

TRENDS IN THE PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT

TENDANCES DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT PUBLIC

June / juin 2002

Volume II, No. 4

PCO / BCP Communications and/et Consultation PCO's Communications and Consultation Secretariat is pleased to present the latest edition of *Trends in the Public Environment.*

We are grateful to Communication Canada for providing valuable support and content to this analysis.

For more information, to make comments and suggestions or to obtain a .PDF version of this document, call the Research and Analysis Group at 957-5072.

This document is also available on the PCO intranet.

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Le secrétariat des Communications et consultation du BCP vous présente la plus récente édition de *Tendances de l'environnement public*.

Nous désirons souligner la contribution importante de Communication Canada à la réalisation de ce document.

Pour un complément d'information, pour transmettre vos commentaires et suggestions ou pour obtenir une version .PDF de ce document, veuillez communiquer avec le Groupe de l'analyse et de la recherche au 957-5072.

> Ce document est aussi disponible sur l'intranet du BCP.

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OVERVIEW / VUE D'ENSEMBLE

April-May, 2002 / Avril-mai 2002

- Between April and May, there was a major divergence in media coverage as television and print took separate paths. International Affairs, including the crisis in the Middle East, continued as the electronic media's top issue despite an 8% decline in overall coverage. In contrast, the print media showed more aggressive attention to issues of Governance and Party politics. Print coverage on Governance, including the controversy over advertising contracts and the Cabinet shuffle of May 26, increased 8% between April and May.
- In both languages, International Affairs stories attracted the most TV attention (1st with 28% of stories in April and 21% of stories in May). The War on terrorism received the second most attention on English-language TV networks (13% of stories in April and 14% of stories in May), while French-language TV coverage focussed on Provincial and municipal affairs (9% of stories in April and 12% of stories in May).
- The decline in coverage of International Affairs appears to have been due to increased attention on domestic issues, including cabinet changes and the controversy around advertising and sponsorship. Combined, the categories of **Governance** and **Party Politics** accounted for the most coverage of any single issue (16%), eclipsing **International Affairs**, which represented an average of 14% of total coverage in May.
- Government performance ratings have declined over the last few months, and for the first time in a number of years, polls suggest that more Canadians now feel the Government is moving in the wrong direction (46%) than there are who feel it is headed in the right direction (41%)¹.
- According to a recent poll, in May 2002, 28% of Canadians indicated that they trust the government in Ottawa to do what is right "most or almost all of the time," compared to 36% in May 2001². However, the number remains higher for Canadians than for Americans (26%) who were asked the same question of the government in Washington.
- This drop has occurred despite Canadians' bullish **economic confidence**. A recent poll³ indicates that only 32% of Canadians believe Canada is in a recession,
 - ¹ Ekos Research
 - ² Ekos Research
 - ³ Ekos Research, June 4th and June 6th, 2002

compared to 70% in December 2001. Media coverage on the economy declined marginally, by an average of 2%, between April and May, with the largest decline appearing among commentators (down 4%). Coverage on the economy has been in gradual decline since January, when it accounted for an average of 8% of coverage, compared to 5% in the month of May. The drop, admittedly minor, may reflect growing confidence, since coverage is normally focussed more heavily on bad economic news.

- Coverage on the Campaign against terrorism increased markedly in April following the "Friendly Fire" incident, then quickly dropped back to previously recorded levels. Coverage by commentators dropped the most (down 11%) as they shifted their attention to other issues, while television coverage did not change, perhaps owing to the fact that the war in Afghanistan lends itself more easily to a visual medium.
- Polling done immediately following the "Friendly Fire" incident⁴ suggested that a strong majority of Canadians (85%) felt compensation should be paid to the soldiers' families by the U.S. if the pilot responsible was found to have been negligent. Only 67% of Americans expressed the same view. Here is evidence of continued -- albeit declining -- support for Canada's military participation in Afghanistan: a poll conducted in early June⁵ suggests a slim majority (51%) supports Canada's role. The same poll also shows that 56% of Canadians support the withdrawal of troops announced in early May.
- The issue of **terrorism** remains largely an issue for the English-language media, and this is especially true in terms of television news coverage. Terrorism accounted for 14% of English-language broadcasts, but only 4% of Frenchlanguage news coverage. There was little difference between coverage by Anglophone and Francophone commentators.
- Polling conducted in April⁶ suggested that a majority of Canadians (63%) believe that the Government has an important role to play in resolving the crisis in the Middle East, but a strong majority (79%) feel that Canada should remain neutral and not take either the Israeli or Palestinian side. The Middle East crisis accounted for a major portion of coverage devoted to International affairs and Foreign policy,

⁶ Ekos Research, April 12, 2002

⁴ Ipsos-Reid, May 2002

⁵ Ekos Research, June 4-6, 2002

along with preparations for the G8 Summit and the Prime Minister's trip to Africa from April 3rd to the 13th.

- **Provincial and Municipal Affairs** experienced a marginal boost in total coverage: a 2% average increase between April and May, with the largest increase (4%) being among editorials and columns. This issue, along with terrorism, remains the most split along linguistic lines. Provincial and Municipal Affairs accounted for an average of 9% of coverage in English-speaking media, compared to 15% in French-language media. Polling which suggested a surge in support for the Action Démocratique du Québec received substantial media attention in French-language outlets.
- Media attention to Natural Resources continued its upward trend, especially among editorials (6% of stories, up from 4% in April). Coverage reflected Minister Anderson's release of the Kyoto plan (May 15th) and the start of consultations on the Kyoto options, as well as renewed demands for aid in wake of the US farm subsidies.

Au Québec

C Outre les Affaires internationales (23% en avril, 14% en mai), les médias du Québec ont été largement dominés par les Affaires provinciales et municipales (12% en avril, 15% en mai), notamment les difficultés éprouvées par le gouvernement Landry dans le cadre des élections partielles du 15 avril et la montée en popularité de l'Action démocratique du Québec, tant dans les sondages qu'à la boîte de scrutin. Le "phénomène" Mario Dumont intéresse beaucoup les éditorialistes: on s'entend pour dire que le jeune politicien semble répondre au désir de changement des Québécois; mais les commentateurs demeurent partagés quant à savoir si l'ADQ saura performer aussi bien lors des élections générales et, plus important encore, s'il serait prêt à former un gouvernement et assumer le pouvoir.

Canada in the U.S. Media

Coverage of Canada-U.S. trade issues continued in the U.S. media, including a NewYork Times article calling the U.S. Farm Bill a "slap in the face" to Canadians (May 23). Generally, editorials condemned the Bush administration's "protectionist" measures (*Wall Street Journal* April 11, *Washington Times* April 22). A softwood lumber ad campaign sponsored by the U.S. industry received no attention beyond its one-day run.

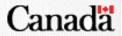
 Canada's announcement that it was withdrawing its 800 troops from Afghanistan in the summer received little attention. Coverage of the 60 Minutes piece on Canada's "porous" border was not picked up by any other media. Generally, coverage of issues related to the Northern border declined significantly: the INS enforcement of the law banning part-time students from Canada and Mexico was the only one that received any play.

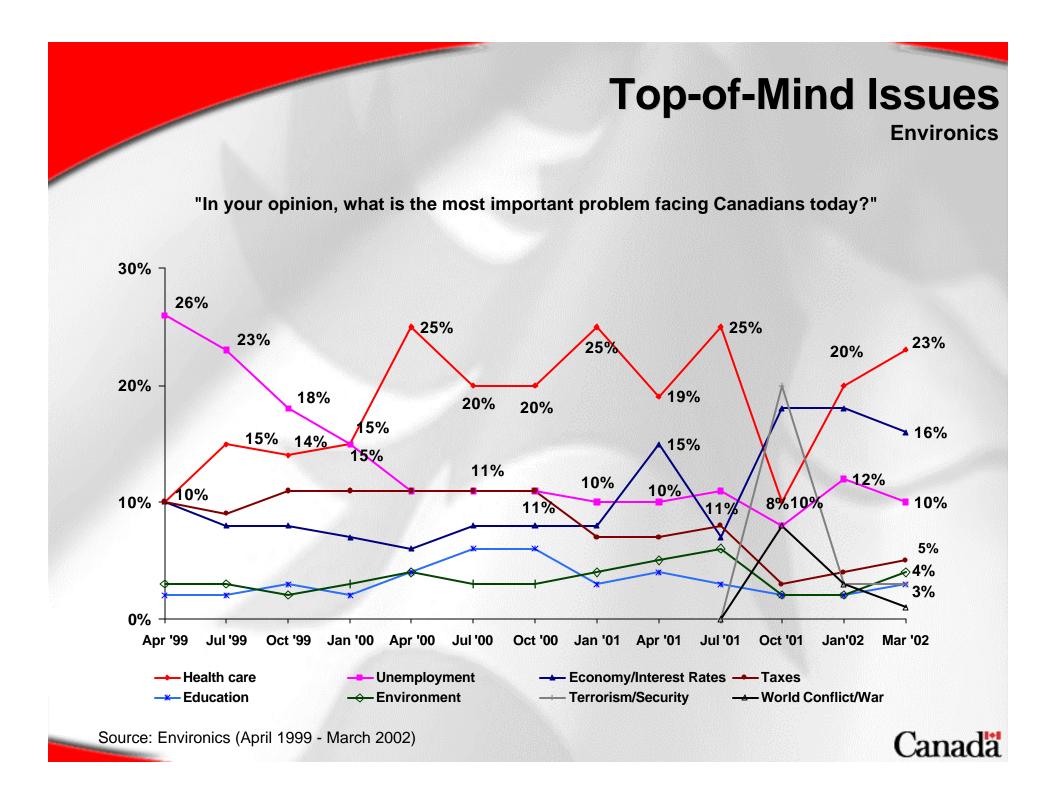
PUBLIC OPINION

OPINION PUBLIQUE



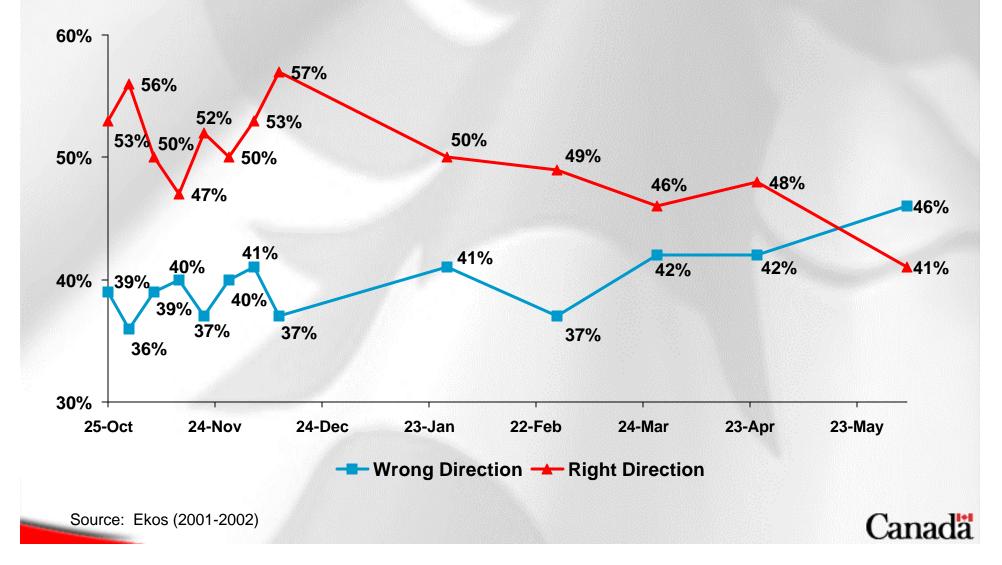
Priority and Performance Priorités et Performance





