“Mission Invisible” – Rethinking the Canadian Diaspora

By Kenny Zhang*

Executive Summary

The evacuation of tens of thousands of Canadians from Lebanon in 2006, a pending review of dual citizenship and a formal diplomatic protest to China over the jailing of a Canadian citizen for alleged terrorist activities are examples of the complex and extensive range of policy issues raised by the growing number of Canadian citizens living abroad. It has also shown the need for Canada to think strategically about the issue of the Canadian diaspora, rather than deal with the problems raised on a case-by-case basis.

An earlier report (Commentary No. 41) by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada) discussed the concept of the Canadian diaspora and estimated the size of this community at 2.7 million. This current report goes a step further by providing some demographic and economic profiles of this group based on a new survey (Global Canadians -- A Survey of the Views of Canadians Abroad) by APF Canada of Canadians abroad. It also offers an alternative approach, beyond cost-benefit arguments, for reaching a better understanding of the implications of the Canadian diaspora for this country.

The size of the Canadian diaspora is remarkable relative to the resident national population, even when compared with other countries that are well-known for their widely dispersed overseas communities. The new survey shows that the Canadian diaspora does not exist as scattered individuals, but as an interactive community with various organizations associated with Canada. The study also suggests that living abroad does not make the Canadian diaspora less “Canadian,” although it is a heterogeneous group. The majority of overseas Canadians still call Canada home and have a desire to return to Canada. Many keep close ties with the country by working for a Canadian entity and visiting families, friends, business clients or partners, and various other counterparts in Canada.

A SWOT analysis -- covering strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats -- presents a more nuanced picture of the Canadian diaspora compared to conventional cost-benefit calculations. This, and the survey results, add further evidence that it is time for Canadians to review their mind-set on out-migration and overseas residence and for Canada to think seriously about developing its own diaspora strategy.

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Introduction

In March 2006, APF Canada published in this Commentary series a paper – Recognizing the Canadian Diaspora (Commentary No. 41) – which addresses the phenomenon of Canadian expatriates; discusses a concept of the Canadian diaspora; estimates the number of Canadians living abroad; and calls for Canada to develop a national strategy to address diaspora issues.1 Developments since then have added further evidence of the need for a comprehensive policy approach.

In early July 2006, most people in Canada were surprised to learn that up to 50,000 Canadians were in Lebanon when fighting broke out between Israel and Hezbollah. The subsequent exodus of almost 15,000 Canadian passport holders from Lebanon during this Middle East crisis turned out to be, by far, the largest evacuation of its citizens in Canadian history.2 However, when Canadian taxpayers were billed approximately $85 million for this operation, the public began asking questions about the benefits and obligations of Canadians who hold dual citizenship and do not live in this country. Quickly, the issue was expanded into a debate on dual citizenship and passports which immediately attracted political attention. The then-Citizenship and Immigration Minister, Monte Solberg, ordered his department to review current rules of dual citizenship that have been in place since February 15, 1977.3

In December 2006, when Stéphane Dion was elected Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and became Leader of the Opposition, his dual Canadian and French citizenship immediately became a hot political issue. The same issue of dual citizenship initially hounded Michaëlle Jean, who gave up her French citizenship before becoming the Governor-General of Canada.

Internationally, the case of Chinese-born Huseyincan Celil, jailed for life in China this year for terrorism, has led Canada to issue a formal diplomatic protest to Beijing.4 Mr. Celil is a Canadian citizen. In a statement, the then-Foreign Minister, Peter MacKay, announced that Canada would conduct a review of the 1999 Canada-China consular agreement to determine whether it is, in fact, an effective means of safeguarding Chinese-Canadian dual citizens traveling on Canadian passports.

The Lebanon evacuation, dual citizenship review and diplomatic protest all reflect a complex and extensive range of issues, at home and abroad, raised by the contemporary generation of mobile Canadians. They also show the importance for Canada to develop a strategic policy on its diaspora, rather than deal with issues involving Canadians abroad on a case-by-case basis.

