Stop foreign powers undermining democracy

TORONTO, March 23, 2023—As U.S. President Joe Biden visits Canada for the first time since taking office, the results of a new Maru Public Opinion /GZERO Media poll finds that while Canadians may think less of the improvement of the Canada/U.S. relationship than Americans do today compared to the Trump era five years ago, they near unanimous on one major potential action being a top priority**:** both Canadians (91%) and Americans (93%) want security and intelligence efforts boosted to stop foreign powers undermining democracy.

And with the Russia/Ukraine war and the Chinese and North Koreans flexing their military muscles as a backdrop, majorities of both Canadians (71%) and Americans (78%) believe the two countries should have closer relations with respect to military defence, with even two-thirds of Canadians (64%) and an even greater majority of Americans (76%) in support of U.S. missiles being on Canadian soil in the far North as a joint capacity to protect against an attack on North America.

The survey results also reveal majorities on both sides of the border who say it should be a priority to increase joint North American military/defence capabilities, particularly with respect to each of the following:

- Beefing up a joint U.S/Canada military presence in the arctic and the North.
- Tightening border security between our two countries.
- Having a joint initiative for a common missile defence program to protect North America from potential missile attacks by North Korea, China, or Russia.

Key findings

Even post-Trump, more Canadians say the relationship is worse than Americans who say it's improved

Thinking back over the last year compared to how things were five years ago during the Trump presidency, more (30%) Canadians believe the relationship between Canada and the United States is getting worse compared to those who say it's improving (23%)—for a difference of _negative_ eight percentage points—with half (47%) who think the relationship has stayed the same. This contrasts with a more upbeat American perspective where one quarter (25%) believe the relationship is improving versus one in six (17%) who believe it's worse for a difference of _positive_ eight percentage points— and the majority (58%) who think the relationship has stayed the same.

Aligned top priority for Canada and U.S.: stop foreign powers undermining democracy

The survey found that Canadians and Americans are in lockstep on a common issue: amidst allegations on both sides of the border that state-sponsored foreign agents from Chinese and Russia have sought to undermine democratic elections and politics, a vast majority (93%) of Canadians believe boosting security/intelligence efforts to stop foreign powers undermining democracy should be a priority (58% highest) compared to

virtually the same number of Americans (93%) who agree with this perspective (59% highest priority).

External threats have Canadians and Americans supporting joint efforts—including U.S. defence missiles on Canadian soil

With allegations of Chinese surveillance balloons over sensitive installations in North American airspace, North Korea testing new long-range ballistic missiles, China flexing its military might in the Pacific as it takes a firm bead on Taiwan, and as NATO countries (including Canada and the United States) amp up supplying Ukraine with military and monetary support to push back the Russian invasion a year ago, it shouldn't come as a surprise that Canadians and Americans are finding common ground on potential joint defence matters.

Majorities say Canada/US should have closer military defence relations

As an overarching premise, majorities of Canadians (71%) and Americans (78%) believe the two countries should have closer relations with respect to military defence compared to minorities of those Canadians (29%) and Americans (22%) who venture that the military defence relationship should be more distant.

Majorities say it should be a priority to increase joint North American military/defence capabilities

A majority (86%) of Canadians believe it should be a priority (48% highest priority) to increase joint North American military/defence capabilities to guard against countries like China/North Korea compared with slightly more (90%) Americans who believe it should also be the case (54% highest priority).

In this context, when it comes to specific actions both governments could take, Canadians and Americans support and/or oppose the following):

- **Majorities support U.S. missiles on Canadian soil in the far North as a joint capacity to protect against a North American attack**

Canadians   Support 64%   Oppose 36%
Americans   Support 76%   Oppose 24%

- **Large majorities support having a joint initiative for a common missile defence program to protect North America from potential missile attacks by North Korea, China, or Russia**

Canadians   Support 83%   Oppose 17%
Americans   Support 88%   Oppose 22%

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- **Vast majorities support beefing up a joint U.S/Canada military presence in the arctic and the North**

Canadians	Support 79%	Oppose 21%
Americans	Support 80%	Oppose 20%

- **Majorities support tightening border security between our two countries**

Canadians	Support 71%	Oppose 29%
Americans	Support 70%	Oppose 30%

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About GZERO Media

GZERO Media is a company dedicated to providing the public with intelligent and engaging coverage of global affairs. It was created in 2017 as a subsidiary of Eurasia Group, the world's leading political risk analysis firm. In addition to producing the national public television program "GZERO World with Ian Bremmer" and its companion podcast, GZERO Media publishes the daily GZERO Daily newsletter, the weekly GZERO Daily with Ian Bremmer newsletter (and, from April, the U.S.-Canada-focused weekly GZERO North newsletter), as well as features and video stories at GZERO Media and across social media channels.

Methodology

These are some of the findings from a study conducted by Maru Public Opinion that was undertaken by its sample and data collection experts at Maru/Blue in both Canada and the United States on March 17-20, 2023, among a random selection of 1,567 Canadian adults who are Maru Voice Canada online panelists and 1,558 American adults who are Maru Springboard America online panelists. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size for both countries have an estimated margin of error (which measures sampling variability) of +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been weighted by education, age, gender, (and language in Quebec), and region to match the population according to both Canadian and US Census data which ensures the sample is representative of the entire adult population of both countries. Any discrepancies in or between totals when compared to the data tables are due to rounding.

Panel and data services provider Maru/Blue is deeply rooted in the Maru/HUB technology platform and offers on-demand, high-quality, highly scalable online community samples of deeply engaged, known respondents. Maru Public Opinion is a professional research services channel dedicated to improving its clients' business outcomes. It delivers its services through teams of sector-specific research consultants specializing in the use of Insight Community and Voice of Market technology.

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Maru Public Opinion publicly released Canadian and US polls with supporting detailed tables are found here: Maru Public Opinion Canada Polls and Maru Public Opinion US Polls. Corporate information can be accessed here: Maru Group. Excerpts from this release of findings should be properly attributed, with interpretation subject to clarification or correction. Maru Public Opinion does not do any work for any political party.

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