

CANADIANS ENDORSE GOVERNMENT ACTION ON HAITI

TORY VOTERS MORE SKEPTICAL ABOUT LOOSENING IMMIGRATION RULES

[Ottawa – January 28, 2010] – Canadians are giving the federal government strong support for its efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti earlier this month. However, this is not giving the ruling party the lift it might have expected in the race with the opposition parties.

Two-thirds of Canadians say the speed of the government's actions is just right. Just over half say the scale of resources devoted to relief and reconstruction is just right. And while many Tory supporters don't like the government's decision to loosen immigration rules to allow more Haitians into the country, a plurality of Canadians supports the move.

"Clearly there is both broad sympathy with the human devastation and a strong sense that the Canadian government's response has been both swift and generous," said EKOS President Frank Graves. "Moreover, by a strong margin, Canadians prefer that Canada's main effort in Haiti be long-term reconstruction rather than short-term humanitarian aid. Harper was obviously hitting the target when he hosted an international donors conference in Montreal earlier this week."

This poll was conducted by EKOS Research Associates as part of a series for exclusive release by CBC News.

The patterns of support for the government's actions are strikingly consistent across the regions of the country, though there are variations according to party preference. While the supporters of all the parties endorse the speed and scale of government's response, Tory supporters are more likely to say it was "just right". Supporters of the opposition parties are

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Government response to Haiti disaster:**
 - ☒ 16% too slow
 - ☒ 7% too fast
 - ☒ 66% just right
 - ☒ 10% don't know/no response
- **Government contributions to Haiti relief:**
 - ☒ 11% too much
 - ☒ 18% too little
 - ☒ 51% right amount
 - ☒ 20% don't know/no response
- **Canadian people's contributions to Haiti relief:**
 - ☒ 11% too much
 - ☒ 16% too little
 - ☒ 53% right amount
 - ☒ 20% don't know/no response
- **Views on fast-tracking Haitian immigration:**
 - ☒ 21% strongly disagree
 - ☒ 22% somewhat disagree
 - ☒ 31% somewhat agree
 - ☒ 16% strongly agree
 - ☒ 10% don't know/no response
- **Preferred focus of Canadian assistance in Haiti:**
 - ☒ 37% short-term humanitarian assistance
 - ☒ 63% long-term assistance to rebuild the country

Please note that the methodology is provided at the end of this document.

somewhat more likely to favour a faster and larger response, though this is a minority.

The most striking partisan differences are on the issue of loosening immigration rules to favour Haitians. While a plurality of Canadians favour this decision, it is not going down so well among Tory supporters, 52% of whom disagree with the policy, while just 41% agree.

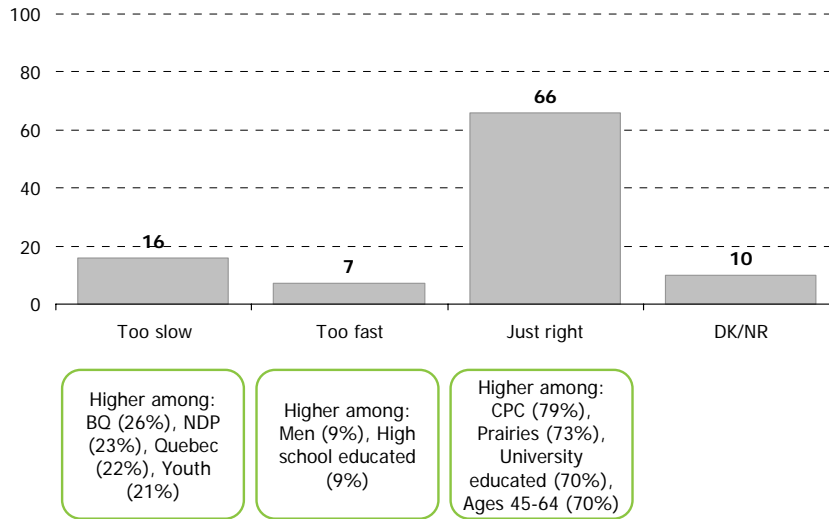
Despite the general success of the government's response to the Haiti earthquake, the dominant news story of the last two weeks, this has not reversed the Conservatives' decline in public opinion, which began in mid-October, but has accelerated since mid-December. EKOS released a poll through the CBC earlier Thursday that showed the Liberals now nominally ahead of the Conservatives – sometimes termed a statistical tie.

