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NEWS RELEASE

China More Promising Market for Canadian Exports Than the United States Says Nationwide Opinion Poll

VANCOUVER, BC – September 14, 2006 – A national opinion poll by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and *The Globe and Mail* suggests that Canadians believe China holds greater potential for Canadian exports and investment than the United States. Forty-two per cent of respondents identified China as the market with greatest potential, well ahead of the United States at 29 per cent. The next most important markets were Japan, India, Southeast Asia, and the European Union.

The poll was conducted between August 2-9, 2006 by The Strategic Counsel on behalf of the Asia Pacific Foundation and *The Globe and Mail*. Results for the national sample are accurate to within 3.1 points 19 times out of 20.

When asked about the importance of different countries/regions for Canada's prosperity and well being, the United States was selected by 89 per cent of respondents, followed by China at 77 per cent, the European Union at 66 per cent, and Japan at 65 per cent.

“The poll demonstrates that Canadians are attuned to the rise of China as an economic power. Whether or not China in fact holds greater potential than the United States, Canadians are embracing economic relations with China as a necessary and positive development,” said Yuen Pau Woo, Foundation President and Co-CEO.

Only 38 per cent of respondents believe that China's growing importance as an economic power is more of a threat for Canada than an opportunity. Seventy-three per cent agree that increased Canada-China trade will “mostly help” Canadian consumers.

At the same time, Canadians are concerned about possible job losses due to increased Canada-China trade. Fifty per cent of respondents believe that increased trade will lead to job losses, compared to 43 per cent

who think increased trade will create jobs. A sharp regional difference reveals that the fear of job losses is strongest in Quebec, with 61 per cent who believe that employment will be negatively affected. In the rest of the country, there was an even split between those who felt that job losses would dominate and those who believed that there would be jobs gained.

There were a number of other striking regional differences in views about China. While Quebeckers were split on whether China or the US holds more potential for exports and investment, the rest of Canada chose China over the US by a margin of 18 percentage points. The gap in favour of China was even larger in western provinces, especially British Columbia, where 57 per cent of respondents said China had the most potential, compared with only 18 per cent who chose the US.

Other news releases about the national opinion poll include:

Canadians Bullish on Stronger Economic Relations with Asia Says National Opinion Poll at: [\(link\)](#)

Canadians Seek Balance in Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights Abroad Says Nationwide Opinion Poll at: [\(link\)](#)

A summary of the survey results is available at: [\(link\)](#)

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About APF Canada

The Asia Pacific Foundation is Canada's leading independent resource on Asia and Canada-Asia relations. As a national non-profit organization established by an Act of the Federal Parliament in 1984, the Foundation brings together people and knowledge to provide the most current and comprehensive research, analysis and information on Asia and on Canada's transpacific relations. It promotes dialogue on economic, security, political and social issues, helping to influence public policy and foster informed decision-making in the Canadian public, private and non-governmental sectors. The Foundation is funded through an endowment from the Government of Canada and a grant from the Province of British Columbia.

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