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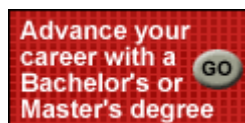
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Sunday

Canucks OK with national ID card except in West

By [MARIA MCCLINTOCK](#), SUN OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA -- Canadians would favour having a national ID card even if it's mandatory - except in the West where people balked at the idea of being forced to have it, a new SES Research/Sun Media poll shows.

The survey of 1,000 people polled by SES Canada Research Inc. between May 13 and 23, shows that 51% Canadians support such a card like the one Immigration Minister Denis Coderre has been pushing for, while 40% opposed it.

If the card was made mandatory for all Canadians, the poll found that 49% of those surveyed said they'd still support it; versus 42% who didn't.

But in Western Canada, where there was marginal support for the general idea of the card, 51% of the 350 people polled said they wouldn't support the idea of a national ID card if the government required all residents to carry one,

The SES poll is accurate within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

SES Research president Nik Nanos said support for such a card, will depend on whether the personal information contained on it is also linked to some kind of data base.

"What's really at the heart of the issue is balancing a person's right to security, and personal privacy," Nanos said.

Canadian Alliance MP Diane Ablonczy, who is skeptical about the need for the card, believes the poll results are due to the fact Canadians are law-abiding.

"Most of them take the attitude that, 'I've got nothing to hide and if this helps keep us safe ... then I'm OK with it,'" Ablonczy said.

"But as the debate progresses we will find more concerns



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arising, depending on the degree of tracking and the degree of database personal information accumulation associated with the card."

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