



THE DOMINION  
INSTITUTE



## **Illusion that Canada is a Multicultural Mosaic and the United States is a Melting Pot**

### **A Majority of Both Canadians and Americans Want New Immigrants to Assimilate into Their New Country's Way of Life**

**Toronto – November 15, 2005** – Despite the official rhetoric of Canada being a multicultural mosaic and the United States being a melting pot, a majority of both Canadians (70%) and Americans (76%) believe that new immigrants should adapt to their new country's way of life, emulating the melting pot model according to a new Dominion Institute survey conducted by Innovative Research Group. In comparison, approximately one-fifth of Canadians (20%) and Americans (17%) say that the priority of new immigrants to Canada and the United States should be to sustain the culture of their home country.

Regionally, residents of Quebec (78%) are more likely than those in other regions to believe that new immigrants should adopt the way of life of their new country, while residents of Atlantic Canada (51%) are the least likely to hold this opinion. Conversely, Atlantic Canadians (39%) are the most likely to say the main priority for new immigrants should be to sustain the culture of their country of origin.

"Pro-Bush" Canadians (77%) Canadians who are favourable towards President Bush and Americans, are just slightly more likely than either "Bush-Skeptics" (69%), Canadians who are favourable towards Americans, but feel unfavourably towards Presidents Bush, or "Anti-Americans" (70%) Canadians who feel unfavourably towards Americans and President Bush, to believe that the priority for new immigrants should be to adopt the Canadians way of life.

The view that new immigrants should assimilate into Canada's way of life increases with age. While 18 to 24 year olds are split (48% say sustain culture versus 46% who say adopt to the Canadian way of life), the preference for adopting the Canadian way of life is clearer as Canadians age, moving from two-thirds (65%) of those age 25 to 44 to over eight-in-ten (83%) of those 55 and older.

This identical pattern is also found in the United States, with younger Americans split (46% say sustain culture versus 48% who say adopt to the American way of life) on the issue, while the belief that new immigrants should melt into the America way of life increases with age to the level of nine-in-ten (90%) among senior Americans, those aged 65 and older.

Residents of the western region of the United States (81%) are more likely than those elsewhere to believe that new immigrants should adapt to the American way of life. This view is also more likely to be held by white Americans (79%) than by non-whites (65%).

## Two-Thirds of Canadians Believe Immigrants Have Better Chance of Getting Ahead in Canada than in the United States

Two-thirds (67%) of Canadians believe that an immigrant to Canada has a better chance of getting ahead than does an immigrant in the United States. Just over one-in-ten (12%) Canadians believe that the immigrant to the United States would have the better chance of getting ahead. One-fifth (20%) of Canadians were unsure as to which country would be better for an immigrant.

Regionally, Albertans (79%) are more likely than those in any other region to say an immigrant to Canada would have the better opportunities to get ahead. This position decreases with age. Eight-in-ten (83%) of young adults hold this view, while it declines to just half (52%) of those aged 55 and older. Current students (82%) and Canadians with a college education (75%) are more likely than those with other levels of education to believe that new immigrants to Canada will, in the long run, have a better chance to get ahead. In contrast, one-in-four (24%) of those with post-graduate education believe that a new immigrant to the United States has a better chance to get ahead than a new immigrant to Canada.

### About This Survey

**Innovative Research Group, Inc.** ([www.innovativeresearch.ca](http://www.innovativeresearch.ca)), a Toronto-based research firm, was commissioned to survey 1,016 randomly selected Canadians. The survey was conducted between Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20. Innovative was also commissioned to survey 1,000 randomly selected Americans. The survey was conducted between Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> and has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

**The Dominion Institute** ([www.dominion.ca](http://www.dominion.ca)) was established in 1997 by a group of young professional concerned about the erosion of a common memory in Canada. In the space of eight short years, the Institute has had a far-reaching impact on Canadians' knowledge and perceptions of their history and shared citizenship, through groundbreaking public opinion research, high-profile Internet, education and television programming, book publications, and meaningful curriculum reform. The Institute is a non-partisan organization and a federally registered charity (#873968176 RR0001).

**The Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute** ([www.cdfai.org](http://www.cdfai.org)) is a charitable, independent, non-partisan, research institute with an emphasis on Canadian Foreign Policy; Defence Policy; and National Security. We provide Canadians with factual and comprehensive policy analysis to promote their understanding of Canada's foreign policy and the state of our military preparedness and national security by developing and sponsoring authoritative research and education programs.

### Attribution

In the first instance of mentioning the poll results the survey should be identified as a "Dominion Institute / CDFAI survey conducted by Innovative Research Group".

