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Anniversary of the End of the Korean War Although Seven in  
Ten (69%) Believe the Conflict is Important to Canadian History  
*Most Believe Canada Should be Doing More Educate Youth About Military  
History (86%) and Country Should Build Vietnam Wall-Like Modern Monument  
for Fallen Military Personnel (85%)***

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**Ipsos Reid**

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**Most (63%) Canadians Unaware That July Marks 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of the Korean War Although Seven in Ten (69%) Believe the Conflict is Important to Canadian History**

*Most Believe Canada Should be Doing More Educate Youth About Military History (86%) and Country Should Build Vietnam Wall-Like Modern Monument for Fallen Military Personnel (85%)*

Toronto, ON – July 27<sup>th</sup> of this year commemorates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War armistice that put an end to three years of conflict between North and South Korea and their respective allies. While the Canadian Forces were one of the willing participants as a part of the United Nations support for South Korea, only a few Canadians correctly identify that this upcoming day signifies an end to this significant event in Canadian history, according to a new survey conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of Historica Canada, formerly known as The Historica-Dominion Institute.

Of a list of significant historical moments, fewer than four in ten (37%) Canadians correctly identify that July 27<sup>th</sup> is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War cease-fire, while most (63%) incorrectly identified another event as commemorating this particular anniversary. This contrasts with the seven in ten (69%) who ‘agree’ (21% strongly/48% somewhat) that ‘the Korean War was an important conflict in Canadian history’, while three in ten (31%) ‘disagree’ (5% strongly/26% somewhat) with this stated significant to Canada’s history. .

While this result is somewhat alarming as it reveals a lack of knowledge regarding this significant Canadian event, another concern is how Canadians also incorrectly identified other notable events for this anniversary. Such events include:

- Newfoundland joining Canada - 28%
- Lester B. Pearson's Nobel Peace Prize - 12%
- The end of the Second World War - 11%
- The Avro Arrow - 8%
- The start of the Vietnam War - 4%

Interestingly, three in ten (27%) 'disagree' (10% strongly/18% somewhat) that they knew that Canada fought in the Korean War, although three in four (73%) 'agree' (39%/34% somewhat) that they knew of Canada's involvement in the conflict.

To further this knowledge gap, only four in ten (44%) correctly identify the Korean War as 'The Forgotten War' of Canada. While more people selected the Korean War correctly, this means that a majority (56%) of Canadians also could not correctly identify Canada's 'Forgotten War'. Other notable wars involving Canadian Forces believed to be 'The Forgotten War' include:

- The Boer War - 25%
- The First Indochina War - 14%
- The Vietnam War - 11%
- The First World War - 5%
- The Second World War - 1%

Canadians were also provided a list of notable battles and were asked to identify which one was fought during the Korean War. Four in ten (43%) Canadians correctly identified the Battle of Kapyong as having been fought in the Korean War, although a majority (57%)



incorrectly identified battles at Hamburger Hill (16%), Iwo Jima (12%), Tora Bora (9%), Coral Sea (9%), Leyte Gulf (6%), or Midway (5%) as Korean War battles.

### *The Need for More Education on Canada's Military History...*

With such an apparent disconnect between Canadians and knowledge relating to our involvement in the Korean War, most Canadians believe more education on military conflict is needed for the country's youth and that the Korean War was one of these significant conflicts that need to be included in school curriculums .

Nine in ten (86%) 'agree' (44% strongly/42% somewhat) that 'Canada should be doing more to educate young people about our military history, while only one in ten (14%) 'disagree' (3% strongly/11% somewhat) with this statement. A similar proportion (83%) 'agree' (36% strongly/47% somewhat) that 'the Korean War should be taught in schools', while fewer than two in ten (17%) 'disagree' (4% strongly/13% somewhat).

While most Canadians believe more military history should be emphasized, a majority don't remember learning about the Korean War themselves. Just three in ten (28%) 'agree' (8% strongly/19% somewhat) that 'they remember learning about the Korean War in high school', while seven in ten (72%) 'disagree' (41% strongly/32% somewhat) that they remember learning about the subject.

On average, Canadians estimate that approximately 11 countries and just over 25,000 Canadians (25,342) fought in the Korean War, while Canadians, on average, believe nearly 5,000 (4,645) died in the conflict. Although Canada's role in the conflict ended nearly 60



years ago, Canadians, on average, believe that roughly 10,000 (10,047) of the estimated 25,000 Korean War veterans are still alive today.

### *Commemorating By Doing More to Honour Conflict and Veterans...*

With most Canadians indicating that the Korean War was important to our country's history, many feel that there is more to be done when it comes to commemorating this special anniversary and honouring Canada's veterans.

Only three in ten (30%) 'agree' (5% strongly/25% somewhat) that 'the Korean War was just a war with no significance to Canada', while a strong majority (70%) 'disagree' (25% strongly/46% somewhat) and believe conflict has had significance to Canada.

Most Canadians believe that it was Canada's duty to participate in the conflict and that South Koreans are better because of this involvement. Two thirds (65%) 'agree' (17% strongly/48% somewhat) that 'Canada had a responsibility to participate in the Korean War', while one in three (35%) 'disagree' (6% strongly/29% somewhat). Four in five (78%) Canadians 'agree' (34% strongly/53% somewhat) that 'South Koreans are better off because of the Canadian involvement in the Korean War', while only one in five (22%) 'disagree' (4% strongly/18% somewhat).

With most Canadians in agreement that the Korean War was an important conflict in Canada's history that produced positive outcomes for its allies, many are wanting a worthwhile commemoration of the event and Canadian veterans.



Eight in ten (80%) Canadians 'agree' (32% strongly/48% somewhat) that 'the Korean War 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary Armistice should be commemorated', while just two in ten (20%) 'disagree' (4% strongly/16% somewhat) that it should be. A similar proportion (75%) even 'agree' (26% strongly/49% somewhat) that 'the Government of Canada' should provide funding to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War Armistice', with just one in four (25%) 'disagreeing' (5% strongly/20% somewhat).

While Canadians want appropriate festivities to honour this important armistice, they also want Canada to do more for its veterans, particularly honouring Korean War veterans in the same manner as veterans of other notorious Canadian conflicts.

A majority (57%) 'agree' (12% strongly/45% somewhat) that 'compared to other countries, Canada does enough to honour its veterans', although a sizeable minority (43%) 'disagree' (13% strongly/30% somewhat) that Canada does enough on this front.

Only a minority (44%) 'agree' (14% strongly/30% somewhat) that 'Korean War veterans are seen the same way as Second World War veterans', while a majority (56%) 'disagree' (13% strongly/43% somewhat) that this is the case. Most (88%) Canadians, however, 'agree' (46% strongly/42% somewhat) that 'Korean War veterans should be remembered as much as Second World War veterans', while just one in ten (12%) 'disagree' (3% strongly/9% somewhat).

Support is also strong for building a memorial, similar to the Vietnam Wall in Washington that lists the names of all military personnel who have died in modern times, that would honour fallen personnel of all conflicts after the Korean War up to Afghanistan. Nine in ten (85%) are 'supportive' (52% very/33% somewhat) of such a memorial being built, while just 15% of Canadians are 'not supportive' (5% not at all/10% not very) of one.



*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between July 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of Historica Canada, formerly known as The Historica-Dominion Institute. For this survey, a sample of 1,009 Canadians from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 3.5 percentage points had all Canadians adults been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.*

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