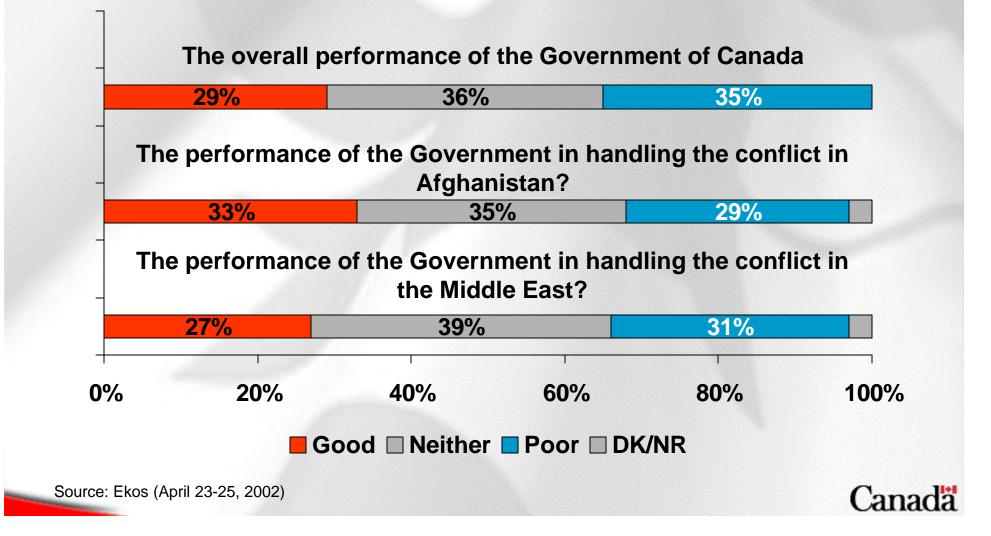
Direction of Government

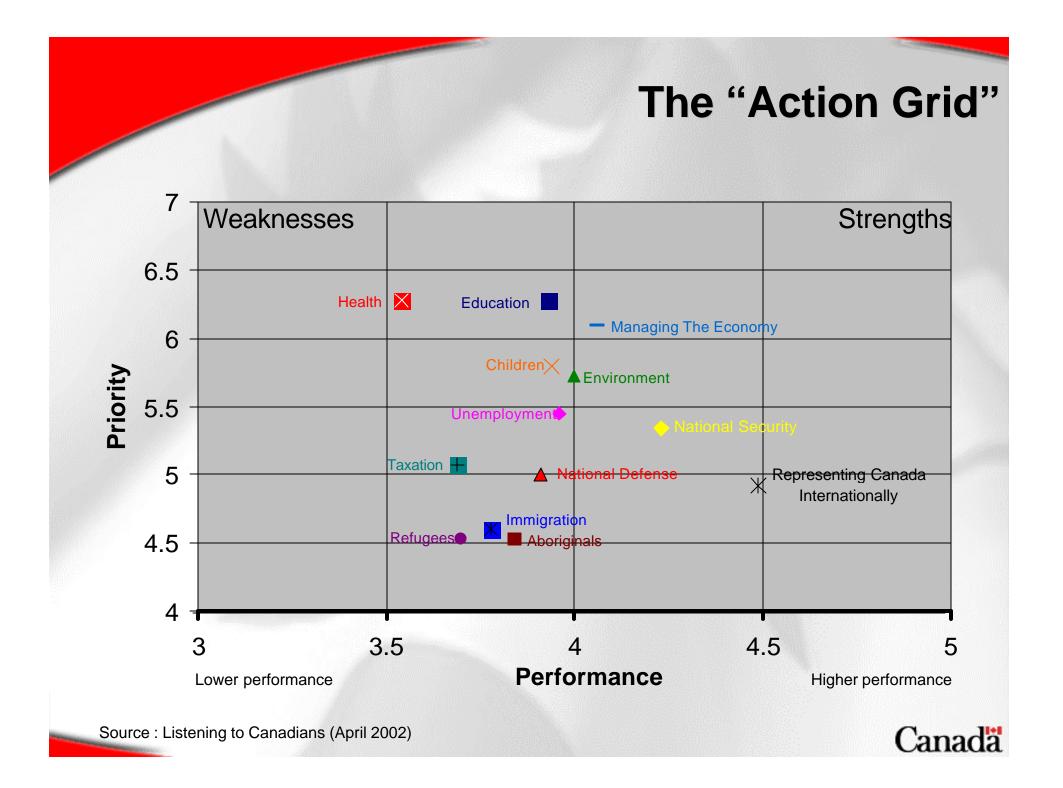
"All things considered, would you say the Government of Canada is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?"

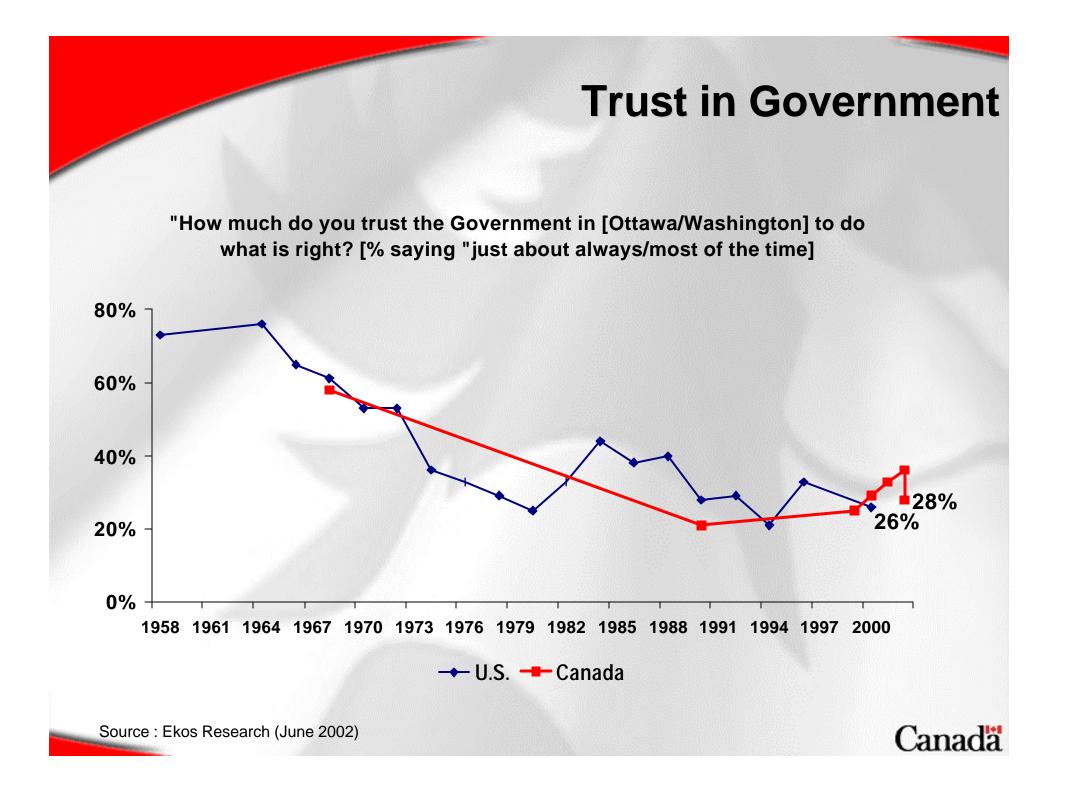


Government Performance

"How would you rate ...?"



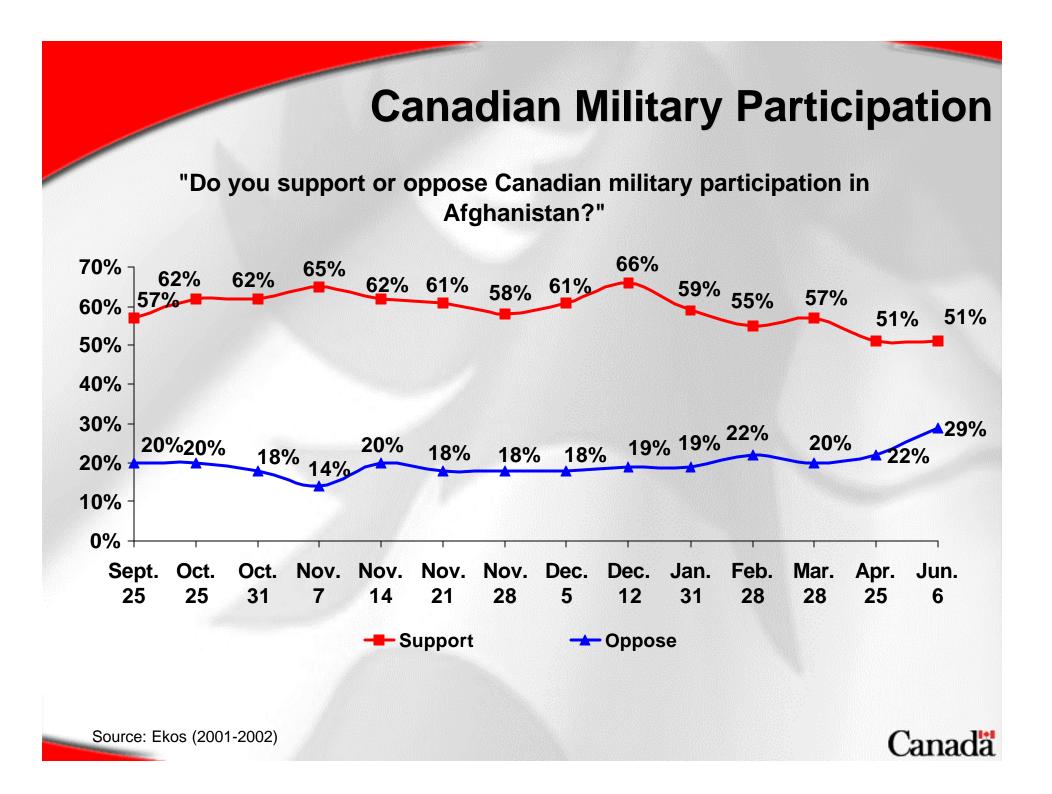




Campaign Against Terrorism and Security

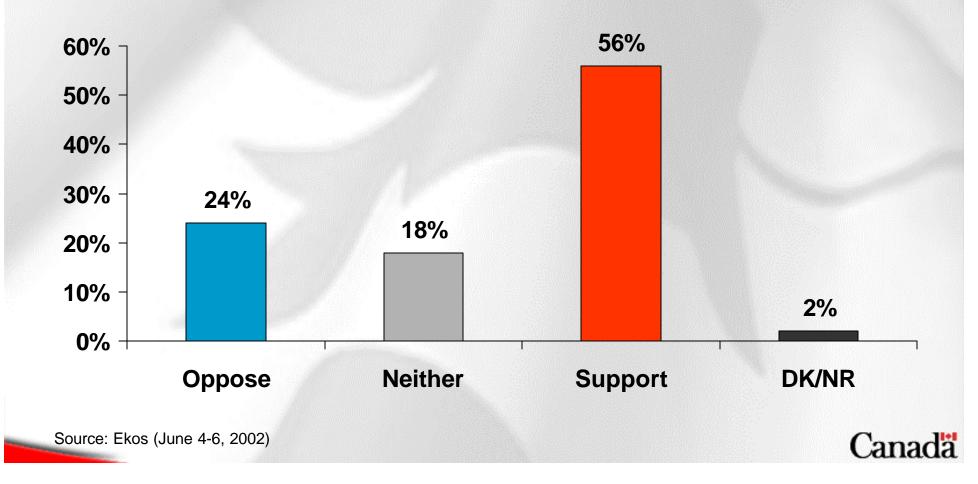
Campagne contre le terrorisme et sécurité