This paper attempts to assess a few key areas based primarily on a new survey by APF Canada on Canadians abroad that sheds some light on the motives and attitudes of Canadian expatriates. Hopefully, the paper will facilitate further discussion and thinking on policy-making about the 2.7 million Canadians who live abroad.
Too many or too few

APF Canada estimates the total Canadian population residing outside Canada at about 2.7 million.\textsuperscript{5} Does Canada have a disproportionate component of its population living abroad?

This can first be considered in light of global trends in economic development and patterns of movement of people. International migration is an important component of globalization and economic development, in both developing and developed countries. According to United Nations’ calculations, there were some 191 million migrants, or people living outside of their country of origin, worldwide in 2005, up from 176 million in 2000. These migrants comprise 3.0% of the global population.\textsuperscript{6} Canada had a total population of 32.6 million in 2006, according to census figures. The estimated 2.7 million overseas Canadians are equivalent to 8.3% of the Canadian population. So the percentage of Canadians living outside Canada -- 8.3% compared with 3.0% -- is considerably higher than the global average share of population living outside of their country of origin.

However, the percentage of national populations living outside their home countries, or people who at least hold an affinity to a country of origin or of their ancestors’ origin, varies widely. Some countries are well-known for the size of their diaspora. There are reputed to be some 80 million people around the world who think of themselves as “Irish” compared with the population of the combined regions of Ireland of just over five million. In a similar way, Italy claims some 60 million overseas Italians -- more than its 58 million population at home. There are some 34 million overseas Chinese, a group that is more than the total Canadian population, yet less than 2.6% of the domestic population. India (20 million expatriates), Mexico (18 million) and the US (7 million) all have considerable overseas communities.

![Figure 1: National Diasporas in Relation to Resident National Populations](image)

Source: APF Canada, 2006; Alison Loat, 2004\textsuperscript{7}
So the proportion of diaspora population to total resident national population varies from close to 2% of some countries to over 100% of others.

Compared with other countries’ overseas populations, the estimated number of Canadians overseas is 1.5 times greater than the total of Australians and New Zealanders combined; less than half the number of overseas Koreans; one-third the number of overseas Americans; one-seventh the number of overseas Indians; one-twelfth the number of overseas Chinese; and one-twentieth the overseas Italians. However, as Figure 1 shows, the Canadian diaspora’s size relative to the resident national population is much higher than for India, the US, China, France and Australia, but lower than for Italy, Greece, Finland, New Zealand, Mexico, UK and South Korea.

Beyond these totals, other levels of data are also worth noting in measuring the size of diaspora populations. These include family data, collective data, transnational flows, qualitative and longitudinal data, and gender-differentiated data. In the Canadian context, the collective picture from the data is particularly relevant. Canadians residing overseas do not just exist as individuals. There are various types and significant numbers of Canadian communities outside of, but associated, with Canada. These communities include business associations, social and cultural clubs or organizations, and family or individual networks. Some are physically present and operated in the country where Canadians reside, and a few exist in the virtual world on the Internet. During its survey of Canadians abroad, APF Canada has identified at least 72 organizations related to overseas Canadians, as shown in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Organization</th>
<th>In Asia</th>
<th>In US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Association/Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/Cultural Organization</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Organization</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>43</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Overseas Canadian Organizations in Asia and the US

Source: APF Canada, 2007

Citizenship and Identity

- **Canadian or Less-Canadian**

Does living abroad make a Canadian less “Canadian”? Some people may have difficulty in accepting that Canadians living abroad are “true” Canadians. They consider them as foreigners who gained Canadian citizenship and promptly left again, holding a valuable Canadian passport. This involves two misconceptions. It first assumes that most Canadians abroad are foreign-born. The second assumes that since they have left the country, they are no longer the same as Canadians who have remained. There is no evidence to support either belief.
Canadians living abroad are a heterogeneous group. They may be citizens of Canada only, or dual/multiple citizens of Canada and other countries. There are also citizens of Canada with “permanent residency” in other countries, as well as permanent residents of Canada who still hold passports of another country. In terms of place of birth, they include foreign born and Canadian born.

