

## **E. Canada and the United States**

- Most Canadians (81%) place importance on maintaining a Canadian foreign policy which is independent from the United States.
- An important finding of this study is that Canadians do not view Canada's relationship with the United States in monolithic terms, but provide different assessments of the political, economic and military relationships. A majority of Canadians (56%) want a more independent foreign policy for Canada, while a majority (55%) also want closer military cooperation with the United States. Canadians are split on whether Canada should pursue a more independent trade policy.

## **F. International Trade**

- Most Canadians believe international trade is important, as witnessed by the fact that an overwhelming majority (91%) support this as a goal for the government. In fact, promoting international trade is seen by Canadians to be the most deserving of more spending of the seven international spending areas tested in this study.
- While the United States (22%) tops the list of future trade competitors identified by Canadians, almost half (46%) mentioned an Asian nation including Japan (18%), China (14%) or the Asia Region in general (14%). Despite the advent of NAFTA and the political debate surrounding that trade accord, there is little sense among Canadians (7%) that Mexico and Latin America will be significant trade competitors to Canada - only 7% identify that region of the world as our most important future competitor.
- Relatively few Canadians (7%) mentioned Europe as a competitor.
- Canadians expect trade opportunities as well as competition in both China and the US. It is important to note, however, that Japan is not considered to be a future market for Canada so much as a future competitor. Once again, Mexico and Latin America are seen to be less important to Canada than the United States and Asia.