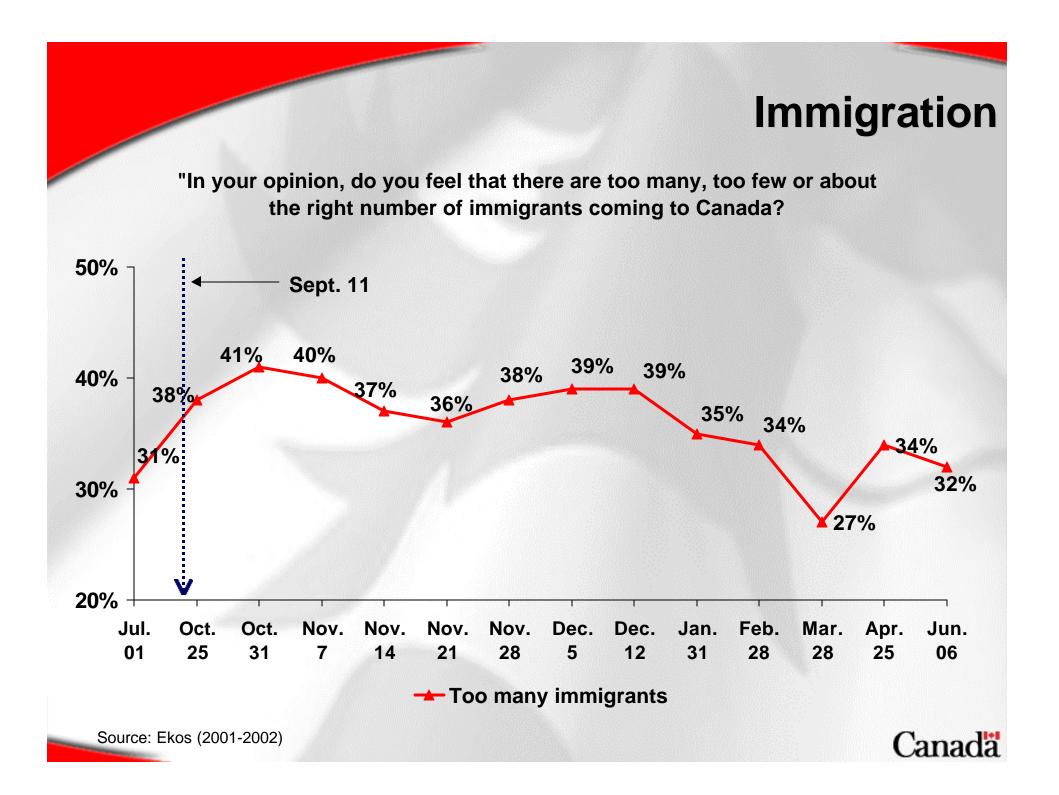




Withdrawal of Troops

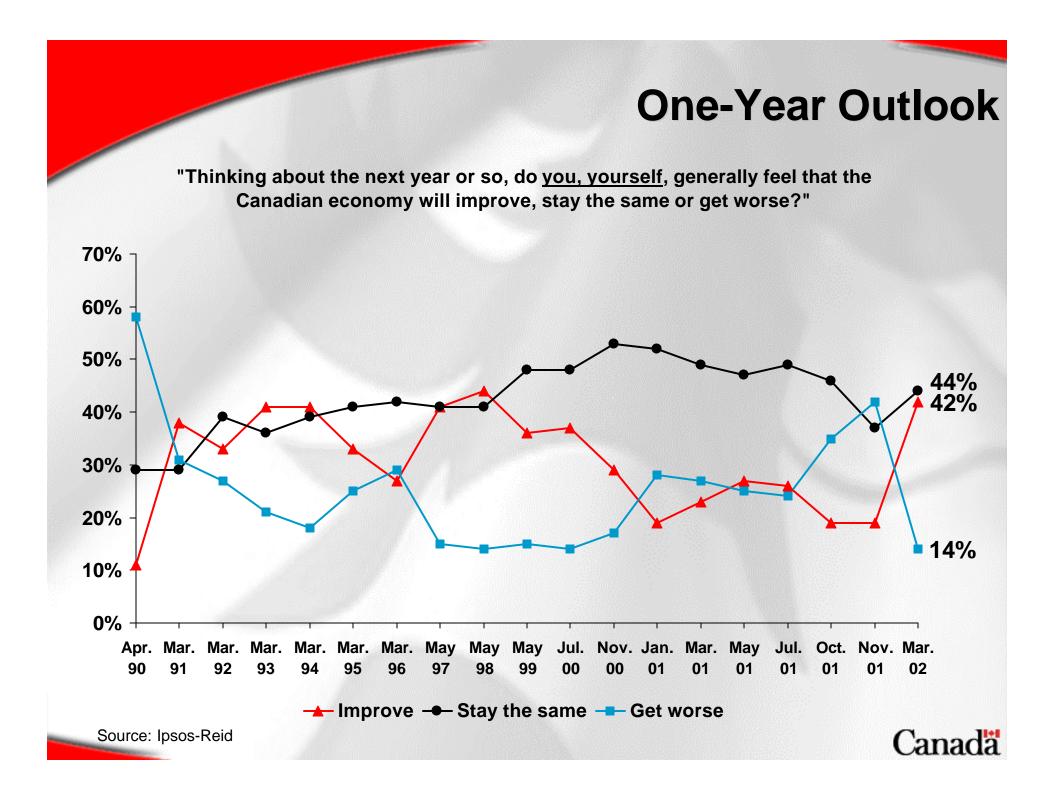
"As you may have heard, the Canadian government recently announced its intention to withdraw our ground troops from Afghanistan when their current rotation is up. Do you support or oppose this decision?"

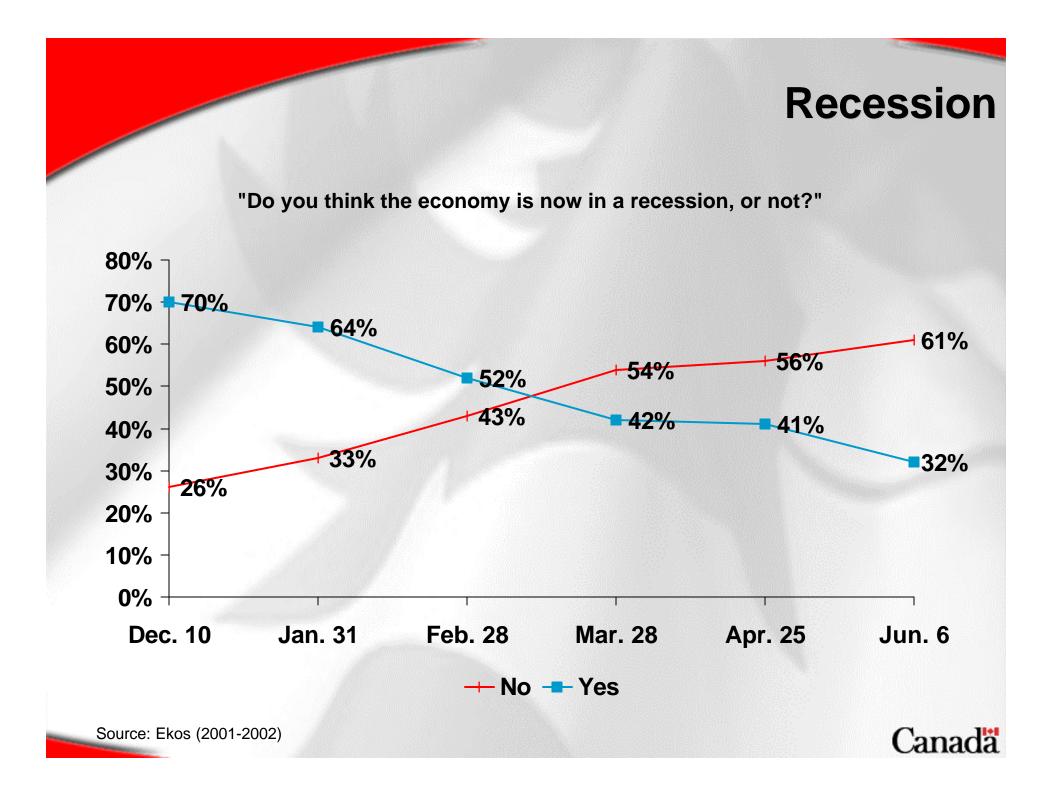




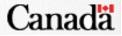
The Economy L'économie





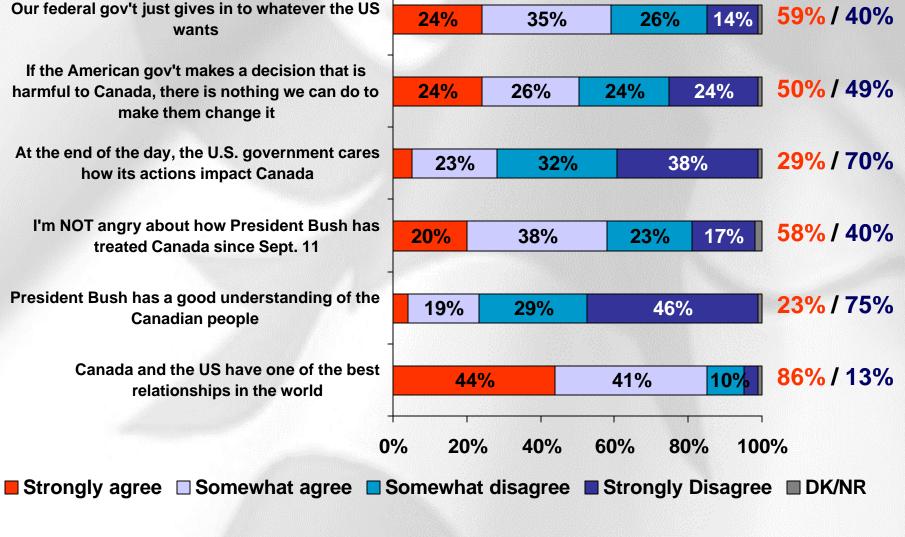


Canada-US Relations Relations canado-américaines



Canada-U.S. Relations

Agree / Disagree



Our federal gov't just gives in to whatever the US

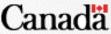
If the American gov't makes a decision that is harmful to Canada, there is nothing we can do to

At the end of the day, the U.S. government cares how its actions impact Canada

I'm NOT angry about how President Bush has treated Canada since Sept. 11

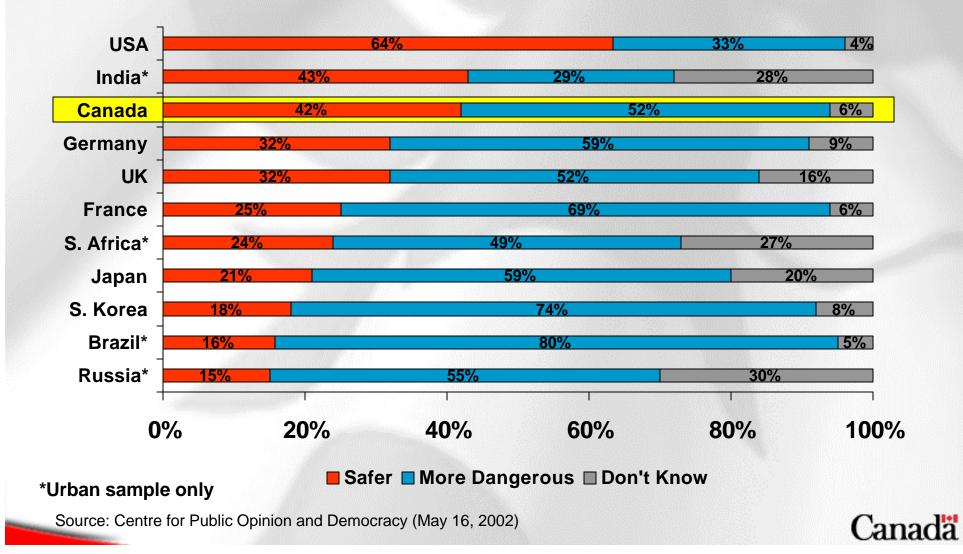
President Bush has a good understanding of the

Source: Ipsos-Reid (April 28-29, 2002)



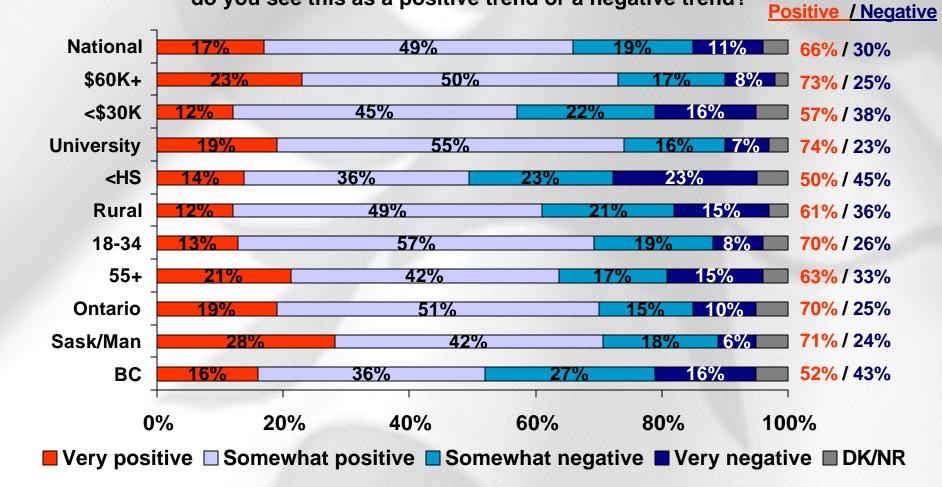
U.S. Missile Defence System

"As you may know, the U.S. announced plans to introduce a missile defence system to shoot down incoming enemy missiles. Based on whatever you've seen, read or heard, all things considered, do you think [this] will make the world..."



Economic Ties with U.S.

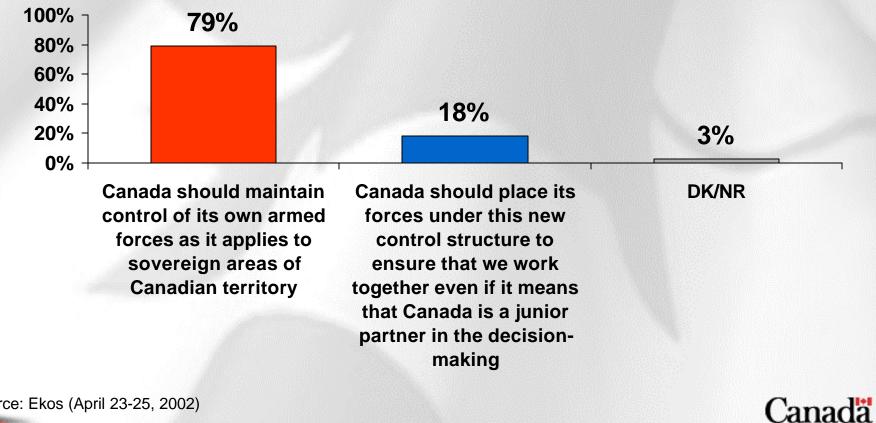
"As you may know, the Canadian and U.S. economies have grown closer over the last few years mainly because of freer trade. Overall, do you see this as a positive trend or a negative trend?"





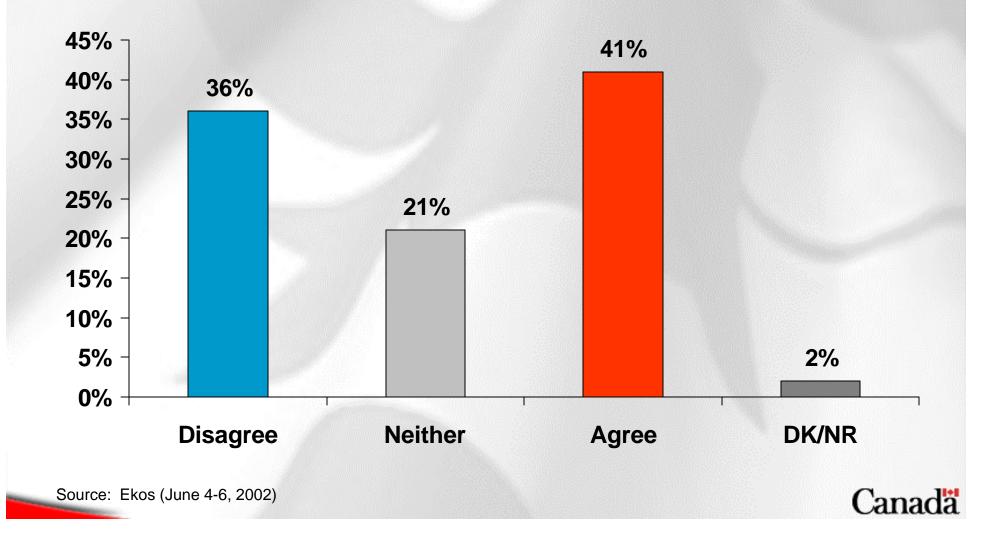
North American Command

"The United States recently announced a plan to create a North American command to coordinate forces in the United States to protect the U.S. from attacks on North America. Which of the following comes closer to your view?..."