“What is clear is that there is a strong sense that the government has done well in the initial stages of the Haiti crisis,” said Graves. “What is equally clear is that this adroit performance has had no positive impact on what has been a very substantial decline in Conservative fortunes over the past few months.”

Top Line Results:

Government response to Haiti disaster

Q. As you may have heard, Haiti has recently suffered from a devastating earthquake. From what you know, do you believe that the government of Canada's response to this disaster has been too slow, too fast, or just right?

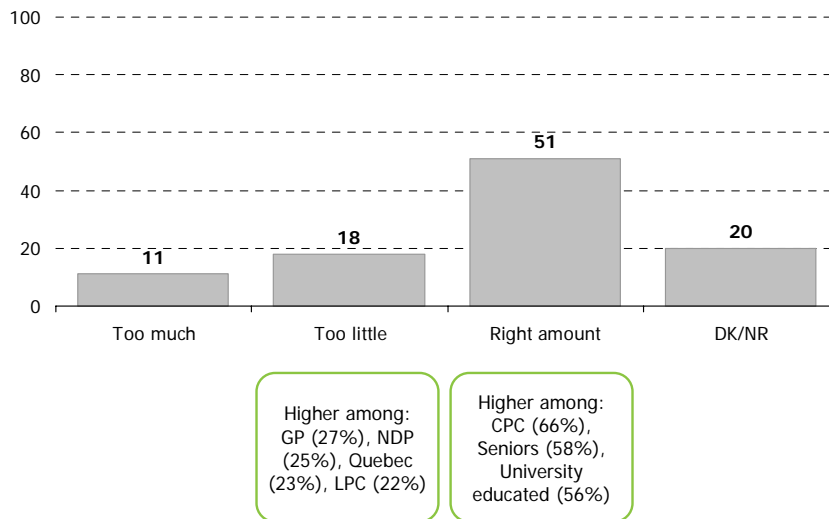


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BASE: Canadians; Jan. 20-26 (n=3206)

Government contributions to Haiti relief

Q. From what you know, do you believe that the government of Canada has contributed too much, too little, or just the right amount of resources towards Haitian relief and reconstruction efforts?

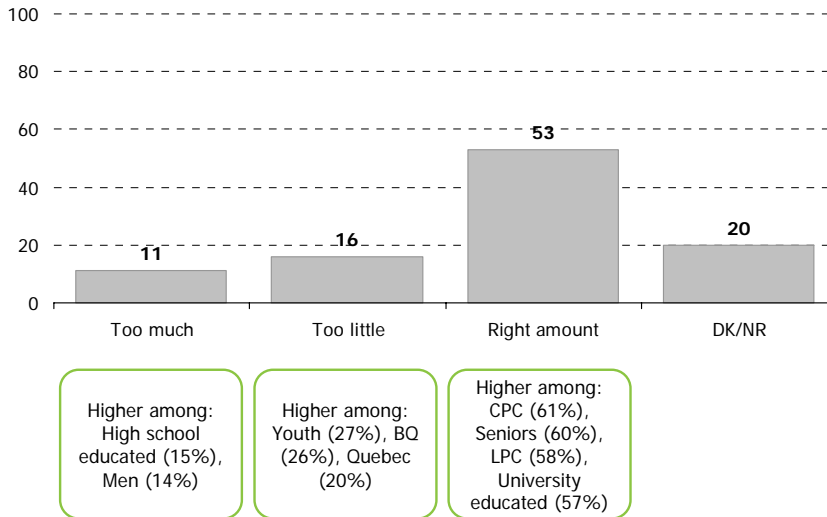


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BASE: Canadians; Jan. 20-26 (n=half sample)

Canadian people's contributions to Haiti relief

Q. From what you know, do you believe that the people of Canada have contributed too much, too little, or just the right amount of resources towards Haitian relief and reconstruction efforts?

