

MAJORITY (54%) FEEL P.M. WAS WRONG NOT TO ATTEND RECENT INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE



Ipsos Reid

Ipsos Reid Posting Public Release Date: Monday, September 4, 2006

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MAJORITY (54%) FEEL P.M. WAS WRONG NOT TO ATTEND RECENT INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

Toronto, ON – A new Ipsos Reid survey conducted on behalf of CanWest Global reports that a majority [54%] of Canadians believe that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision not to personally attend the International AIDS conference held recently in Toronto and instead tour Canada's Arctic North **and** to delay a planned announcement on funding for AIDS because things had become too "politicized" was "wrong to do", compared to 43% who feel that he was "right not to attend the conference and to [delay] the funding announcement".

Feelings that the Prime Minister was "wrong" to not attend run highest among residents of Quebec [61%] and Ontario [58%], younger adults (62% among those ages 18-34) and women [60%]. Views that the Prime Minister was "right" to not attend run the highest in Alberta [50%] and Saskatchewan/Manitoba [54%], and among those most likely to be over the age of 55 [51%] and men [49%].

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News and fielded from August 22-24th, 2006. For this survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1002 adult Canadians was interviewed by telephone. With a sample of this size, the aggregate 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 each sub-grouping 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 Census data.

	Total	British Columbia	Alberta	Sask/Man	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic Canada
Sample	1002	140	96	67	386	238	76
Margin of Error +/-%	3.1	8.3	10.0	12	5.0	6.4	11.2



Instead of attending the international AIDS conference in Toronto the Prime Minister conducted a tour of Canada's far north to proclaim its sovereignty and sent Federal Health Minister, Tony Clement, to the conference to address the delegates. The government also canceled a planned announcement on funding for AIDS saying that things had become too "politicized" and they would wait for a better time to make their announcement.[ROTATE: Some/Other] people say Mr. Harper was wrong not to have attended the conference and to cancel the funding announcement for a later time because regardless of the criticism or heckling that might have taken place, his place was to represent Canada on the world stage [ROTATE: Other/Some] people say that Mr. Harper was right not to have attended the conference and cancel the funding announcement for a later time because no matter what he or his government announced he would have been criticized or heckled because the event had become too politicized, and this was disrespectful and inappropriate to do to the Prime Minister representing Canada on the world stage

Which of those two statements is closer to your point of view?

	Total
Prime Minister Harper was wrong not to attend the conference and to cancel the funding announcement	54%
Prime Minister Harper was right not to attend the conference and to cancel the funding announcement	43%

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