

B. Canada As World Leader

Providing aid to poor countries has long been an important aspect of Canadian foreign policy and respondents to the survey were asked to rate their country's performance in this area in comparison to that of other nations. Canadians have a definite set of ideas as to where their country stands with 77% perceiving Canada as being among the more generous countries at the present time. While another 8% say that Canada is a world leader, only 16% believe the country to be among the less generous.

Attitudes do not vary greatly across the country, although it is interesting to note that persons between 45 and 54 years of age (27%) and those whose household income is \$50,000 or more (23%) are among the most likely to see Canada among the less generous nations.

When asked what role they would prefer Canada to adopt in the future, responses tend to reflect current impressions. As shown in Table 8, the majority say that they would prefer Canada to continue being among the more generous in the future. While only one in five (21%) would like Canada to become a world leader, 33% of 16 and 17 year olds hold this view.

Table 8

Canada's Role in Providing Foreign Aid

	<u>Current Impression</u>	<u>Future Preference</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
World Leader	8	21
Among More Generous	77	68
Among Less Generous	16	11

Perceptions of Canada's role in providing foreign aid are related to attitudes toward the amount spent aiding poor countries.

Canadians who say that not enough is spent in helping poor countries are more likely than the national average to view Canada as a less generous nation (22% to 16%) and are more likely to prefer that Canada become a world leader in this area (29% to 21%). On the other hand, 30% of respondents who believe that too much is spent on foreign aid would prefer Canada to be among the less generous in the future.