



**Ipsos**  **Reid**

**A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY OF CANADIANS AND  
AMERICANS**

**AN IPSOS-REID REPORT PREPARED FOR THE CANADA  
INSTITUTE OF THE WASHINGTON D.C. BASED WOODROW  
WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS AND  
THE TORONTO BASED CANADA INSTITUTE ON NORTH  
AMERICAN ISSUES (CINAI)**

**May 2005**

**Final Report**

## STUDY INTRODUCTION

### ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

#### Ipsos-Reid

Ipsos-Reid is Canada's market intelligence leader and the country's foremost provider of public opinion research. With operations in eight cities, Ipsos-Reid employs more than 300 research professionals and support staff in Canada. The company has the biggest network of telephone call centres in Canada, as well as the largest pre-recruited household and on-line panels. Ipsos-Reid's Canadian marketing research and public affairs practices are staffed with seasoned research consultants with extensive industry-specific backgrounds, offering the premier suite of research vehicles in Canada - including the *Ipsos Trend Report*, the leading source of public opinion in the country - all of which provides clients with actionable and relevant information.

#### The Canada Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

The Woodrow Wilson Center established the Canada Institute to explore one of America's most important bilateral relationships. The aim of the Canada Institute is to increase knowledge about Canada in Washington, to focus on current U.S.-Canada issues and common challenges, and to keep an eye on the future, looking ahead to long-term policy issues facing the two countries in a variety of areas.

The Canada Institute brings together top academics, government officials, and corporate leaders to explore key policy issues. The Institute has formed a partnership with the Toronto-based Canada Institute on North American Issues, to among other things, help disseminate its programming and research findings. The Institute sponsors seminars, conferences, and research projects and works regularly with Canadian universities and research institutions. The Institute has set up an annual Fulbright Chair for a distinguished Canadian scholar-in-residence at the Wilson Center.

#### The Canada Institute on North American Issues (CINAI)

CINAI was established to address critical public policy issues within the North American context. Through a series of lectures, seminars and other dialogue opportunities, CINAI programs highlight current and emerging issues with the Canada-U.S.-Mexico relationship.

## **THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The overall purpose of the proposed research was to ascertain Canadian and American public opinion about Canada-U.S. relations, and to track various attitudes in both countries from previous surveys conducted in 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2004.

## **METHODOLOGY**

These are the findings of an Ipsos-Reid Poll conducted for the Canada Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and The Canada Institute on North American Issues conducted from April 5th to April 7th, 2005. For the telephone survey, a representative randomly selected sample of 1000 adult Canadians and 1000 adult Americans were interviewed by telephone. With samples of this size, the results for both countries are considered accurate to within  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire populations of both countries been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Canadian and American population.

## **ATTRIBUTION**

The first instance of survey should attributed survey as an Ipsos-Reid Poll conducted for the Canada Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and The Canada Institute on North American Issues. All subsequent attributions can use the shorter convention an Ipsos-Reid survey conducted for the Canada Institute and CINAI.

## **REPORTING CONVENTIONS**

When analysing responses to four-point scales, the “top two responses” and “bottom two responses” are grouped together in the presentation of findings. For example, “somewhat agree” and “strongly agree” responses are combined into a “total agree” percentage.

Several questions in this survey are questions that Ipsos-Reid has previously fielded among both American and Canadian respondents. Where it is applicable tracked movements in public opinion are displayed in the report, some research tracks back to surveys conducted in 1992.

## SUMMARY OF STUDY

Today, 53% of Canadians, unprompted, point to the United States as Canada's closest friend and ally (down from 60% in 2002). But only 14% of Americans, unprompted, cite Canada as their country's closest friend and ally (down from 18% in 2002) – in fact, the majority of Americans (60%) believe the United Kingdom is their closest friend and ally.

Even though most Americans cite the United Kingdom as their closest friend and ally, when prompted a very strong majority (82%) do agree "Canada is a friend and ally of the United States and its policies". Among Canadians, 73% feel that Canada is an ally and friend of the United States. Further, majorities of Americans (85%) and Canadians (60%) agree that they like and admire each other. Sixty-four percent of Americans view Canada as being just like people who live in the United States.

