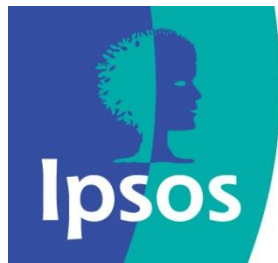


# Canadians Reflect on Pope Benedict's Job Performance and Decision to Resign

*Majority (58%) of Canadians, and Most Catholics (73%), Believe the Office of the Pope is a Force For Good in the World*

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**Ipsos Reid**

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## Canadians Reflect on Pope Benedict's Job Performance and Decision to Resign

### *Majority (58%) of Canadians, and Most Catholics (73%), Believe the Office of the Pope is a Force For Good in the World*

**Toronto, ON** – While Catholics in Canada are looking forward to the upcoming reign of newly elected Pope Francis I, Canadians appear satisfied with the job done by Pope Benedict, according to a new poll conducted on behalf of Postmedia News and Global Television. A majority (59%) of Canadians 'agree' (9% strongly/50% somewhat) that 'Pope Benedict did a good job as Pope', while four in ten (41%) 'disagree' (13% strongly/28% somewhat). Catholics, in particular, are more likely to agree (69%) that he did a good job as Pope, while fewer disagreed (31%) that he did a good job.

The vast majority (84%) of Canadians 'agree' (38% strongly/46% somewhat) that they 'support Pope Benedict's decision to resign as Pope to make way for a new Pope', while just 16% 'disagreed' (8% strongly/9% somewhat). Catholics were even more supportive (91%) of the decision, while fewer didn't support it (9%).

Interestingly, a majority of Canadians (58%), and most Catholics (73%), believe that 'the office of the Pope is a force for good in the world. Four in ten (42%) Canadians, overall, and three in ten (27%) Catholics, though, disagree.

Among all Canadians, the Pope polls ahead of the Church, as just 55% of Canadians, overall, believe the Catholic Church is a force for good in the world, while 45% disagree. Catholics,



though, are more likely to believe that the Church is a force for good, with 75% believing this is the case and 25% disagreeing.

Furthermore, just three in ten (28%) Catholics 'agree' (6% strongly/22% somewhat) that 'the Pope is relevant' to them in their daily lives, while most (72%) 'disagree' (28% strongly/43% somewhat). Among Catholics who attend Church on a weekly basis, though, the inverse is true: six in ten (60%) believe the Pope is relevant to them in their daily lives, while four in ten (40%) say he isn't.

*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between March 11 and 13, 2013, on behalf Postmedia News and Global Television. For this survey, a sample of 1,412 Canadians (including 396 Roman Catholics) 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 (including religion) 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 within +/- 3 percentage points had all Canadians been surveyed, and +/- 5.6 percentage points for the sub-sample of Roman Catholics. 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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