



Canadian Defence
& Foreign Affairs
Institute



THE DOMINION
INSTITUTE

SURVEY EXCLUSIVE – GLOBAL NATIONAL Military an important value of Canada's past and future

Toronto – April 7, 2005 – Canadians strongly value both the contribution of Canada's veterans in the first World War and the role of the military in Canada's future.

A strong majority of 85% of Canadians believe we should not allow the remaining veterans of World War One to pass away without doing something to keep the memory of their sacrifices alive. Most Canadians understand that fewer and fewer of these veterans remain with us today. More than half volunteer that less than 100 are alive today. One in 6 (17%) correctly identified that less than ten of these men are with us to celebrate the 78th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, Canada's greatest victory in World War One.

The military is not just an anachronism for most Canadians. Seven out of ten Canadians agree that "Canada needs to rebuild its military if we want to be taken seriously in international affairs." Virtually as many (69%) disagree with the statement that "Canada's military may have played an important role in the past, but we don't need a strong military today."

About This Survey

The **Innovative Research Group, Inc.** (www.innovativeresearch.ca), a Toronto-based research firm, was commissioned to survey 1,000 randomly selected Canadians. The survey was conducted between Tuesday, March 29th and Sunday, April 3rd and has a margin of error of +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. The full results will be posted on the IRG website Monday, April 11th, 2005.

The CDFAI (www.cdfai.org) is a non-partisan, charitable research institute dedicated to stimulating awareness and debate amongst Canadians about their nation's defence and foreign policies. The Dominion Institute (www.dominion.ca) is a charitable organization whose purpose is to promote greater knowledge and interest in Canada's past as a way of informing present-day policy dialogue.

The results of this poll are exclusive to the Global National news for their April 7th broadcast.

Spokespersons

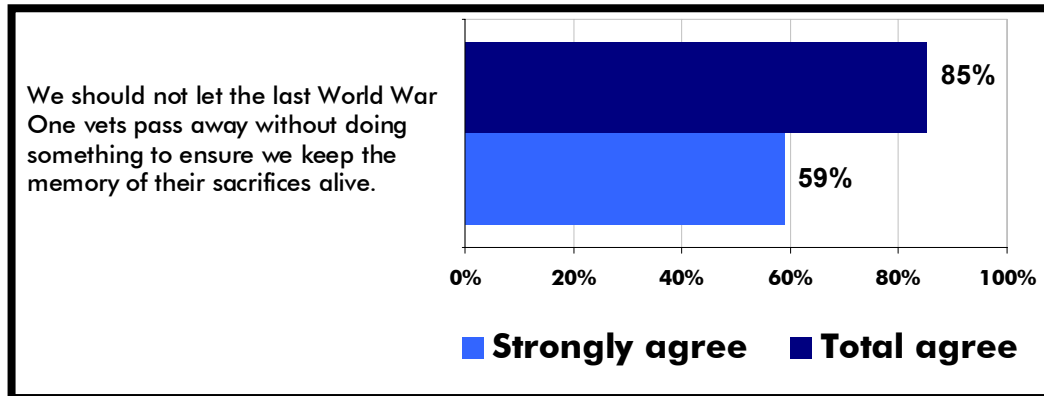
Rudyard Griffiths
Dominion Institute of Canada
Rudyard@dominion.ca
Cell: 416-737-9626

Greg Lyle
Innovative Research Group Inc.
glyle@innovativeresearch.ca
Office Direct 416-642-6429

Main Findings

A. Remembering World War One veterans

Canadians strongly believe (85% agree) that we should not let the last World War One veterans pass away without doing something to keep the memory of their sacrifices alive. Almost six in ten Canadians strongly agree with that sentiment.



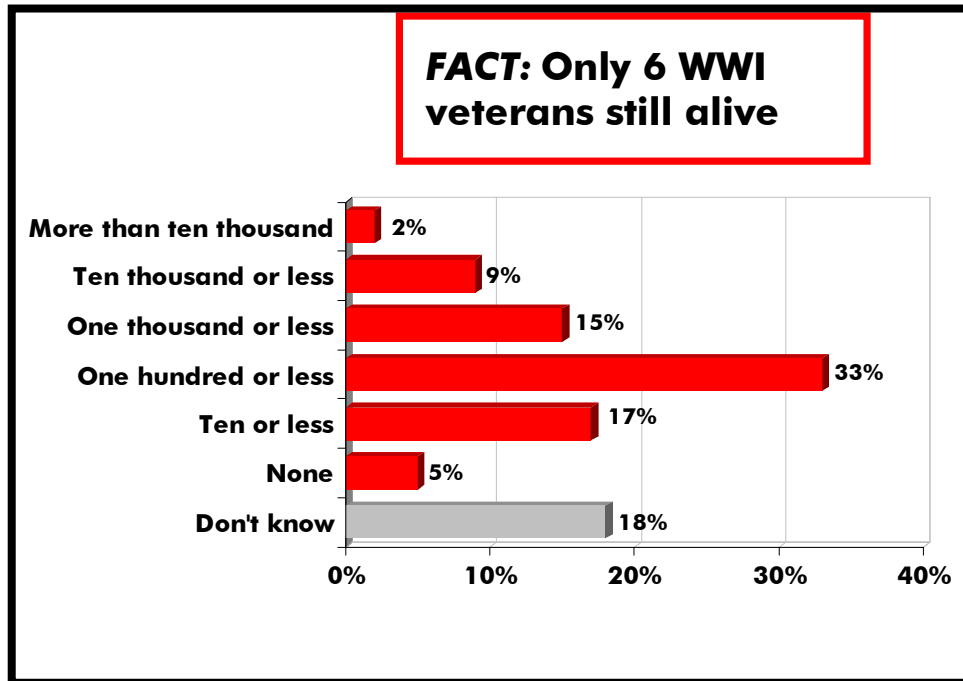
This commitment to remembrance is a feeling that crosses most of the normal regional and demographic divides. No less than 72% of any demographic or regional group agrees we should take some action to remember the World War One veterans.