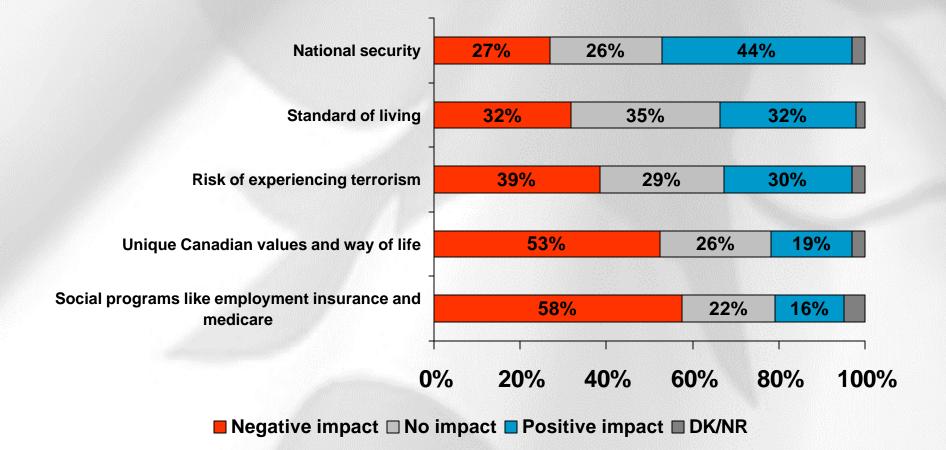
Integrated Policies with U.S.

"Personally, I see nothing wrong with much more supportive and integrative policies with the United States."

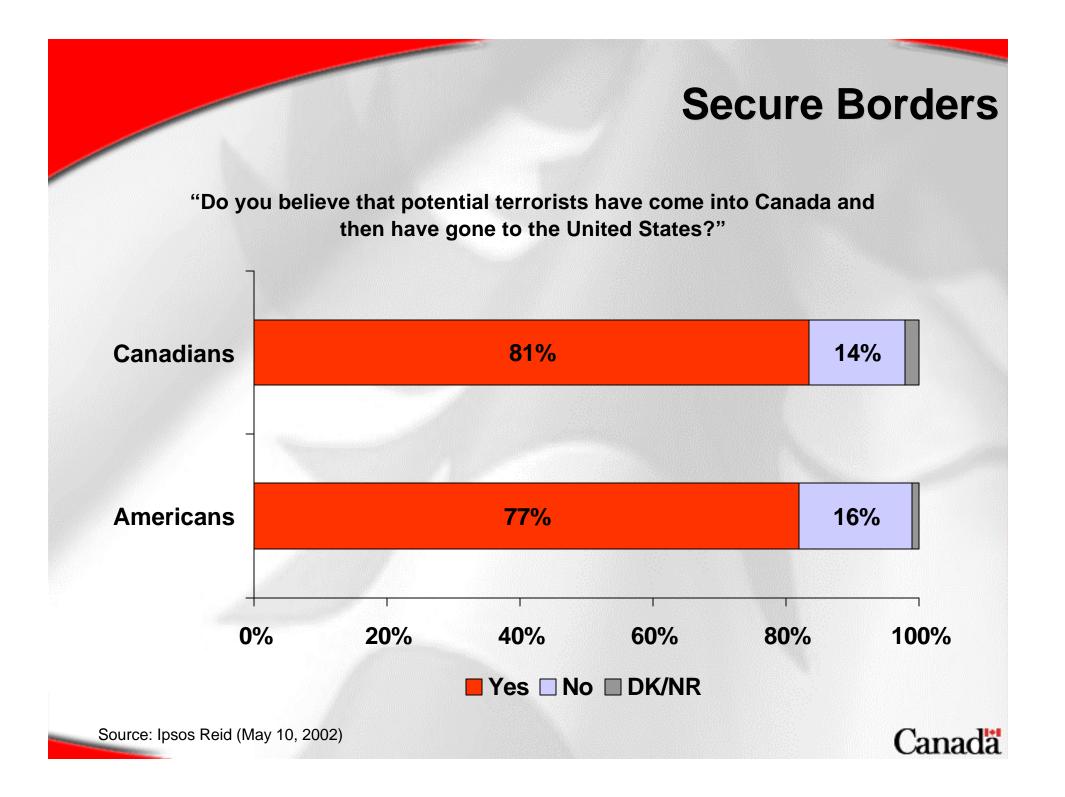


Impact of Integration on Policy

"If we were to pursue LESS independent, more accomodating and supportive relations with the U.S., what do you think the overall impact would be in the following areas?"

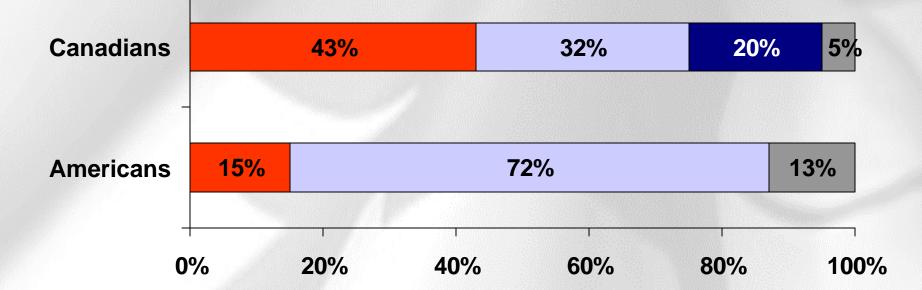






Responsibility for Secure Borders

"And who do you blame more for these terrorists being able to get into the United States from Canada? Do you blame..." [BASE: THOSE WHO BELIEVE POTENTIAL TERRORISTS ENTERED...]



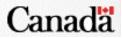
Canadian immigration and refugee rules that let them into Canada in the first place
U.S. Immigration and Border Security for allowing them to slip into the United States
Both

DK/NR

Note: "Both" option only offered to Canadians Source: Ipsos Reid (May 10, 2002)



The Middle East Le Moyen-Orient

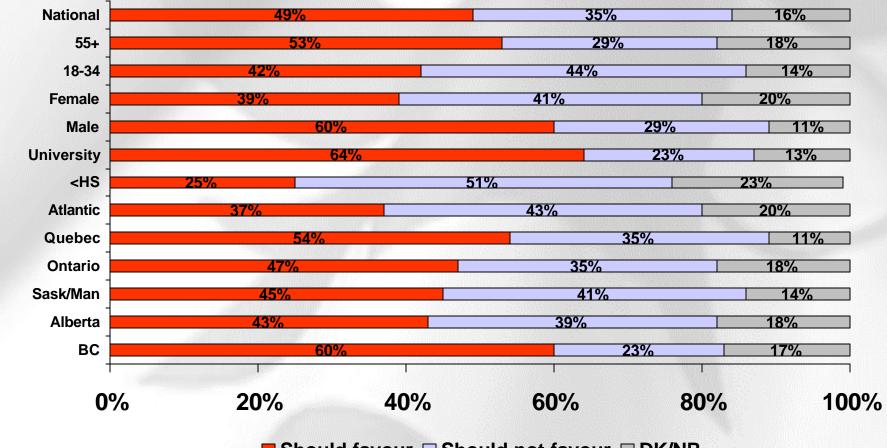


Role for Canada "The Government of Canada has an important role to play in helping bring peace to the Middle East." DK/NR Disagree 1% 21% Neither 15% Agree 63% Canada Source: Ekos (April 23-25, 2002)

Canada's Position "In the Middle East conflict, do you think that Canada..." **Canada should DK/NR** take Israel's side 8% 7% **Canada should** take the **Palestinians' side** 6% **Canada should** not take either side 79% Canada Source: Ipsos-Reid (April 12, 2002)

Palestinian State

"Do you think Canada should favour the creation of a Palestinian state?"

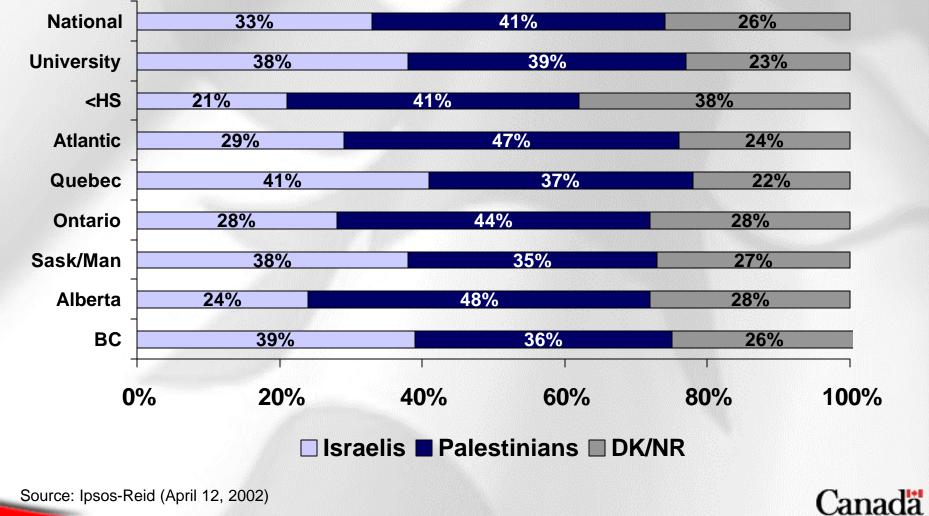


Should favour Should not favour DK/NR



Ending the Violence

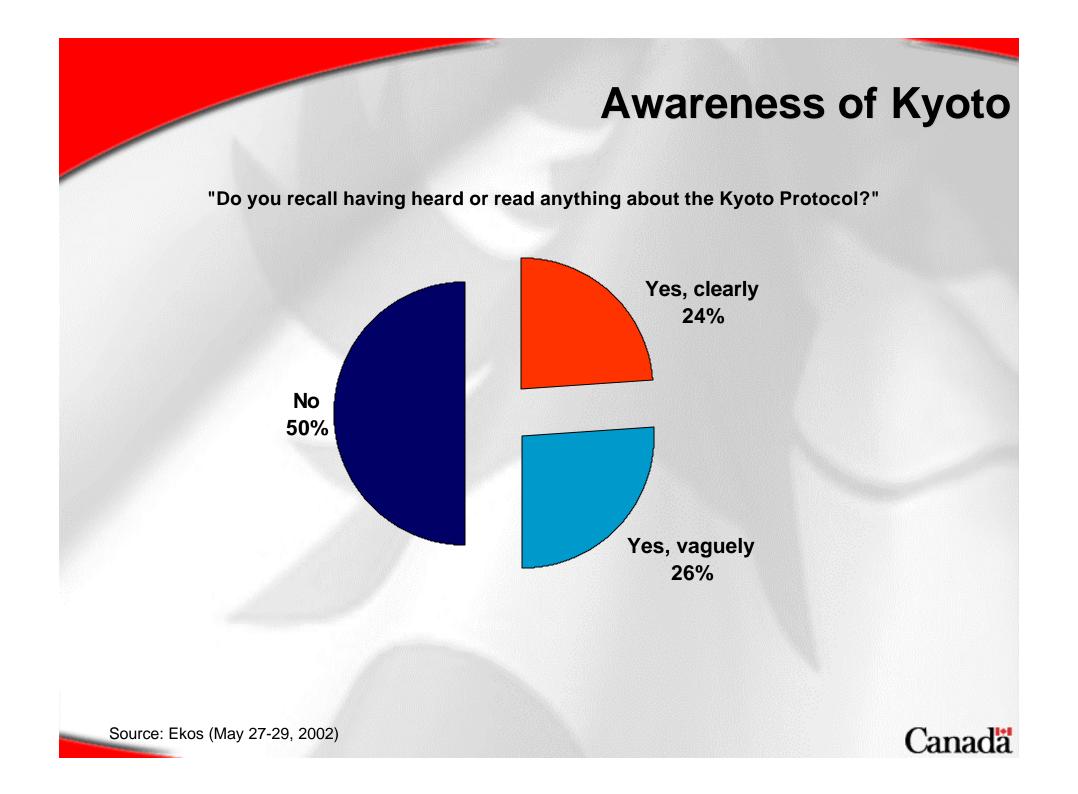
Who should take the first step to end the violence?



