and pace of changes the Government of Canada has announced to deal with **security issues**, do you think they are moving ...



Q: Thinking about the amount and pace of changes the Government of Canada has announced to deal with **terrorism**, do you think they are moving ...

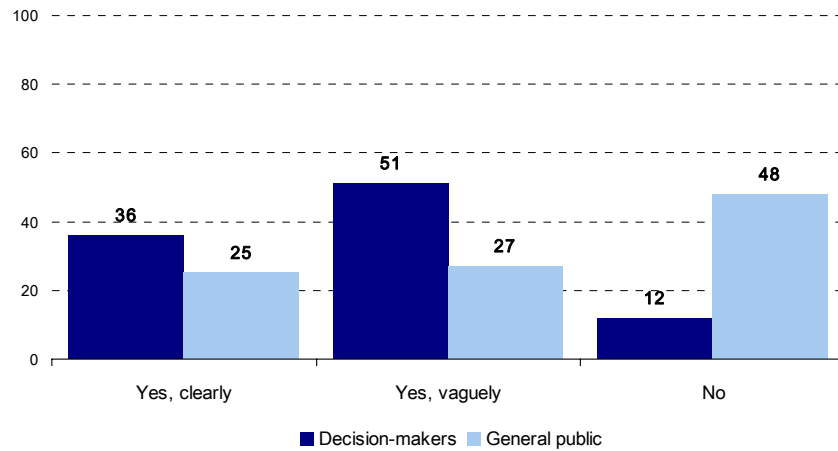


Base: Decision-makers Nov./Dec. 06 n=half sample; General public "security issues" Oct. 06 n=1008 and "terrorism" Dec. 06 n=1012

Decision-makers are much **more likely than members of the general public to say that they recall hearing about activities** the Government of Canada has taken **to improve public safety and security** over the past year (87 per cent clear / vague recollection compared to 52 per cent of the public). Despite having varying levels of overall awareness, the **same types of activities are top-of-mind** for both decision-makers and the general public (i.e. airport / border security, increased intelligence, terrorist investigations, etc).

Awareness and recall of security measures

Q: Do you recall hearing about any actions that the Government of Canada has taken to improve public safety and security in the past year?



Q: What activities do you recall hearing about?*

	Decision-makers	General public
Airport / air security	32	34
Border security	28	26
Increased policing/intelligence	13	7
Investigating terrorism in Canada	8	7
Legislation/government laws	7	21
Immigration/deportation	1	6
Other	5	20
DK/NR	22	19

Base: Decision-makers Nov./Dec. 06 n=321; General public Oct. 06 n=1008; *only asked of those with prior awareness

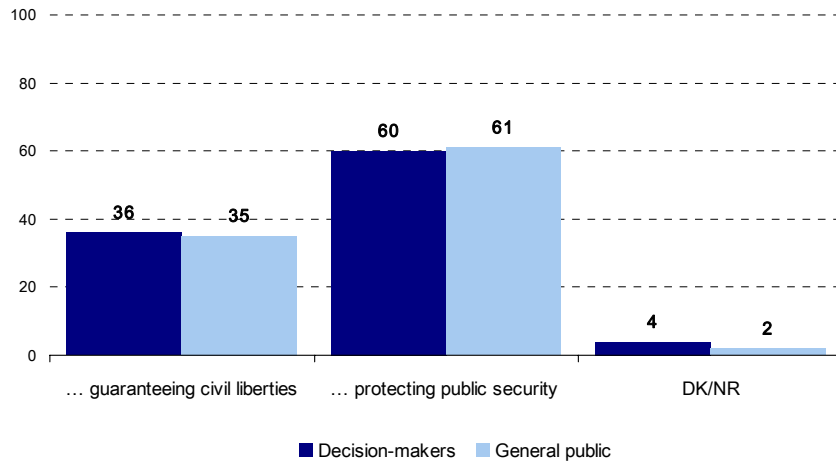


Security and Civil Liberties

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Civil liberties vs. security

Q: Recognizing that both are important in today's world, which of the following do you feel the Government of Canada should place the most emphasis on . . . or . . . ?



