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**-- FURTHER 44% OF CANADIANS SAY "CANADA SHOULD BREAK OFF ALL DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH CHINA UNTIL THEY STOP ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM LEAVING CHINA" -- THE MAJORITY (55%) DISAGREE --**

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This National Angus Reid Group/Globe and Mail/CTV poll is based on a national telephone survey conducted between November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1999 among a representative cross-section of 1,500 Canadian adults. These data are statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional, age and sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to 1996 Census data.

With a national sample of 1,500, one can say with 95 percent certainty that the overall 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 for other sub-groupings of the survey population.

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Last month, concern about Canada's immigration system shot up on the public agenda to second spot with 20% of Canadians saying it was the most important issue our leaders should be dealing with (compared to 34% for healthcare) as boatloads of Chinese immigrants landed on the shores of British Columbia. While the boats have stopped coming ashore, and concern on the public agenda has tumbled back to where it has normally been (7%); public opinion on the issue is still strong.

With the BC incidents as a backdrop in the public mindset, six in ten (60%) Canadians say "stopping illegal immigration should be the highest priority for Canada's immigration policy". Nearly four in ten (39%) believe Canada should be "encouraging a larger number of qualified immigrants to move to Canada". Further, forty four percent of Canadians agree that "Canada should break off all diplomatic and trade relations with China until they take firm steps to stop illegal Chinese immigrants from coming to Canada". However, more than half (55%) disagree with Canada taking this position with China.

*These are the highlights gleaned from a national Angus Reid Group/Globe and Mail/CTV telephone survey of 1,500 Canadian adults. Interviews were conducted between November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1999. A sample size of 1,500 is said to have a corresponding margin of error of  $\pm 2.5$  percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.*

### ***Six in Ten (60%) say Canada should Focus on Stopping Illegal Immigration rather than Encouraging Qualified Immigrants to move to Canada***

Six in ten (60%) Canadians say “stopping illegal immigration should be the highest priority for Canada’s immigration policy”. Nearly four in ten (39%) believe Canada should be “encouraging a larger number of qualified immigrants to move to Canada”.

- ◆ Canadians with less than high school education (74%), low income households (66%) as well as residents of Atlantic Canada (70%) and Quebec (67%) are the strongest supporters of an immigration policy focused on stopping illegal immigrants from entering the country.

### ***Further, 44% Say Canada Should Break Ties with China – the Majority (55%) Disagree***

Forty four percent of Canadians agree that “Canada should break off all diplomatic and trade relations with China until they take firm steps to stop illegal Chinese immigrants from coming to Canada”. Support for cutting off diplomatic and trade ties is evenly split between those who “somewhat agree” (21%) and “strongly agree” (23%).

However, more than half (55%) of Canadians disagree with Canada taking this type of position. Nearly one third (31%) only “somewhat disagree” while 24% “strongly disagree with Canada breaking ties to China until they stop illegal immigration from their borders.

- ◆ Québécois (48%) are slightly more likely than other Canadians to agree with cutting off ties to China until they stop illegal Chinese immigrants from coming to Canada. The levels of support for this position in other regions of Canada are the following: Atlantic Canada (44%), Alberta (43%), Ontario (43%), British Columbia (41%) and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (39%).
- ◆ Women (47%) are more likely than men (40%) to suggest that diplomatic and trade relations with China be broken off.
- ◆ University graduates (29%) are far less likely than other Canadians (49%) to suggest a breaking-off of ties to China.

- ◆ Support for breaking off ties with China is inversely related to respondents' income. As the income level of Canadians increases, the likelihood of support for breaking diplomatic and trade relations with China decreases (<\$30k, 51%; \$30k to \$60k, 45%; >\$60k, 34%).

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