

Canadian Foreign Policy

Opinion on issues related to Canadian independence and Canada-United States relations was revealed in a number of polls throughout the year. In November 1986, Gallup interviewed 1,036 people asking:

In your opinion are the views expressed by Canada its own independent views, or do you think they are unduly affected by the views of other countries? If unduly affected, what country are you thinking of?

Over two-thirds of the respondents, 68 per cent, felt Canada's views were unduly affected while 24 per cent believed Canada expressed independent views; 8 per cent expressed no opinion. The United States was seen as the country affecting Canadian views by 59 per cent of those polled, Britain by 1 per cent, other countries by 5 per cent, and 2 per cent didn't know.

A Decima poll of 2,000 people conducted in April and sponsored by the Canadian Government found that 50 per cent of those polled say:

...the Canadian Government does not push its own point of view strongly enough with the United States.

In May 1987 another Gallup poll of 1,040 people showed that 34 per cent thought Canada and the United States were getting closer together; 36 per cent believed they were drifting apart; 15 per cent felt things were about the same and 15 per cent had no opinion. The same question as to whether the two countries were drawing closer together was asked of Americans in the United States and resulted in the following breakdown: 31 per cent believed the two nations were getting closer; 28 per cent believed they were drifting apart; 9 per cent saw no change; and 32 per cent had no opinion.