The strongest supporters include Canadians from the Atlantic provinces (95%), residents of smaller cities (93%), those over 55 years old (89%) and working women (89%).

The most likely to disagree include residents from Quebec (23%), those under 35 (15%), working men (14%) and residents of large cities (13%).

B. How many World War One veterans are alive today

Only six World War One veterans are alive today. While relatively few Canadians (17%) were able to tell us less than 10 were alive today, 55% offered a number between zero and one hundred when asked how many veterans are still with us. Only a little over one in ten (11%) say over one thousand still survive.



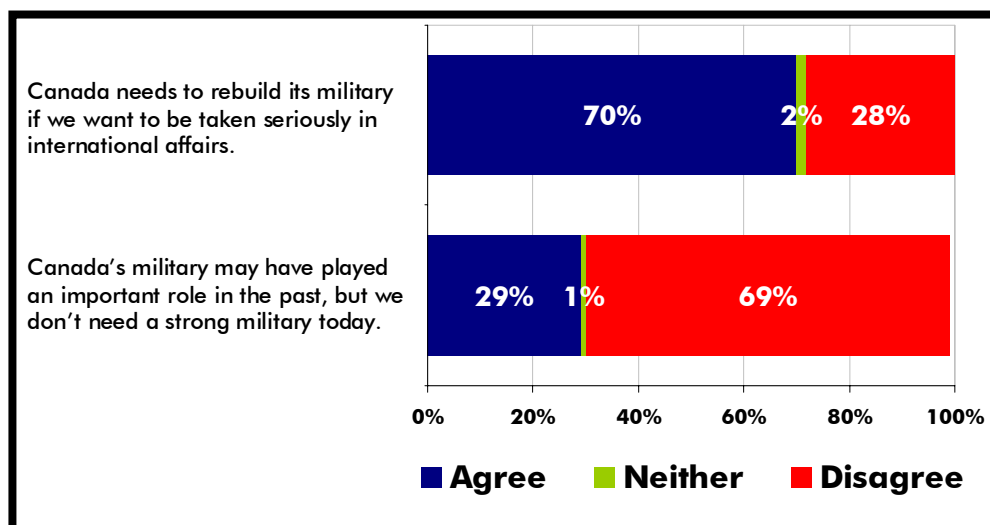
Again, there are not wide differences among Canadians. Those over 55 (25%) are more likely to say that 10 or less are alive today. British Columbians are both more likely to get their facts right (24% say 10 or less survivors) or get them wildly wrong (18% say more than 1,000 survivors). Women are more likely to say they are unsure (22%) as are rural Canadians (23%) and those from low income households (22%).

C. Views about the military in Canada's future

This survey asked Canadians to agree or disagree with two opposing view points on the role of the military in Canada's future.

- B6 Canada's military may have played an important role in the past, but we don't need a strong military today.
- B7 Canada needs to rebuild its military if we want to be taken seriously in international affairs.

Canadians believe a strong military is still a very important vehicle for international influence. Almost seven in ten disagree with the idea that the military may have been important in the past, but we don't need a strong military today. Similarly, 70% agree that Canada needs to rebuild its military if it wants to be taken seriously.



Canadians from Quebec (43%), those under 35 (38%) and residents from big cities (36%) are most likely to agree that we don't need a strong military today.

The same profile holds true for those who disagree with the idea that Canada needs to rebuild its military to be taken seriously. Disagreement peaks among Canadians from Quebec (42%), those under 35 (37%) and residents from big cities (32%).

Full Question Text

- A) I would now like to read you a list of statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements?
1. Canada's military may have played an important role in the past, but we don't need a strong military today.
 2. Canada needs to rebuild its military if we want to be taken seriously in international affairs.
 3. We should not let the last World War One vets pass away without doing something to ensure we keep the memory of their sacrifices alive.
- B) How many Canadian veterans from WWI do you think are still alive today?
1. None
 2. Ten or less
 3. One hundred or less
 4. One thousand or less
 5. Ten thousand or less
 6. More than ten thousand