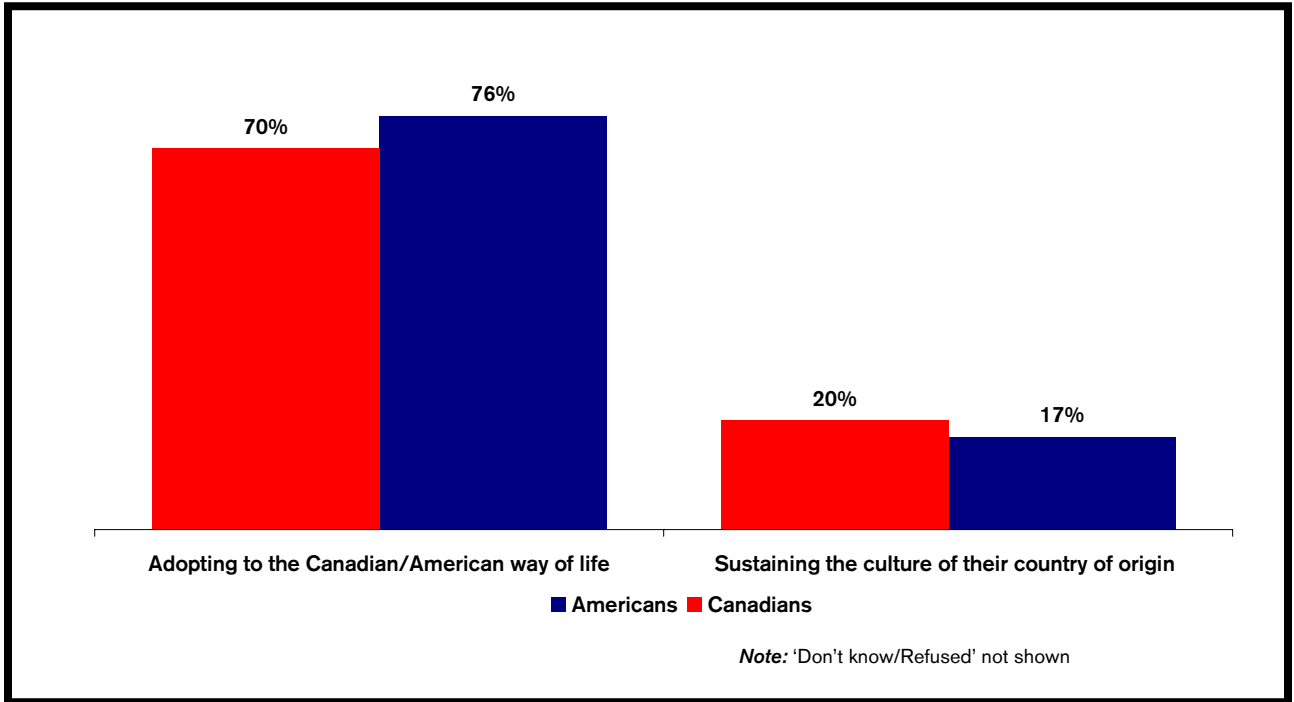
All subsequent mentions can use the convention "Dominion Institute / CDFAI poll conducted by Innovative".

