

# From Bush's Legacy to Obama's Hope:

*Seven in Ten (72%) 'Disagree' Bush's Critics Have Been Too Harsh, While Most Agree (86%) That Obama's Presidency Brings Hope for the Future*

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**Ipsos Reid**

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Hope for the Future*

**Toronto, ON** – On the eve of an historic transition of power in the United States, a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted exclusively for Canwest News Service and Global Television has revealed a stark contrast of opinions towards outgoing President George W. Bush and incoming President Barack Obama.

Focusing first on President Bush, who has been given a tough ride over both his foreign and domestic policies, three quarters (72%) 'disagree' (44% strongly/28% somewhat) that 'the critics of George Bush have been too harsh and people will think much better of his presidency in the future'. Conversely, three in ten (28%) 'agree' (5% strongly/22% somewhat) that criticism has been too harsh and that people will view Bush's presidency in a more favourable light in the future.

- Residents of Quebec (81%) and British Columbia (80%) are most likely to 'disagree' with this sentiment, followed by those living in Atlantic Canada (72%), Ontario (67%), Alberta (66%), and Saskatchewan and Manitoba (64%).

Turning to incoming President Barack Obama, most (86%) Canadians 'agree' that the Obama presidency gives them 'great hope for the future of America and the world'. Just 14% 'disagree' (3% strongly/10% somewhat) that this is the case.



- Atlantic Canadians (93%) are most likely to agree that the Obama presidency gives them hope, followed by Quebecers (92%), Ontarians (86%), British Columbians (86%) and Albertans (80%). Interestingly, those living in Saskatchewan and Manitoba (67%) are considerably less likely to feel this way.

*These are the findings of a poll conducted on behalf of Canwest News Service and Global National from January 13 to 15, 2009. This online survey of 1016 Canadian adults was conducted via the Ipsos I-Say Online Panel, Ipsos Reid's national online panel. The results of these polls are based on a sample where quota sampling and weighting are employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data. Quota samples with weighting from the Ipsos online panel provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls, however, an unweighted probability sample of this size, with a 100% response rate, would have an estimated margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had the entire adult population of Canada been polled.*

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