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Poll Finds Strong Support for Canada to Lead in Stopping Genocide in Darfur

Toronto (May 18, 2007). A new national poll commissioned by the Mosaic Institute finds that a significant majority of Canadians want their government to lead other nations in bringing relief to the suffering of millions of people in the Darfur region in western Sudan.

The poll, conducted in early May by Pollara, one of Canada's leading polling and market research firms, finds that two in three Canadians believe Canada should play a lead role in stopping the genocide in Darfur, with three in ten Canadians strongly agreeing. Only one in four Canadians disagrees.

The poll, whose margin of error is below 3 percent, was administered to more than 1600 randomly selected Canadians in all regions of the country. It shows that young Canadians, those aged 18-34 years, are the most likely to agree that Canada should play a lead role in stopping the genocide in Darfur, with 79 percent of men and 71 percent of women in this age group agreeing.

The poll shows that regional, age, and gender variation, while present, are not significant when viewed in light of the national consensus on this issue. In line with Canada's traditional role as a peacekeeper, significant majorities of Canadians want their government to be in the lead in this area.

"Since 2003, hundreds of thousands of residents of Darfur have been killed, with close to 2 million driven from their homes," said Vahan Kololian, chairman of the Mosaic Institute. "The findings of this poll are significant. They show that Canadians expect their government to show leadership in creating a more secure world. Africa in general, and Darfur in particular, occupy a prominent position in the humanitarian thinking of Canadians."

The Mosaic Institute is a Toronto-based organization, whose aim is to harness Canadian diversity for international peace and development.

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