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**DB12**

Projet de modification des installations de  
stockage des déchets radioactifs et  
réfection de Gentilly-2

**Bécancour**

**6212-02-005**

***CNSC Survey of Canadians' Knowledge of  
and Attitudes toward Nuclear Regulation***

***Submitted to:***

**Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission**

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Ipsos

Ipsos Reid

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## Project Authority

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## Introduction

In May 2000, the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* came into force, replacing the former Atomic Energy Control Board with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. As part of its mandate, the CNSC disseminates scientific, technical, and regulatory information concerning its activities and the effects on the environment and on the health and safety of persons from the development, production, possession, transport and use of nuclear energy and materials in Canada.

Now completing the fourth year of its mandate, the CNSC would like to assess Canadians' general knowledge, perceptions and attitudes towards nuclear regulation and safety.

By providing a clearer understanding of the knowledge and attitudes of Canadians towards nuclear regulation, the results of this survey will help guide the CNSC in meeting its mandate to protect health, safety, security and the environment and to respect Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

## Research Objectives

The research objectives for this survey were to measure and evaluate Canadians' basic knowledge and attitudes towards the regulation of Canada's nuclear industries within a very limited budget. More specifically, the survey serves to:

- Examine self-rated knowledge of nuclear regulation;
- measure public confidence in nuclear safety; and
- measure unaided public awareness of the CNSC.

## Methodology

Ipsos-Reid conducted this survey using the *Ipsos-Reid Canadian Omnibus Express*. Ipsos-Reid interviewed a nationally representative cross-section of 1,056 Canadian adults, which provides an overall margin of error of  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points, and statistically reliable results in each major region of the country. The following is a breakdown of sample for each region:

<b>REGION</b>	<b>SAMPLE SIZE N=1,055</b>	<b>MARGIN OF ERROR N=1,055</b>
British Columbia	N=133	$\pm 8.5$
Alberta	N=100	$\pm 9.8$
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	N=100	$\pm 9.8$
Ontario	N=385	$\pm 5.0$
Quebec	N=238	$\pm 6.4$
Atlantic Provinces	N=100	$\pm 9.8$
Canada	N=1,056	$\pm 3.1$

This survey was conducted between March 23 and March 26, 2004.

## Summary of Key Findings

### Awareness of Nuclear Regulation in Canada

- Findings reveal that one in three Canadians (33%) say they are very (only 3%) or somewhat (30%) informed about the way Canada's nuclear industries are regulated. Conversely, two-thirds say they are not very informed (40%) or not at all informed (27%).

### Confidence in Safety of Canada's Nuclear Industry

- Slightly more than half of respondents (59%) say they are very confident (only 10%) or somewhat confident (49%) that Canada's nuclear industries are effectively regulated for safety.
- Findings reveal that those who are generally uninformed about the regulation of Canada's nuclear industries are also least likely to feel confident (45% vs. 29% informed).

### Unaided Awareness of who is Responsible for the Regulation of Canada's Nuclear Industries

- Respondents were asked – unaided – who was responsible for the regulation of Canada's nuclear industries (one mention only accepted). Findings reveal that there is very low awareness of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission specifically (2%).
- The federal government was most often mentioned: 47% said the federal government (general mention), 3% said it was the "Defense Ministry"/military, 3% said it was the Prime Minister specifically, 2% said "Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission", and 2% said "Atomic Energy Control Board".
- It should be noted that one in five respondents (22%) were unable to provide an answer to this question.

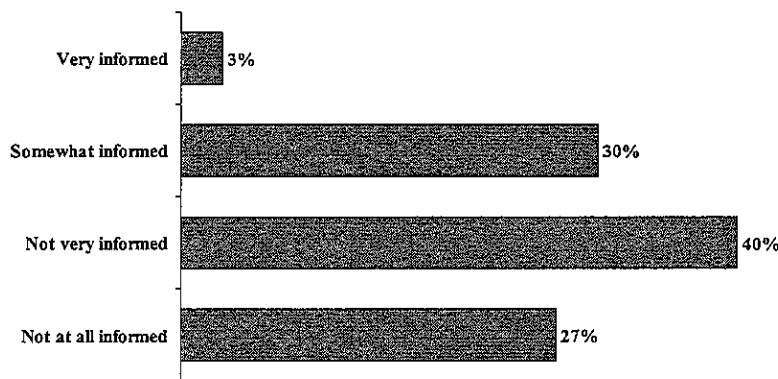
## Detailed Findings

### Awareness of Nuclear Regulation in Canada

Findings reveal that one in three Canadians (33%) say they are informed about the way Canada's nuclear industries are regulated. It should be noted that only 3% say they are very informed and 30% say they are somewhat informed. Conversely, two-thirds say that they are not very informed (40%) or not at all informed (27%).

### Awareness of Nuclear Regulation in Canada

*How informed are you about the way Canada's nuclear industries are regulated?*



Base: All respondents N=1,056

Respondents most likely to say that they are informed about the way nuclear industries are regulated in Canada (33%) are:

- residents of Ontario (39%),
- older (peaking at 40% among those 55 years of age or older),
- men (41% vs. women at 26%),
- those with higher educational attainment (peaking at 42% among those with a university education), and

- those earning an annual income of \$60K or more (36%).

Respondents most likely to say they are not very or not at all informed (66%) are:

- residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (75%),
- younger (peaking at 76% among those between 18 and 34 years of age),
- those with a high school education (72%),
- those earning between \$30K and less than \$60K (71%), and
- women (74% vs. men at 58%).

