



NEWS RELEASE

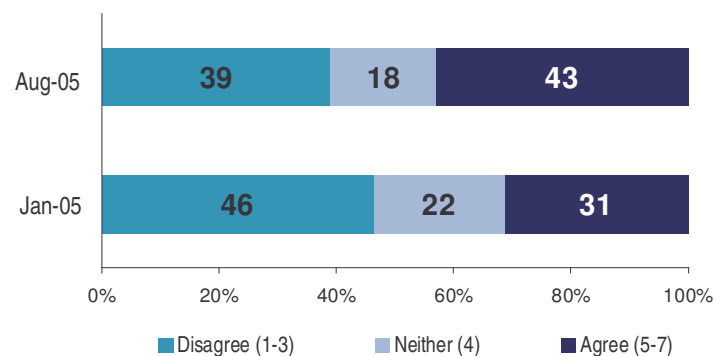
Support for Foreign Aid Rises Compared with Other Priorities

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Support for foreign aid continues to rise, even in the face of competing priorities, a newly released EKOS poll reveals. 43% of Canadians say that Canada should increase its humanitarian aid to poor countries *even if it means spending less in other important areas*. That is a sharp increase from January of this year, when just 31% of Canadians took that view.

“This is part of a trend to greater support for foreign aid that we have seen building over several years,” said Franks Graves, President of EKOS Research Associates. “In particular, we saw support increase sharply after the Asian tsunami. Now it seems that increase has been sustained, perhaps due in part to the publicity generated by the G-8 summit in July and the Live 8 concerts in support of foreign aid that were staged at that time.”

“Canada should increase its humanitarian aid to poor countries even if it means less spending in other important areas”



(Base: All Canadians)

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This deepening in support for foreign aid fits with broader trends EKOS has identified, suggesting an increasingly cosmopolitan outlook among Canadians. For example, Canadians have been reporting greater interest in foreign affairs generally as well as greater receptiveness to immigration and multiculturalism. Interestingly, this occurs at a time when Americans seem to be tilting in the opposite direction, towards a more inward-looking perspective.

“The fact that Canadians seem to be willing to make the trade-off between foreign aid and other priorities is especially interesting,” Graves said. “Canadians have been saying they wanted to see more spending in this area for a few years. Now, they seem more willing than before to sacrifice other kinds of spending to fund foreign aid.”

The survey found that support for increasing aid was especially strong among the university educated (49%) and the young (57%).

The poll was conducted by EKOS between August 2 and August 16. 1,506 Canadians were interviewed. The results are valid within a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.