



**Innovative Research Group / Dominion Institute**

**D-DAY ANNIVERSARY SURVEY**

## **FIRST EVER SURVEY OF CANADIAN WWII AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

***80% of Canadian veterans surveyed said that they were concerned about how Canadians will remember the Second World War when all the veterans have passed away***

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***Nearly 8 in 10 (78%) veterans feel that Canadians are fast forgetting the history of the Second World War***

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***A majority (53%) of veterans said that people ask them about their wartime experiences more today than any point since they retired from the military***

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***Veterans were split on how important the current War in Afghanistan will be to Canadians 50 years from now***

**Friday, June 6** – On the anniversary of the allied invasion of Normandy during the Second World War, known as D-Day, Innovative Research Group and the Dominion Institute have undertaken the first ever survey of Canadian veterans. A nationally representative sample of five hundred veteran volunteers from across the country participated. This poll provides a rare opportunity for us to hear directly from Canadian veterans and gauge their opinions on how their service and sacrifice to Canada will be remembered.

When asked whether they were concerned about how Canadians will remember the Second World War when all the veterans have passed away, a vast majority of respondents polled (80%) said they were concerned (including 58% who strongly agreed), while only 17% disagreed (including 5% who strongly disagreed). Of this sample, 79% of Second World War veterans 'agreed' while 83% post-Second World War veterans 'agreed' with the statement. Quebec ranked the highest (81%) for regions that 'agreed' while Atlantic Canada ranked the lowest at 77%.

Nearly 8 in 10 (78%) respondents feel Canadians are fast forgetting the history of the Second World War, including 50% who strongly agreed. Veterans from conflicts after the Second World War are more likely to agree than Second World War veterans themselves (83% agree; 76% agree, respectively). Quebec placed the highest with 87% of veterans surveyed who agree, while Atlantic Canada ranked the lowest at 77%.

A majority of veterans (53%, including 28% who strongly agreed), feel they are asked about their war experiences more today than ever before, while 42% disagree with this statement. Of those who agreed, 54% were veterans of the Second World War and 48% served in post-Second World War conflicts. More than two-thirds of veterans who reside in the Prairies (67%) 'agreed' with the statement while the fewest people who agreed resided in Atlantic Canada (46%)

When asked how important the War in Afghanistan will be to Canada in 50 years, veterans were generally split, with 47% of the sample saying it would be important (including 19% saying 'very important' and 28% saying 'somewhat important') and 46% saying not important (25% 'not very important' and 21% 'not important at all'). Half of veterans (50%) who served in post Second World War conflict felt it would be 'important' while 46% of Second World War veterans felt it was 'important'. Regional representation ranged from 42% in Quebec who felt it would be 'important' to 49% in Atlantic Canada.

Veterans who participated in this survey are available for interviews. Please contact the Dominion Institute for veteran contact information by region and conflict.

### **Study Methodology**

This telephone survey was conducted among Dominion Institute's "Memory Project" veterans across Canada between April 24 and 27, 2008. The total study included 499 responses eligible for inclusion in our analysis. The aggregated results are considered accurate to within 3.32 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

### **The Memory Project**

Created in 2001, The Memory Project is the Dominion Institute's flagship educational program, designed to connect veterans and students online and in classrooms across the country. The Memory Project Speakers' Bureau includes 1,500 veteran volunteers from across Canada visiting classrooms and community groups to share their stories with youth. The veterans in The Memory Project represent a wide range of conflicts, including the First and Second World War, Korean War, Peacekeeping Operations and Canadian Forces experiences. For more info visit: [www.memoryproject.com](http://www.memoryproject.com).

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