

Winnipeg Free Press Probe Research Inc. News Release

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

Release Date: October 10th, 2008

This province-wide Omnibus survey was designed and conducted by Probe Research Inc. via telephone interviews conducted between September 15th and October 6th, 2008 among a random and representative sampling of 600 Winnipeg adults.

With a sample of 600 one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results are within +/- 4.0 percentage points of what they would have been if the entire adult population of Winnipeg had been interviewed. The margin-of-error is higher within each of the survey's population sub-groups.

Modified random digit dialling was used to ensure that all Winnipeg adults would have an equal opportunity to participate in this Probe Research survey. Minor statistical weighting has been applied to this sample to ensure that the age and gender balance correspond with the province as a whole.

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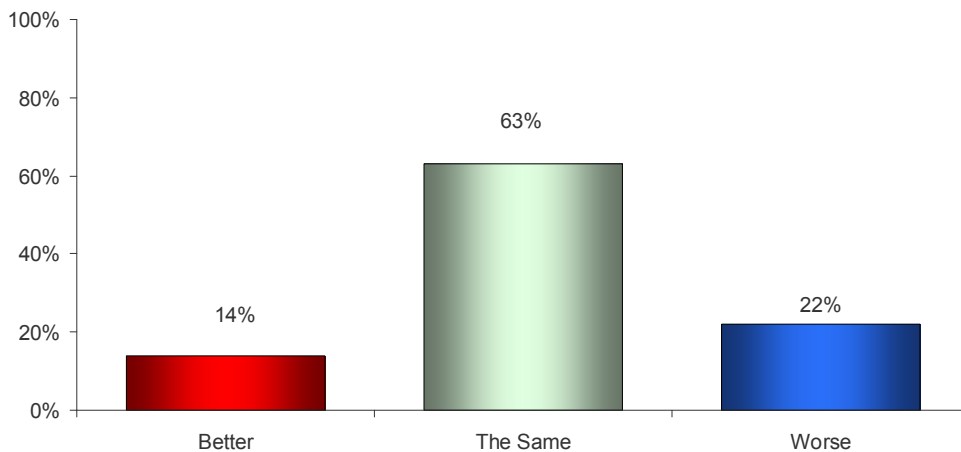
Winnipeg, Manitoba – Amid the backdrop of the release of the findings of the Taman Inquiry, a new poll suggests that about one-in-five Winnipeg adults have had their confidence shaken in the Winnipeg Police Service over the past six months. Probe Research conducted this latest random and representative sampling of 600 city adults for the *Winnipeg Free Press* between September 15th and October 6th, 2008.

About one-fifth of those surveyed (22%) said their perception of the Winnipeg Police Service has worsened over the course of the past six months. Fourteen percent of those surveyed said their perception of the WPS has improved, while an overwhelming majority of Winnipeggers (63%) report that their view of the police force has remained unchanged.



Changes in Public Perception of WPS - Past Six Months -

1. "Thinking about the past six months, has your opinion of the Winnipeg Police Service become better, worse, or remained about the same?" (n=600)



Base: All Respondents

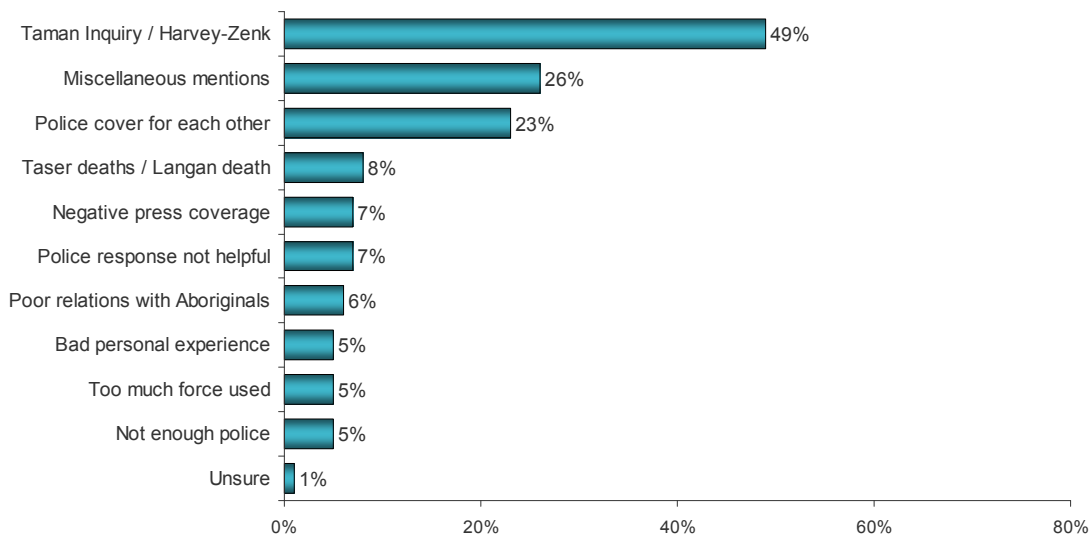
TAMAN INQUIRY SOURS PUBLIC ON POLICE

When asked why their perception of the Winnipeg Police Service had become more negative, one-half of those with this view pointed to the information released during the recent inquiry into Crystal Taman's death (49%) as the principal reason. Similarly, one-quarter (23%) raised concerns about police officers overlooking less desirable aspects of their colleagues' conduct. Smaller numbers reported that their view had been negatively influenced by recent deaths linked to Taser use (8%), negative press coverage in general (7%) or, at the personal level, as a result of a call to police that was not helpful to the respondent (7%).



Rationale for Viewing Police in More Negative Light

2. "Why do you view the Winnipeg Police Service in a more negative light?" (n=129)



Base: Opinion has become worse in past six months

For more information on this survey, please contact:

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