Source: Ipsos-Reid (April 12, 2002)

Climate Change Changements climatiques

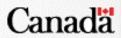




Support/Economic Trade-offs "Overall, do you support or oppose [IF SUPPORT] Would you still Canada's ratification of the Kyoto support the Kyoto Protocol if it Protocol?" caused... 67% 45% A 5% drop 39% 40% in your 67% 29% future 35% 28% 19% standard of 30% living 25% 20% A 1% drop 14% 13% 15% in your 79% 19% future 10% 6% standard of 5% living 0% Strongly Somewhat Somewhat Strongly DK/NR 0% 50% 100% support support oppose oppose

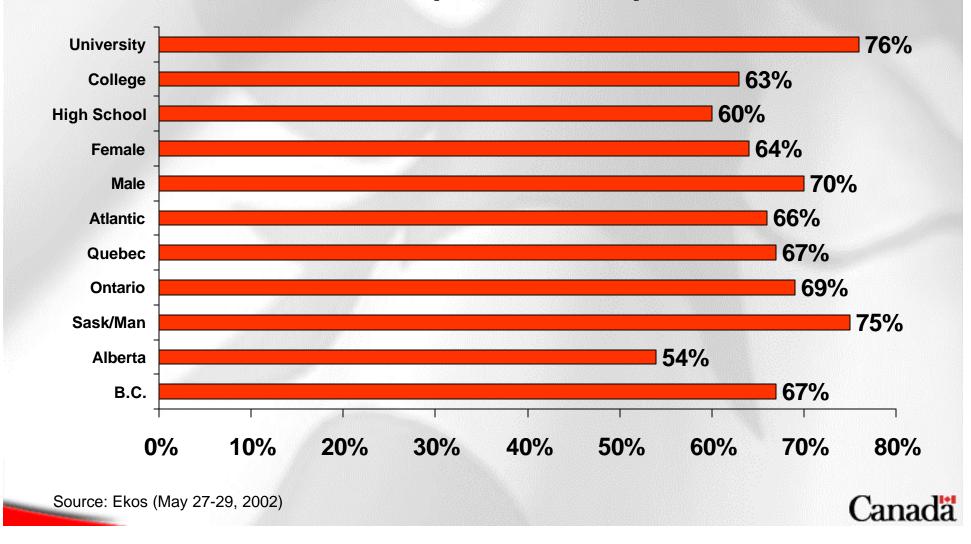
■ Yes □ No □ DK/NR

Source: Ekos (May 27-29, 2002)



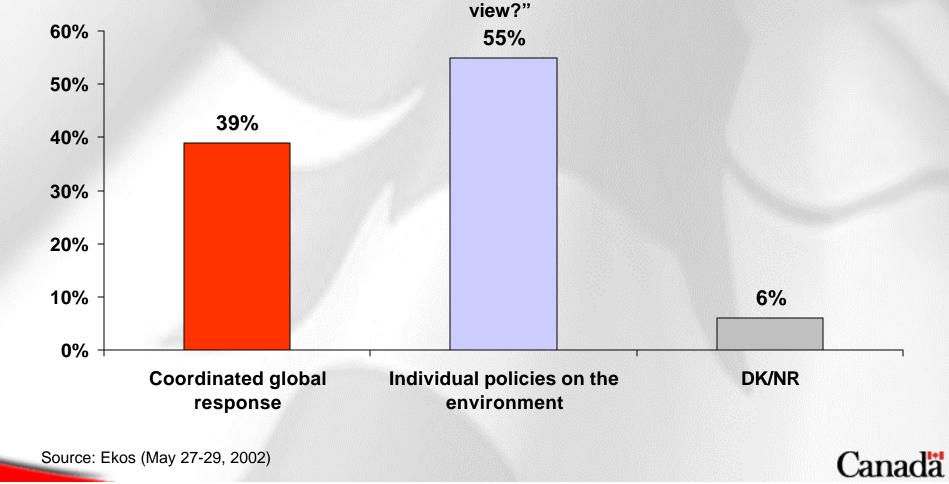
Support for Kyoto

"Overall, do you support or oppose Canada's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol?" [% SAYING SUPPORT]



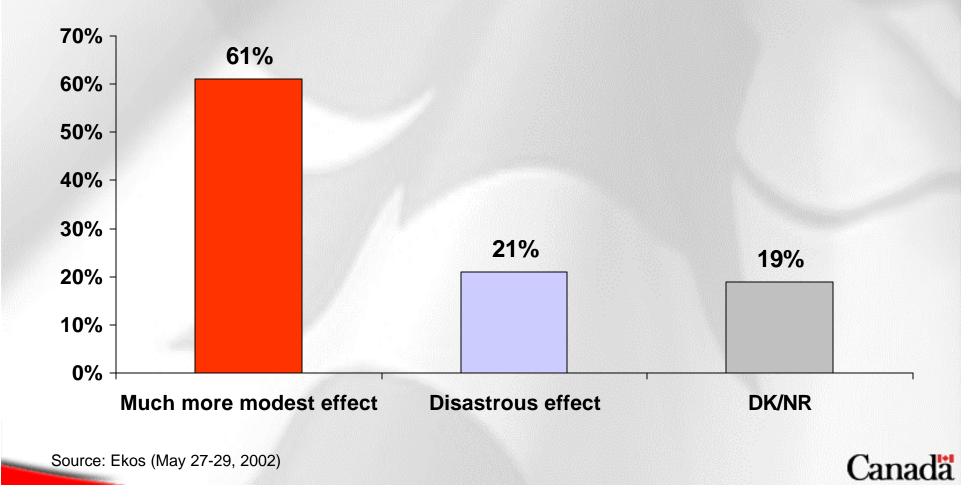
Type of Response

"Some people say that the international global accord signed in Kyoto is essential for dealing with climate change and greenhouse gas emissions because this is a global problem and requires a coordinated global response. Others say that individual countries/jurisdictions are best suited for developing and delivering their own policies on the environment. Which of these statesments comes closest to your



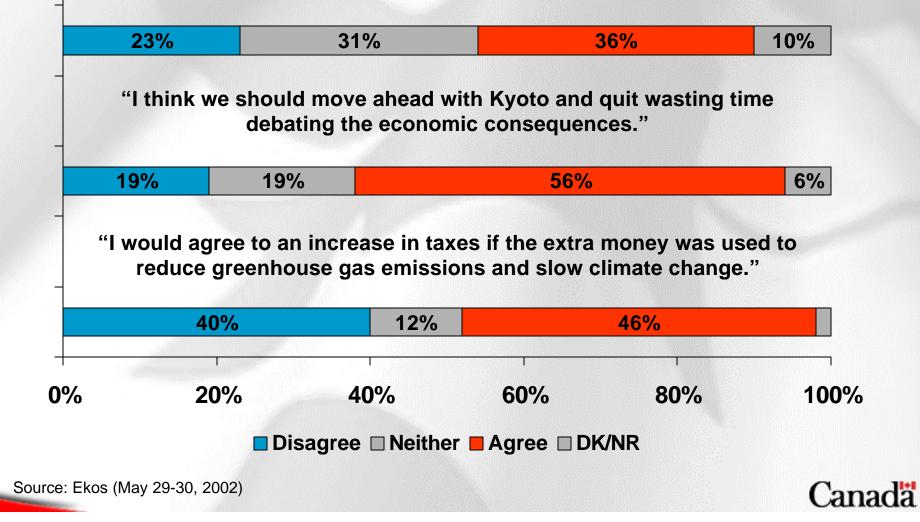
Impact on Economy

"Alberta is claiming that signing the Kyoto protocol will have a disastrous effect on our national economy in the nature of a 5% reduction in the Gross Domestic Product. On the other hand, the federal government says that the economic effect will probably be much more modest. Which of the positions is closest to your own point of view?"



Economic Impacts

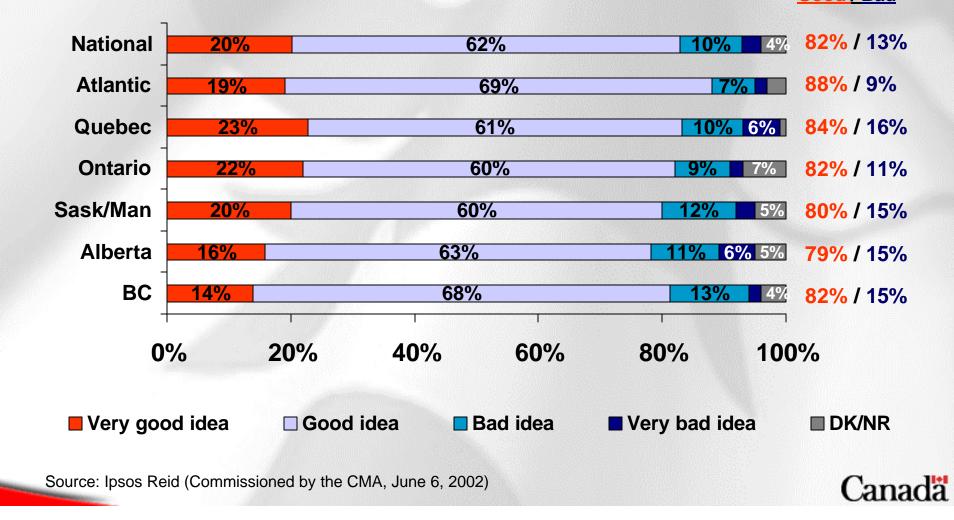
"I think that forcing a choice between the Kyoto Accord and climate change is a false choice, which ignores the possibility of other options."





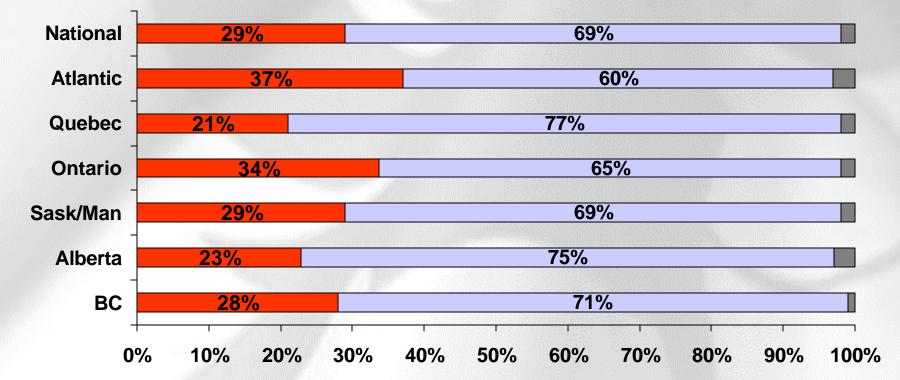
Support for a Health Charter

"The purpose of a Canadian Health Charter would be to spell out the rights and responsibilities of patients, health professionals and governments with respect to the health care system. Do you think that a Canadian Health Charter is a..." Good / Bad



Responsibility for Charter

"Which of the following statements best describes your personal opinion?"



- The Federal Government should establish a charter on its own because it will take too long to get all the provinces and territories to agree
- The Federal Government should establish a Charter in partnership with the provincial and territorial governments even if this takes more time
 DK/NR



THE MEDIA ENVIRONMENT

From April 1st to May 31st, 2002

L'ENVIRONNEMENT MÉDIATIQUE

Du 1er avril au 31 mai 2002



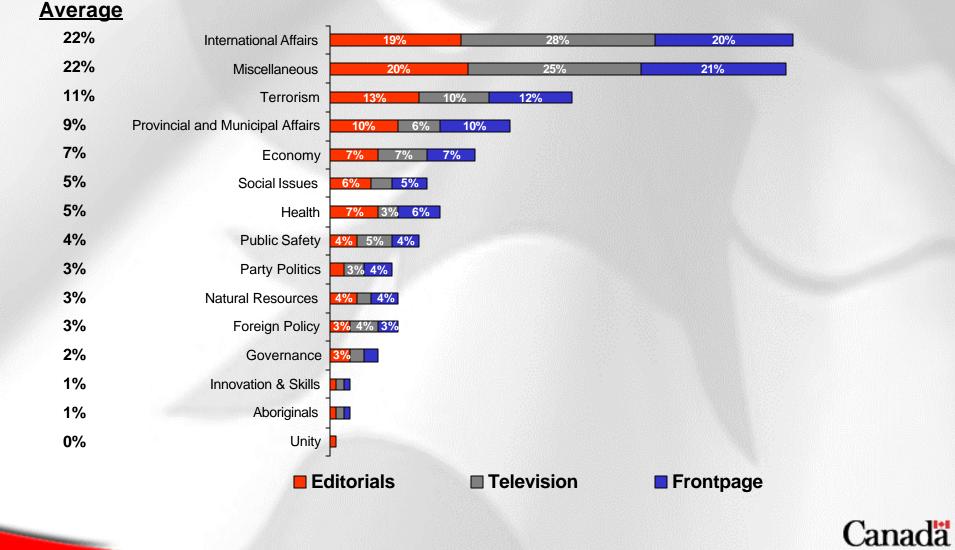
Methodology

- Data from television news broadcasts, newspaper headlines and editorials/columns were collected from April 1st to May 31st, and put into predetermined categories.
- A list of sources which make up the sample and a list of categories can be found at the end of the section.



