



THE DOMINION
INSTITUTE



Annual Remembrance Week Survey

Commemorating the ‘passing on’ of Canada’s Last Great War Veteran

EMBARGOED TO 6:00 AM, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11

Three-quarters (74%) of Canadians support a state funeral for the last Canadian World War One veteran including 69% in Quebec

State Funeral support (74%) leads vs. Day of Mourning support (64%) by ten points

Seven-in-ten Canadians oppose not undertaking any special commemoration for the last World War One veteran; half (50%) strongly oppose

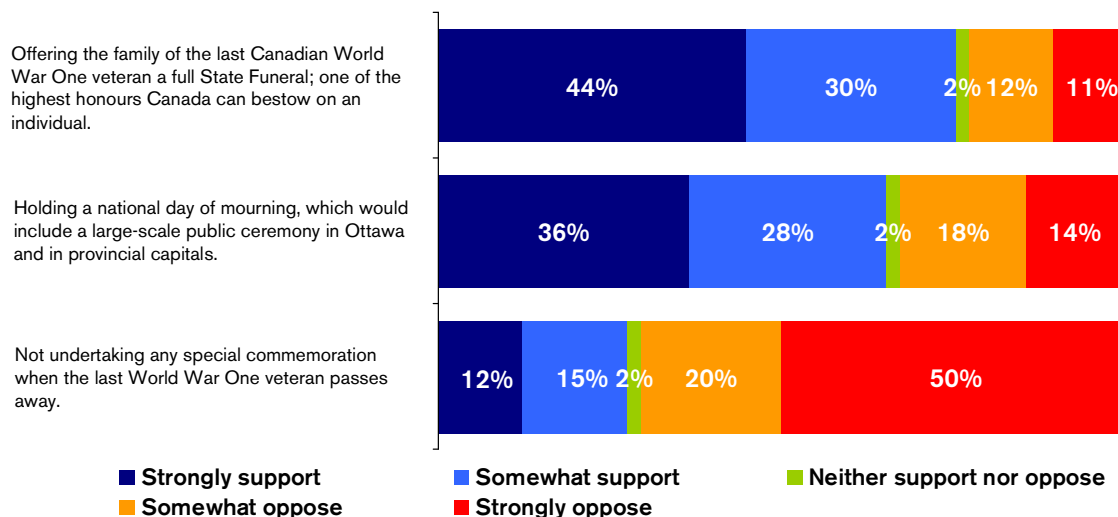
Toronto - November 11, 2006

Main Findings

Only three surviving vets remain from World War One in Canada. Given their advanced age, there has been much discussion about how to best commemorate the passing of the last surviving World War One veteran. When the Dominion Institute asked Canadians to support or oppose a list of three commemorative options the government could pursue regarding the last veteran, they responded as follows:



I am going to read you in a list of things the government could do to commemorate the passing of the last veteran. Please tell me if you would support or oppose each of these ideas. Would you support or oppose that idea?



Note: 'Don't know' and 'Refused' not shown

A. Three quarters of Canadians support state funeral to honor the last World War One veteran

Three out of every four Canadians (74%) support offering the family of the last Canadian World War One veteran a full state funeral, one of the highest honours Canada can bestow



on an individual. Nearly half of Canadians (44%) strongly support this option and 30% somewhat support. Only one-in-ten Canadians somewhat oppose (12%) or strongly oppose (11%) this option. One-in-fifty (2%) Canadians neither supports nor opposes holding a full state funeral.

In a regional breakdown, differences in support occur. Atlantic Canada is the strongest supporter offering a full state funeral: eight-in-ten (82%) support it. Three out of four Albertans (77%) and Ontarians (76%), and approximately seven-in-ten residents of the Prairies (73%), B.C. (69%), and Quebec (69%) support the option of a state funeral.

In strength of support, Atlantic Canada (54%) is the region where a majority of Canadians strongly support. In comparison, a fourteen point gap (40%) exists between strongly support in Atlantic Canada and B.C., a twelve point gap (42%) between Atlantic and Ontario and a ten percent gap (44%) between Atlantic and Quebec.

Support is highest among 18-34 year olds (77%), with eight-in-ten supporting a state funeral for the last World War One veteran; it also decreases with age. Three out of four (75%) Canadians aged 35-54 years old and only two in three (67%) of those 55 and older would support the option of a state funeral.

C. Two-thirds support national day of mourning, ten points below state funeral

A majority support a national day of mourning (64%) as well, although there is a ten point gap between support for a state funeral (74%) and a day of mourning. 36 percent strongly support a national day of mourning, which would include a large-scale public ceremony in Ottawa and in provincial capitals, as opposed to 44 percent who strongly support a state funeral. Less than three-in-ten (28%) somewhat support, and 2 percent neither support nor oppose a national day of mourning. 18 percent somewhat oppose and 14 percent strongly

oppose a national day of mourning vs. only 12 percent and 11 percent who somewhat and strongly oppose a state funeral, respectively.

Regionally, support is highest in Atlantic Canada (75%), while support in Quebec is barely six-in-ten (57%). The rest of Canada shows approximately two-thirds support for a national day of mourning.

As age increases, support wanes slightly for a national day of mourning. Those 18-34 (66%) are most likely to support a national day of mourning, as opposed to 64 percent of Canadians 35-54 and 61 percent of those 55+ years older.

D. Not Undertaking Any Special Commemoration

Most Canadians want special commemoration for the last veteran: only one quarter (27%) of Canadians support not undertaking any special commemoration, while seven-in-ten (70%) oppose this option. Of those that support, 12 percent strongly support and 15 percent somewhat support not taking any special commemoration. Canadians are decidedly against this option, as precisely half (50%) of the population strongly opposes not undertaking any special commemoration.

Regionally, Albertans (35%) show the most support for not undertaking special commemoration. Three-in-ten from the Prairies (31%), B.C. (28%) and Ontario (28%) all show support for this option, while only two-in-ten from Atlantic Canada (20%) and Quebec (21%) support it.

About This Survey

Innovative Research Group, Inc. (www.innovativeresearch.ca), a national research firm, was commissioned to survey 1,013 randomly selected Canadians. The survey was conducted between Thursday, October 26th and Tuesday, October 31st, 2006 and has a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The Dominion Institute (www.dominion.ca) is a charitable organization whose purpose is to promote greater knowledge and interest in Canadian history.

Survey Attribution

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Spokespersons

Rudyard Griffiths
Executive Director
Dominion Institute
Cell: 416 737 9626
rudyard@dominion.ca
www.dominion.ca

AND,

Greg Lyle
Managing Director
Innovative Research Group
Direct: 416 642 6429
glyle@innovativeresearch.ca
www.innovativeresearch.ca