Thinking about the economic-trade relationship between their two countries, four in ten in both Canada (38%) and the United States (41%) say they want closer trade and economic integration between the two countries. But most Canadians (60%) and half of Americans (47%) feel their country is a "loser" from free trade.

When it comes to specific trade issues:

- Seven in ten Americans (69%, up 9 points from November 2004) trust Canadian beef;
- Eight in ten Americans (80%) agree that U.S. citizens should be able to buy as many pharmaceuticals from Canada as they wish; and
- Majorities in both America (78%) and Canada (77%) agree that Canada and the U.S. should have visa requirements for people coming from other countries kept separate and specific to each country.

There is some concern among respondents from both countries towards border-security: Half of Canadians (49%) and Americans (47%) don't think the Canadian government is doing enough to secure the border. And, eight in ten in both Canada (81%) and the U.S. (78%) don't think the border will ever be truly secure from terrorists.

When it comes to international diplomacy, most Canadians (56%) and Americans (68%) agree that Canada is a weak force in world affairs. But opinions diverge when it comes to two major foreign policy issues:

- Seventy-five percent of Americans think Canada should join BMD vs. 44% of Canadians; and

- Half of Americans (52%) think Canada should send military forces to Iraq vs. 18% of Canadians.

But the opinions of Canadians and Americans are mostly well-aligned when it comes to domestic policy issues, including:

- Six in ten in both countries (57% in the United States and 59% in Canada) don't think marijuana possession should always result in criminal record;
- Four in ten in both Canada (41%) and the United States (40%) think the powers of government have gone too far in battle against terrorism;
- Very strong majorities in both Canada (87%) and the United States (78%) agree that “the government has a responsibility to take care of the poor”;
- Nine in ten in both countries (88% in the United states and 93% in Canada) believe government has a responsibility to take care of the elderly; and
- Most Canadians (64%) and Americans (57%) don't want economic growth to take priority over environment.

Looking back to tracking studies conducted in the past, Canadian and American opinions have changed when it comes to a number of attitudinal statements:

- Canadians (84%, up from 75%) and Americans (76%, up from 58%) are more likely than they were in 1997 to agree “that different ethnic and language groups get along well in their country”;
- Canadians (44%, down from 50%) are slightly less likely than they were in 1997 to agree that “ethnic groups would be better off if they became more like the majority, while American attitudes have remained essentially consistent from this time” (37%, down from 39%); and
- Americans today (62%, up from 52%) are more likely than they were in 1997 to agree with the statement “if a member of my family had to be hospitalized, I would be worried about how to pay for it”.

When it comes to thoughts about migrating, just over one in ten in both Canada (12%) and the United States (13%) say they have given serious thought about relocating across the border.

## DETAILED FINDINGS

## 1.0 THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

### **PLURALITY OF CANADIANS (53%) POINT TO THE U.S. AS CANADA'S CLOSEST FRIEND AND ALLY, BUT ONLY 14% OF AMERICANS LOOK AT CANADA THIS WAY – MOST AMERICANS (60%) SAY U.K. IS THEIR CLOSEST ALLY...**

A plurality of Canadians (53%) point to the United States, unaided, when asked to pick one country from around the world that they personally consider to be Canada's closest friend and ally. Seventeen percent point to the United Kingdom as Canada's closest friend and ally, and 8% look at France in this way.

The United States might be the most commonly recognized friend and ally among Canadians, but only 14% of Americans, unaided, cite Canada as their country's closest friend and ally. In fact, most Americans (60%) say that the United Kingdom is the United States' greatest friend and ally.

Looking back at tracking data from May 2002:

- Americans today are slightly more likely than they were in May 2002 to point to the United Kingdom as their closest friend and ally (60%, up 4 points from 56%), and are slightly less likely to point to Canada (14%, down 4 points from 18%); and
- Canadians are less likely today to cite the United States as Canada's closest friend and ally (53%, down from 60%).