Among respondents to the APF Canada survey, 65% are Canadian citizens by birth and 35% foreign-born, either having gained Canadian citizenship through immigration and naturalization, were born overseas to Canadian parents or are not yet Canadian citizens but permanent residents. The survey finds that approximately 60% of Canadians abroad are citizens of Canada only, without permanent residency status in another country. Another 36% are dual citizens of Canada and another country (see Table 2). These findings suggest that the belief that residing abroad brings into question the degree of “Canadianess” does not match the reality of the diaspora.

**Table 2:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship Status of Canadians Abroad</th>
<th>100 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizen of Canada only</td>
<td>44 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen of Canada with “permanent residency” status in another country</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen of Canada and another country (dual citizen)</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landed immigrant of Canada and citizen of another country</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How Canadians Abroad Gained Canadian Citizenship</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canadian-born (Canadian citizen by birth)</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-born</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: Canadian citizen through immigration and naturalization</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian citizen through parent’s Canadian citizenship</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian permanent residents</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: APF Canada, 2007

Historically, people or ethnic populations who are forced or induced to leave their traditional homelands can be referred to by an ancient Greek term – diaspora – whose nine conventional common features were described by Robin Cohen (1997). Should Canadians living abroad be considered as a Canadian diaspora? A simple answer is “yes.”

First of all, they are Canadian citizens (leaving the relatively small number of permanent residents aside for now). In addition to their citizenship, Canadians abroad have many other Canadian identities. One such identity is a personal sense of belonging to Canada. The majority of Canadians abroad call Canada home. The APF Canada survey finds that nearly 64% of respondents clearly indicate that they still consider Canada their home. Interestingly, the sense of belonging to Canada by Canadians abroad varies notably by their citizenship status. The group of Canadians abroad who gained Canadian citizenship through immigration and naturalization recognize
Canada as their home more frequently than any other group. It may not be a surprise, then, that Canadians abroad who were born to Canadian parents and gained citizenship through a parent’s Canadian citizenship have the lowest level of recognition of Canada as their home (Figure 2).

Another Canadian identity is a sense of close association with Canada. The APF Canada survey finds that respondents are almost evenly split (47% vs. 46%) on whether it is Canada or their country of residence that they identify most closely with in their professional life. However, in terms of personal or family life, an overwhelming 66% of respondents indicate Canada is the country that they identify with most closely. Only 31% refer to the country that they currently reside as the one that they identify with.

One more Canadian identity is perhaps the sense of collective interest and consciousness about Canada. Canadians abroad have created their own networks including various organizations that keep them connected for different purposes and interests with Canadian activities (see Table 1).

![Figure 2: Canadians Abroad Calling Canada Home by Citizenship Status](chart)

**Figure 2: Canadians Abroad Calling Canada Home by Citizenship Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canadian citizen through parent's Canadian citizenship</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian permanent residents</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian citizen by birth</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian citizen through immigration and naturalization</td>
<td>69.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average: 64%

*Source: APF Canada, 2007*

Ties to Canada

**Working for Canada**

Members of the Canadian diaspora not only carry Canadian passports and maintain Canadian identities, they also maintain close physical and psychological ties with Canada. A fundamental tie is through business activities abroad which are directly or indirectly related to Canadian economic activity in the global market. APF Canada’s survey finds that nearly 30% of Canadians abroad work for Canada-related entities, such as Canadian governments, businesses and NGOs, or are self-employed. They deliver Canadian goods and services to the global market; provide humanitarian assistance to the international community; and offer Canadian culture, values and scientific achievement internationally.
Trips to Canada

The Canadian diaspora also frequently visits Canada. The survey indicates that over 94% of survey respondents have visited Canada since they moved their principal residence abroad. Over half of them make at least one trip a year to Canada. Visiting Canada as a means of connecting with Canada varies considerably in accordance with their characteristics. Not surprisingly, those who consider Canada as their home make more trips to Canada than those who do not or are ambivalent about of Canada as home. Canadian students, those working for a Canadian business or NGO and the self-employed are likely the most frequent travelers, making three or more trips a year back to Canada. The second most frequent travelers are Canadian academics working abroad, making 1-2 trips home a year.

