

Aid Policy

- Fifty-two per cent believe Canada spends about the right amount on aid, roughly a quarter believes the amount is too much, another quarter that the amount is too little.
- Eighty per cent say the primary reason for aid is to relieve suffering.
- There is little consensus on specific issues, such as tied aid, aid to human rights violators, and aid vs trade.

Central America and Nicaragua

- Sixty-six per cent of Canadians feel little informed about this region compared with 70% saying they are informed about world affairs generally.
- When asked about the different ways Canada could deal with the problems in Central America, a majority believed Canada should have some (arms-length) involvement, for instance, by actively supporting the efforts Central American countries to find a peaceful solution themselves (86%) or increasing economic assistance (60%).
- Sixty-three per cent see poverty and injustice as causing tensions in the region, 22% fault the USSR and Cuba, 13% the USA.
- Sixty per cent say that they are not concerned about the situation in Nicaragua.
- Of those who were concerned about Nicaragua, 39% selected human rights abuses as a specific concern, followed by refugee flows to Canada (34%), the possibility of USA military intervention (28%) and expansion of Soviet and Cuban interference (26%).
- Fifty-one per cent believe that Canada does not approve United States support for the Contras; 30% believe Canada does.