Closest Friend And Ally*	Canada		USA	
	2002	2005	2002	2005
Great Britain/UK/England	21%	17%	56%	60%
United States	60%	53%	NA	NA
Canada	NA	NA	18%	14%
France	4%	8%	2%	1%
Australia	0	4%	0	2%
Israel	0	0	6%	3%
Other	0	5%	1%	5%
None/Can't name any	4%	6%	0	6%

\*Countries mentioned by less than 3% of respondents not included in table

**BUT WHEN PROMPTED, STRONG MAJORITIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES VIEW THE OTHER AS A FRIEND AND ALLY OF THEIR COUNTRY...**

When prompted, a very strong majority of eight in ten Americans (82%) agree that “Canada is a friend and ally of the United States and its policies”. Among Canadians, 73% feel that Canada is a friend and ally of the United States and its policies.

However, 19% in Canada and 14% in the United States believe that Canada is a foe of the United States and its policies.

In a similarly worded question fielded in November of 2004, 85% of Canadians agreed that Canada is a solid friend and close, dependable ally of the United States, and 82% of Americans felt this way.

**EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OF AMERICANS AGREE THEY LIKE AND ADMIRE CANADIANS -- 60% OF CANADIANS SAY THIS ABOUT AMERICANS – 37% OF CANADIANS DISAGREE...**

Eighty-five percent of Americans agree with the statement “I like and admire Canadians, that is citizens of Canada”, whereas 11% disagree.

When it comes to Canadians, 60% agree that they like and admire Americans citizens -down from 73% who said this in a July 2004 survey- while 37% disagree with this statement.

**MOST AMERICANS (64%) VIEW CANADA AS BEING JUST LIKE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE U.S. – BUT 70% OF CANADIANS SEE THEMSELVES AS BEING DISTINCT FROM AMERICANS...**

Thinking about how they view Canada, a good majority of Americans (64%) say that they think of Canada as being “just like people who live in the United States” (only 26% of Canadians would describe Canada in this way).

Most Canadians (70%), rather, believe that Canadians are “very distinct from people who live in the United States” (only 31% of Americans see Canada this way).



## 2.0 THE TRADING RELATIONSHIP NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

### FOUR IN TEN IN CANADA (38%) AND THE UNITED STATES (41%) WANT CLOSER TRADE AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ...

Four in ten in both Canada (38%) and the United States (41%) think Canada should make trade even closer between their two countries and integrate the economies further, while nearly half of Americans (47%) and 39% of Canadians think the countries should keep trade the way it is for the foreseeable future. But, one in five Canadians (20%) think the two countries should reduce trade and the integration of the economies between Canada and the United States, compared to just 8% of Americans who think this way.

Tracking data shows that:

- Canadians today (38%) are somewhat less likely than they were in November 2002 (44%) to think Canada should make trade closer and integrate the economies further, and somewhat more likely today to believe that the countries should keep trade the way it is for the foreseeable future (39% vs. 31%); and
- Americans are more likely today (47%) than they were in November 2002 (39%) to think the two countries should keep trade the way it is for the foreseeable future.

	2002		2005	
	Can	USA	Can	USA
We should make trade closer/integrate economies more	44%	34%	38%	41%
We should keep trade the way it is for foreseeable future	31%	39%	39%	47%
We should reduce trade/integration	19%	19%	20%	8%

### BUT SIX IN TEN CANADIANS (60%) AND HALF (47%) OF AMERICANS THINK THEIR COUNTRY IS A LOSER FROM FREE-TRADE...

Six in ten Canadians (60%) believe that Canada is a loser over the past few years from the NAFTA agreement that was signed in 1992. Of the opposite opinion, are the 30% of Canadians who feel Canada is a winner from NAFTA. Five percent of Canadians describe Canada as neither a winner nor a loser, and a further 4% "don't know".