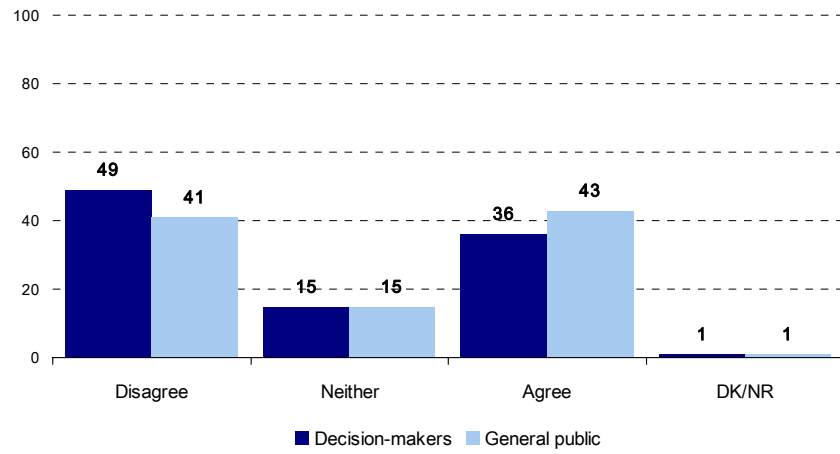
Base: Decision-makers Nov. 06 n=; General public Dec. 06 n=1012

When forced to choose, decision-makers (like the general public) lean strongly to **placing an emphasis on security over civil liberties**.

Interestingly, this is true even though they **also have concerns with the civil liberties side of the equation**. Indeed, almost half of decision-makers (49 per cent) do not think that police and intelligence agencies should have more powers to ensure security if it means that Canadians personal privacy will be compromised (compared to 36 per cent who would support this proposition). Although also divided on this issue, the general public leans towards granting these additional powers (43 per cent compared to 41 per cent who oppose).

Perceived necessity of granting additional security powers

Q: Police and intelligence agencies should have more powers to ensure security even if it means Canadians have to give up some personal privacy safeguards.



Base: Decision-makers Nov./Dec. 06 n=321; General public Dec. 06 n=1012



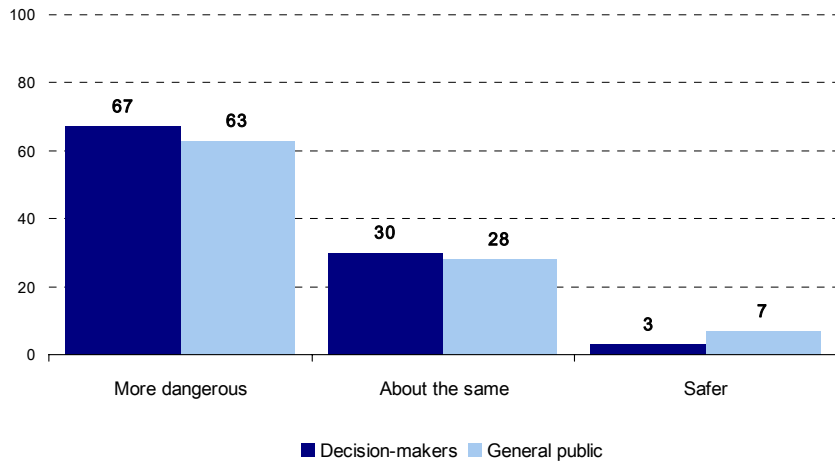
Perception of Threat

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Decision-makers are as convinced as the general public that **the world is a scarier place than it was before September 11, 2001** (respectively, 67 and 63 per cent say “more dangerous”). For those who do not believe that the safety of the world is more precarious, the lean is towards seeing things as unchanged from five years ago (about 1 in 3 from both populations) rather than “safer” (fewer than 1 in 10 decision-makers or general public). The **threat of terrorism is overwhelmingly mentioned as the primary reason** for why the world is “more dangerous” (by 50 per cent of decision-makers and 38 per cent of the general public).

Views on the perceived safety/danger of the world

Q: From your own point of view, do you feel that, overall, the world is safer, more dangerous, or about the same as it was five years ago?



Q: What is the MAIN reason why you believe the world is more dangerous today?*

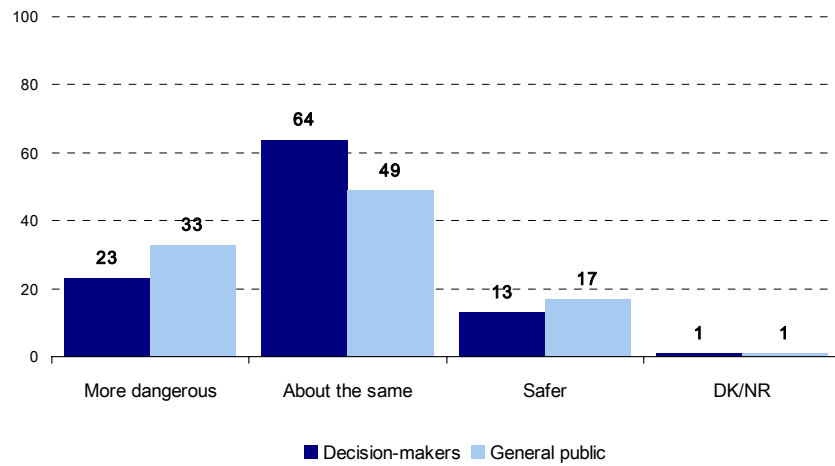
	Decision-makers	General public
Terrorism	50	38
U.S. foreign policy	18	18
Crime and violence on the rise	8	12
Tolerance levels in decline	9	6
Lack of proper screening of immigrants	7	1
Proliferation of nuclear weapons/plants	2	2
Other	1	19
DK/NR	6	3

