



# Media Release

## Opposition Parties Fired-up on Missile Defence Divisions Exist Between Opposition Party Supporters

Ottawa – May 27, 2003 – A national survey of Canadians released by polling firm SES Canada Research Inc. and the Sun Media Group indicates that although a clear majority (60%) of Canadians strongly/somewhat support participating in the US Missile Defence Shield, sharp divisions exist among Canada’s opposition party supporters.

Canadians were asked the following question:

*Canada is being asked by the United States to participate in a new space-based missile defence shield. This new US system is designed to allow countries to protect themselves from incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Canada participating in a new space-based missile defence shield with the United States?*

Current SES polling puts support for participating in the US-led Missile Defence Shield at 60% (32.5% strongly support/27.5% somewhat support) while 33% of Canadians oppose participation (21.7% strongly oppose/11.7% somewhat oppose). Seven percent of Canadians were unsure in their opinions.

Sub-tabulations by party support revealed clear divisions among the supporters of the respective opposition parties. Support for participation among Canadian Alliance voters was 18% above the national average. Similarly, support for participation among Progressive Conservative voters was 12% above the national average.

This contrasts with NDP and Bloc Quebecois voters who were less likely to support participation (NDP – support 25% lower than the national average, BQ – 12% lower than the national average).

“Although a comfortable margin of Canadians support participation, the ideological battleground on this issue is clearly drawn,” according to Nikita Nanos, President of polling firm SES Canada Research Inc. “On the one hand one sees strong support for participation among Canada’s right wing parties (CA/PC), while there is opposition to the



# Media Release

participation in the US-led defence initiative from the NDP and the BQ. Straddling these two positions are the governing Liberals (59% of Liberal voters support participation).”

SES’s National Omnibus Survey is conducted quarterly. It is based on a random telephone sample of 1,000 Canadians, 18 years of age and older and was conducted between May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003. The margin of accuracy for the aggregate survey results is 3.1 percentage points, plus or minus, 19 times out of 20. Within the larger sample sub-groups may have a wider margin of accuracy. Validation of the demographic profile of respondents indicates that the poll is a fair representation of the Canadian populace.

Established in 1987, SES Canada Research Inc. is a full service marketing and public opinion research firm.

For a detailed review of the survey tables, please visit the SES Research website at <http://www.sesresearch.com> in the on-line polling library.

-30-

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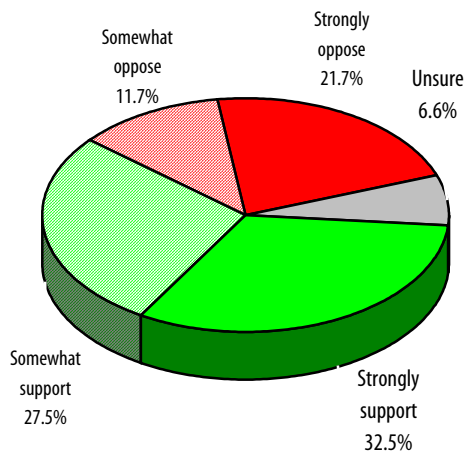
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## MISSILE DEFENCE SHIELD (N=1,000)



## COMMENTARY

A clear majority of Canadians strongly/somewhat support participating in the US missile defence shield.

Regionally, support was the lowest (53%) among Quebecers (7% below national average) compared to other Canadians .

Clear divisions in opinion emerged among Party Lines. Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservative voters were the most likely to support participation while Bloc Quebecois and NDP voters were the most likely to oppose participation.

## THE QUESTION

Canada is being asked by the United States to participate in a new space-based missile defence shield. This new US system is designed to allow countries to protect themselves from incoming inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose Canada participating in a new space-based missile defence shield with the United States?

Target Groups (+/- index score)	Strongly/somewhat support	Unsure	Strongly/some what Oppose
Atlantic	+7	+1	-8
Quebec	-7	-3	+10
Ontario	0	0	0
West	+3	0	-3
Men	0	-2	+1
Women	0	+1	0
18 to 29	-5	-4	+8
30 to 39	0	+2	-2
40 to 49	+1	+1	-1
50 to 59	+2	-4	+2
60 plus	+3	+1	-4
Liberal voters	-1	-1	+2
CA voters	+18	-2	-16
PC voters	+12	-1	-11
NDP voters	-25	0	+25
BQ voters	-12	-5	+17
Undecided	-4	+5	-1

Note: Plus/minus index scores are based on the difference between the sub-group and the sample average. For example the +18 score noted above among CA voters would indicate that CA voters are 18% percent more likely to support participating in the missile defence shield compared to the national average. Readers should focus on scores greater than +/-5.

## THE METHODOLOGY

Between May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003, SES conducted a total of 1,000 telephone interviews across Canada with eligible voters as part of the SES National Quarterly Omnibus. Aggregate results of the survey are accurate  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

Validation of the demographic profile of respondents indicates that the poll is a fair representation of Canadian voters.

## ABOUT SES

Established in 1987, SES Canada Research Inc. is a full service public opinion research and management consulting firm.

In order to maximize turn-around time and increase efficiency, SES has a 110-line call centre complete with a predictive dialer. SES is regularly called upon by corporate, government and para-public clients in Canada and the United States to conduct research and provide strategic advice.

For more information on our full range of services please visit our website [www.sesresearch.com](http://www.sesresearch.com) or contact:  
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