Spokespersons

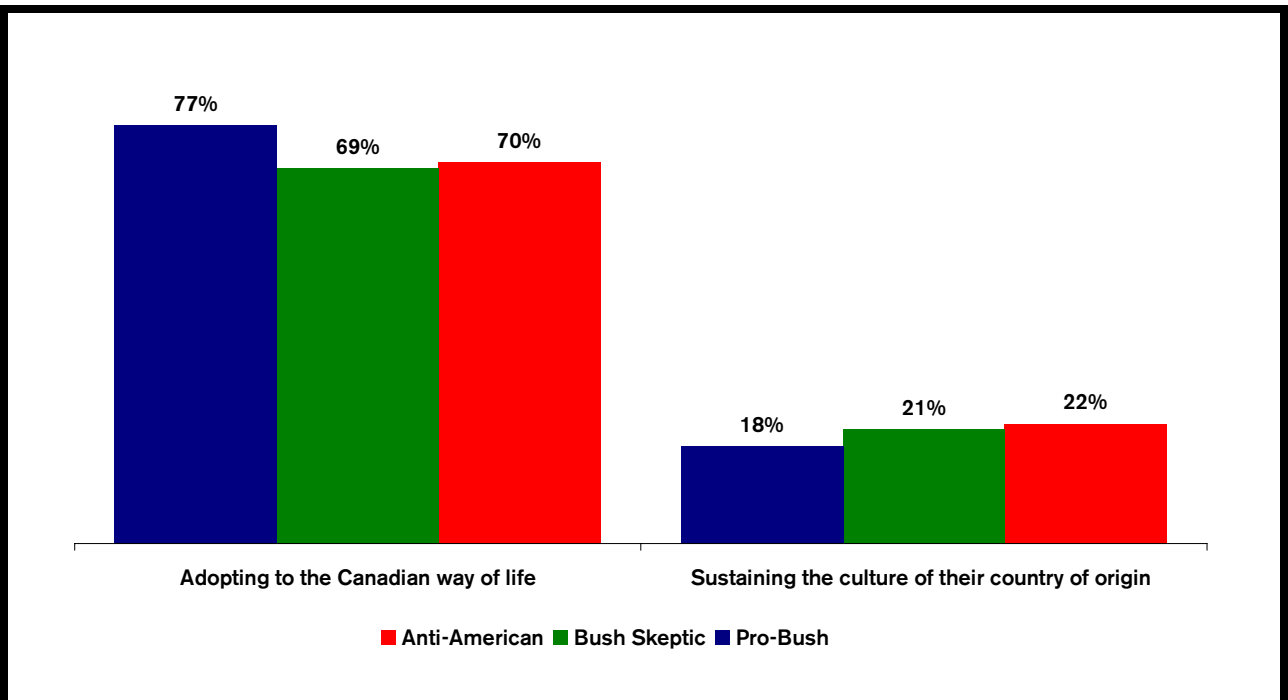
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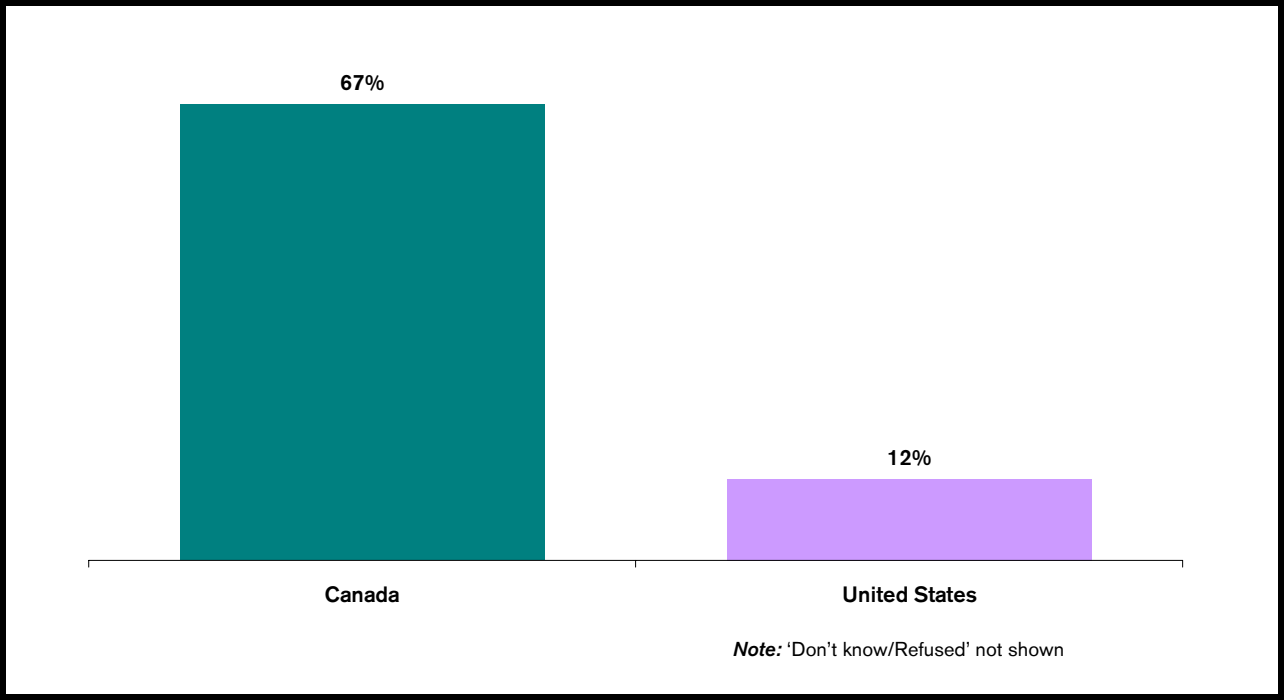
What should be the priority for new immigrants to Canada/America (ROTATE)?



What should be the priority for new immigrants to Canada/America (ROTATE)? (Among Canadians)



Do new immigrants have a better chance of getting ahead in (ROTATE) Canada or the United States?



## Full Question Text

[ASK IN US AND CANADA]

7. What should be the priority for new immigrants to Canada/America (ROTATE)?

Adapting to the Canadian/American way of life 1

OR

Sustaining the culture of their country of origin 2

Don't know 8 [VOLUNTEERED]

Refused 9 [VOLUNTEERED]

8. Do new immigrants have a better chance of getting ahead in (ROTATE) Canada or the United States?

Canada 1

United States 2

Don't know 8 [VOLUNTEERED]

Refused 9 [VOLUNTEERED]