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## Canadians want Country to Address Global Poverty

*Almost half of respondents are already doing something to help those in need around the world*

**[CALGARY – March 10, 2009]** – Despite gloomy economic forecasts at home, Canadians are clearly engaged in the fight against global poverty and believe their country should be committed to addressing this issue, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll for the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC), in partnership with the Wild Rose Foundation, has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, nine-in-ten Canadians (89%) say they believe Canada should be addressing global poverty in some way, with three-in-ten (29%) actually placing global poverty as a higher priority than local issues.

“This study is the first of its kind and it shows that Canadians care about global poverty and international development,” says Heather McPherson, Executive Director, ACGC.

When Canadians are asked to rank a list of 14 global issues, almost half of respondents (48%) say global poverty—in terms of hunger and clean water—is important for them. This level of engagement is comparable with the way Canadians feel about disease protection, trade, and nature conservation.

In addition, one-third of Canadians (34%) say they make an effort to get informed about global poverty, 18 per cent talk about this issue with others, 13 per cent report having made a donation, and four per cent have written a letter to politicians.

*Topline results are available at the end of this release. For more information on the study and its findings, please contact:*

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## **About the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation**

The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) is a coalition of over 60 voluntary sector organizations located in Alberta, working locally and globally to achieve sustainable human development. We are committed to international cooperation that is people-centred, democratic, just, inclusive, and respectful of the environment and indigenous cultures. We work towards ending poverty and achieving a peaceful and healthy world, with dignity and full participation for all.

Members of the Council pursue these goals through supporting global citizenship programs and participatory projects with international partners.

The Council's goal is to support the work of its members through networking, leadership, information sharing, training and coordination, and represents their interests when dealing with government and others. The objectives of the Council are to promote and mobilize greater Albertan participation in assisting international development.

## **About Angus Reid Strategies**

Angus Reid Strategies is a full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995.

Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Since 2006, Angus Reid Strategies has covered seven provincial and federal elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

## **About the Wild Rose Foundation**

The Wild Rose Foundation is the Government of Alberta's principal agency responsible for promoting and supporting Alberta's non-profit and voluntary sector. The Foundation provides programs, services and supports that assist and encourage the development of the voluntary sector's capacity to contribute to our communities and quality of life.

The purposes of the Wild Rose Foundation are to:

1. Provide funding to nonprofit/voluntary sector organizations that provide valuable services to Albertans;

2. Foster or promote the use of volunteers, or to assist those who volunteer or use the services of volunteers in Alberta; and,
3. Foster or promote charitable, philanthropic, humanitarian, or public spirited acts or to assist those who perform them.

The Wild Rose Foundation is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors and the Ministry of Culture and Community Spirit is responsible for the Wild Rose Foundation.

## **Topline Results**

Please indicate which of the following statements best describes your view on Canada's involvement with regards to with global poverty?

I believe Canada should be addressing global poverty	29%
I believe Canada should address other global issues than poverty	5%
I believe Canada should address global poverty, but after local issues have been dealt with	60%
I don't believe Canada should address global poverty at all	3%
None of the above	3%

Which of the following issues, if any, would you personally like to play a role in addressing?

Health care	68%
Education	61%
Environmental Pollution	57%
Human Rights	57%
Nature Conservation	54%
Global Poverty in terms of Hunger / Clean Water	48%
Trade / Economic Issues	46%
Disease Protection	45%
Animal Conservation	44%
Political Stability	42%
Natural Disasters	37%
Terrorism	32%
Arms Trade / Arms Control	27%
World Drug Trade	22%

Which of the following, if any, have you done to help those in need internationally in the past 12 months?

Get informed	34%
Talk to others about these issues	18%
Donate	13%
Write letters to politicians	4%
Volunteer	2%
None of the above	53%

## **Research Methodology**

From January 16 to January 19, 2009, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among 1,002 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The survey was conducted on behalf of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) and funded in part by the Wild Rose Foundation. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.