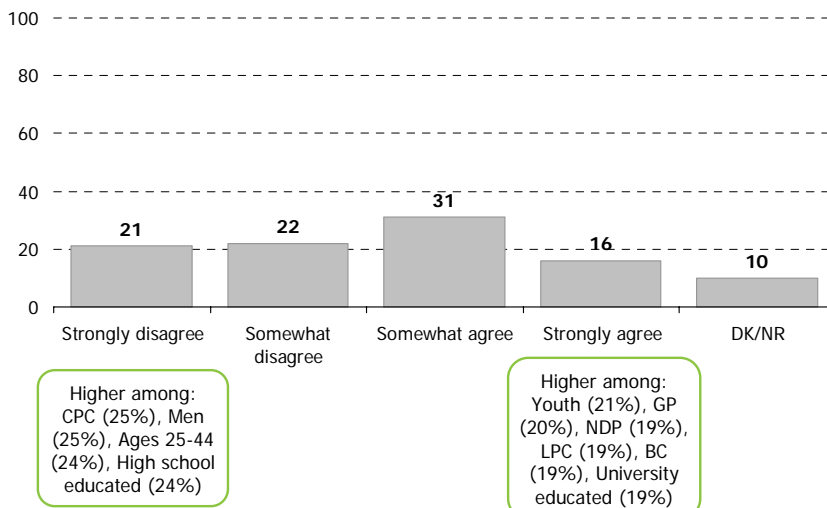


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BASE: Canadians; Jan. 20-26 (n=half sample)

Views on fast-tracking Haitian immigration

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the government of Canada should temporarily loosen its rules to allow more Haitians to permanently settle here?

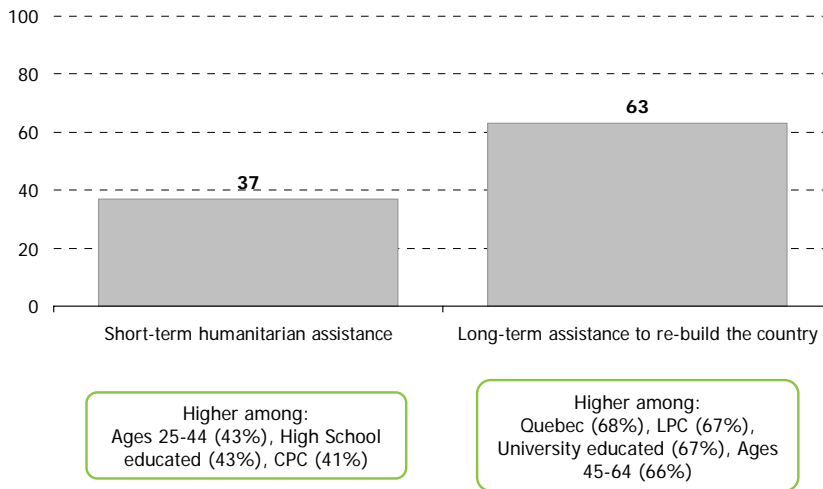


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BASE: Canadians; Jan. 20-26 (n=3206)

Preferred focus of Canadian assistance in Haiti

Q. In your view, what should be the main area of Canadian assistance in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake?



Detailed Tables:

Government Response to Haiti Disaster						
<i>Q. As you may have heard, Haiti has recently suffered from a devastating earthquake. From what you know, do you believe that the government of Canada's response to this disaster has been too slow, too fast, or just right?</i>						
	Too slow	Too fast	Just right	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	16%	7%	66%	10%	3206	1.7
REGION						
British Columbia	19%	6%	62%	13%	369	5.1
Alberta	12%	8%	69%	10%	238	6.4
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	11%	6%	73%	10%	211	6.8
Ontario	14%	8%	68%	10%	1309	2.7
Quebec	22%	7%	64%	8%	840	3.4
Atlantic Canada	14%	7%	65%	14%	239	6.3
GENDER						
Male	15%	9%	67%	9%	1583	2.5
Female	17%	6%	65%	11%	1623	2.4
AGE						
<25	21%	10%	55%	14%	279	5.9
25-44	16%	8%	66%	9%	1015	3.1
45-64	15%	6%	70%	10%	1275	2.7
65+	16%	6%	67%	11%	637	3.9
EDUCATION						
High school or less	18%	9%	61%	12%	903	3.3
College or CEGEP	16%	8%	67%	10%	1009	3.1
University or higher	15%	6%	70%	9%	1294	2.7
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION						
Conservative Party of Canada	8%	6%	79%	7%	880	3.3
Liberal Party of Canada	17%	7%	67%	10%	913	3.2
NDP	23%	8%	57%	12%	393	4.9
Green Party	19%	9%	60%	12%	294	5.7
Bloc Quebecois	26%	6%	62%	6%	280	5.9
Undecided	15%	13%	58%	13%	63	12.4

Government Contributions to Haiti Relief

Q. From what you know, do you believe that the Government of Canada have contributed too much, too little, or just the right amount of resources towards Haitian relief and reconstruction efforts?

