



Canadians' Perceptions of the Darfur Crisis

Presented to:
The Mosaic Institute

May 2007

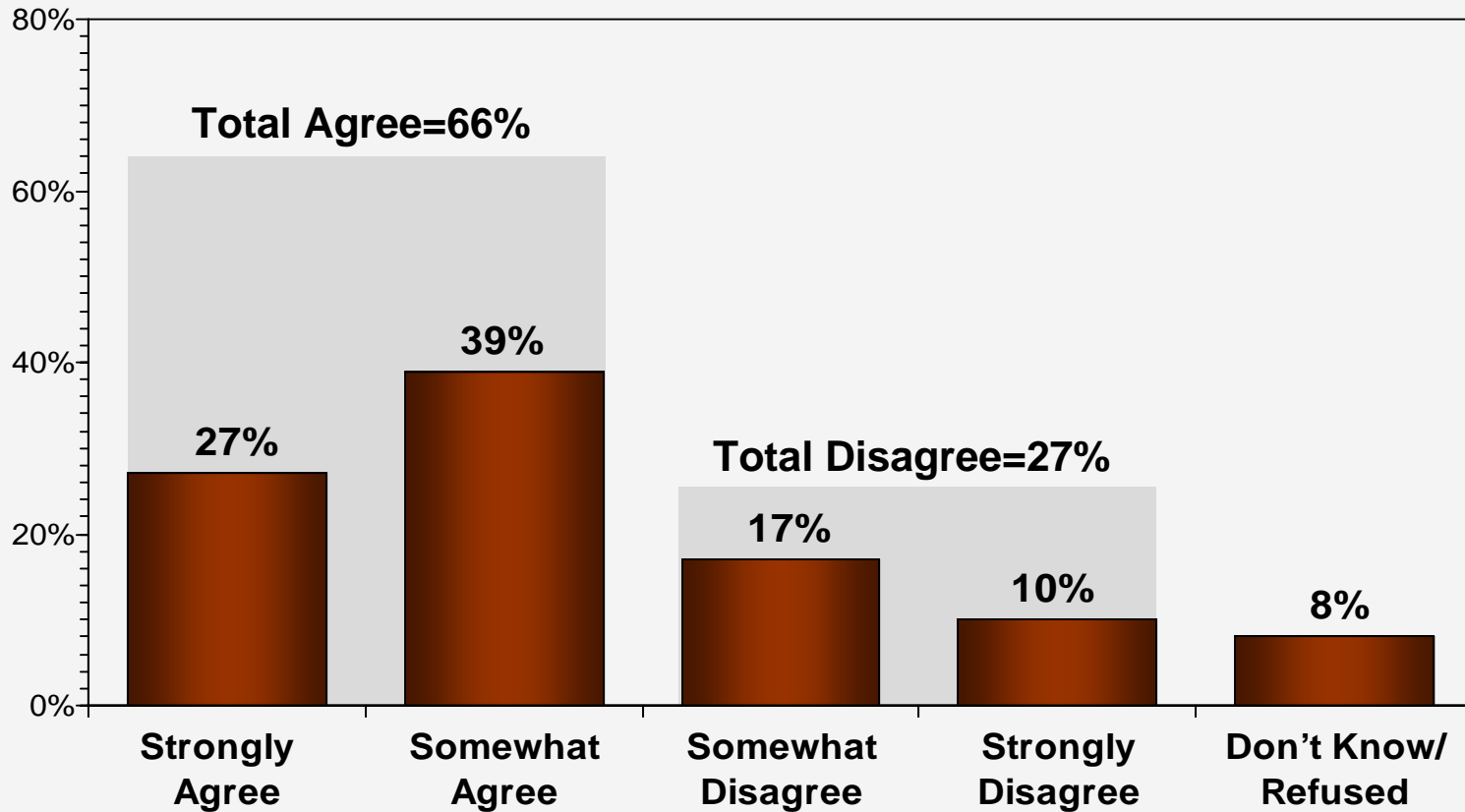
Introduction

- POLLARA is pleased to present the Mosaic Institute with the following report of findings from an online survey conducted with a representative sample of online Canadians.
- The purpose of the survey was to determine attitudes towards Canada's involvement in the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.
- A total of three (3) questions were appended to the POLLARA Online Panel.
- Interviews were conducted with members of the POLLARA Online Panel who are 18 years of age and older. The survey was conducted between April 25th and May 1st, 2007.
- In total, 1642 interviews were completed, resulting in an overall margin of error of plus or minus 2.4%, nineteen times out of twenty.

	Unweighted # of Interviews	Weighted # of Interviews	Margin of Error (%)
Atlantic	244	124	±6.3
Quebec	191	362	±7.1
Ontario	452	553	±4.6
Prairies	152	104	±8.0
Alberta	284	144	±5.8
B.C./Territories	319	195	±5.5
Total	1642	1482	±2.4

Level of Agreement on Canada Playing a Lead Role in Darfur

- Two-in-three (66%) Canadians believe that Canada should play a lead role in stopping the genocide in Darfur, with almost three-in-ten (27%) *strongly* agreeing.



