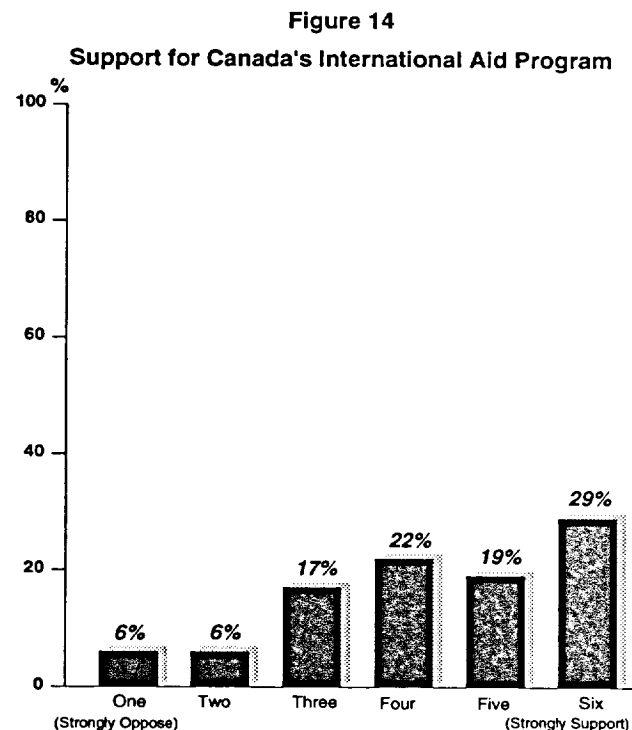


V. Canada's Foreign Aid Program

There is a strong foundation of support for Canada's foreign aid program. Although foreign aid is given slightly less support than the other priorities tested in this survey, four out of five Canadians (82%) believe it is important to help people in poorer countries.⁷ Moreover, a substantial majority of Canadians (74%) believe that foreign aid spending should be maintained (51%) or increased (23%).⁸ In terms of public perception of Canada's international reputation, foreign aid ranks second behind peacekeeping as Canada's most important contribution to the world.

When asked to indicate support for Canada's aid program on a six-point scale, 70% of Canadians placed themselves in the three "support" categories (see Figure 14). Furthermore, respondents in the two strongest "support" categories (five and six) outnumber respondents in the two strongest opposition categories (one and two) by a ratio of four to one.



Religiosity is related to support for Canada's foreign aid program. Those Canadians who say that religion and spirituality is very important in their lives have higher mean scores on the question depicted in Figure 14 than Canadians with lower levels of religiosity.

⁷ Please refer to Figure 2 on page 12 of this report.

⁸ Please refer to Figure 28 on page 51 of this report.