

# CANADA

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## Majority of Canadians oppose Trudeau's plan to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees over in just six weeks: poll



AILEEN DONNELLY | November 18, 2015 4:24 PM ET  
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A Syrian woman holds her baby after their arrival on a small boat from the Turkish coast on the northeastern Greek island of Lesbos.

AP Photo/Santi Palacios

The majority of Canadians oppose the government's plan to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees in the next six weeks, and the most common complaint is that there isn't enough time, a new poll shows.

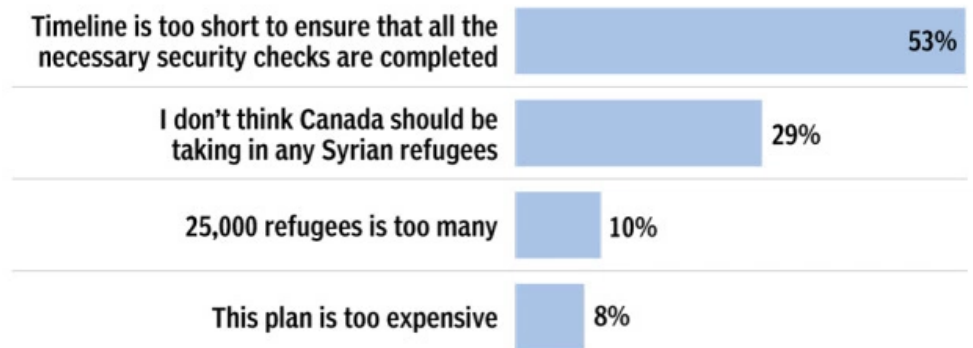
More than half of Canadians (54 per cent) either moderately or strongly oppose Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's plan to bring 25,000 refugees over by Jan. 1, 2016. Meanwhile, 42 per cent moderately or strongly support the plan, [according to an Angus Reid Institute poll](#) conducted three days after terrorist attacks killed 129 people in Paris.

Of those who oppose the Liberal government's refugee plan, the majority (53 per cent) cite tight timelines as their main concern, saying they fear it's too short to allow for appropriate security checks. Another ten per cent think 25,000 refugees is just too many, while eight per cent say the plan is too expensive. The Liberal government has not released details of their plan, including how they will get all the refugees to Canada and how much it will cost.

Almost one-third (29 per cent) of those who oppose the Liberal plan say Canada should not take in any refugees from the war-torn region. That means about 16 per cent of all poll respondents (those who support and oppose the plan) want to close the nation's borders to Syrians.

## OPINION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO RESETTLE 25,000 SYRIAN REFUGEES BY JAN. 1

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS



SOURCE: ANGUS REID

NATIONAL POST

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Opposition is highest in Alberta (62 per cent) and lowest in Atlantic Canada (46 per cent).

The poll suggests that Premier Brad Wall is on the right side of public opinion in Saskatchewan.

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On Monday, he sent a letter urging Trudeau to slow the intake of Syrian refugees to ensure Canadians aren't threatened by "malevolent" terrorists.

"I am concerned that the current date-driven plan could severely undermine the refugee screening process," he wrote.

In Saskatchewan and Manitoba, 59 per cent of respondents opposed Trudeau's plan and only 36 per cent supported it.

[Trudeau reaffirmed his ambitious election promise](#) on Tuesday after several municipal and [provincial leaders suggested](#) he was more concerned with speed than security.

“We continue to be very much committed to keeping Canadians safe while we do the right thing to engage responsibly on this humanitarian crisis,” Trudeau said.

Public opinion has changed only slightly in the wake of the attacks allegedly carried out by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant terrorists. **At the end of last month, another Angus Reid poll** found that 51 per cent of Canadians opposed the refugee plan, while 39 per cent said they support it. That survey showed that the refugee plan was the second-most-opposed part of the Liberal platform.

The online survey of 1,503 Canadians — a representative randomized sample drawn from members of the Angus Reid Forum — was conducted on Nov. 16. A probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of plus-or-minus 2.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

November 16, 2015

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Lapointe Block  
80 Wellington Street  
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

Thank you for your invitation to the First Ministers' Meeting on November 29th in Ottawa. I look forward to this meeting and to working with you through your commitment to stronger bilateral practical relations.

With this in mind, I am writing to raise Saskatchewan's concerns about the fast-tracking of refugee claims in order to meet your goal of bringing 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of the year. I am concerned that the current date-driven plan could seriously undermine the refugee screening process.

Therefore, I am asking you to suspend your current plan to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of the year and to re-evaluate this goal and the process to place to achieve it.

I understand that the overwhelming majority of refugees are fleeing violence and hardship and pose no threat to anyone. Your desire to help these people is noble. We share that desire.