Half (47%) of Americans feel that the United States is a loser as a result of the Free-Trade agreement, 43% say the United States is a winner from this trade agreement, and 6% “don’t know”.

Today:

- Canadians are much more likely than they were in November 2002 to believe that Canada is a “loser” over the past few years from the NAFTA agreement (60%, up 13 points from the 47%); and
- Americans are much more likely to feel that the United States is a loser as a result of the Free-trade agreement (47%, up 10 points from 37%)

	2002		2005	
	Can	USA	Can	USA
Free trade winner	38%	48%	30%	43%
Free trade loser	47%	37%	60%	47%

**SEVEN IN TEN AMERICANS (69%) TRUST SAFETY OF CANADIAN BEEF – UP 9 POINTS FROM NOVEMBER 2004, NEARLY ALL CANADIANS (95%) TRUST CANADIAN BEEF...**

Seven in ten Americans (69%) agree with the statement that “beef from Canada is a safe and a good product I would not hesitate to buy from my grocery store”, while 26% of Americans disagree.

Nearly all Canadians (95%) agree that Canadian beef is safe, with only 4% that disagree.

Since November 2004:

- Americans are more likely to say they trust the safety of Canadian beef (69%, up 9 points from 60%);
- Attitudes are virtually unchanged in Canada (95%, up 2 points from 93%).

**EIGHT IN TEN AMERICANS (80%) AGREE THAT US CITIZENS SHOULD BE ABLE TO BUY AS MANY PHARMACEUTICALS FROM CANADA AS THEY WISH -- HALF OF CANADIANS (48%) THINK THIS WAY ...**

Eight in ten Americans (80%) agree with the statement “US citizens should be able to buy as many pharmaceutical drugs from Canada as they wish either directly or over the Internet”, while

in comparison, only 48% of Canadians agree with this statement. Forty-nine percent of Canadians disagree with this statement as do 18% of Americans.

**MAJORITIES OF AMERICANS (78%) AND CANADIANS (77%) THINK BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE DIFFERENT VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES ...**

Nearly eight in ten in both America (78%) and Canada (77%) agree with the statement “Canada and the US should have visa requirements for people coming from other countries kept separate and specific to each country”. Approximately one in five in America (17%) and Canada (20%) disagree with this statement.

**MAJORITY OF CANADIANS (79%) AND HALF OF AMERICANS (47%), HOWEVER, DON'T THINK CANADA SHOULD BE SENDING MORE OIL AND GAS TO THE UNITED STATES...**

A majority of Canadians (79%) and half of Americans (47%) disagree with the statement that “Canadians have an abundance of energy and should be sending more oil and gas to the United States”. Four in ten Americans agree with this statement, as do 19% of Canadians.

### 3.0 BORDER SECURITY

#### **NEARLY HALF OF CANADIANS (48%) AND AMERICANS (45%) DON'T THINK THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS DOING ENOUGH TO SECURE THE BORDER...**

Nearly half of both Canadians (48%) and Americans (45%) disagree with the statement that “the Canadian Government has done enough to secure the border between our two countries to protect against terrorist attacks”, while the other half in each country agrees with this statement – 49% among Canadians and 47% among Americans.

- In a similarly worded question asked in November of 2004, 73% of Canadians agreed that Canada is doing its share to ensure border security, while 58% of Americans agreed.

#### **EIGHT IN TEN IN BOTH CANADA (81%) AND THE U.S. (78%) DON'T THINK THE BORDER WILL EVER BE TRULY SECURE FROM TERRORISTS...**

Eight in ten in both Canada (81%) and the United States (78%) don't believe that the border between our two countries will ever be truly secure from terrorists, but one in five (17% in Canada, 19% in America) believe that it can be.

## 4.0 VIEWS ON FOREIGN POLICY

### **MAJORITIES OF CANADIANS (56%) AND AMERICANS (68%) ALIKE THINK CANADA IS A WEAK FORCE IN WORLD AFFAIRS...**

A majority in both Canada (56%) and the United States (68%) view “Canada as a weak force in world affairs”, while substantial portions in both countries (40% in Canada, 25% in the United States) view it as a “major force” in world affairs.

