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Should Stop the Sale of Canadian Companies to All Foreign
Investors, Three Quarters (74%) Agree Sales to Foreign-Owned
State Enterprises Should Stop**

*Majority (56%) Disagrees That Canada Needs Foreign Investment If it
Wants the Oil and Gas Sector to Grow*

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Enterprises Should Stop**

***Majority (56%) Disagrees That Canada Needs Foreign Investment If it Wants
the Oil and Gas Sector to Grow***

Toronto, ON – Most Canadians want to put a stop to the sale of Canadian companies to foreign investors – particularly if that investor is a state-owned enterprise – according to a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television. Two-thirds (68%) of Canadians ‘agree’ (29% strongly/38% somewhat) that ‘the Harper government should stop the sale of Canadian companies to all foreign investors’. Just one in three (32%) Canadians, however, ‘disagree’ (7% strongly/25% somewhat) that the government should stop the sale of companies to foreign investors.

British Columbians (72%) and Atlantic Canadians (72%) are the most likely ‘agree’ that the Harper government should stop the sale of Canadian companies to foreign investors, followed by Quebecers (70%), Albertans (68%), Ontarians (66%), and residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (61%). Residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (39%) are most likely to ‘disagree’ that the Harper government should prohibit sale of Canadian companies to foreign interests, with Ontarians (34%), Albertans (32%), Quebecers (30%), British Columbians (28%), and Atlantic Canadians (28%) all trailing behind the Prairie Provinces (39%).

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Even more Canadians want the Harper government to put a stop to any sale of Canadian companies when the buyer is controlled by a foreign government. Three-quarters (74%) of Canadians 'agree' (30% strongly/44% somewhat) that 'the Harper government should prohibit the sale of Canadian companies when the buyer is owned by a foreign government, something known as a state-owned enterprise'. Just one-quarter (26%) 'disagree' (6% strongly/20% somewhat) that the Harper government should prohibit sales to buyers that are state-owned enterprises.

Atlantic Canadians (80%) most 'agree' that these type of sales to state-owned enterprises should be prohibited, followed by Ontarians (76%), Albertans (76%), British Columbians (74%), Quebecers (72%), and residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (67%). One-third (33%) of Saskatchewan and Manitoba residents 'disagree' with this statement, making the most likely to do so, followed by Quebecers (28%), British Columbians (26%), Albertans (24%), Ontarians (24%), and Atlantic Canadians (20%).

Recently, the Harper government decided to allow the sales of Nexen Inc. and Progressive Energy to Chinese and Malaysian state-owned enterprises, respectively, but most Canadians, however, believe that growth in this sector can happen without investment from foreign sources like China. A majority (56%) 'disagree' (19% strongly/37% somewhat) that 'if Canada wants its oil and gas sector to grow, it needs to attract foreign investment from countries like China', while a minority (44%) 'agree' (9% strongly/35% somewhat) that foreign investment is needed for growth in these sectors to occur.

Residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (67%), Atlantic Canada (58%), and Ontario (57%) are more likely than the national average to 'disagree' with the notion of needing foreign investment to grow the oil and gas sector, followed by Quebecers (56%), British Columbians



(55%), and Albertans (50%). Half (50%) of Albertans, however, 'agree' that such investment is needed for sector growth, making them the most likely in Canada to believe this, followed by British Columbians (45%), Quebecers (44%), Ontarians (43%), Atlantic Canadians (42%), and Saskatchewan and Manitoba residents (33%).

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between December 7th to 12th, 2012, on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television. For this survey, a sample of 1,021 Canadians from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case the poll is accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points of the entire Canadian adult population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.

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