However, if even a small number of individuals who wish to do harm to our country or to enter Canada as a result of a rushed refugee resettlement process, the results could be devastating. The recent attacks in Paris are a grim reminder of the death and destruction even a small number of ill-intent individuals can inflict upon a peaceful country and its citizens. Surely, we do not


Saskatchewan will be fully supportive of any delays in resettling Syrian refugees in order to ensure appropriate screening and security checks. We support a rescheduling of screening and security efforts coming in the wake of earlier, deliberations and discussion in this matter.

I know that your commitment to bring 25,000 refugees to Canada by the end of the year was an election promise and you want to honour your election promises. However, I know Canadians will understand if you were to pause this commitment for the time being in the interest of the safety and security of all Canadians.

I note that refugee resettlement is one of the items to be discussed at our meeting next week. With that in mind, I am asking that you would have the appropriate officials provide Premier with a complete intelligence briefing on the second threat that exists in Canada today and on how the federal government plans to ensure that no ill-intent operatives are able to enter Canada, either as part of a refugee resettlement or in any other manner.

I look forward to discussing these matters with you in person at our upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,  
  
Brad Wall  
Premier

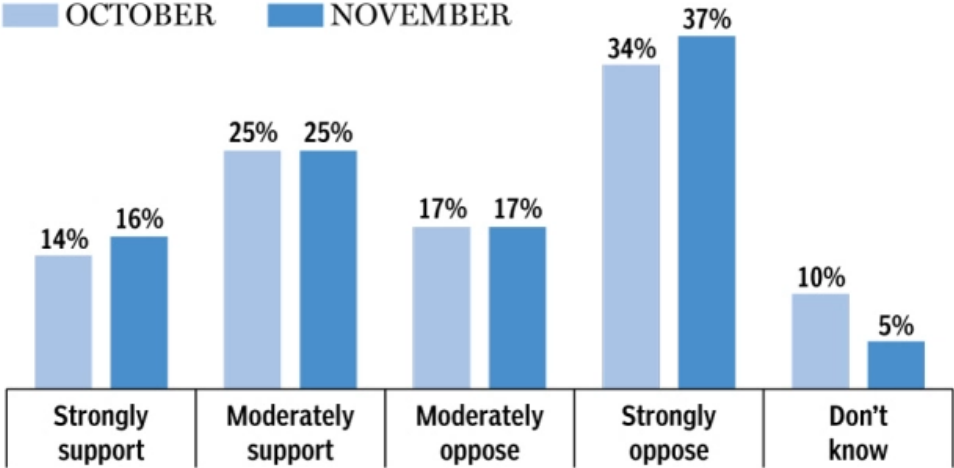
**Brad Wall**  
@PremierBradWall

Refugee initiative cannot be date/quota driven. Safety must be priority. Wrote to PM asking him to re-evaluate plan

12:07 PM - 16 Nov 2015

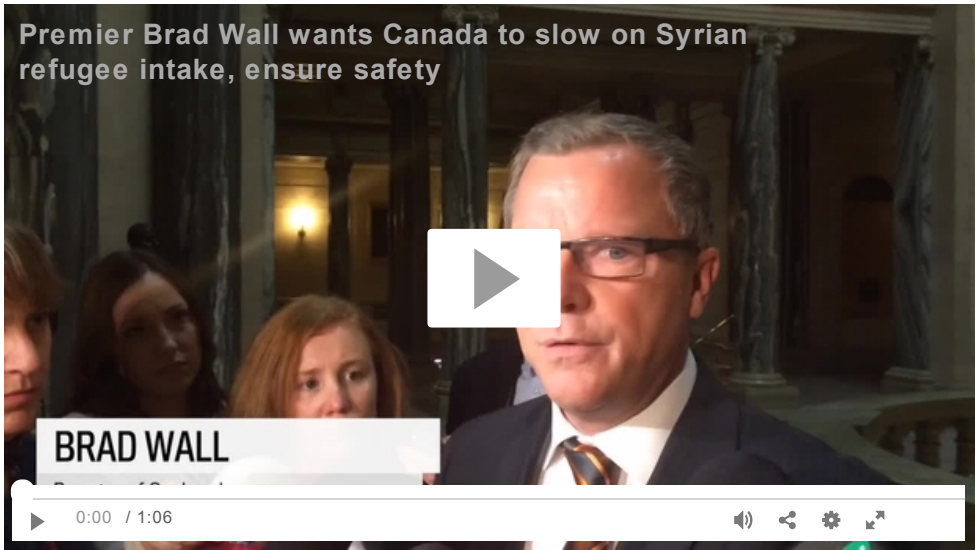
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PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS  
OCTOBER NOVEMBER



SOURCE: ANGUS REID NATIONAL POST

Premier Brad Wall wants Canada to slow on Syrian refugee intake, ensure safety



BRAD WALL

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