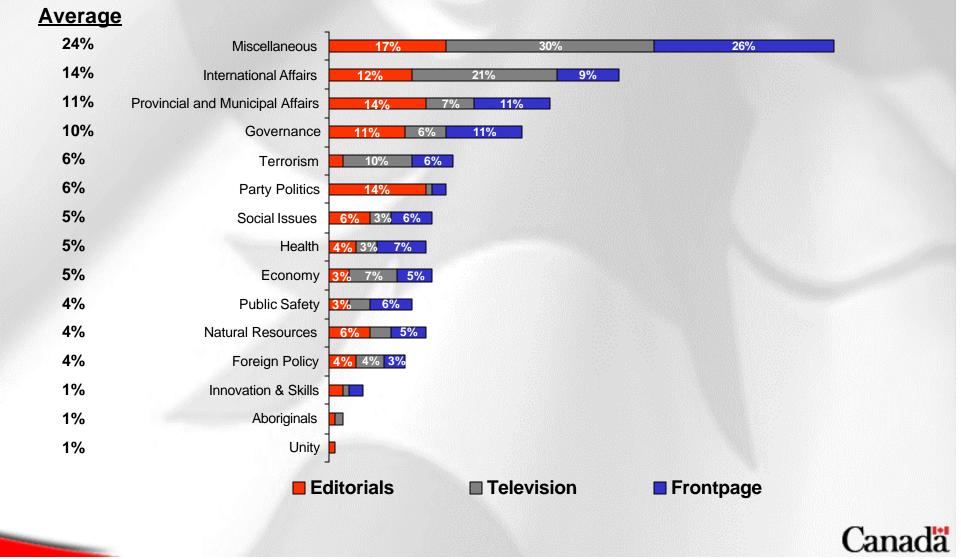
Total Coverage for April April 1st - 30th, 2002





Total Coverage for May May 1st - 31st, 2002

Total Opinion: 2,665 stories · Total Television: 1,577 reports · Total Headlines: 2,883 headlines

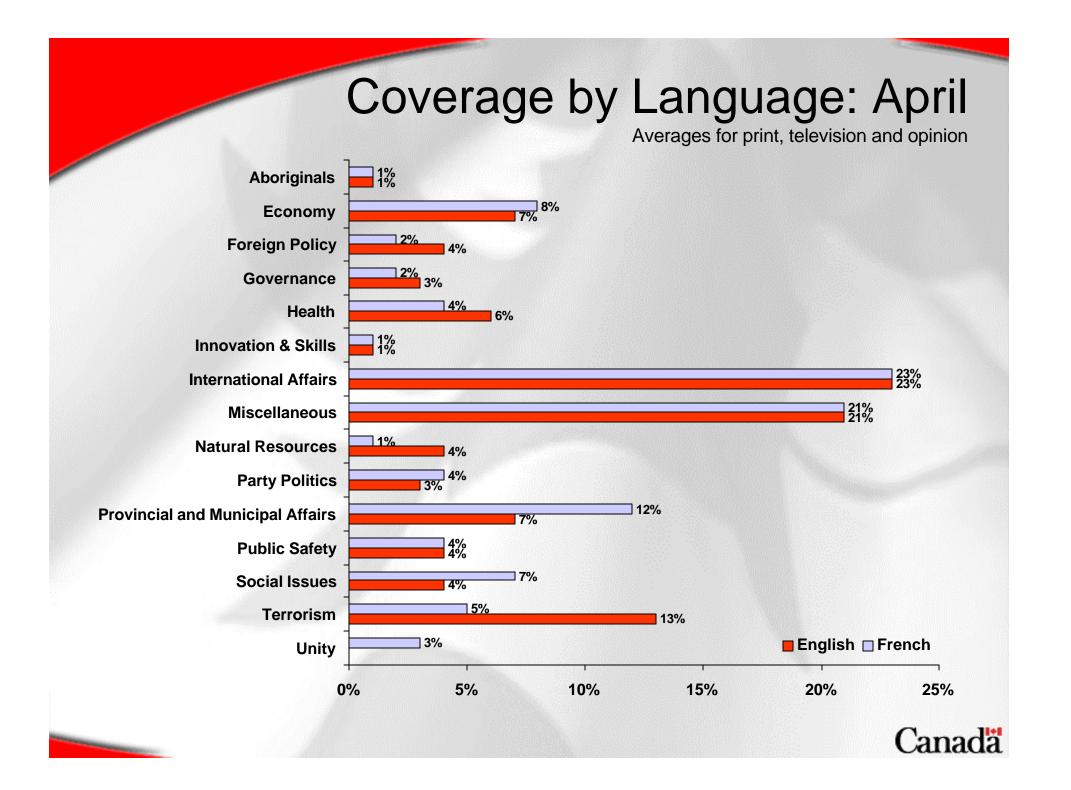


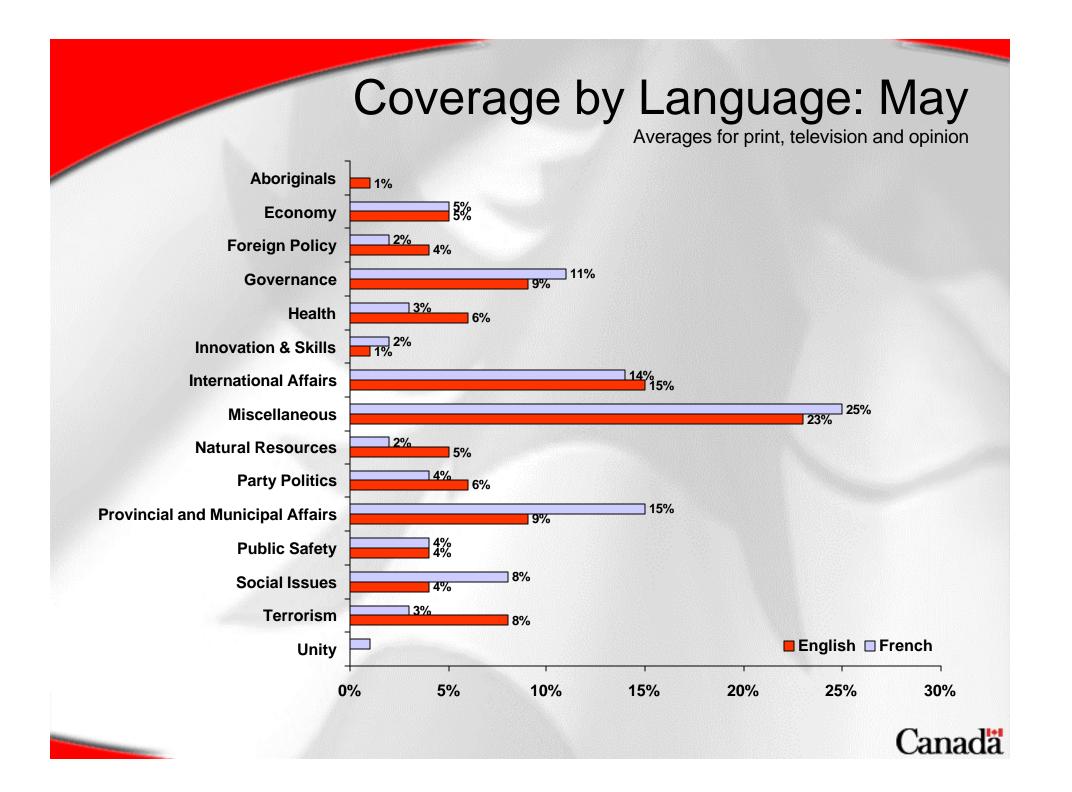
Changes in Coverage From April to May

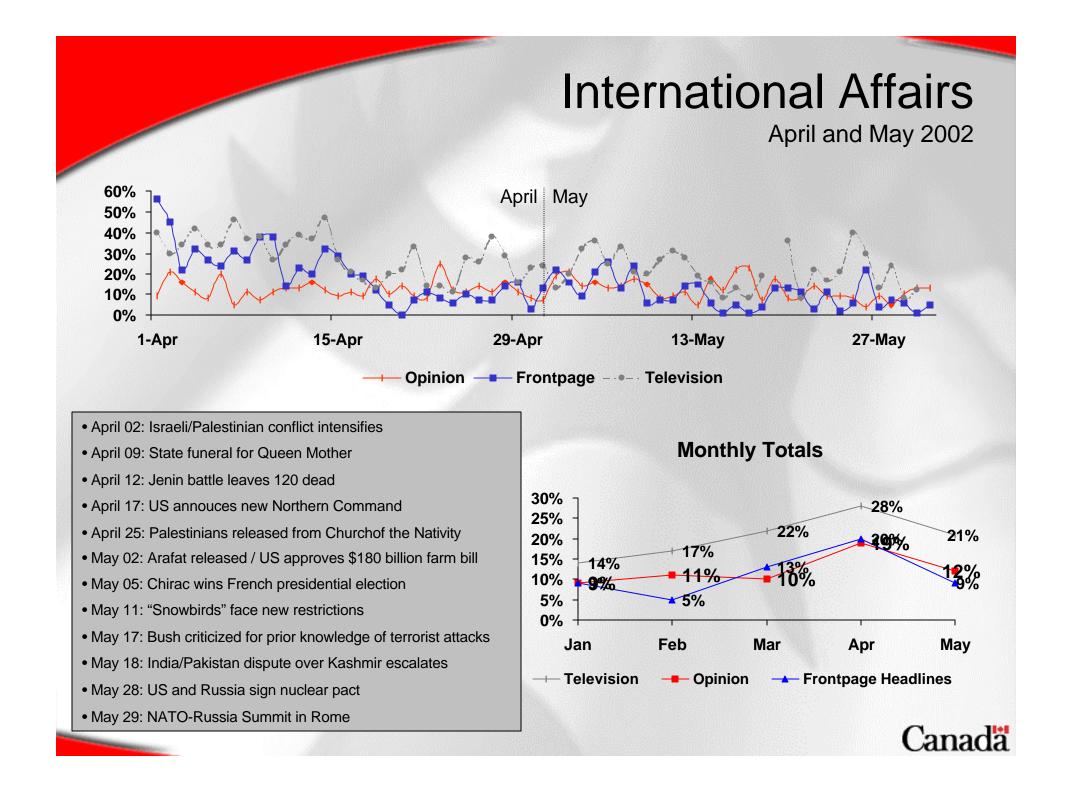
	Editorials	TV	Frontpage	Average
Governance	8%	4%	9%	8%
Party Politics	12%	-2%	-2%	3%
Miscellaneous	-3%	5%	5%	2%
Provincial and Municipal Affairs	4%	1%	1%	2%
Foreign Policy	1%	0%	0%	1%
Natural Resources	2%	1%	1%	1%
Aboriginals	0%	0%	-1%	0%
Health	-3%	0%	1%	0%
Innovation & Skills	1%	0%	1%	0%
Public Safety	-1%	-2%	2%	0%
Social Issues	0%	0%	1%	0%
Unity	0%	0%	0%	0%
Economy	-4%	0%	-2%	-2%
Terrorism	-11%	0%	-6%	-5%
International Affairs	-7%	-7%	-11%	-8%