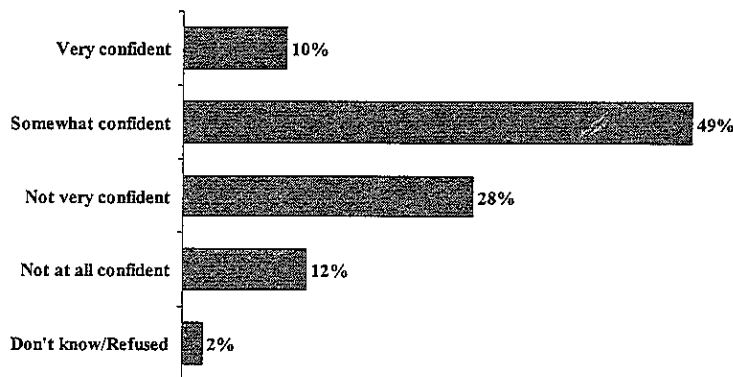


## Confidence in Safety of Canada's Nuclear Industry

When asked how confident they were that Canada's nuclear industries are effectively regulated for safety, slightly more than half of respondents (59%) said that they were very (only 10%) or somewhat (49%) confident.

### Confidence in Safety of Canada's Nuclear Industry

*How confident are you that Canada's nuclear industries are effectively regulated for safety?*



Base: All respondents N=1,056

Respondents most likely to say they are confident (59%) are:

- residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (78%),
- men (62% vs. women at 55%),
- those with higher educational attainment (peaking at 63% among those with a university education),
- those earning a higher annual income (peaking at 65% among those earning \$60K or more), and
- those who say they are informed about way nuclear industries are regulation in Canada (71% vs. 52% uninformed).

Respondents most likely to say that they are not very or not at all confident (40%) are:

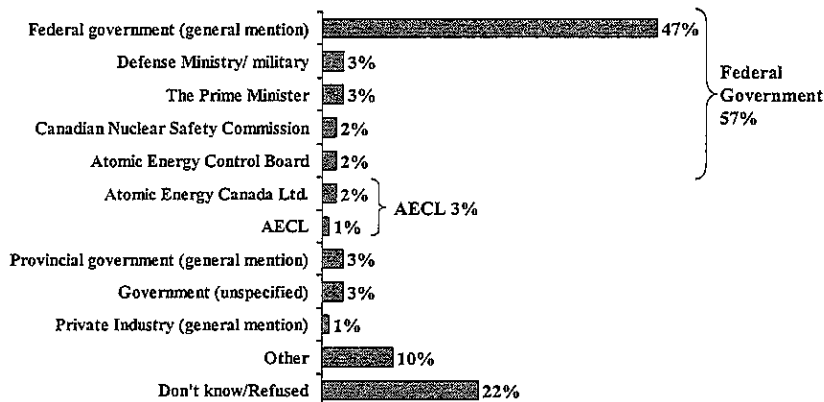
- residents of Quebec (61%),
- living in rural areas (44% vs. 39% urban),
- women (43% vs. men at 36%),
- those with lower educational attainment (peaking at 52% among those with less than a high school education),
- those earning a lower annual income (peaking at 45% among those earning less than \$30K),
- those who are generally uninformed (45% vs. 29% informed) and even higher among those who say they are not at all informed (59%).

## Unaided Awareness of who is Responsible for the Regulation of Canada's Nuclear Industries

Respondents were asked – unaided – who was responsible for the regulation of Canada's nuclear industries. Overall findings reveal that there is very low awareness of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission specifically (2%).

### Unaided Awareness of Who is Responsible for Regulation of Canada's Nuclear Industries

*Who would you say is responsible for the regulation of Canada's nuclear industries?*



Base: All respondents N=1,056

Governments were mentioned most often with 47% who mentioned the federal government (general mention), 3% who said the provincial government (general mention) and 3% who said government (unspecified).

As mentioned above, most respondents' answers related to the federal government:

- 47% said it was the federal government (general mention),
- 3% said it was the "Defense Ministry"/military,
- 3% said it was the Prime Minister specifically,
- 2% said "Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission", and

- 2% said "Atomic Energy Control Board".

Respondents most likely to mention the federal government (general mention) are:

- residents of Alberta (59%),
- those with higher educational attainment (peaking at 60% among those with a university education), and
- those earning a higher annual income (peaking at 54% among those earning \$60K or more).

A low number of respondents mentioned "Atomic Energy Canada Ltd" (2%) or AECL (1%) and 1% mentioned private industry (general mention).

It should be noted that one in five respondents (22%) were unable to provide an answer to this question.

## Appendix I – Topline Questionnaire

### 1. How informed are you about the way Canada's nuclear industries are regulated?

Base: All Respondents	TOTAL
Unweighted Base	1056
Weighted Base	1056
Very informed	3%
Somewhat informed	30%
Not very informed	40%
Not at all informed	27%
<b>TOPBOX &amp; LOWBOX SUMMARY</b>	
Informed (Top2Box)	33%
Not Informed (Low2Box)	66%

### 2. How confident are you that Canada's nuclear industries are effectively regulated for safety?

Base: All Respondents	TOTAL
Unweighted Base	1056
Weighted Base	1056
Very confident	10%
Somewhat confident	49%
Not very confident	28%
Not at all confident	12%
Don't know/Refused	2%
<b>TOPBOX &amp; LOWBOX SUMMARY</b>	
Confident (Top2Box)	58%
Not Confident (Low2Box)	40%

### 3. Who would you say is responsible for the regulation of Canada's nuclear industries?

Base: All Respondents	TOTAL
Unweighted Base	1056
Weighted Base	1056
Federal government (general mention)	47%
Provincial government (general mention)	3%
Government (unspecified)	3%
Defense Ministry/ military	3%
The Prime Minister	3%
Atomic Energy Canada Ltd.	2%
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission	2%
Atomic Energy Control Board	2%
Other	10%
Don't know/Refused	22%