Visiting Canada is an observable phenomenon. But rather than just measuring the frequency with which overseas Canadians come back to Canada, it also indicates the types of international links to Canada that prompt the trips. These links include business activities, academic and scholarly exchanges, government actions, etc., that keep Canada active on the global scene.

Planned Return to Canada

Another tie to Canada is an intention or a plan to return to Canada to re-establish a principal residence. The APF Canada survey data indicates that 69% of respondents plan to return to Canada sooner or later, which is much higher than the nearly half of their Australian counterparts who have a desire to return to Australia. In terms of the time-frame of return to Canada, 11% report that it will be within the next year, and 17% suggest it is a long-term plan that will occur in probably 10 or more years. Over 40% of respondents indicate they will return to Canada from 1 to 10 years from now.

Beyond the desire to return, the reasons for returning reflect overseas Canadians’ strong link to Canada from another angle. The survey data indicates that the main reason for the desire to return to Canada is to rejoin family and friends. Nearly 41% of respondents suggest they plan to return because they want to be closer to family members and friends in Canada or for other family reasons. Thus, family and social relations with Canada are a strong tie in the Canadian diaspora. A second reason to return, which is almost as important as the first, is that Canadians living abroad miss their home, culture and quality of life in Canada. This suggests that psychological and cultural ties are also important elements in the connections to Canada that will ultimately bring them back Canada.

Returning to Canada to spend retirement years, which 28% of respondents indicate as one of their motivations for return, is a natural step for those living abroad mainly for job-related reasons. Similarly, the availability of jobs or other economic opportunities in Canada are likely important factors bringing the Canadian diaspora home. In addition, access to health or other social services and educational opportunities in Canada are also an important motivation for many overseas Canadians in making a decision to return.

Needless to say, the decision to return to Canada is the outcome of many factors. However, with such a demonstrable desire to return home, the Canadian diaspora has clearly declared that they are part of the Canadian community.

More than half of the overseas Canadians surveyed visit Canada at least once a year. Over 94% have visited since they moved overseas.
Mechanism of Keeping Ties

It is important not only to have close ties connecting the Canadian diaspora with Canada, but also to have a mechanism to keep such ties strong. Part of the mechanism is to have access to current news and information about this country. The survey finds that friends and family are the most important source that overseas Canadians use for current information about Canada, with 64% of respondents indicating that they get Canadian news frequently or very frequently from this source. The second leading source is Canadian media, including print, web or broadcast, through which 57% of respondents get information about Canada frequently or very frequently. International media also play a moderate role in providing Canada-related news to Canadians living abroad.

Thus, Canadians living abroad are really part of the Canadian community, regardless of their place of birth or place of residence. Even if some Canadians have chosen to move to other parts of the world temporarily or permanently, they still share and maintain some unique Canadian characteristics which make them a Canadian diaspora. They maintain close ties to Canada, either through activities linked to Canada’s economy, through positive feelings toward the country, or a strong desire to return to their Canadian home one day. If the legitimacy of a Canadian passport is to be accepted and Canadian identity valued; as long as the freedom to move is respected, it is scientifically inaccurate, politically incorrect and economically unwise to exclude Canadians abroad from the broad family of Canadians.

Figure 3: Sources That Overseas Canadians Use for Information on News and Issues in Canada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Frequently/Very frequently</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Rarely/Not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends and family</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian media</td>
<td>57.0%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International media</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Canadian networks</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian diplomatic posts</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local media</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: APF Canada, 2007
Benefits and Costs

The Approach Needs Updating

Economists will inevitably argue the benefits and costs to Canada of Canadians living abroad. In fact, this has been one of the two long-lasting historical themes that Canadians have debated on out-migration going back as early as the beginning of last century. One theme, which was dominated by French-Canadian commentators, was based on emotional and rhetorical arguments, while the other, mainly pursued by English Canadians, took a more rational and calculated position – one that in later years would be termed a “cost-benefits” approach.

In a brief background note, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) summarizes numerous benefits and challenges associated with a diaspora. The ADB recognizes that, among many benefits, “brain gain,” substantial remittances, advanced technology transfer, new market expansion and significant human resources provision in public and professional services are all distinctive contributions by a diaspora to its homelands’ economic development and poverty reduction. Recently, diaspora entrepreneurs and investors have played a key role in bringing new ideas and ways of doing business to their nations. By sharing new knowledge and fusing it with local customs they can help speed the adoption and acceptance of positive change.

