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One In Five Canadians (22%) Feel Overwhelmed By Tsunami Disaster - Many Canadians (37%) Have Made Donation, One-Third (32%) Expect To Do So

Toronto, ON – As Canadians try to come to grips with the largest natural disaster in recorded history a new Ipsos-Reid survey shows that despite criticisms from the opposition about the way in which the Government responded to the catastrophe, a very strong majority of Canadians (79%) approve of the way the Prime Minister and his government have responded to the tsunami disaster on behalf of Canadians.

And further, after considering that the “Canadian Federal Government has pledged \$80 million dollars in aid to tsunami-hit countries, has deployed Canada’s Disaster Assistance Response Team, and is introducing fast tracked immigration to Canada for sponsored family members from the affected regions” most Canadians (71%) feel that the Canadian Federal Government is “doing just the right amount”, while 21% feel they “should be doing more” and 4% feel they “should be doing less”.

But many Canadians are hopeful that the government will more widely open up the country’s borders to immigrants from the tsunami-affected regions. Specifically, when considering the government’s recently stated offering of fast-tracked immigration to those in



the tsunami-affected regions that have family members here in Canada: Half (52%) of Canadians say they think “the government should allow only those with family sponsors a fast-tracked opportunity to come to Canada”, but a substantial minority of four in ten (42%) say “a much larger group of people from the region should be allowed to immigrate to Canada on humanitarian grounds regardless of whether or not they have family sponsorship”.

The tsunami disaster has certainly captured the attention and strong concern of the Canadian public. One in five Canadians (22%) say they feel “overwhelmed” and 50% say they feel “deeply concerned” when they are asked about their reaction to what has happened as a result of the tsunami disaster. Eight in ten Canadians (83%) say that they have been following the developments of the tsunami disaster closely.

And in response to this disaster, many Canadians (37%) have given to a registered charitable organizations to help with tsunami disaster relief, and many more Canadians (32%) say they expect to make a donation in the future. But 28% of Canadians have not and do not expect to donate to a charity for tsunami disaster relief.

These are the findings of an Ipsos-Reid/CTV/The Globe And Mail poll conducted from January 4th to January 6th, 2004. For the survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1000 adult Canadians were interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, 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. These data were weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to the 2001 Census data.



A Strong Majority Of Canadians (79%) Approve Of The Way The Prime Minister And His Government Have Responded...

A strong majority of Canadians (79%) say they approve of the “way Prime Minister Paul Martin and his government have responded to the tsunami disaster on behalf of Canadians” (27% “strongly approve”, 53% “somewhat approve”). Only 16% of Canadians disapprove of the way they have responded to this disaster (10% “somewhat disapprove”, 6% “strongly disapprove”). The remaining 5% of Canadians “don’t know” whether they approve or disapprove of the way Prime Minister Martin and his government have responded.

Those most likely to approve of the way Prime Minister Paul Martin and his government have responded to the tsunami crisis on behalf of Canadians are:

- Residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (87%), followed by residents of Ontario (84%), Atlantic Canada (83%), British Columbia (80%), Quebec (73%), and Alberta (70%).

And Most Canadians (71%) Feel Government Is “Doing The Right Amount” In Helping Those Affected By The Tsunami Disaster...

After being prompted with the information that the “Canadian Federal Government has pledged \$80 million dollars in aid to tsunami-hit countries, has deployed Canada’s Disaster Assistance Response Team, and is introducing fast tracked immigration to Canada for sponsored family members from the affected regions”, respondents were asked whether they believe the government “should be doing more to help those affected by the tsunami disaster”, “should be doing less”, or if they “are doing just the right amount”.

The strong majority of Canadians (71%) feel that the Canadian Federal Government is “doing just the right amount”, while 21% feel they “should be doing more” and 4% feel they “should be doing less”.



The remaining 3% of Canadians “don’t know” how they feel about the Federal Government’s response to this issue.

Those most likely to believe the Federal Government is “doing just the right amount” are:

- Residents of Ontario (75%), followed by residents of Atlantic Canada (74%) and Alberta (74%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (72%), British Columbia (70%), and Quebec (65%).
- Those with an annual household income of \$60,000 or more (77% vs. 67% among those with an annual household income of less than \$60,000).

Those most likely to say they “should be doing more” are:

- Residents of Quebec (27%), followed by residents of British Columbia (26%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (22%), Alberta (21%), Ontario (17%), and Atlantic Canada (11%).

Half Of Canadians (52%) Think Government Should Only Offer Fast-Tracked Immigration To Tsunami Victims With Family In Canada - But 42% Think Government Should Open Borders To Many More Victims...

Survey respondents were prompted with the information that “the Federal Government has offered fast tracking immigration to those people in the tsunami-affected regions that have family sponsors here in Canada”. After being prompted with this information, the respondents were asked whether they believe that “the government should allow only those with family sponsors a fast-tracked opportunity to come to Canada” or whether they thought that “a much larger group of people from the region should be allowed to immigrate to



Canada on humanitarians grounds regardless of whether or not they have family sponsorship”.

