

HOW WE SEE EACH OTHER PART I:

CANADIANS AND AMERICANS REFLECT ON POLITICS, POLICIES AND EACH OTHER AS PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH VISITS CANADA



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CANADIANS AND AMERICANS REFLECT ON POLITICS, POLICIES AND EACH OTHER AS PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH VISITS CANADA

Toronto, ON - With President George W. Bush making his first official visit to Canada, a new Ipsos-Reid/CTV/The Globe and Mail survey of Canadians and Americans shows that while there are substantial differences in public opinion between the two countries, Canadians still harbour feelings of friendship towards their American counterparts.

The survey, fielded from November 19th to 22nd, 2004 was conducted among 1000 residents in each of the United States and Canada.

When it comes to the re-election of George W. Bush as President of the United States, Canadians are much less enthusiastic than Americans. Most Canadians view President Bush's re-election as a "bad thing" (58%), with only 26% saying that his re-election was a good thing. In comparison, most Americans (56%) say Bush's re-election to President is a "good thing" (41% of Americans say it is a "bad thing").

But this anti-Bush sentiment in Canada has not translated into feelings of ill will towards Americans themselves: only one in seven Canadians (15%) agree with the statement that "at the heart of it, I am actually anti-American - I don't like or respect anything that the United States and its people stand for or what it is about". The overwhelming majority of Canadians (84%) disagree with this statement.



Further, a strong majority of Canadians (70%) agree with the statement that “I value and respect the United States and its Citizens – it’s just that I disagree fundamentally with their government”.

And a very strong majority of Canadians (85%) and Americans (82%) agree with the statement that “Canada is a solid friend and close, dependable ally of the United States”.

On policy matters, Canadians and Americans do display divergent views.

Half of Americans (47%) believe same sex marriage is “wrong and it should never be lawful”, compared to just 27% of Canadians who believe this. And, more Canadians (39%) than Americans (29%) believe same sex marriage should be “fully recognized and equal to conventional heterosexual marriages”.

Americans (73%) are also much more likely than Canadians (44%) to believe Canada should join the missile defence program.

And when it comes Canadian beef, three in ten Americans (32%) do not feel that Canadian beef is safe to eat – while only 6% of Canadians express this opinion.

And, Americans (52%) are less likely than Canadians (76%) to view Canada as a significant player in world affairs.

But in terms of confidence in the quality of their country’s education system, substantially more Canadians than Americans agree that children in their country are getting a good quality education (84% vs. 59%).



These are the findings of an Ipsos-Reid/ CTV poll conducted from November 19th to November 22nd 2004. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1000 adult Canadians and 1000 adult Americans were interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the results for both countries are considered accurate to within ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had these entire populations been polled. These data were weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age composition reflects that of the actual population of both countries.

Only One-Quarter Of Canadians (26%) Think President Bush's Re-Election Was A Good Thing, Compared To Over Half Of Americans (56%) Who Think This...

Respondents in both Canada and the United States were asked whether overall they thought the re-election of George W. Bush was a “good thing” or a “bad thing”.

One-quarter of Canadians (26%) said they think the re-election of President Bush was a “good thing”, while 58% said it was a “bad thing” – with 13% saying it was neither good nor bad - a further 3% “don’t know” whether it is good or bad.

In comparison, 56% of Americans said they think the re-election of President Bush was a “good thing”, while 41% said it was a “bad thing” – a further 3% said it was neither good nor bad and 1% “don’t know” whether it is good or bad.

Within Canada:

- Residents of Alberta (39%) and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (39%) are the most likely to think Bush’s re-election is a “good thing”, followed by residents of Atlantic Canada (32%), Ontario (30%), British Columbia (19%), and Quebec (12%).
- Canadians aged 35 and older are significantly more likely than those aged 18-34 to say that Bush’s re-election is a good thing (30% vs. 18%).

- Those most likely to say Bush's re-election was a "bad thing" are residents of Quebec (76%), followed by residents of British Columbia (62%), Ontario (53%), Atlantic Canada (52%), Alberta (44%), and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (39%).
- Women are more likely than men to say Bush's re-election was a "bad thing" (62% vs. 54%).
- There is a urban vs. regional divide, as those who live in urban areas are significantly more likely than those who live in rural areas to say Bush's re-election was a "bad thing" (60% vs. 47%).

Only One In Seven Canadians (15%) Agree That At The Heart Of It They Are Actually Anti-American And Don't Like Or Respect Americans...

A minority of one in seven Canadians (15%) agree with the statement that "at the heart of it, I am actually anti-American: I don't like or respect anything the United States and its people stand for or what it is about" – with 11% saying they "somewhat agree" and 3% saying they "very much agree".

However, the overwhelming majority of Canadians (84%) disagree with this statement, with over half of Canadians (55%) saying they "very much disagree", and 29% saying they "somewhat disagree".

The remaining 2% of Canadians don't know whether they agree or disagree with this statement.

