

A Gallup poll in August 1987 found that 57 per cent of 1,040 Canadians thought that Canada should maintain troops in Europe with NATO, while 26 per cent thought that the troops should be brought back to Canada, and 16 per cent were undecided. About half, or 49 per cent, of those surveyed approved of government proposals to increase defence spending, with 34 per cent disapproving, and 17 per cent unsure.

In May 1988, Angus Reid Associates Inc. polled 1,501 Canadians on behalf of the Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA). The poll asked the following defence-related question:

The federal government has recently announced a policy calling for an increase in defence spending of approximately \$185 billion over the next twenty years. Some people think this money is necessary for Canada to expand our military capabilities and improve our security. Other people think it would be better to spend this money on improving our social services in areas like health care and education. What do you think?

The survey found that 31 per cent of respondents believed that the money was needed for the military, 60 per cent would rather spend it on social services, and 9 per cent were unsure.

The most controversial aspect of the 1987 Defence White Paper, the decision to purchase 10-12 nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs), also received attention from pollsters during the year. A poll of 1,520 Canadians conducted from 3 to 17 May 1988 by Environics Research Group Ltd. for the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament (CCACD), stated:

The federal government plans to buy a fleet of ten to twelve nuclear-propelled submarines at a total cost of at least \$8 billion.