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NEWS NATIONAL

Wed, September 7, 2005

Canucks want say in making policy

By BILL RODGERS, OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA -- Canadians love to complain about politics and their politicians.

Now they say they want a more direct influence over major government decisions, according to a survey.

The poll, conducted last month by SES Research for Crossing Boundaries and the Public Policy Forum, found 61% want more say in the policymaking that affects their daily lives. Meanwhile, 31% said it's the responsibility of elected politicians and 8% had no opinion or were undecided.

The result is a "clear indication to decision-makers that we have to do democracy differently," said Graham Fox, VP of the Public Policy Forum, an Ottawa-based think-tank.

At the same time, however, the poll indicates many Canadians are all talk and no action. One in four admitted to never engaging in political activities, such as belonging to a political party or taking part in a demonstration.

The SES poll surveyed 1,000 Canadians Aug. 4 to 8 and has a margin of error of 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

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