Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

# IANS report recasts a general Canadian poll as a survey of Canadian Sikhs

India New England News published an IANS report asserting that a majority of Canadian Sikhs oppose Khalistan-related activism. The Sikh Disinformation Lab assesses the report as Misleading: the polling cited was a survey of Canadian adults generally, not of Sikhs.


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NARRATIVES
Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism · Portraying Sikh Practices as Incompatible with Society · Labelling Sikhs as “Good” or “Bad” Sikhs · Portraying Sikh Protests as Extremist Activity · Labelling Sikh Individuals as Terrorists Without Evidence

OUR ASSESSMENT

## What was published

India New England News published an IANS report titled "Khalistani Separatist Activities Face Growing Public Opposition in Canada: Report," based on a November 2, 2026 opinion piece by Antariksh Singh in Khalsa Vox.

The article claims that Khalistan-related political activities are facing increasing opposition in Canada, including from Canadian Sikhs themselves. It cites a Leger survey to suggest that 54% of Canadian Sikhs oppose separatist activities, 72% support stricter measures and 37% strongly oppose the movement.

The original Khalsa Vox opinion also discusses an October 28 arson attack outside the home of Sikh activist Narinder Singh Randhawa, incorporating the incident into a wider argument about growing public frustration with Khalistan-related activism.

## The Lab's assessment

The Sikh Disinformation Lab (SDL) identifies a significant misrepresentation of Canadian polling data in the article, raising concerns about how public opinion is being used to portray Sikh political activism as rejected by the community itself.

The survey cited in the article was conducted by Leger, an established Canadian polling organization, between December 13 and 16, 2024. It surveyed 1,515 Canadian adults through a non-probability online panel. **It was not a survey of Canadian Sikhs.**

The percentages of 54%, 72% and 37% therefore represent responses from Canadians generally, not the Sikh community specifically. Presenting these figures as the views of Canadian Sikhs creates the impression that the community has collectively rejected Khalistan-related political activity, although the underlying research does not establish that conclusion.

The survey's methodology raises further questions. It does not identify a representative Sikh-specific sample, and a conventional probability-sampling margin of error cannot be applied to its results. Furthermore, the 72% figure comes from a question concerning foreign separatist agendas organized by any group, rather than a question specifically about restricting peaceful Khalistan advocacy.

The article also omits a significant finding from the same survey: 68% of Canadians expressed concern about allegations of Indian government interference in Canada. Only 20% of respondents closely followed news about Sikh separatist activities. These findings complicate the article's presentation of a clear and informed public consensus.

**The article's characterization of Khalistan activism as a marginal movement also requires consideration of the referendum participation documented across Canada.**

Sikhs for Justice has organized several non-binding Khalistan referendums, including in Brampton in September 2022, Surrey in September 2023 and Edmonton in October 2026. Organizers reported more than 110,000 participants in Brampton, more than 100,000 at the September Surrey vote and over 23,000 votes in Edmonton. Canadian news coverage independently documented large gatherings at some of these events, although the precise organizer-reported totals have not been independently verified.

The documented participation demonstrates that the movement has attracted organized political engagement across multiple Canadian cities over several years. This evidence is relevant when evaluating broad assertions that Khalistan-related political activity lacks meaningful community support.

The article by IANS provides no Sikh-specific polling evidence capable of establishing how Canadian Sikhs collectively view the movement. Nor does it adequately account for the visible political participation represented by these referendum events. Instead, it relies on a survey of the general Canadian population to construct an apparent consensus within the Sikh community itself.

The treatment of the arson attack against Narinder Singh Randhawa raises a separate concern. The original Khalsa Vox opinion places an attack affecting a Sikh political activist within a broader argument about public frustration with Khalistan activities, despite the police investigation not having established a motive.

This framing shifts attention away from the threats facing a Sikh activist and toward the political movement with which he is associated. That distinction is particularly important given Canadian authorities' documented concerns about transnational repression and threats targeting Sikh political activists.

The Lab does not dispute that Sikh Canadians hold diverse political views, the problem is the article's claim to represent those views without appropriate evidence.

**The central information-integrity concern is the transformation of a general Canadian opinion survey into a supposed measure of Sikh community consensus, while omitting relevant evidence of sustained political mobilization and Canadian concern about foreign interference.**

The article consequently presents a misleading account of Canadian Sikh political participation and the available evidence concerning community attitudes toward Khalistan.

THE CLAIM

*Khalistani Separatist Activities Face Growing Public Opposition in Canada: Report*

THE ANALYSIS

## What was published

On 7 November 2026, India New England News (indianewengland.com) published an IANS report headlined "Khalistani Separatist Activities Face Growing Public Opposition in Canada: Report." The report draws on a 2 November 2026 opinion piece by Antariksh Singh in Khalsa Vox.

The article asserts that Khalistan-related political activity in Canada faces increasing opposition, including from Canadian Sikhs themselves. It cites a Leger survey to suggest that 54 per cent of Canadian Sikhs oppose separatist activities, that 72 per cent support stricter measures, and that 37 per cent strongly oppose the movement.

The Khalsa Vox opinion piece also discusses an arson attack on 28 October outside the home of Sikh activist Narinder Singh Randhawa, placing that incident within a broader argument about public frustration with Khalistan-related activism.

