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Media Release

Nanos poll finds Canadians strongly support a tougher stance towards China

TORONTO - Close to two thirds of Canadians surveyed want the next federal government to be more forceful towards China, according to a new Nanos poll on Canada-China relations. They are also ten times more likely than less likely to vote for a federal party that has a strong stance against China, while 88% support or somewhat support a legislation requiring anyone who works on behalf of a foreign government to register as a foreign agent.

In the Nanos poll gauging public opinion on Canada-China relations, 63% say Canada should be more forceful in its relations with China, while only 4% prefer a less forceful approach. Another 24% say it is currently about right, while 9% are unsure. The strongest support for a more forceful stance comes from Ontario (65.6%), followed by the Prairies (63.6%), Quebec (62.9%), BC (61.3%) and the Atlantic region (52.9%).

In the current election, 45% of Canadians surveyed say they are more likely to vote for a party that has a stronger stance against China, while only 4% are less likely. Those on the Prairies are most likely (52.5%) to vote for a party with a stronger stance, followed by BC (46.8%), Ontario (46.4%), Quebec (38.2%) and the Atlantic (29.6%).

On the question of foreign influence, 88% of respondents support or somewhat support the federal government establishing a Foreign Agent Registration Act. Such legislation would require anyone who works on behalf of a foreign government to register with the Canadian government in order to combat harmful foreign influence. Ontarians are most likely to support or somewhat support the legislation (91%), followed by those on the Prairies (88.1%), Quebec (85.9%), BC (83.8%) and the Atlantic region (82.7%).

While Canada remains the only member among the Five Eye allies that has not banned Huawei from building the country's 5G network, 80% of respondents support or somewhat support a ban. The poll found that only 6% oppose and 8% somewhat oppose.

Canadians also have strong opinions about China's role in the COVID-19 pandemic. 80% say China has done a poor or very poor job at being transparent about the initial outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in China. Only 4% say China has done a good job and 2% very good.

On the question of whether Canada should boycott the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, 62% support or somewhat support, while 29% oppose or somewhat oppose. Another 9% are unsure.

Nanos Research conducted an RDD dual frame (land- and cell-lines) random hybrid telephone and online survey of 1,029 Canadians between August 28 and 30, 2021, with a margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The poll was commissioned by Canada-Hong Kong Link, Saskatchewan Stands with Hong Kong, Vancouver Society in Support of Democratic Movement, and Vancouver Hong Kong Forum Society.

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