In a November 2004 survey, 76% of Canadians agreed with the statement that “Canada is a significant player in world affairs” – 52% of Americans agreed with this statement.

### **SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF AMERICANS THINK CANADA SHOULD JOIN BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE VS. 44% OF CANADIANS... SENTIMENTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES ARE STATIC FROM NOVEMBER, 2004...**

Three-quarters (75%) of Americans agree with the statement that “Canada should join the United States Missile Defense program that is for the protection of North America from potential missile attacks”, while 21% disagree. In Canada, 44% agree that Canada should join the missile defence program– 53% disagree.

Since November of 2004, the attitudes among Americans and Canadians towards this issue have essentially remained unchanged.

### **HALF OF AMERICANS (52%) VERSUS 18% OF CANADIANS THINK CANADA SHOULD SEND MILITARY FORCES TO IRAQ...**

Half of Americans (52%) think Canada should send military assistance and troops to help US and coalition forces in Iraq in addition to its current role in Afghanistan, 33% think Canada should only keep to their current role in Afghanistan and not go to Iraq, and 9% think Canada should withdraw from Afghanistan and not assist the U.S. coalition.

In comparison, 18% of Canadians think Canada should send troops to Iraq, while the majority (60%) feel Canada should only keep to its current role in Afghanistan and not assist the US led coalition. One in five Canadians (20%) think Canada should both withdraw completely from Afghanistan and not assist the U.S. led coalition in Iraq.

## 5.0 VIEWS ON SOCIAL POLICY AND VALUES

### SIX IN TEN IN BOTH COUNTRIES DON'T THINK MARIJUANA POSSESSION SHOULD ALWAYS RESULT IN CRIMINAL RECORD...

Six in ten in both the United States (57%) and Canada (59%) disagree with the statement that the “conviction of possession of marijuana should always result in a criminal record”. Meanwhile, four in ten both the United States (42%) and Canada (39%) agree with this statement.

### FOUR IN TEN IN BOTH CANADA (41%) AND THE UNITED STATES (40%) THINK THE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE GONE TOO FAR IN BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM...

Four in ten among both Canadians (41%) and Americans (40%) agree that “the powers of the government and police to combat terrorism have gone too far and threaten fundamental civil rights of all citizens”. But six in ten in each of Canada (57%) and the United States (58%) disagree with this statement.

### VERY STRONG MAJORITIES IN BOTH CANADA (87%) AND THE UNITED STATES (78%) AGREE THAT “THE GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF THE POOR”...

Eighty-seven percent of Canadians and 78% of Americans agree with the statement that “the government has a responsibility to take care of the poor”. One in five Americans (20%) disagree with this statement -- as do 12% of Canadians.

- Americans (78%) today are much more likely than they were in 1992 (69%) and 1997 (61%) to feel the government has a responsibility to take care of the poor, while Canadians’ attitudes about this issue have risen slightly from 1997 (81%) to today (87%).

	1992		1997		2005	
	Can	USA	Can	USA	Can	USA
"The government has a responsibility to take care of the poor"						
Agree	83%	69%	81%	61%	87%	78%
Disagree	17%	31%	18%	38%	12%	20%

### AND NINE IN TEN IN BOTH COUNTRIES BELIEVE GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF THE ELDERLY...

Nine in ten Canadians (93%) and Americans (88%) agree with the statement that “the government has a responsibility to take care of the elderly”. Only small proportions in both countries (6% among Canadians, 12% among Americans) disagree with this statement.

In comparison to earlier tracking research:

- Americans today are much more likely than they were in 1992 to feel the government has a responsibility to take care of the elderly, while Canadians' attitudes about this issue have remained fairly steady – as shown in table below.