## The Lab's assessment

**Verdict: Misleading.**

The survey cited was conducted by Leger, an established Canadian polling organisation, between 13 and 16 December 2024. It surveyed 1,515 Canadian adults through a non-probability online panel. It was not a survey of Canadian Sikhs.

The figures of 54 per cent, 72 per cent and 37 per cent therefore represent responses from Canadians generally. Presenting them as the views of Canadian Sikhs creates the impression that the community has collectively rejected Khalistan-related political activity, a conclusion the underlying research does not establish.

The methodology raises further questions. The survey does not identify a representative Sikh-specific sample, and a conventional probability-sampling margin of error cannot be applied to its results. The 72 per cent figure comes from a question about foreign separatist agendas organised by any group, not a question specifically about restricting peaceful Khalistan advocacy.

The survey was conducted by Leger in association with The Canadian Press, as indicated by the published report. Although Leger is an established polling organisation, the publicly available documentation does not clearly establish the survey's funding arrangements or disclose whether its questions underwent independent validation. Questions therefore remain about who determined the wording of the survey, how politically sensitive terms such as "Sikh separatist activities" were defined, and whether respondents interpreted these terms consistently. These are questions about the scope and interpretation of the research, not evidence that the survey itself was fraudulent.

Another important finding is that 36 per cent of respondents did not express a position when asked whether they supported or opposed Sikh separatist activities. The article also refers to growing opposition, although the cited survey provides a single measurement from December 2024 rather than evidence of a change in public attitudes over time.

The article also omits findings from the same survey that complicate its account of a clear and informed public consensus: 68 per cent of Canadians expressed concern about allegations of Indian government interference in Canada, and only 20 per cent of respondents said they closely followed news about Sikh separatist activities.

## Documented participation

The article's characterisation of Khalistan activism as marginal also requires consideration of referendum participation across Canada. Sikhs for Justice has organised several non-binding Khalistan referendums, including in Brampton in September 2022, Surrey in September 2023 and Edmonton in October 2026. Organisers reported more than 110,000 participants in Brampton, more than 100,000 at the September Surrey vote and over 23,000 votes in Edmonton. Canadian news coverage independently documented large gatherings at some of these events.

That documented participation shows organised political engagement across multiple Canadian cities over several years. It is relevant evidence when evaluating broad assertions that Khalistan-related political activity

lacks meaningful community support. The documented gatherings provide relevant context that the article does not acknowledge when portraying the movement as politically marginal.

The IANS report provides no Sikh-specific polling evidence capable of establishing how Canadian Sikhs collectively view the movement, and does not adequately account for the visible political participation represented by these referendum events. It instead relies on a survey of the general Canadian population to construct an apparent consensus within the Sikh community.

## The arson framing

The treatment of the attack on Narinder Singh Randhawa raises a separate concern. The Khalsa Vox opinion piece places an attack affecting a Sikh political activist within a broader argument about public frustration with Khalistan activities, although the police investigation has not established a motive.

That framing shifts attention away from the threats facing a Sikh activist and toward the political movement with which he is associated. The distinction matters given Canadian authorities' documented concerns about transnational repression and threats targeting Sikh political activists.

The incident is especially relevant because Randhawa had reportedly received a police warning concerning threats to his life before the attack. While no perpetrator or motive had been established, the article's broader interpretation risks presenting an attack affecting a Sikh activist as evidence of public frustration with the political activities he supports.

## Context

The Lab does not dispute that Sikh Canadians hold diverse political views. The problem is the article's claim to represent those views without appropriate evidence.

The central information-integrity concern is the transformation of a general Canadian opinion survey into a supposed measure of Sikh community consensus, while omitting relevant evidence of sustained political mobilisation and of Canadian concern about foreign interference. The article consequently presents a misleading account of Canadian Sikh political participation and of the available evidence concerning community attitudes toward Khalistan.

The Lab assesses the severity of this item at 4 on a 5-point scale.

## SOURCES


01 https://indianewengland.com/khalistani-separatist-activities-face-growing-public-opposition-in-canada-report/

02 Khalsa Vox, opinion piece by Antariksh Singh, 2 November 2026

03 Leger survey of 1,515 Canadian adults, non-probability online panel, 13–16 December 2024

Sikh Disinformation Lab

# About Sikh Disinformation Lab

Sikh Disinformation Lab is an independent, evidence-based programme founded and hosted by the World Sikh Organization of Canada. It monitors, analyses and publicly documents disinformation affecting Sikhs.

The Lab examines claims against evidence, publishes assessments with that evidence attached, and tracks coordinated campaigns over time. Every published assessment names what was claimed, where it appeared, what the review found, and what that assessment rests on. Where an item makes several distinct claims, each is assessed separately.

Assessments are made against the methodology framework in force at the time of publication. That framework is public, versioned, and reviewed at each phase gate; a material change produces a new version rather than a silent edit. The full method is published at sikhdisinfolab.ca/method.

Corrections are dated entries, never silent edits. Where a published assessment is found to be wrong or incomplete, the correction is recorded against it and listed at sikhdisinfolab.ca/corrections. If you believe something published here is inaccurate, write to the programme and it will be reviewed.

Assessments are the responsibility of Sikh Disinformation Lab.

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