- Among the small number of Canadians who agree with this statement, the highest anti-American sentiment resides in British Columbia (22%), followed by Quebec



(17%), Atlantic Canada (15%), Ontario (12%) and Alberta (12%), and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (9%).

- Canadians with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 are more likely than those with an annual household income of \$30,000 or more to express these anti-American feelings (22% vs. 13%).
- Those most likely to disagree with this statement are residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (90%), followed by residents of Ontario (87%), Alberta (86%), Atlantic Canada (83%), Quebec (81%), and British Columbia (76%).
- Those Canadians who possess some post-secondary education, a college diploma or a university degree are more likely than those with highschool education or less to disagree with this statement (87% vs. 78%).

And The Majority Of Canadians Agree That They Value And Respect Citizens Of The U.S. – But They Take Issue With Their Government...

A strong majority of seven in ten Canadians (70%) agree with the statement that “I value and respect the United States and its Citizens – it’s just that I disagree fundamentally with their government” (36% “very much agree”, 34% “somewhat agree”). A minority of three in ten Canadians (28%) disagree with this statement (16% “somewhat disagree”, 11% “very much disagree”).

- Agreement with this statement is highest in Quebec (75%), followed by Alberta (72%), Atlantic Canada (70%) and Ontario (70%), British Columbia (67%), and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (61%).
- Those aged 18-54 are significantly more likely to agree with this statement than are those aged 55 and over (74% vs. 61%).



- Those Canadians who possess some post-secondary education, a college diploma or a university degree are more likely than those with a highschool education or less to agree with this statement (74% vs. 63%).
- Disagreement with this statement is highest in Saskatchewan/Manitoba (39%), followed by British Columbia (29%), Atlantic Canada (28%) and Ontario (28%), Quebec (25%), and Alberta (24%).
- Those age 55 and over are significantly more likely than those age 18-54 to disagree with this statement (35% vs. 25%).

Strong Majorities Of Canadians (85%) And Americans (82%) Agree That Canada Is A Friend And Dependable Ally Of The U.S...

A very strong majority of Canadians (85%) and Americans (82%) agree with the statement “Canada is a solid friend and close, dependable ally of the United States”.

Among the 85% of Canadians who agree with this statement, 49% say they “somewhat agree” and 36% say they “very much agree”. A further 14% of Canadians disagree with this statement (10% “somewhat disagree”, 4% “very much disagree”), and 1% “don’t know” whether they agree or disagree.

Among the 82% of Americans who agree with this statement, 48% say they “somewhat agree” and 34% say they “very much agree”. A further 15% of Americans disagree with this statement (12% “somewhat disagree”, 3% “very much disagree”), and 2% “don’t know” if they agree or disagree.

Within Canada:



- Residents of Atlantic Canada (91%) are the most likely to agree with this statement, followed by residents Ontario (86%) and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (86%), British Columbia (85%), Quebec (83%), and Alberta (80%).

Canadians And Americans Have Divergent Views When It Comes To Same Sex Marriage...

Canadians and Americans display divergent views when it comes to the issue of same sex marriage.

In both countries, respondents were prompted with the statement that “many Canadian provinces have legalized same sex marriage and the Canadian federal government is waiting for advice from its Supreme Court before it acts”.

After being read this introductory statement, respondents were asked whether they believe same sex marriage is “wrong and it should never be lawful”, same sex marriage “should be fully recognized and equal to conventional heterosexual marriages”, or whether same sex marriage “should be allowed to exist in civil law but not have the same legal weight as a conventional marriage”.

In Canada:

- Four in ten (39%) believe it should be “fully recognized and equal to conventional heterosexual marriages”;
- 32% believe it should “be allowed to exist in civil law but not have the same legal weight as a conventional marriage”;
- 27% believe that “it is wrong and should never be lawful”; and
- 2% “don’t know” which of these views they have on this issue.



While in the United States:

- Half (47%) believe same sex marriage is “wrong and it should never be lawful”; while
- 29% believe it “should be fully recognized and equal to conventional heterosexual marriages”;
- 23% believe it “it should be allowed to exist in civil law but not have the same legal weight as a conventional marriage”; and
- 2% “don’t know” which of these views they have on this issue.

When looking at the Canadian demographics, those most likely to believe same sex marriage is “wrong and it should never be lawful” are:

- Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (41%), followed by residents of Atlantic Canada (29%), Quebec (28%) and Alberta (28%), Ontario (25%), and British Columbia (19%);
- Older Canadians aged 55 and over (36% vs. 23% among those aged 18-54); and
- Men (31% vs. 22% among women).

And those Canadians who are most likely to believe that same sex marriage “should be fully recognized and equal to conventional heterosexual marriages” are:

- Residents of British Columbia (44%), followed by residents of Atlantic Canada (40%), Quebec (39%), Ontario (38%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (37%), and Alberta (36%);
- Those aged 18-34 (52% vs. 33% among those aged 35 and over);
- Women (48% vs. 29%);



- Those with at least some post-secondary education or higher (45% vs. 28% of those who have only a highschool diploma or less); and
- Those with an annual household income of \$60,000 or more (48% vs. 35% among those with an annual household income of less than \$60,000).

