

Where foreign aid/development assistance is concerned, the groups tended to indicate that the crisis in Ethiopia and the response by Canadians did not necessarily signal a major shift in attitudes about the need for greater commitment of resources in the longer-term. Participants exhibited considerable doubts about how practical, rational, and useful our contributions really are, wondered about whether recipient countries did enough to help themselves, and seemed to find it surprisingly easy to suggest that Canada's poor were comparable in their need to the starving in Africa. What apparently enabled them to discuss aid in these terms was a clear belief that assistance was a privilege, not a right.