



News Release Communiqué

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NEW POLL SHOWS CANADIANS CONCERNED ABOUT GLOBAL REPUTATION, BUT CONFIDENT IT CAN BE IMPROVED BY MAKING AFFORDABLE MEDICINES AVAILABLE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES *Grassroots campaign begins to build support for quick passage of bill after election*

Toronto, April 26, 2011 — A new public opinion poll shows twice as many Canadians (35%) believe the country's international reputation has declined in the last few years rather than improved (17%), with a third (37%) believing it has just remained the same. But according to the same poll, seven in 10 Canadians (71%) feel that it would improve the country's reputation if Canada were to pass a bill making it easier to supply less expensive, generic medicines to people in developing countries for diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Canada was on the verge of passing such a law — Bill C-393 to reform Canada's Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR) — before it was delayed in the Senate and thus died on the order paper when the election was called.

"This poll confirms the tremendous opportunity presented to Members of Parliament and Senators willing to fix Canada's broken Access to Medicines Regime," said Richard Elliott, Executive Director of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. "Not only will such a bill help get desperately needed medicines to people dying of treatable diseases, it will also improve Canada's reputation as a good global citizen."

With Canada's foreign aid now frozen and the loss of a seat at the UN Security Council seen by some as a setback for the country's international reputation, humanitarian initiatives such as legislation to fix CAMR — which will cost taxpayers nothing — presents a compelling rallying point.

In fact, a grassroots movement made up of grandmothers groups, student organizations, and health and human rights activists have launched www.AIDSaction.ca. It asks every candidate from the major federal parties in every riding to indicate whether they support fixing CAMR to help those most in need. The website will track candidates' responses online in an interactive chart so voters across the country can see which candidates in their riding have already stated their support for fixing CAMR. It also makes it easy for

voters to e-mail the candidates in their ridings to ask them where they stand if they haven't yet replied.

"Canadians were strongly behind a bill that would have saved lives," said Andrea Beal, co-chair of the National Advocacy Committee of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. "We're asking candidates to listen to the will of the people and support making affordable medicines accessible to developing countries. This new poll is just further evidence of why they should act."

Created unanimously by Parliament in 2004, CAMR has been rendered practically useless because of red tape. Only one order of one medicine was ever filled, and to just a single country. The one generic drug company that did use CAMR has said it will not attempt to use the cumbersome process again, nor will any developing countries try. Critical to the goal of cutting through this red tape is the "one-license solution", a key part of any CAMR-reform legislation.

Before Bill C-393 died in the Senate last month, public momentum was behind efforts to make affordable medicines available to people who need them. The legislation – which included the "one-license solution" — had the support of many prominent Canadians including international aid workers, human rights leaders, physicians and faith leaders. It was also supported by more than 70 000 Canadians who signed a petition or sent letters calling on Parliament to pass the bill into law. When the House voted on March 9, Bill C-393 passed by a strong majority — 172 to 111 — with support from MPs representing all parties.

"Canadians have shown over and over that they get it when it comes to the rights of all people to have access to medicines that will save their lives," said Aria Ahmad, coordinator of the University of Toronto chapter of the international student group Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM). "We urge candidates for Parliament to listen to them."

More background information on efforts to fix Canada's Access to Medicines Regime including detailed arguments by international legal and health experts in favour of previous legislative attempts to do just that can be reviewed at www.aidslaw.ca/camr.

About the Poll

The poll was conducted by Vision Critical for the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. From April 15 to 16, Vision Critical conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1011 Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panel members. The full dataset has been statistically weighted according to the most current gender, age, region, education (and in Quebec, language) Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. The margin of error is $\pm 3.0\%$, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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Table 8

1. In your opinion, has Canada's international reputation on humanitarian and human rights issues improved, declined or stayed the same over the past few years?

			TOTAL	REGION							Gender		Age			Income			Education			Language	
				(A)	BC (A)	AB (B)	MB/SK (C)	ON (D)	PQ (E)	ATL (F)	Male (A)	Female (B)	18-34 (A)	35-54 (B)	55+ (C)	<\$50K (A)	\$50-99K (B)	\$100K+ (C)	HS or less (A)	College / Tech school/ Some Universi ty (B)	Univ+ (C)	English (A)	French (B)
Some people say Canada's international reputation on humanitarian and human rights issues has suffered in recent years. They point out that Canada has frozen its foreign aid budget and lost its bid for a seat on the UN Security Council. Others say Canada has done enough to further humanitarian and human rights issues and point to the initiative on maternal and child health that was announced at last year's G8 Summit in Huntsville, Ontario. <i>(Two opinions were rotated in questionnaire)</i> . In your opinion, has Canada's international reputation on humanitarian and human rights issues improved, declined or stayed the same over the past few years?	All Respondents	BASE	1,011	129	105	68	377	253	80	491	520	289	406	316	385	322	164	462	373	176	797	214	
		UNWT	1,011	124	118	70	361	251	87	504	507	284	400	327	357	328	179	393	383	235	798	213	
	Greatly improved	COL %	2%	0%	1%	6%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	1%	4%	2%	2%	5%	1%	3%	3%	2%	2%	
		SIG																					
	Improved	COUNT	22	1	1	4	9	6	1	13	8	5	5	11	7	5	8	7	10	5	18	3	
		COL %	15%	13%	19%	26%	16%	11%	14%	16%	15%	14%	11%	21%	16%	16%	12%	19%	12%	12%	16%	13%	
		SIG				E								B			B						
		COUNT	153	17	20	17	60	28	11	76	77	40	47	66	63	51	19	86	46	21	126	27	
	Remained the same	COL %	37%	31%	43%	36%	39%	35%	31%	40%	34%	29%	44%	35%	31%	39%	39%	37%	39%	30%	38%	33%	
		SIG								B				A									
		COUNT	370	40	45	24	148	88	25	196	175	83	177	111	118	125	63	171	146	53	300	70	
		COL %	24%	32%	14%	18%	23%	25%	24%	24%	24%	25%	23%	24%	25%	23%	27%	21%	26%	27%	23%	26%	
	Declined	SIG		B																			
		COUNT	241	42	15	12	88	64	19	118	123	72	91	77	98	72	45	95	98	48	185	56	
	Greatly declined	COL %	11%	14%	6%	6%	9%	16%	12%	13%	9%	16%	8%	10%	12%	9%	14%	7%	11%	23%	10%	16%	
		SIG								B		B								A B		A	
		COUNT	113	19	6	4	34	40	10	65	48	46	34	32	45	30	23	31	41	40	79	34	
		COL %	11%	8%	16%	8%	10%	11%	18%	5%	17%	15%	13%	6%	14%	12%	4%	15%	9%	5%	11%	11%	
	Don't know	SIG								A	C	C			C	C		B C					
		COUNT	113	11	17	6	38	27	14	23	90	43	52	18	54	37	6	71	32	10	89	24	
	Top2box	COL %	17%	14%	20%	31%	18%	13%	15%	18%	16%	16%	13%	24%	18%	18%	17%	20%	15%	15%	18%	14%	
		SIG				A E									A B								
		COUNT	174	17	21	21	69	33	12	90	85	45	52	77	70	56	27	93	56	26	144	30	
		COL %	35%	47%	21%	25%	32%	41%	36%	37%	33%	41%	31%	35%	37%	32%	41%	27%	37%	50%	33%	42%	
	Low2box	SIG		B C D				B				B						A	A B			A	
		COUNT	353	60	22	17	122	104	29	183	170	118	126	109	143	103	67	127	139	88	263	90	