	1992		1997		2005	
	Can	USA	Can	USA	Can	USA
<b>"The government has a responsibility to take care of the elderly"</b>						
<b>Agree</b>	88%	75%	87%	78%	93%	88%
<b>Disagree</b>	12%	25%	13%	21%	6%	12%

**MOST CANADIANS (64%) AND AMERICANS (57%) DON'T WANT ECONOMIC GROWTH TO TAKE PRIORITY OVER ENVIRONMENT – BUT MANY DO (33% AMONG CANADIANS, 41% AMONG AMERICANS)...**

Most Canadians (64%) and Americans (57%) disagree with the statement that “economic growth should take priority over environmental concerns”. But a substantial minority in both countries does agree with this statement (33% among Canadians, 41% among Americans).

Today:

- Canadians are more likely to disagree with this statement than they were in 1997 (64% vs. 52%); but
- Americans are slightly less likely to disagree with this statement (57% vs. 62%).

	1997		2005	
	Can	USA	Can	USA
<b>"Economic growth should take priority over environmental concerns"</b>				
<b>Agree</b>	46%	35%	33%	41%
<b>Disagree</b>	52%	62%	64%	57%

**NINE IN TEN CANADIANS (88%) FEEL URGENCY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING “RIGHT NOW” – 70% OF AMERICANS FEEL THIS WAY...**

Nine in ten Canadians (88%) and seven in ten Americans (70%) agree with the statement that “our government needs to do something about global warming right now”. Many more Americans (27%) than Canadians (11%) disagree with this statement.

### **CANADIANS (87%) AND AMERICANS (81%) AGREE "THAT THEY CAN SAY ANYTHING THEY WANT ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT"...**

Most Canadians (87%) and Americans (81%) agree "that they can say anything they want about the government". Minorities in both countries disagree with this statement (12% among Canadians, 19% among Americans).

- Agreement with this statement has remained stable in both countries tracking back to 1992 – as shown in the table below.

	1992		1997		2005	
	Can	USA	Can	USA	Can	USA
<b>"I feel I have the personal freedom to say anything I want about the government"</b>						
<b>Agree</b>	88%	88%	86%	83%	87%	81%
<b>Disagree</b>	12%	12%	14%	17%	12%	19%

### **TODAY, BOTH CANADIANS AND AMERICANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO FEEL THAT DIFFERENT ETHNIC AND LANGUAGE GROUPS GET ALONG THAN THEY DID IN 1997...**

Today, 84% of Canadians and 76% of Americans agree with the statement that "people of different ethnic and language groups get along fairly well in my country", while 15% of Canadians and 22% of Americans disagree with this statement.

Tracking research shows that:

- Today, both Canadians (84%, up from 75%) and Americans (76%, up from 58%) are more likely than they were in 1997 to agree with this statement.

	1997		2005	
	Can	USA	Can	USA
<b>"People of different ethnic and language groups get along fairly well in my country"</b>				
<b>Agree</b>	75%	58%	84%	76%
<b>Disagree</b>	24%	41%	15%	22%

### **BUT CANADIANS (47%) ARE SLIGHTLY MORE LIKELY THAN AMERICANS (37%) TO FEEL THAT PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS WOULD BE BETTER OFF IF THEY BECAME LIKE THE MAJORITY...**

Canadians (44%) are slightly more likely than Americans (37%) to agree with the statement that "people from different racial and cultural backgrounds would be better off if they became more



like the majority". Over half in both countries (52% among Canadians, 59% among Americans) disagrees with this statement.

Today:

- Canadians are slightly less likely than they were in 1997 to agree with this statement (44%, down from 50%), while American attitudes have remained consistent from this time.

	1992		2005	
	Can	USA	Can	USA
<b>"People from different racial and cultural backgrounds would be better off if they became more like the majority"</b>				
<b>Agree</b>	50%	39%	44%	37%
<b>Disagree</b>	50%	61%	52%	59%

#### **CANADIANS AND AMERICANS HOLD FAIRLY SIMILAR VIEWS ON WHETHER "THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SEEM TO BE GETTING WORSE"...**

As for expectations about the future, Canadians and Americans hold fairly similar views on whether "the opportunities for young people seem to be getting worse", with about six in ten in both countries agreeing with this notion (59% among Canadians, 57% among Americans). Four in ten in both countries (39% among Canadians, 41% among Americans) disagree with this statement.