The pros and cons apply well to conventional diaspora analysis in many developing countries. In the Canadian context, however, the cost-benefits approach seems too simple to assess the complex implications

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**SWOT Analysis of Canadians Abroad**

**INTERNAL**

**Strength**
- Highly educated individuals
- Local language and cultural skills
- Strongly motivated for overseas ventures
- Retain Canadian identity
- Keep close connection with Canada
- Create goodwill towards Canada
- International knowledge and skills that are transferable to Canada

**Weakness**
- Fear of brain drain
- Counter to objectives of immigration policy
- May not be subject to Canadian taxes

**EXTERNAL**

**Opportunity**
- Potential to increase Canada’s competitiveness and productivity in the global market
- Network of overseas contacts for other Canadians
- Potential to enhance institutional, cultural and other links between host country and Canada
- Creating awareness of Canadian values and culture
- Creating business/trading/investment links with Canada
- Influencing host country policy towards Canada

**Threat**
- Lack of adequate knowledge about this group could lead policy-makers to misjudge their importance to Canada
- Dual nationality may jeopardize loyalty to Canada
- Dual citizenship may jeopardize Canada’s international relations
- Extreme circumstances may incur costly consular support
of contemporary Canadian migration patterns and the size of the Canadian population residing abroad. Canadians living overseas may have varying impacts on Canada’s well being. This requires a more balanced and comprehensive tool on which to base a judgment.

SWOT Analysis of Canadians Abroad

An alternative approach to reaching a better understanding of the phenomenon of Canadians residing abroad is to look at the strength, weakness, opportunity and threat it represents -- a SWOT analysis. This method, devised by Albert Humphrey, is a strategic planning tool used to evaluate a project or business venture. We borrow this method in an attempt to broaden our thinking beyond the cost-benefits aspects of the Canadian expatriate phenomenon.

Following the SWOT method, we produced a standard SWOT analysis matrix which includes a list of factors or aspects that might have an impact arising from the large number of Canadians living abroad. Some factors are taken from the APF Canada survey, and others are derived from recent media stories on issues of Canadian dual citizenship and Canadians living abroad. We classified these factors into four categories as follows:

Strengths

Canadians abroad are well prepared to work and live overseas, equipped with a strong educational background and foreign language skills. Our survey data indicate that close to 95% of respondents have some post-secondary education or higher. A heterogeneous mix of different country-of-origin backgrounds suggests that Canadians abroad are likely to possess local language and cultural skills. The survey findings reveal that Canadians are also strongly motivated to venture overseas. Following jobs is the overwhelmingly dominant factor motivating Canadians to move abroad.

Further, overseas Canadians maintain a unique Canadian identity and keep close ties with this country, whether they hold only Canadian citizenship or dual citizenship. As noted, many have a strong personal sense of belonging to Canada, even though they have established their principal residence abroad. They keep close ties by working directly or indirectly for, and making frequent trips to, Canada and have a strong desire to return to Canada one day, largely because they miss their family and friends in the country.

Canadians abroad could play a significant role in creating goodwill toward Canada as people's ambassadors in the countries where they are living. Their international knowledge, skills and experience acquired overseas can be transferred to Canada to enrich Canada’s state of knowledge and talent about global affairs. These are aspects that the Canadian diaspora perceive as possible roles overseas, according to APF Canada’s survey.

From time to time, there are claims that Canadians living outside this country or dual passport holders are free riders or “Canadians of convenience.” This charge seems to ignore the fact that Canadians abroad are in their day-to-day life creating goodwill toward this nation. They present directly to the world a true face of Canadians which in turn has built, piece by piece, a favourable image of Canada in the global community. By doing this, they have contributed their share toward maintaining and increasing the value of the Canadian passport. This hidden externality is enjoyed by every Canadian inside or outside Canada, and should be fully appreciated by all Canadians.

All these factors are strengths that show the Canadian diaspora has a positive impact on Canada’s well being.

