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NEWS RELEASE

Global warming top priority for Canadians

Poll ranks global warming first, but issue not high on G8 and G20 agendas

Montreal – Despite the fact that climate change is not high on the agendas at the upcoming G8 and G20 summits, Canadians regard global warming as the most important issue facing world leaders today, according to the latest exclusive Nanos Research poll.

The poll, conducted exclusively for the IRPP's magazine *Policy Options*, asked Canadians to prioritize the summit agendas from a grid of six issues: open markets and free trade; global warming; freedom, democracy and human rights; nuclear security; improving maternal and infant health in developing countries; and economic recovery. Global warming trumped all the issues, even economic recovery.

"The research suggests that the Canadian appetite to engage on the issue of global warming is strong. The findings are somewhat surprising, in that climate change has been largely out of the news cycle since the failure of the Copenhagen summit last December, with significantly negative coverage of the failed process as well as many stories of scepticism about the dangers of global warming," says pollster Nik Nanos. "Moreover, Canada and the world are still emerging from the worst economic downturn in decades, with reverberations of the financial crisis still occurring, notably the sovereign debt crisis in Greece and other European countries."

Fully 33.7 percent of respondents chose global warming as the most important issue, as against 27.2 percent who chose economic recovery. Freedom, democracy and human rights was chosen by 14.3 percent, maternal health in the developing world by 10.9 percent, and nuclear security trailed, chosen by 4.6 percent. The global warming numbers were driven up by the results from Quebec, where 46.2 percent of respondents said it was the most important issue.

The random telephone survey was conducted from April 30 to May 3, among 1,003 Canadians, and is accurate \pm 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The poll, in the June issue of *Policy Options*, can be downloaded free of charge from the Institute's Web site (www.irpp.org).

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For more details or to schedule an interview, please contact the IRPP.

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