

It should be noted, however, that the overall importance of all the issues depicted in Figure 2 is largely the same. Over 80% of Canadians say each issue is important. It is only the *intensity* of this perceived importance which varies.

Of the nine foreign policy goals tested in this study, peace and environmental issues are clearly the most intensely important. The other goals tested, including trade, human rights, the defence of Canada and participating in the United Nations, are all considered slightly less important by Canadians - although over 70% nonetheless consider each *important*.

Of this second tier of foreign policy goals, the promotion of international trade enjoys the highest perceived importance, with 93% of Canadians considering it an important goal. Assisting poorer countries to improve living standards receives a slightly lower level of endorsement (82%).

However, these differences should not obscure the fact that Canadians endorse *all* the foreign policy goals depicted in Figure 2.

In many ways, Figure 2 depicts a significant endorsement of the current *goals* of Canadian foreign policy, although it must not be interpreted as an endorsement of current efforts or achievements.

There are relatively few differences between Canadians in terms of the importance they place on the foreign policy goals depicted in Figure 2. Quebecers place *less* importance on environmental issues, defending Canada, participating in the United Nations, and maintaining a foreign policy independent of the United States, as shown in Table 1. In comparison with other Canadians, Quebecers place higher importance on human rights, foreign aid, and improving the position of women in the developing countries.

Table 1
Importance of Selected Foreign Policy Goals:
Québec and the Rest of Canada

| | % Saying Very Important | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | <u>Québec</u> | <u>Rest of Canada</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
| | % | % | % |
| Independent Foreign Policy | 32 | 54 | -22 |
| Defending Canada | 33 | 52 | -19 |
| Participating in the UN | 35 | 45 | -10 |
| Solving Environmental Problems | 73 | 83 | -10 |
| Promoting Trade | 49 | 56 | -7 |
| Working for International Peace | 73 | 76 | +3 |
| Promoting Human Rights | 53 | 48 | +5 |
| Assisting Poorer Countries | 42 | 33 | +9 |
| Improving Position of Women | 52 | 42 | +10 |