

Two Hundred Years after the War of 1812, Canada hits record level of favourability with the United States

Today's Border Battleground is about Pipelines

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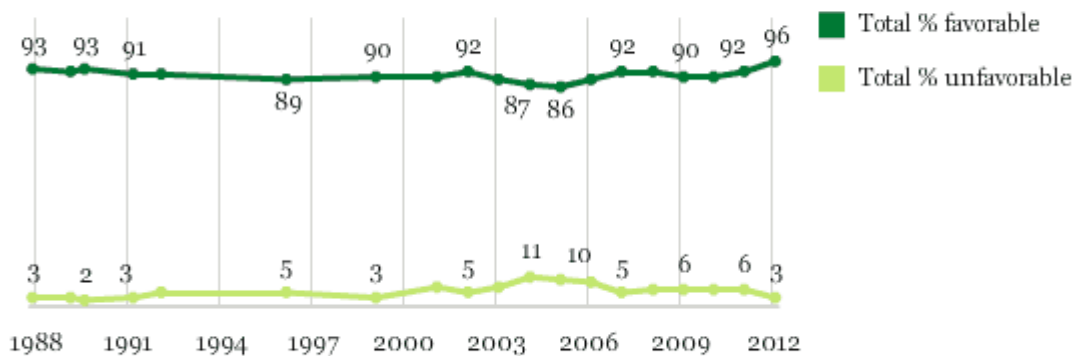
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As Canada marks the two hundredth anniversary of the War of 1812 the firm Gallup reported that Americans held the most favourable view ever of Canada. In fact the poll conducted between February 2nd and 5th of this year, revealed that it is the highest ranking that any country has received over the twenty years that the firm has done such surveys.

A whopping 96% of Americans have a generally favorable view of Canada, while 3% view it unfavorably. Canada's 93% ratings in 1987 and 1989 were the previous high favorable for any country.

Americans' Views of Canada, 1987-2012

What is your overall opinion of [Canada]? Is it very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?



GALLUP®

Canada's profess is reflected by the fact that it is only the country that a majority of Americans view very favourably.

2012 Feb 2-5 (sorted by "total favourable")	Very favour able	Mostly favour able	Mostly unfavo urable	Very unfavo urable	No opinion	<i>Total favour able</i>	<i>Total unfavo urable</i>
Canada	53	43	2	1	2	96	3
Australia	49	44	1	1	4	93	2
Great Britain	47	43	4	1	4	90	5
Germany	29	57	7	2	5	86	9
Japan	27	56	9	4	3	83	13
India	16	59	15	5	5	75	20
France	18	57	17	4	5	75	21
Israel	29	42	17	7	4	71	24
Greece	11	51	23	5	9	62	28
Mexico	9	42	32	16	2	51	48
Russia	6	44	33	11	6	50	44

When examining the change in opinion about Canada over time it is observed that we benefitted from a substantial upward in the very favourable rating since February 2010 with a 14 point positive change compared with February 2012. The differences over Iraq seem long forgotten and if anything Canada now seems more support of American military efforts in the Middle East.

(Continued below)

Canada	Very favourable	Mostly favourable	Mostly unfavourable	Very unfavourable	No opinion	Total favourable	Total unfavourable
2012 Feb 2-5	53	43	2	1	2	96	3
2011 Feb 2-5	49	43	4	2	2	92	6
2010 Feb 1-3	39	51	5	1	5	90	6
2009 Feb 9-12	39	51	4	2	4	90	6
2008 Feb 11-14	44	48	4	2	2	92	6
2007 Feb 1-4	43	49	4	1	2	92	5
2006 Feb 6-9	40	49	6	3	2	89	9
2005 Feb 7-10	38	48	8	2	4	86	10
2004 Feb 9-12	36	51	7	4	2	87	11
2003 Feb 3-6	43	46	6	1	4	89	7
2002 Feb 4-6	49	43	4	1	3	92	5
2001 Feb 1-4 ^	51	39	4	3	3	90	7
1999 Feb 8-9	43	47	2	1	7	90	3
1996 Mar 8-10	47	42	5	*	6	89	5
1992 Feb 6-9	40	51	4	1	4	91	5
1991 Mar 14-17	48	43	2	1	6	91	3
1989	49	44	1	1	5	93	2

Aug 10-13							
1989 Feb 28- Mar 2	45	47	2	1	2	92	3
1987 Nov 6- Dec 4	51	42	2	1	4	93	3

200 years later conflicts still rooted in geography but the principal battleground is over pipelines

Much to the disappointment of Prime Minister Harper, in January of this year United States President Barack Obama delayed a decision on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline to be build by TransCanada Corp on the grounds that the government did not have enough time to properly study it.

Ottawa has said delays with the Keystone XL pipeline underscore the urgency of opening new export routes to fast-growing Asian markets. In February, Mr. Harper will visit China, where oil exports are expected to be a major topic as Chinese companies increase their investments in the oil sands.

A Pew research survey of Americans conducted in February (8-12) of this year revealed that while the public was not following the issue very closely. (24% say they have heard a lot about it while another 39% have heard a little and 37% have heard nothing at all about the pipeline).

But among those who have heard at least a little, there is considerable support for building the pipeline. About two-thirds (66%) think the government should approve the building of the pipeline, while 23% say it should not be approved.

(Continued below)

Keystone XL Pipeline Draws Support

*Among those who have heard,
what should government do?*

	Heard about	Should approve	Should not approve	DK	N
	%	%	%	%	
Total	62	66	23	11=100	1072
Republican	77	84	9	6=100	371
Conserv. Rep	83	88	8	4=100	283
Mod/Lib Rep	67	--	--	--	88
Democrat	57	49	33	17=100	319
Cons/Mod Dem	55	63	23	14=100	166
Liberal Dem	63	30	49	21=100	144
Independent	58	66	27	7=100	341
Lean Rep	69	89	10	1=100	151
Lean Dem	58	46	45	9=100	146

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q64-65. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Sample sizes are for those who have heard about the issue.

Fully 84% of the Republicans overwhelmingly support the building of the pipeline, while 49% of Democrats that have heard about the issue, endorse government approval of the pipeline while 33% say it should not be approved.