And those Canadians who are most likely to believe that same sex marriage “should be allowed to exist in civil law but not have the same legal weight as a conventional marriage” are:

- Residents of British Columbia (34%) and Ontario (34%), followed by residents of Quebec (33%) and Alberta (33%), Atlantic Canada (26%), and Saskatchewan/Manitoba (20%).
- Those aged 35 and older (35% vs. 25% among those aged 18-34); and
- Men (37% vs. 28% among women).

A Minority Of Canadians (44%) Compared To A Majority Of Americans (73%) Think Canada Should Join Missile Defence Program...

In both countries, respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that “Canada should join the US missile defence program that would protect all of North America from potential missile attacks”.

In Canada, 44% of respondents agree with this statement (24% “somewhat agree”, 20% “very much agree”), compared to 52% who disagree with this statement (19% “somewhat disagree”, 33% “very much disagree”), and 4% who “don’t know”.



In the United States, 73% of respondents agree with this statement (34% “somewhat agree”, 40% “very much agree”), while 22% disagree with this statement (12% “somewhat disagree”, 9% “very much disagree”), and 5% “don’t know”.

Among Canadians, those most likely to agree with this statement are:

- Residents of Alberta (53%), followed by residents of Atlantic Canada (52%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (47%), Ontario (46%), British Columbia (38%), and Quebec (37%).

Those Canadians most likely to disagree with this statement are:

- Residents of Quebec (60%), followed by residents of British Columbia (55%), Ontario (49%), Atlantic Canada (48%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (47%), and Alberta (44%).
- Those who achieved at least some post-secondary education or more (57% vs. 44% of those who have at most achieved a highschool diploma education).

Three-Quarters Of Canadians (76%) See Canada As A Significant Player In World Affairs, Compared To Just Half Of Americans (52%) Who See Canada This Way...

In both Canada and the United States, respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that “Canada is a significant player in world affairs”.

In Canada, three-quarters of respondents (76%) agree with this statement (45% “somewhat agree”, 31% “very much agree”), and 23% disagree with this statement (17% “somewhat disagree”, 6% “very much disagree”), and 1% “don’t know” if they agree or disagree.



In the United States, half of respondents (52%) agree with this statement (40% “somewhat agree”, 11% “very much agree”), while 45% disagree with this statement (33% “somewhat disagree”, 12% “very much disagree”), and 3% “don’t know” if they agree or disagree.

In Canada, those most likely to agree with this statement are:

- Residents of Quebec (82%), followed by residents of Atlantic Canada (79%), British Columbia (75%), Ontario (73%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (72%), and Alberta (69%);
- Those aged 18-34 (80% vs. 75% among those aged 35 and over); and
- Women (80% vs. 71% among men).

Substantially More Canadians Than Americans Agree That Children In Their Country Are Getting A Good Quality Education (84% Vs. 59%)...

In both countries, respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that “children in my country get a good quality education”.

In Canada, 84% of respondents agree with this statement (44% “somewhat agree”, 39% “very much agree”), compared to only 15% who disagree with this statement (9% “somewhat disagree”, 6% “very much disagree”), and 1% who “don’t know” if they agree or disagree.

In the United States, 59% of respondents agree with this statement (38% “somewhat agree”, 22% “very much agree”), while 40% disagree with this statement (23% “somewhat disagree”, 18% “very much disagree”).

In Canada, those most likely to agree with this statement are:

- Residents of Atlantic Canada (86%), followed by residents of Quebec (84%), Ontario (84%) and Alberta (84%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (83%) and British Columbia (80%).



- Those with an annual household income of \$30,000 or more are significantly more likely than those with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 to agree with this statement (87% vs. 76%).

Three In Ten Americans (32%) Do Not Agree That Canadian Beef Is Safe To Eat (Vs. Only 6% Of Canadians Who Feel This Way)...

In both countries, respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that “Canadian beef is a good and safe product I would not hesitate to eat”.

In Canada, nearly all respondents (93%) agree with this statement (15% “somewhat agree”, 78% “very much agree”), compared to only 6% who disagree (4% “somewhat disagree”, 2% “very much disagree”), and 1% “don’t know”.

In the United States, a good proportion of respondents (32%) disagree with this statement (21% “somewhat disagree”, 12% “very much disagree”), but the majority (60%) agree with this statement (39% “somewhat agree”, 21% “very much agree”), and 8% “don’t know”.

In Canada:

- Very strong majorities in each region agree with this statement, with strongest agreement coming in Alberta (96%), followed by Atlantic Canada (95%), Ontario (94%), British Columbia (93%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (91%), and Quebec (89%).

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