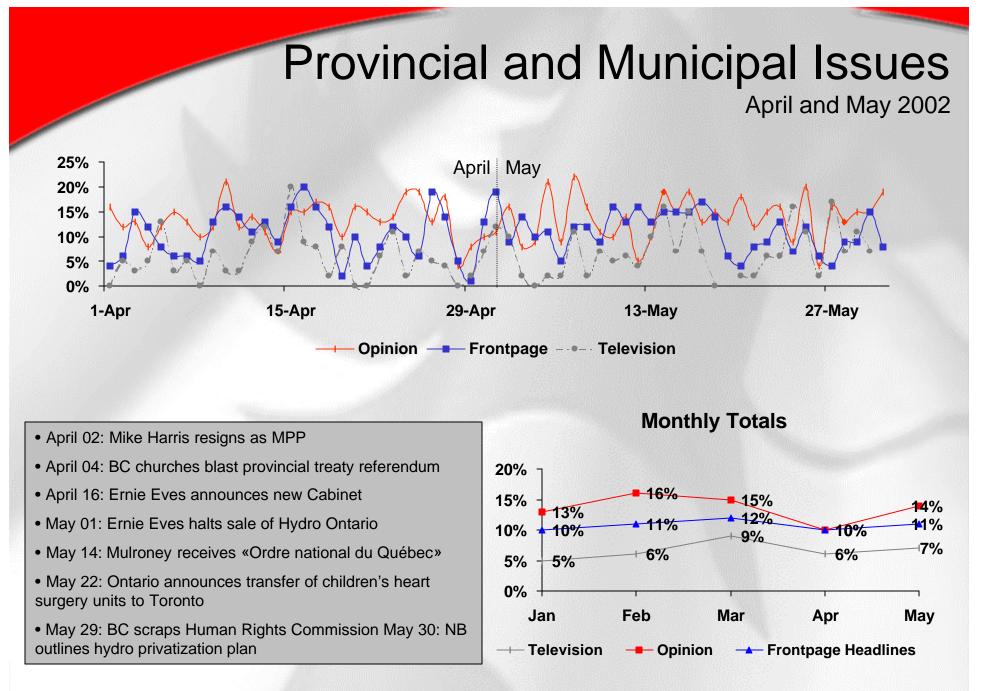




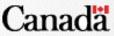


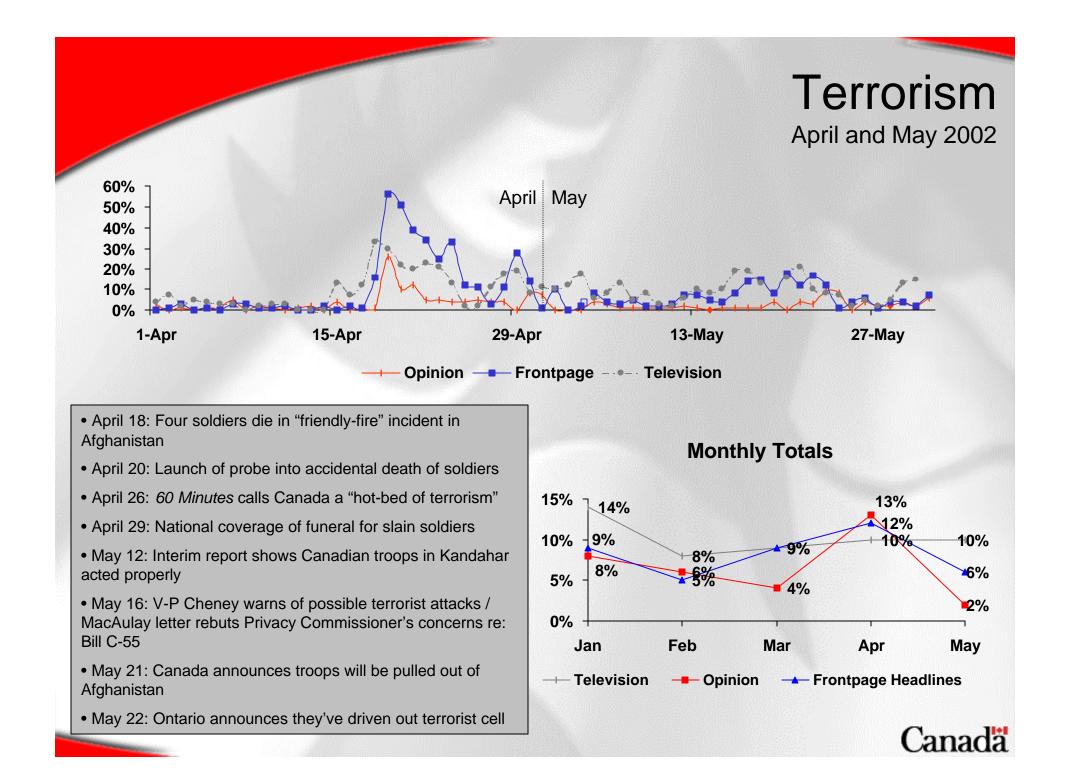


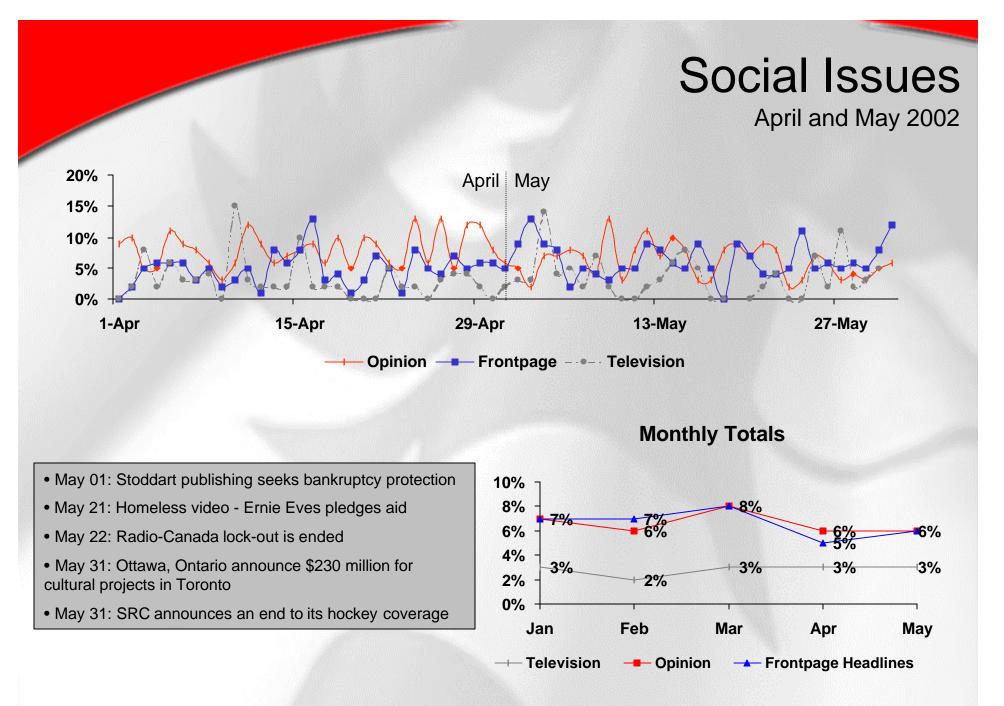




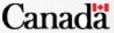


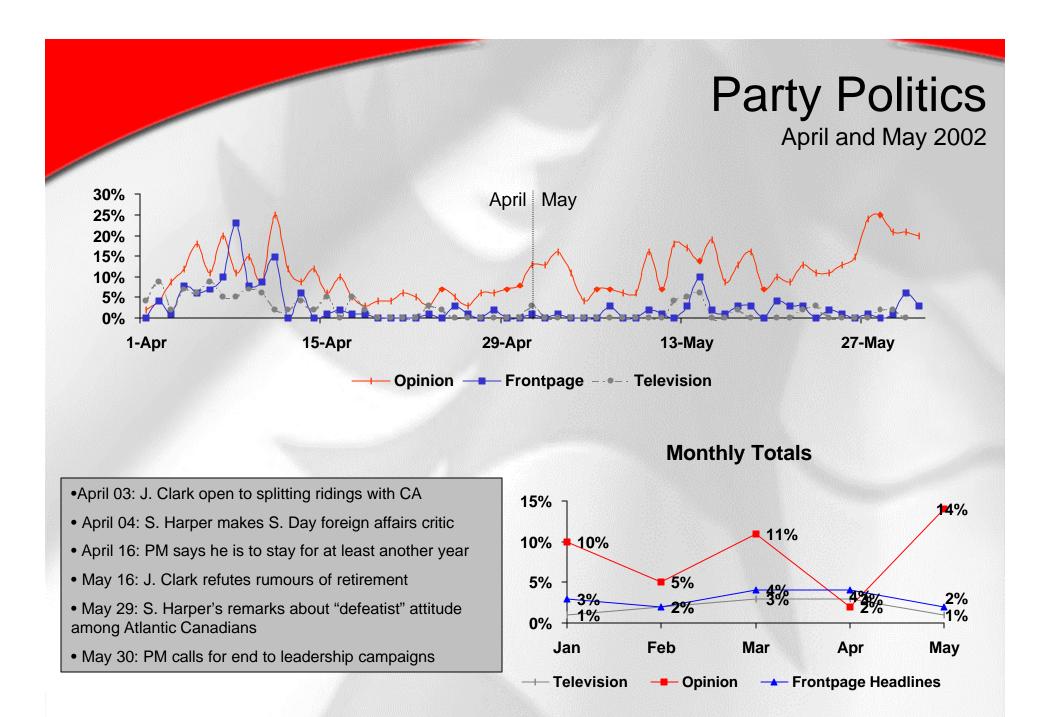






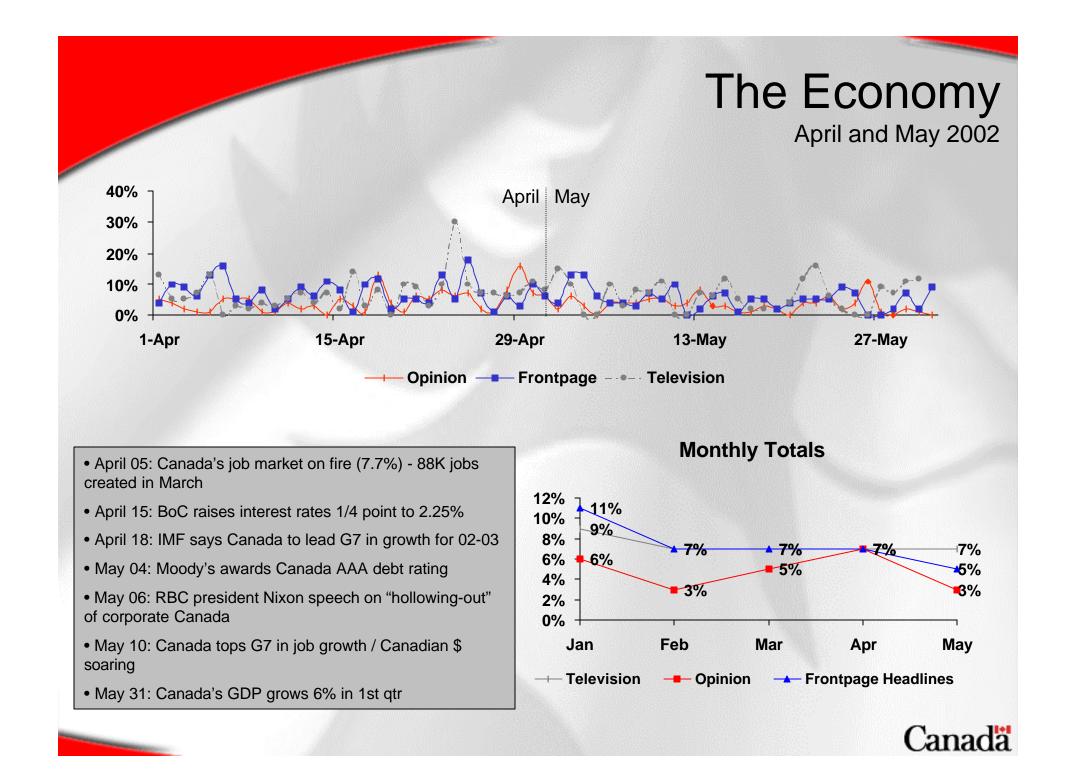
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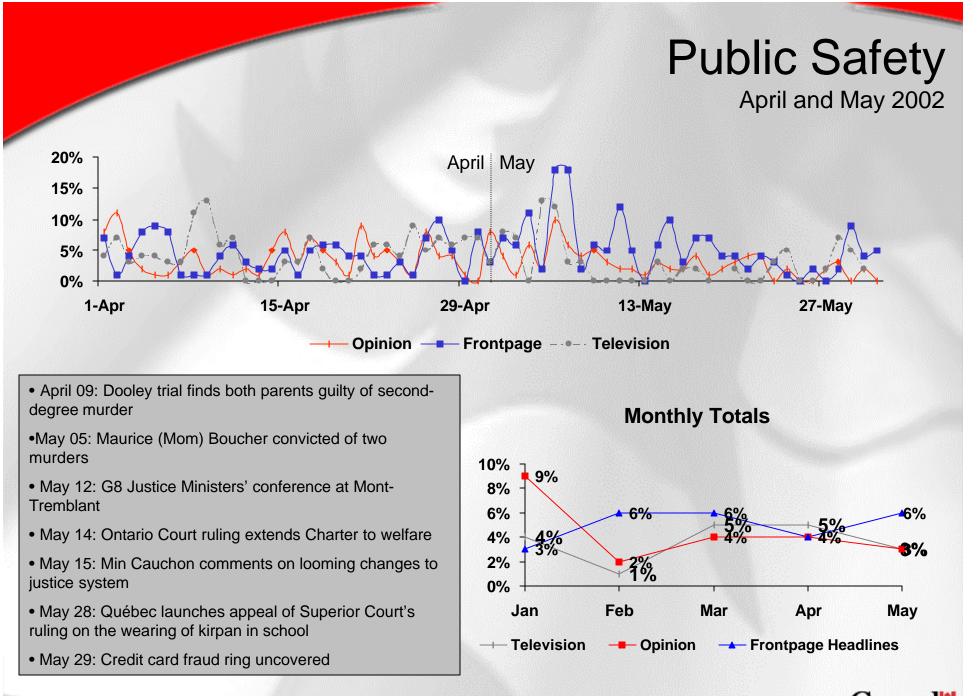