Q1. Some people say that Canada has adopted a 'middle-of-the-road' policy towards Darfur. Other people think Canada should play a lead role in stopping the violence in Darfur. To what extent do you agree or disagree that Canada should play a lead role in stopping the genocide in Darfur?

Level of Agreement on Canada Playing a Lead Role in Darfur, by Region

- Residents of Atlantic Canada are most likely to *disagree* that Canada should play a lead role in stopping the genocide in Darfur (33%), with almost one-fifth (17%) disagreeing strongly.
- In contrast, about one-third (32%) of residents in the Prairie provinces *strongly agree* that Canada should play a lead role in the crisis.

	Strongly Agree %	Somewhat Agree %	Total Agree %	Somewhat Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %	Total Disagree %	Don't Know/ Refuse %
Total	27	39	66	17	10	27	8
Atlantic	20	40	60	17	17	33	7
Quebec	28	41	69	17	6	23	8
Ontario	27	38	65	16	11	27	8
Prairies	32	38	69	15	10	25	6
Alberta	27	36	63	20	9	29	8
B.C/Territories	30	37	67	17	9	26	7

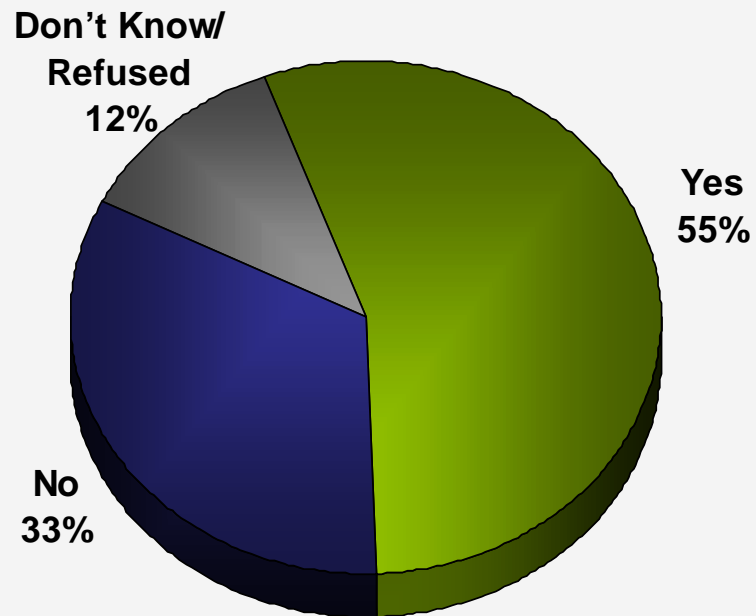
Level of Agreement on Canada Playing a Lead Role in Darfur, by Generation

- Canadians aged 18 to 34 years are most likely to agree that Canada should play a lead role in stopping the genocide in Darfur (79% of men and 71% of women in this age group).

	Strongly Agree %	Somewhat Agree %	Total Agree %	Somewhat Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %	Total Disagree %	Don't Know/ Refuse %
Total	27	39	66	17	10	27	8
Male	33	34	67	16	12	28	5
18 to 34	43	35	79	10	6	16	6
35 to 54	29	34	63	20	12	32	5
55+	31	33	64	14	18	33	4
Female	22	43	65	17	8	25	10
18 to 34	24	48	71	14	3	17	12
34 to 54	23	40	64	18	8	26	11
55+	18	43	61	19	11	31	8

Canada's Responsibility to Lead in Darfur

- Over one-half (55%) of Canadians think that Canada has a responsibility to lead other Western nations to help alleviate the suffering in Darfur.



Canada's Responsibility to Lead in Darfur, by Region

- Six-in-ten (59%) residents in the Prairies and British Columbia believe that Canada has a responsibility to lead other Western nations to help alleviate the suffering in Darfur, compared to just one-half (49%) of residents in the Atlantic provinces.

	Yes %	No %	Don't Know/ Refuse %
Total	55	33	12
Atlantic	49	32	18
Quebec	56	33	11
Ontario	54	35	11
Prairies	59	32	9
Alberta	52	36	12
B.C/Territories	59	29	12