Comparing today's answers back to 1992 and 1997 we can see that:

- Canadians are less likely today to agree with this statement (59% today, down from 80% in 1997, and 83% in 1992); and
- Essentially the same proportion of Americans agrees with this statement now (57%) as did in 1997 (56%) – down from the 71% who agree with this statement in 1992.

	1992		1997		2005	
	Can	USA	Can	USA	Can	USA
<b>"The opportunities for young people here seem to be getting worse"</b>						
<b>Agree</b>	83%	71%	80%	56%	59%	57%
<b>Disagree</b>	17%	29%	20%	44%	39%	41%

**AMERICANS (62%) ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY THAN CANADIANS (36%) TO AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT “IF A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY HAD TO BE HOSPITALIZED I WOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT HOW TO PAY FOR IT”...**

Americans (62%), are much more likely than Canadians (36%) to agree with the statement that “if a member of my family had to be hospitalized, I would be worried about how to pay for it”. A majority of Canadians (63%) disagree with this statement, while 37% of Americans disagree.

- Americans today are more likely to agree with this statement today than they were in 1997 (62%, up from 52%).

	1997		2005	
	Can	USA	Can	USA
<b>"If a member of my family had to be hospitalized, I would be worried about how to pay for it"</b>				
<b>Agree</b>	36%	52%	36%	62%
<b>Disagree</b>	62%	47%	63%	37%

**BUT, AMERICANS (71%) ARE MORE CONFIDENT THAN CANADIANS (56%) THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT IF THEY BECOME SICK...**

Seven in ten Americans (71%) agree with this statement that “I am confident that if I became sick I would receive timely and effective medical treatment”. In comparison, 56% of Canadians agree with this statement. Twenty-eight percent of Americans disagree with this statement – 44% among Canadians.

**“HEALTHCARE” IS MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUE TO CANADIANS – “WAR IN IRAQ” IS TOP ISSUE FOR AMERICANS...**

When respondents from both countries are asked what the most important issue their political leaders should be dealing with today, opinions differ. In Canada, 32% believe healthcare should be the top priority for Canada’s leaders, followed by education (10%) and the economy (10%). In the United States, the most commonly mentioned priority for political leaders is the war in Iraq (13%), followed by healthcare (10%), and the economy (9%).

A full distribution of respondents' unaided responses are shown in the table below:

Most Important Political Issues*	Canada	USA
Healthcare	32%	10%
Education	10%	7%
The economy	8%	9%
The war in Iraq	1%	13%
Government/ politics/ leadership	5%	3%
Jobs / Unemployment	4%	3%
Terrorism	1%	6%
Crime / Drugs	2%	4%
Environment	4%	2%
Taxes	5%	1%
Social Security	1%	5%
Welfare/ poverty/ homeless	3%	3%

First mentioned responses only

\*Responses mentioned by less than 3% not shown in table

#### **ONE-THIRD OF AMERICANS (36%) AND 22% OF CANADIANS AGREE THAT THEIR RELIGIOUS FAITH OFTEN DETERMINES WHICH POLITICAL CANDIDATE THEY VOTE FOR...**

One-third of Americans (36%) and 22% of Canadians agree with the statement that “the issues I identify with in my religious faith often determine which political candidate I vote for”. The majority of Canadians (76%) and Americans (62%) disagree with this statement.

#### **TWELVE PERCENT OF CANADIANS HAVE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO RELOCATING TO THE UNITED STATES – 13% OF AMERICANS HAVE THOUGHT THE SAME ABOUT CANADA...**

Twelve percent of Canadians agree with the statement that “I have seriously considered relocating to the United States” – up slightly from 8% who said this in November 2004, and 13% of Americans agree (slightly up from 10%).

Eighty-seven percent in both Canada and the United States disagree with this statement. .