

Binational Poll Shows Strong NAFTA Opposition

On February 9, the Council of Canadians called on U.S. President Barack Obama to press ahead with NAFTA renegotiation plans after a new poll revealed strong concerns with NAFTA's Chapter 11 on both sides of the border.

The poll, conducted by Environics, found that more than **70 per cent of Americans and Canadians** believe energy corporations should not be allowed to sue governments (which current, controversial provisions of Chapter 11 of NAFTA allow) for

changes in government policy that protect the environment or otherwise promote the public interest.

The poll also found that an overwhelming **nine out of 10 Canadians** believe the Harper government should pursue a comprehensive strategy to create more green jobs in renewable energy and improved energy efficiency. This means Obama is more in tune with Canadians' green priorities than Harper. Obama has shown strong support for renewable energy, a strategy sorely lacking from the recent Canadian federal budget.

"There is remarkable agreement between Canadians and Americans on the need to promote the public inter-

est and constrain the power of energy corporations. And there is overwhelming consensus among Canadians on the desire to promote renewable energy," said Maude Barlow, Chair of the Council of Canadians. "Unfortunately, the Canadian government and Big Oil refuse to change NAFTA, which leaves energy and environmental security a victim of the whims of the market."

71% of Americans and **72% of Canadians**

oppose energy companies being able to sue national governments for lost profits as a result of government policies.

93% of Canadians

support the Canadian government developing a comprehensive strategy to create more "green jobs" through improved energy efficiency and the expansion of renewable energy sources.

The poll was conducted between January 22 and February 1, 2009, with 1,000 Canadians and 1,000 American respondents interviewed, resulting in a margin of error of +/-3.09 per cent 19 times out of 20 for each country polled.

Renew Your 2009 Membership Today!



Protecting our fresh water, our public health care, the environment, energy resources, democracy and the values that make us distinctly Canadian depends on a strong and effective national citizens' organization. Membership is the engine of the Council of Canadians, and your commitment to making Canada and the world a better, just and fair place for everyone is the fuel that keeps us going strong.

But the work we do to create real and lasting positive change would simply be impossible without your help. Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Council has been able to fight for the best interests of Canadians for 24 years now without a penny of corporate or government funding. This financial independence allows us to take on multinational corporations, and the governments that cater to them, to ensure the values we believe in are protected for future generations.

It's more important now than ever that Canadians have a strong and united citizens' movement to speak out and fight on their behalf. Now is the time to stand up to governments that are poised to sacrifice even more of our public services and natural resources to promote an economic model that favours corporate rights over citizens' concerns. Please continue to be part of the solution by renewing your Council of Canadians membership today.

Contact us at 1-800-387-7177 or by e-mail at inquiries@canadians.org to renew your membership today.