: - Canadian Omni April 15, 2011 --- Vision Critical --- 4/16/2011 TL

Results are based on two-sided tests with significance level 0.05. For each significant pair, the key of the category with the smaller column proportion appears under the category with the larger column proportion.

Tests are adjusted for all pairwise comparisons within a row of each innermost subtable using the Bonferroni correction.

Cell counts of some categories are not integers. They were rounded to the nearest integers before performing column proportions tests.

Table 9

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

			TOTAL	REGION							Gender		Age			Income			Education			Language	
			(A)	BC (A)	AB (B)	MB/SK (C)	ON (D)	PQ (E)	ATL (F)	Male (A)	Female (B)	18-34 (A)	35-54 (B)	55+ (C)	<\$50K (A)	\$50- 99K (B)	\$100K+ (C)	HS or less (A)	College / Tech school/ Some Universi ty (B)	Univ+ (C)	English (A)	French (B)	
It would improve Canada's international reputation if Parliament were to pass a bill making it easier to supply less expensive, generic medicines to people in developing countries suffering from diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.	All Respondents	BASE	1,011	129	105	68	377	253	80	491	520	289	406	316	385	322	164	462	373	176	797	214	
		UNWT	1,011	124	118	70	361	251	87	504	507	284	400	327	357	328	179	393	383	235	798	213	
	Strongly agree	COL %	21%	25%	16%	19%	21%	21%	23%	24%	18%	22%	16%	26%	20%	24%	24%	16%	24%	28%	22%	19%	
		SIG								B					B				A	A			
	Agree	COUNT	214	33	16	13	81	53	18	119	95	64	67	82	78	76	40	76	88	49	174	40	
		COL %	50%	53%	57%	58%	49%	48%	45%	51%	50%	51%	52%	47%	49%	49%	54%	53%	50%	44%	51%	48%	
	Disagree	SIG																					
		COUNT	509	68	60	39	185	120	36	249	260	147	212	150	189	158	88	243	188	78	407	102	
	Strongly disagree	COL %	11%	8%	11%	8%	13%	9%	8%	12%	9%	10%	10%	12%	10%	10%	11%	11%	10%	13%	11%	11%	
		SIG																					
	Don't know	COUNT	108	10	12	6	50	23	7	60	48	28	41	39	39	31	18	49	36	23	85	23	
		COL %	5%	6%	2%	3%	4%	6%	2%	4%	5%	3%	6%	4%	6%	5%	2%	6%	3%	4%	4%	7%	
	Top2box	SIG																					
		COUNT	46	8	2	2	16	16	2	20	26	9	24	13	22	16	4	27	11	8	31	16	
	Low2box	COL %	13%	7%	14%	12%	12%	16%	22%	9%	18%	14%	15%	10%	15%	12%	8%	14%	13%	11%	13%	15%	
		SIG							A		A												
		COUNT	134	9	14	8	44	41	18	43	91	41	62	31	56	40	14	67	49	19	101	33	
		COL %	71%	79%	73%	77%	71%	68%	67%	75%	68%	73%	69%	74%	69%	73%	78%	69%	74%	72%	73%	66%	
		SIG							B														
		COUNT	723	101	76	52	266	173	54	368	355	211	279	232	267	235	128	319	277	127	581	142	
		COL %	15%	14%	14%	12%	18%	15%	10%	16%	14%	13%	16%	17%	16%	15%	14%	16%	13%	17%	14%	18%	
		SIG																					
		COUNT	154	18	14	8	67	39	8	80	74	37	65	52	61	47	22	76	48	31	116	39	

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Results are based on two-sided tests with significance level 0.05. For each significant pair, the key of the category with the smaller column proportion appears under the category with the larger column proportion.
Tests are adjusted for all pairwise comparisons within a row of each innermost subtable using the Bonferroni correction.
Cell counts of some categories are not integers. They were rounded to the nearest integers before performing column proportions tests.