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## **– CANADA'S ARMED FORCES AND ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT –**

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This National Angus Reid Group/The Globe and Mail/CTV poll was conducted by telephone between June 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 1998 among a representative cross-section of 1,501 Canadian adults.

These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to the 1996 Census data.

With a national sample of 1,501, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results are within  $\pm 2.5$  percentage points of what they would have been had the entire adult Canadian population been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population.

## **CANADA'S ARMED FORCES AND ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

An overwhelming number of Canadians – nine in 10 – are aware of recent allegations made against Canada's armed forces regarding sexual harassment and assaults on women in the military. Among those Canadians aware of these allegations, over one-half believe this is “evidence of a widespread problem in the Canadian Armed Forces” rather than just “isolated incidents”, and seven in 10 would like to see the federal government open a special investigation into this matter.

These findings emerged from a National Angus Reid Group/Globe and Mail/CTV poll conducted among a representative cross-section of 1,501 Canadians between June 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 1998.

The poll highlights: (Table 1)

- ◆ Fully nine in 10 (90%) surveyed Canadians expressed awareness of recent allegations of sexual harassment and assaults on women in the Canadian Armed Forces. Awareness levels were high across all major population sub-groupings.
- ◆ Of those aware, a majority of 54 percent (or 48% of all Canadians surveyed) perceived these allegations of sexual harassment and assault to be “evidence of a widespread problem in the Canadian Armed Forces”, compared to 39 percent who viewed them as “isolated incidents” (or 35% of the total survey sample). That these allegations signify a widespread problem in the Canadian Armed Forces was a majority perception in all regions, except B.C. and Alberta where opinion was divided. (Note: The large majority of interviews in B.C. and Alberta were completed before June 12<sup>th</sup>.) This negative perspective was also more evident among women (59% widespread problem, 33% isolated incidents) than men (49% versus 45%).
- ◆ Those aware of the allegations were also informed that the Canadian Armed Forces has recently introduced a sexual harassment and racism prevention program as well as an investigative unit for sexual harassment and assault

complaints. One in four (27%) of these respondents (or 24% of all those surveyed) said “the Canadian military can, therefore, adequately investigate these allegations on their own”, but most (70%) believed “the federal government should also open a special investigation on this matter” (or 63% of all Canadians). Support for a special federal investigation was strongest among Quebecers (77%) and women (76%), dropping to a more modest majority in Alberta (56%).

For more information on this news release, please contact:

John Wright  
Senior Vice-President  
Angus Reid Group  
(416) 324-2900

Dr. Darrell Bricker  
Executive Vice-President  
Angus Reid Group  
(613) 241-5802

Christian Bourque  
Directeur senior de la Recherche  
Groupe Angus Reid  
(514) 877-5550

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