

Citizen Participation in Public Policy Issues

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Overview

- About CPRN
- The Role of Citizens
- Deliberative Dialogue Process
- Examples of Citizen Engagement
- Connecting with Canadians – Our Values
- Benchmarking against the USA

CPRN

- Canada's leading socio-economic think tank
- High quality academic level peer reviewed research
- Translated into policy options
- Citizen engagement on policy options to discover what Canadians value
- Broad dissemination through our web site – over 2.5 million downloads annually
- Neutral and non-partisan



The Role of Citizens – Deliberative Dialogue

- Random Selection from an agreed upon sampling frame to ensure representative sample for each dialogue
- Create safe, neutral, non-partisan space for dialogue
- A process of “justifiable democracy” whereby citizens justify their policy choices to one another
- Creates a data base of deeply held values that can inform political choices



Deliberative Dialogues

- Deliberative dialogues enable people to interact, hear other perspectives and modify their views as they work together to reconcile those views with the deeper values that underpin the choices they make.

Deliberative Dialogues

- While polling surveys and focus groups identify peoples' top-of-mind opinions without changing their minds, deliberative dialogues are designed to explore how and why people's minds change as they learn and enable people to develop their own fully worked-through views.

Value of Deliberative Dialogue

- It offers profound insight into what matters most to people and why, what values underlie their choices, what tradeoffs they will or will not accept, and what conditions they impose.

Value of Deliberative Dialogue

- The outcomes include an understanding of why citizens think what they do, what sticking points prevent progress and, helps create a more informed public as the groundwork for consensus building – they will better understand the final decision, even if it is not their preference.



Suitable for Complex Issues?

- Romanow Commission on Health
- Nuclear Waste Management
- Canada wide Youth Dialogue on the Canada we want
- Youth Dialogue in Newfoundland and Labrador as a part of the Youth Retention and Recruitment Strategy



Youth Dialogue Values

Everyone takes responsibility to contribute to a more:

- equitable, healthy, sustainable and knowledgeable society (local to global)
- We have common, high quality standards of public services
- Mobility for education and jobs
- Bilingualism is a reality
- We value diversity AND celebrate common bonds of citizenship
- Take us seriously as citizens and take citizenship seriously



Expectations of government, business and communities

- A good job that pays a fair wage
- Access to quality education and training from early childhood through adulthood
- Quality and timely health care
- Social security for families and individuals
- Safe, secure and supportive communities
- Good governance and a voice for citizens
- Clean healthy environment for this and future generations



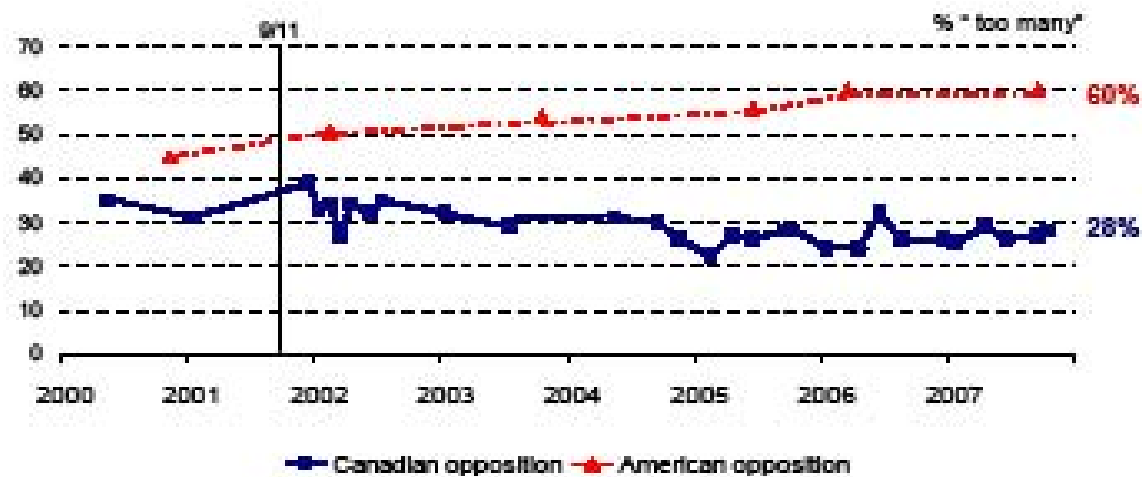
Obligations of Individual Canadians

- Providing for one's family
- Paying taxes and respecting the law
- Investing in your own education, employment and health
- Contributing to community and public life
- Using responsibly natural resources and public services
- Respecting Canadian values as they evolve



Opposition to immigration – trend since 9/11

Q. In your opinion do you feel that there are too many, too few or about the right number of Immigrants coming to Canada?

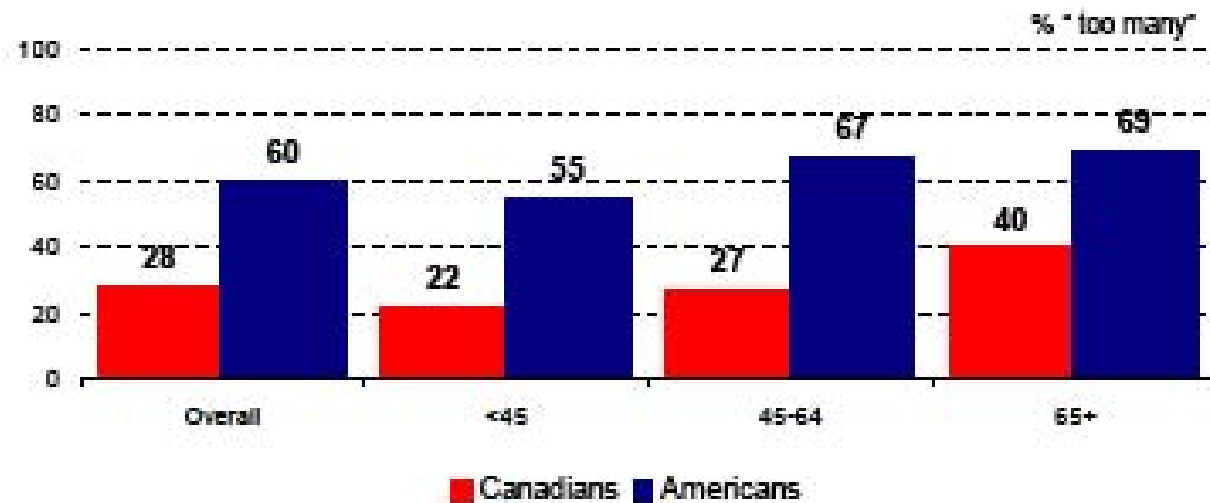


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Base – Most recent data points from Sep. / Oct. 07

Demographic differences in opposition to immigration

Q. In your opinion do you feel that there are too many, too few or about the right number of immigrants coming to Canada?



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Base - Canadians Oct. 07 n=1000; Americans Sep. 07 n=1003

Summary

- Canadians are moderate, modest and quite magnificent
- Our values are stable, and can be relied upon over a longer term than focus group results or polling data
- When citizens do not believe the evidence we cannot expect politicians to act upon it
- As knowledge makers we have to speak to Canadian values if we expect to create political resonance





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