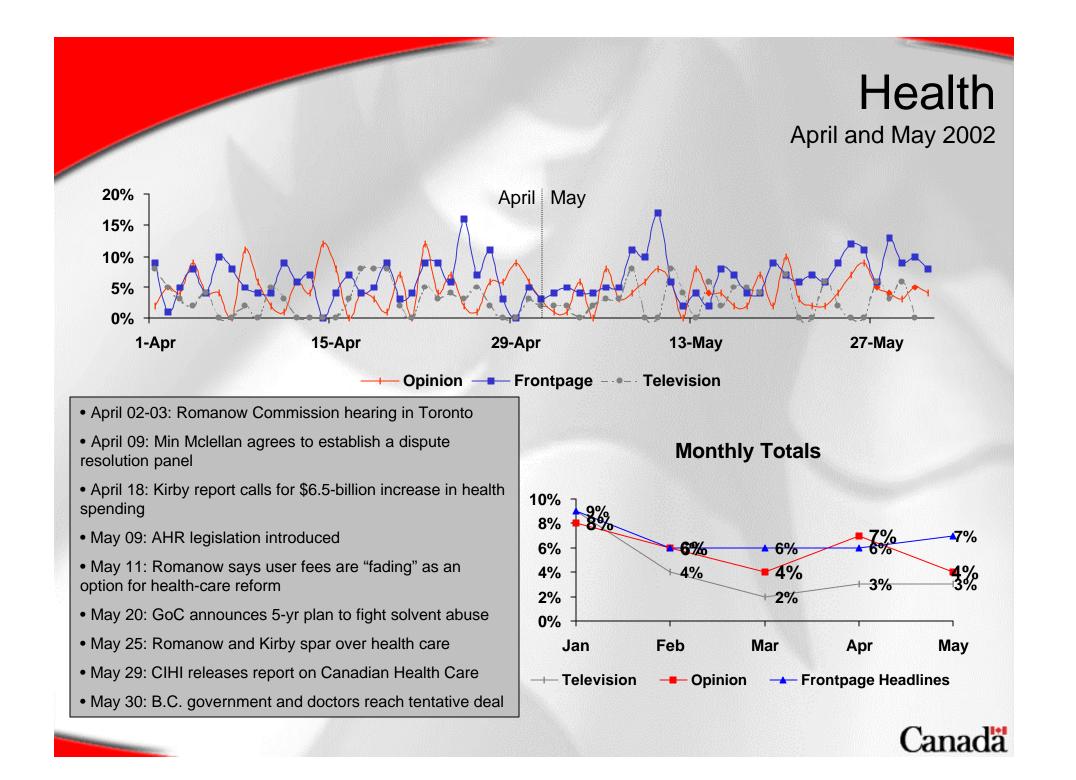
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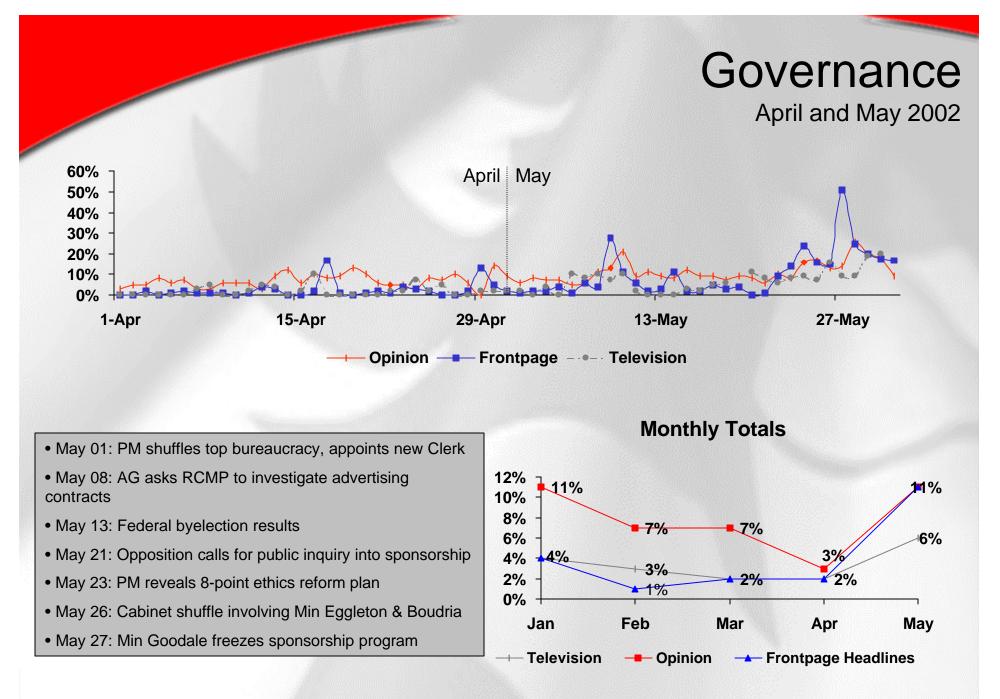




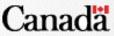


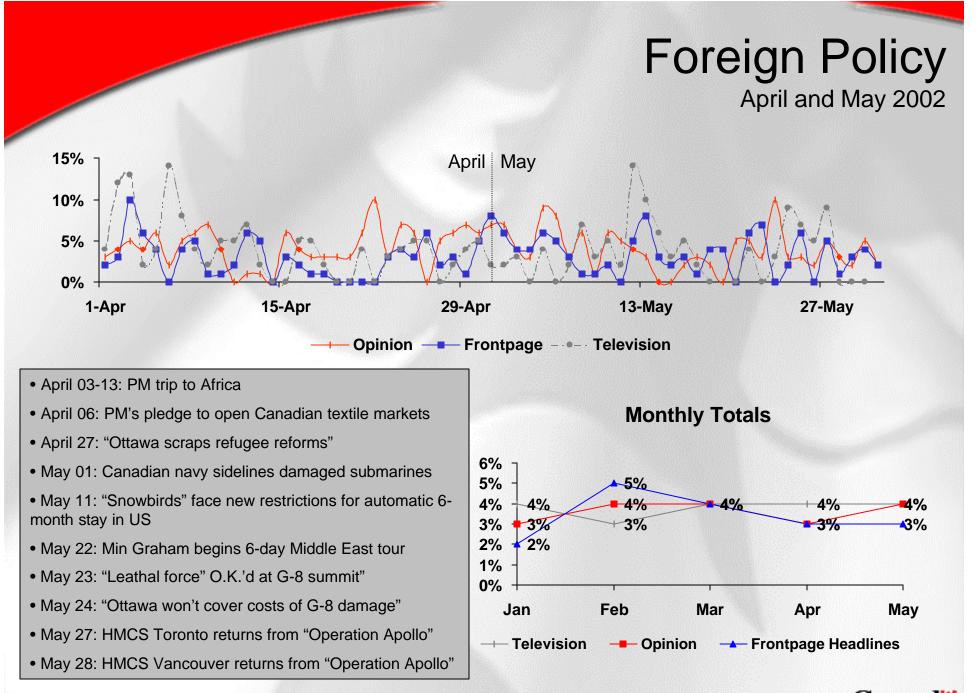
Canada



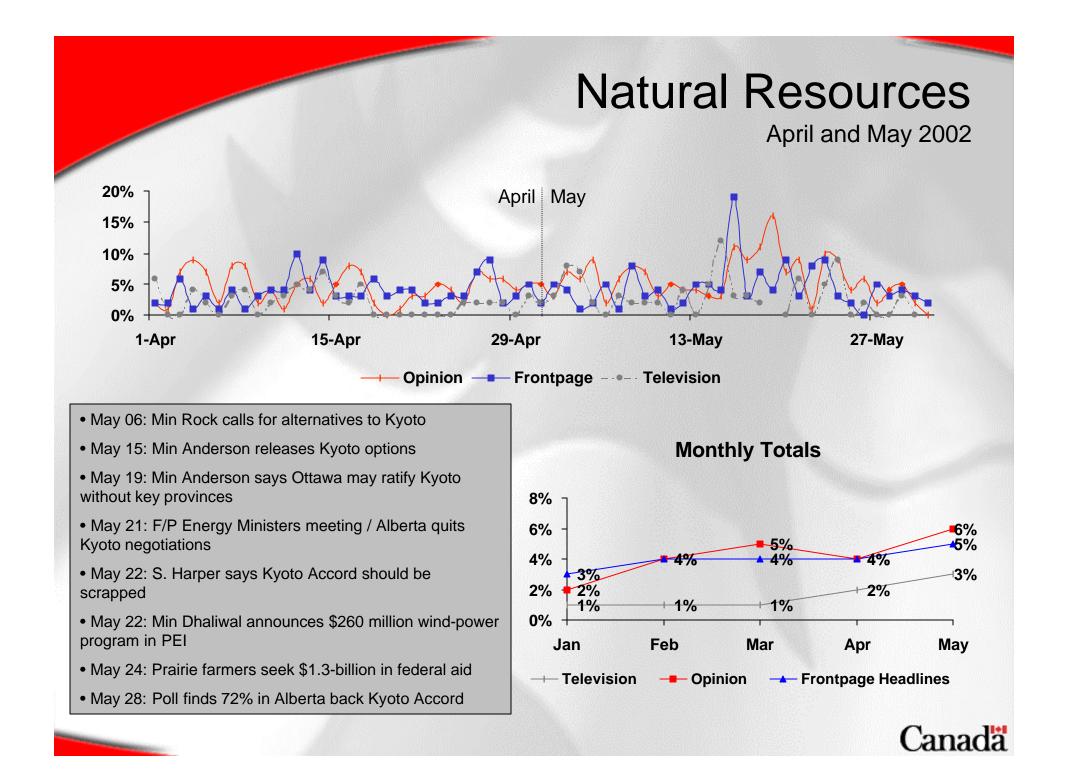








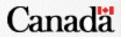




April Regional Media Newspaper Headlines

Issue	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	BC
Aboriginals	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%
Economy	9%	9%	5%	7%	7%
Foreign Policy	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Governance	2%	1%	4%	2%	2%
Health	9%	5%	4%	5%	10%
Innovation & Skills	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
International Affairs	8%	25%	23%	16%	19%
Miscellaneous	18%	25%	21%	19%	28%
Natural Resources	9%	1%	2%	7%	2%
Party Politics	1%	8%	2%	3%	0%
Provincial and Municipal Affairs	15%	12%	10%	9%	6%
Public Safety	3%	5%	4%	5%	6%
Social Issues	8%	3%	5%	8%	4%
Terrorism	13%	3%	16%	16%	12%
Unity	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Note: Totals exclude Globe & Mail and National Post

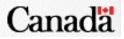


April Regional Media Opinion and Editorial Pages

Issue	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	BC
Aboriginals	0%	2%	0%	3%	7%
Economy	5%	7%	3%	5%	3%
Foreign Policy	1%	3%	7%	3%	3%
Governance	3%	5%	6%	10%	10%
Health	5%	5%	4%	5%	6%
Innovation & Skills	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%
International Affairs	4%	19%	11%	10%	5%
Miscellaneous	34%	17%	28%	11%	16%
Natural Resources	4%	2%	4%	7%	6%
Party Politics	5%	0%	12%	10%	5%
Provincial and Municipal Affairs	18%	14%	10%	13%	22%
Public Safety	4%	2%	2%	5%	5%
Social Issues	8%	11%	8%	9%	6%
Terrorism	5%	4%	3%	5%	3%
Unity	3%	5%	1%	1%	1%

Note: Totals exclude Globe & Mail and National Post

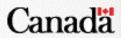
or other Designation of the local division o



May Regional Media Newspaper Headlines

Category	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	BC
Aboriginals	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Economy	9%	4%	3%	5%	5%
Foreign Policy	3%	0%	5%	6%	4%
Governance	4%	12%	15%	10%	8%
Health	7%	3%	8%	9%	19%
Innovation & Skills	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%
International Affairs	2%	13%	9%	7%	6%
Miscellaneous	24%	30%	31%	25%	24%
Natural Resources	11%	1%	1%	9%	3%
Party Politics	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Provincial and Municipal Affairs	18%	13%	9%	9%	9%
Public Safety	3%	8%	4%	3%	9%
Social Issues	8%	10%	3%	4%	6%
Terrorism	5%	4%	8%	7%	5%
Unity	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

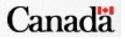
Note: Totals exclude Globe & Mail and National Post



May Regional Media Opinion and Editorial Pages

Issue	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	BC
Aboriginals	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Economy	5%	5%	1%	4%	5%
Foreign Policy	2%	3%	5%	3%	4%
Governance	10%	13%	12%	11%	12%
Health	7%	4%	2%	5%	5%
Innovation & Skills	0%	3%	2%	1%	1%
International Affairs	7%	13%	12%	12%	8%
Miscellaneous	27%	13%	21%	9%	14%
Natural Resources	5%	3%	3%	12%	9%
Party Politics	10%	9%	18%	12%	9%
Provincial and Municipal Affairs	12%	20%	10%	13%	20%
Public Safety	2%	4%	1%	5%	5%
Social Issues	7%	6%	7%	7%	5%
Terrorism	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%
Unity	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%

Note: Totals exclude Globe & Mail and National Post



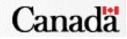


ANNEXE



Sample Details

- Opinion: 2,432 (April); 2,665 (May)
- Frontpage headlines: 2,505 (April); 2,883 (May)
- Television: 1,617 (April); 1,577 (May)
- Unavailable television data:
 - All data missing for May 19
 - CTV: May 24
 - SRC: April 6, 24 and May 4, 21
 - -TVA: April 4, 14 and May 22, 30



Sources

National	Ontario	Television News	
Globe and Mail	The London Free Post	CBC News	
National Post	The Ottawa Citizen	CTV News	
	The Toronto Star	SRC - Le Téléjounra	
Atlantic Canada	The Toronto Sun	TVA Réseau	
Charlottetown Guardian			
Halifax Chronicle Herald	Prairies		
New Brunswick Telegraph Journal	The Calgary Herald		
St. John's Telegram	The Edmonton Journal		
	The Saskatoon Star Phoenix		
Québec	The Winnipeg Free Press		
La Presse			
Le Devoir	British Columbia		
Le Journal de Montréal	The Vancouver Province		
Le Soleil	The Vancouver Sun		
The Montreal Gazette	The Victoria Times Colonist		

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