Base: Decision-makers Nov./Dec 06 n=half sample; General public Oct. 06 n=1008 *Question asked of those who consider the world "more dangerous"

Unlike their views on the world, decision-makers and the general public diverge somewhat when it comes to the perceived safety / danger of Canada. In this case, a majority (64 per cent) of **decision-makers feel that Canada is as safe as it was five years ago**, whereas fewer than half (49 per cent) of the general public share this view. Rather, the public are more inclined to think that Canada is “more dangerous” (33 per cent compared to 23 per cent of decision-makers). Once again, terrorism is considered the main threat to the safety of Canada, particularly by decision-makers (47 per cent compared to 36 per cent of the general public).

Views on the perceived safety/danger of Canada

Q: From your own point of view, do you feel that, overall, Canada is safer, more dangerous, or about the same as it was five years ago?



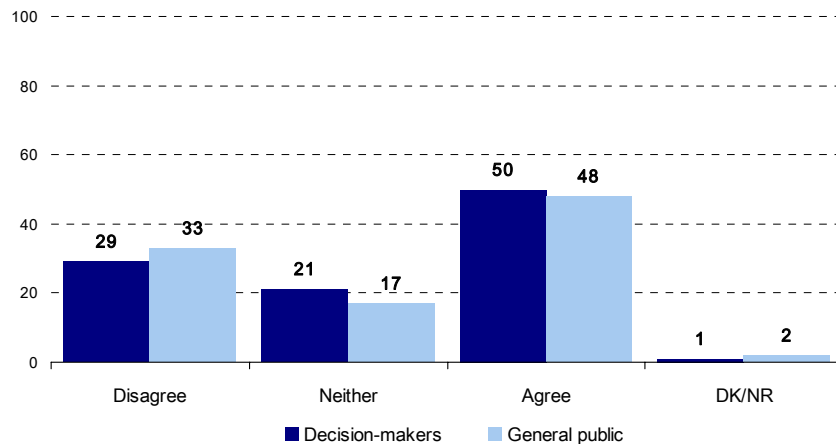
Q: What is the MAIN reason why you believe Canada is more dangerous today?

	Decision-makers	General public
Threat of terrorism	47	36
Crime and violence on the rise	25	23
Lack of proper screening of immigrants	11	12
Laws not being enforced properly	8	8
Other	6	18
DK/NR	3	4

Base: Decision-makers Nov./Dec 06 n=half sample; General public Dec. 06 n=1012 *Question asked of those who consider Canada "more dangerous"

Is a terrorist attack in Canada inevitable?

Q: It's just a matter of time before there is a major terrorist attack on Canadian soil.



Base: Decision-makers Nov./Dec. n=321; General Public Dec. 06 n=1012

Given their concerns about terrorism threatening the safety of Canada and the world, it is not surprising to find that **1 in 2 decision-makers** (50 per cent) believes that “it is **only a matter of time before there is a major terrorist attack on Canadian soil.**” What is surprising is that this perception is even slightly higher than the general public’s assessment of this risk (48 per cent).



Appendix: Research Methodology

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Research Methodology

The methodology planned for the 2006-7 Security Monitor study involves a total of nine waves of research to be conducted over the course of the study.

- Six regular waves involving a telephone survey with a national random sample of 1,000 Canadians.
- One benchmarking wave (near the beginning of the study). This wave focuses on core issues and designed to develop a better profile of Canadians in the safety/security space. This survey involves a sample of 2,000 Canadians.
- One survey with a national random sample of 1,000 Americans.
- One survey with Canadian public and private sector decision-makers.

The results from the final wave are based on the following:

The results from this wave are based on the following:

- An online survey of Canadian decision-makers undertaken in November and December 2006.
- Two main classifications of decision-makers were surveyed: employees in the public sector (i.e. elected and non-elected officials) and employees in the private sector in decision-making positions.
- A total of 321 surveys were completed (153 in the public sector and 168 in the private sector).
- Findings from questions posed on the full sample may be considered accurate within +/-5.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

	Field Dates	Surveys	Margin of error
Wave 1	Oct. 20-30, 2006	1,008	+/-3.1 percentage points
Wave 2	Dec.11-17, 2006	1,012	+/-3.1 percentage points
Decision-Maker Wave	Nov. 28-Dec.11, 2006	321	+/-5.5 percentage points