	Too much	Too little	Right amount	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	11%	18%	51%	20%	1597	2.5
REGION						
British Columbia	10%	19%	50%	21%	192	7.1
Alberta	9%	16%	54%	21%	131	8.6
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	7%	13%	56%	23%	98	9.9
Ontario	12%	18%	49%	21%	633	3.9
Quebec	13%	23%	50%	14%	422	4.8
Atlantic Canada	8%	14%	55%	23%	121	8.9
GENDER						
Male	12%	19%	51%	17%	778	3.5
Female	10%	17%	51%	22%	819	3.4
AGE						
<25	11%	21%	47%	21%	138	8.3
25-44	13%	20%	49%	19%	521	4.3
45-64	11%	17%	51%	21%	617	4.0
65+	8%	16%	58%	17%	321	5.5
EDUCATION						
High school or less	13%	20%	46%	22%	455	4.6
College or CEGEP	11%	18%	50%	20%	513	4.3
University or higher	9%	17%	56%	18%	629	3.9
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION						
Conservative Party of Canada	11%	9%	66%	14%	434	4.7
Liberal Party of Canada	9%	22%	47%	22%	465	4.5
NDP	11%	24%	47%	18%	193	7.1
Green Party	9%	27%	43%	20%	136	8.4
Bloc Quebecois	14%	22%	52%	12%	145	8.1
Undecided	18%	31%	28%	23%	25	19.6

Individual Contributions to Haiti Relief

Q. From what you know, do you believe that the people of Canada have contributed too much, too little, or just the right amount of resources towards Haitian relief and reconstruction efforts?

	Too much	Too little	Right amount	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	11%	16%	53%	20%	1609	2.4
REGION						
British Columbia	10%	18%	51%	21%	177	7.4
Alberta	14%	10%	45%	32%	107	9.5
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	10%	13%	58%	20%	113	9.2
Ontario	10%	15%	55%	19%	676	3.8
Quebec	12%	20%	52%	16%	418	4.8
Atlantic Canada	12%	19%	47%	23%	118	9.0
GENDER						
Male	14%	16%	54%	16%	805	3.5
Female	8%	17%	51%	24%	804	3.5
AGE						
<25	14%	27%	37%	22%	141	8.3
25-44	12%	19%	51%	18%	494	4.4
45-64	11%	13%	56%	20%	658	3.8
65+	7%	11%	60%	22%	316	5.5
EDUCATION						
High school or less	15%	15%	49%	20%	448	4.6
College or CEGEP	12%	16%	50%	22%	496	4.4
University or higher	8%	17%	57%	18%	665	3.8
CURRENT VOTE INTENTION						
Conservative Party of Canada	13%	9%	61%	17%	446	4.6
Liberal Party of Canada	7%	17%	58%	18%	448	4.6
NDP	10%	21%	46%	23%	200	6.9
Green Party	11%	19%	48%	22%	158	7.8
Bloc Quebecois	16%	26%	47%	11%	135	8.4
Undecided	17%	23%	25%	35%	38	15.9

Views on Fast-Tracking Haitian Immigration

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the government of Canada should temporarily loosen its rules to allow more Haitians to permanently settle here?

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	DK/NR	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	21%	22%	31%	16%	10%	3206	1.7
REGION							
British Columbia	17%	21%	33%	19%	9%	369	5.1
Alberta	24%	25%	31%	11%	8%	238	6.4
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	21%	19%	33%	18%	9%	211	6.8
Ontario	22%	22%	32%	15%	9%	1309	2.7
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Male	25%	23%	28%	16%	8%	1583	2.5
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Preferred Focus of Canadian Assistance in Haiti

Q. In your view, what should be the main area of Canadian assistance in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake?

	Short-term humanitarian assistance	Long-term assistance to re-build the country	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
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Undecided	47%	53%	63	12.4

METHODOLOGY:

EKOS' weekly tracking polls are conducted using Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) technology, which allows respondents to enter their preferences by punching the keypad on their phone, rather than telling them to an operator.

In an effort to reduce the coverage bias of landline only RDD, we created a dual land-line/cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research. As a result, we are able to reach those with both a landline and cell phone, as well as cell phone only households and landline only households. This dual frame yields a near perfect unweighted distribution on age group and gender, something almost never seen with traditional landline RDD sample or interviewer-administered surveys.

The field dates for this survey are January 20 – 26, 2010.¹ In total, a random sample of 3,206 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-1.7 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as region, sex, age, education). All the data have been statistically weighted to ensure the samples composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.

¹ Please note that these dates are not inclusive of the weekends, as we do not survey on Saturday or Sunday.