Half of respondents (52%) say that they believe the government should only target fast tracked immigration to those with sponsoring families, while 42% say they believe the government should open up immigration to many more regardless of sponsorship.

The remaining 6% of Canadians “don’t know” which of these two opinions is closest to their own.

Those most likely to believe that the government should target fast tracked immigration only those with sponsoring families are:

- Residents of Ontario (57%), followed by residents of Atlantic Canada (55%), British Columbia (53%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (52%), Alberta (49%), and Quebec (47%).
- Men (56% vs. 50% among women).
- Those with an annual household income of \$30,000 or more (55% vs. 40% among those with an annual household income of less than \$30,000).

Those most likely to believe that the government should open up the fast tracked immigration to many more regardless of family sponsorship are:

- Residents of Quebec (49%), followed by residents of Alberta (46%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (45%), British Columbia (41%), Atlantic Canada (39%), and Ontario (37%).
- Those aged 18-34 (48% vs. 39% among those aged 35 and over).
- Those with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 (53% vs. 41% among those with an annual household income of more than \$30,000).



One In Five Canadians (22%) Feel “Overwhelmed” By Tsunami Disaster...

When asked to think about their reaction to what has happened as a result of the tsunami disaster, 22% of Canadians say they feel “overwhelmed”, and 50% say they feel “deeply concerned”. In total, seven in ten Canadians (72%) feel either “overwhelmed” or “deeply concerned” in reaction to the tsunami disaster.

One-quarter of Canadians (26%) feel “somewhat concerned”, while 3% say they “don’t really care”.

Those Canadians most likely to feel either “overwhelmed” or “deeply concerned” in reaction to the tsunami disaster:

- Residents of Quebec (78%), followed by residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (77%), residents of Alberta (74%), Atlantic Canada (71%) and British Columbia (71%), and Ontario (66%).
- Women (79% vs. 64% among men).

Eight In Ten Canadians (83%) Are Following The Events Of Tsunami Disaster Closely...

Eight in ten Canadians (83%) say that they have been following the developments of the tsunami disaster “closely”, with 30% of them saying they have been following the developments “very closely” and 52% of them saying “somewhat closely”.

Meanwhile, 17% of Canadians say they are not following the developments of the tsunami closely, with 14% saying they are following it “not very closely” and 4% “not at all”.



Those Canadians most likely to say that they are following the developments of the tsunami disaster closely are:

- Residents of Alberta (91%), followed closely by residents of British Columbia (90%), Atlantic Canada (88%), Ontario (86%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (78%), and Quebec (70%).
- Those aged 55 and over (90% vs. 80% among those aged 18-54).
- Those with a post secondary level education or higher (85% vs. 77% among those with a high school diploma level education or lower).

Many Canadians (37%) Have Made A Donation To A Registered Charity To Help With Tsunami Disaster Relief – Another One-Third (32%) Plan To Donate...

Many Canadians (37%) say that they have already made a financial donation to a registered charitable organization to help with disaster relief, and a further one-third (32%) say that they “expect to” make a donation to the relief effort. A minority of three in ten Canadians (28%) have not and do not expect to make a donation to a charity to help with the tsunami disaster relief effort. The remaining 3% of Canadians “don’t know” if they have donated or whether they expect to donate.

Those Canadians most likely to say that they “have” made a donation are:

- Residents of British Columbia (52%), followed by residents of Alberta (48%), Ontario (42%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (36%), Atlantic Canada (27%), and Quebec (22%).
- Those aged 55 and over (43% vs. 35% among those aged 18-54).



- Those with a university degree education or higher (45% vs. those with lower levels of education).
- Those with an annual household income of \$60,000 or more (45% vs. 32%).

Those Canadians most likely to say that they “expect to” make a donation are:

- Residents of Atlantic Canada (40%), followed by residents of Saskatchewan/Manitoba (35%), Ontario (33%), Quebec (32%), British Columbia (28%), and Alberta (25%).
- Women (35% vs. 29% among men).

Those Canadians most likely to say that they have not and will not make a donation are:

- Residents of Quebec (45%), followed by residents of Atlantic Canada (29%), Alberta (24%), Ontario (23%), Saskatchewan/Manitoba (21%), and British Columbia (19%).
- Those aged 18-54 (31% vs. 20% among those aged 55 and over).
- Those with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 (43% vs. 28% among those with an annual household income of \$30,000 to less than \$60,000 and 20% among those with an annual household income of \$60,000 or more).

And Most Commonly Cited Donation Is \$100...

When those Canadians who say they have made a donation to the tsunami relief effort are asked approximately how much in total they have donated for tsunami relief – the most frequently cited response is \$100.



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-30-

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