

Defining characteristics

- These are the individuals who firmly believe that diplomacy is far more effective in virtually all conflict situations.
- They are activists to the extent that they attend peace rallies and support groups advocating diplomacy and peaceful resolutions.
- In this respect, their opposition is ideologically based.
- Many of them are in the younger age cohort although we did note exceptions in Saskatoon, for example, where the younger group were all supportive of the mission.
- Notably, among younger participants the real concern about the mission was focused on the military component. There was a sense among this group that Canada should and could undertake development work and offer humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, but that Canada is a nation of peacekeepers and should not engage in conflict zones which shift our involvement outside this realm.
- In addition to youth, this segment comprises the vast majority of those that participated in the Quebec-based focus groups. Participants to these groups were also generally fairly strongly and widely opposed to the mission.
- Many also lack a solid understanding of the background to this issue.
- They are poorly informed and do not exhibit a strong interest in investing time and effort to enhance their knowledge