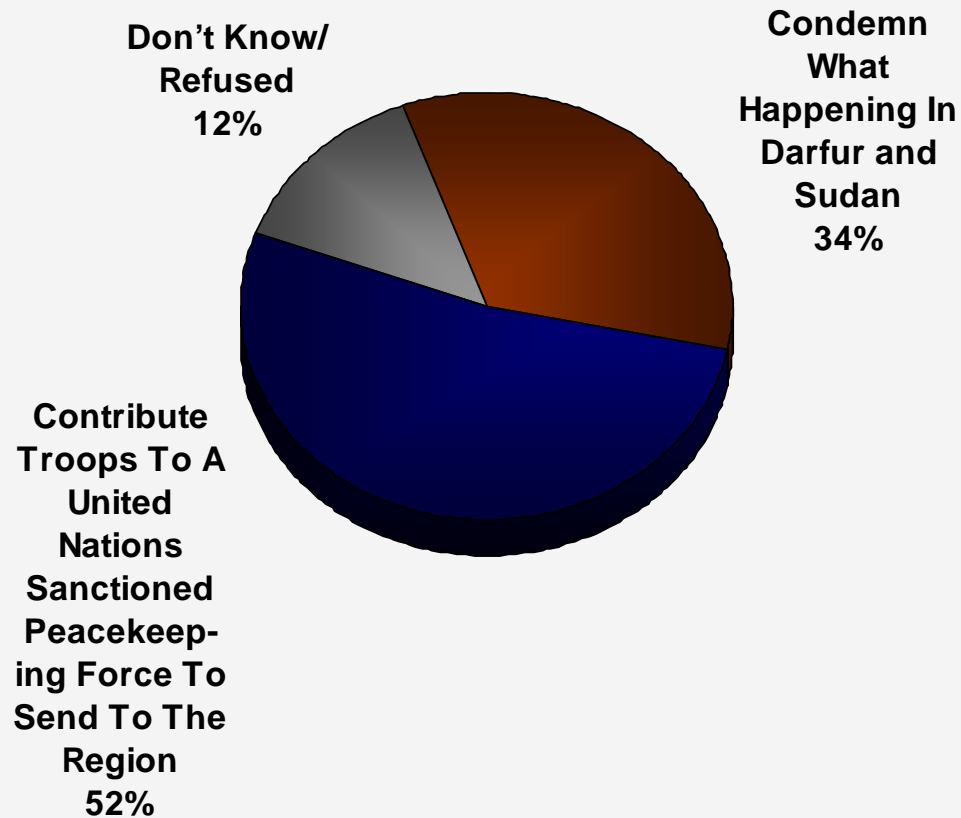
Canada's Responsibility to Lead in Darfur, by Generation

- Among women, the belief that Canada has a responsibility to lead other Western nations to help alleviate the suffering in Darfur decreases with age (from 64% among those between 18 and 34 years to 49% among those 55 years or older).

	Yes %	No %	Don't Know/ Refused %
Total	55	33	12
Male	55	39	7
18 to 34	61	31	8
35 to 54	51	42	7
55+	56	39	5
Female	55	28	16
18 to 34	64	18	18
34 to 54	55	29	16
55+	49	36	16

What Canada Should Do to Help Alleviate Suffering in Darfur

- More than one-half (52%) of Canadians think that Canada should contribute a peacekeeping force to Darfur, while one-third (34%) believe Canada should condemn the situation in the region.



What Canada Should Do to Help Alleviate Suffering in Darfur, by Region

- Support for a peacekeeping force is highest in the Prairies (60%) and Alberta (60%) and lowest in Quebec (43%). Quebec residents are more likely than other Canadians to believe Canada should limit its involvement to the conflict by condemning what is happening in Darfur (38%).
- Residents of Atlantic Canada (19%) and Quebec (19%) are almost twice as likely as other Canadians to think that Canada should do nothing, given its other priorities.

	Condemn what is happening in Darfur %	Contribute troops to UN-sanctioned peacekeeping force %	Nothing – Canada has other priorities %
Total	34	52	14
Atlantic	30	52	19
Quebec	38	43	19
Ontario	35	53	12
Prairies	28	60	12
Alberta	28	60	12
B.C/Territories	32	58	10

What Canada Should Do to Help Alleviate Suffering in Darfur, by Generation

- Among women, support for sending a UN-sanctioned peacekeeping force to Darfur decreases with age (from 64% among 18 to 34 year-olds to 43% among those 55 years and older).
- Conversely, among both men and women the belief that Canada should do nothing in Darfur and instead focus on other priorities increases with age.

	Condemn what is happening in Darfur %	Contribute troops to UN-sanctioned peacekeeping force %	Nothing – Canada has other priorities %
Total	34	52	14
Male	36	51	12
18 to 34	38	53	9
35 to 54	36	51	13
55+	35	50	14
Female	31	54	15
18 to 34	23	64	13
34 to 54	30	55	15
55+	39	43	18

Conclusions

- In keeping with Canada's traditional role as a peacekeeping nation, a large majority of Canadians look to Canada's political elite for moral leadership on the Darfur crisis. This sentiment is somewhat lower in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, where concern about other issues appears to surpass concern about Darfur. In particular, Quebec residents are hesitant about the need for Canada to send peacekeeping troops to the region. This result is not surprising, given Quebecers' tendency toward a preference for non-military intervention in foreign conflicts. Strong condemnation and diplomatic efforts will likely be better received in Quebec (and Atlantic Canada) than elsewhere in the country.
- In contrast, residents living in the Prairie provinces and Alberta are more likely to favour a Canadian-led peacekeeping force to Darfur.
- Concern about the Darfur crisis appears to be strongest among younger Canadians (18 to 34 year-olds), and this generation is keen to see Canada taking an active role on the crisis, moving beyond condemnation and diplomacy towards a UN-led peacekeeping force.



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