

While it is beyond the scope of this study to examine the sources of this improved impression of the CF, it is important to note that well-publicized incidents involving Canadian peacekeepers in Somalia and the ensuing domestic media coverage do not appear to have undermined public impressions of the Armed Forces as a whole.

Atlantic Canadians (44%) are especially likely to hold very favourable views of the Canadian Forces. In contrast, Quebecers are correspondingly less likely to hold very favourable views (17%).

Canadians with more education are less impressed with the Canadian Forces - only 24% of university graduates hold a *very* favourable view, as compared to 40% of Canadians with only elementary education. These minor distinctions should not obscure the overall high levels of approval accorded to the Armed Forces in all regions and demographic groups. Where distinctions exist, they are generally only in relation to the percentage of Canadians who say they hold *very* favourable views as compared to *somewhat* favourable views.

This overall public support for the Armed Forces is confirmed by the findings depicted in Figure 9. The vast majority of Canadians (84%) believe that Canada needs its armed forces, including 42% who say we need our armed forces a *great deal*.

Figure 9
Does Canada Need An Armed Forces?