Weaknesses

When highly educated Canadians move abroad it inevitably raises concern about a brain drain. For years, Canada has lost population, especially skilled and highly educated people, to the US. The brain drain has always been an issue associated with the waves of mainly southward-bound Canadian out-migration.
In the process of globalization, Canadians have become increasingly mobile. Nowadays, Canadians are heading not only to the US, but also to other parts of the world, notably to Asia which is experiencing an economic boom. This has opened many opportunities for some Canadians, particularly young people who finish university education in Canada and seek career opportunities in Asia or elsewhere. This has certainly fuelled the brain drain from Canada.

Another outward flow is the return of new immigrants to Canada to their home countries. This is in conflict with the economic goals of Canada’s immigration policy of building the domestic workforce. A recent Statistics Canada report finds that a substantial component of immigration to Canada is temporary. One-third of young, working-age male immigrants left Canada within 20 years of arrival. Nearly six out of ten of those who leave do so within the first year of arrival. Out-migration rates are higher among immigrants from source countries such as the US and Hong Kong, and for those admitted under the skilled worker or business categories.18

These empirical findings suggest that the Canadian immigration pattern has shifted over time. Immigration to Canada is no longer the one-way flow that it was in the past. Immigrants and later naturalized-Canadians appear to be coming and going, temporarily staying in Canada and returning abroad. This new pattern of immigration will not achieve the economic goals of Canadian immigration policy and integration programs designed to meet Canadian labour market needs, such as population decline, labour shortage and aging dependency issues, among other things.

An even more sensitive issue is that Canadians living abroad are frequently criticized for not paying Canadian income taxes -- although they are not required to do so in many instances -- and thus making no tax contribution to Canada for extended periods. According to the Canada Revenue Agency, under Canada’s tax system an individual’s liability to income tax in Canada is based on his/her status as a resident or non-resident of Canada. A determination of residency can only be made on an individual basis. The residential ties a person has or establishes in Canada are a major factor in determining the residency, including:

• owning a home in Canada;
• having a spouse or common-law partner and dependants who stay in Canada, while the taxpayer is living abroad;
• having personal property in Canada, such as a car or furniture;
• maintaining social ties in Canada;
• keeping economic ties in Canada.

Other ties that may be relevant include:

• holding a Canadian driver’s licence;
• maintaining health insurance with a Canadian province or territory.

A non-resident of Canada, who is required to cut all these ties to Canada, may still have to pay tax on income that is received from sources in Canada.19

The Canadian tax system has been based on residency since it was established. It is obvious, however, that the new patterns of Canadian migration and an increasingly mobile Canadian population pose more and more challenges to this residency-based tax system.
Opportunities

The opportunities or benefits that Canadians abroad may present to Canada’s well-being are not often discussed. Part of the reason is that it is a relatively new research area for Canada which has long been seen as a country of immigration. Another reason is that these opportunities are difficult to measure. Here, we present some perceptions of the positive potential of Canadians abroad, suggesting that there are many opportunities for Canada to explore in its diaspora.

The potential opportunity can be presented in two broad categories, namely ‘hard assets’ and ‘soft assets.’ Under the heading of hard assets is the likelihood of increasing Canada’s productivity and economic competitiveness in the global market, and creating business, trade and investment links between Canada and overseas countries of residence. Canada is a country that heavily relies on international markets. Its economic well-being is determined largely by its productivity and, more fundamentally, its economic competitiveness in the global market. In an age of globalization and global supply chains, Canadian business has to be engaged in global production chains to maintain and increase its productivity.

By participating in global supply chains and international trade, whether to increase Canada’s exports or to reduce production costs, it is inevitable that Canadians will be involved with the international movement of goods and services, as well as other types of economic activities. An example is the rapid expansion of multinational companies which increasingly use the intra-company transfer of employees as a strategy to manage their global business. Thus, Canadians working abroad are actually the human face of this changing dynamic of globalization.

The APF Canada survey finds that more than one-quarter of Canadians abroad work for multinational business or international organizations; more than one-fifth work for local business or NGOs in the country of their residence; another one-fifth work for a Canadian business or NGO, or are self-employed. In other words, these Canadians are integrated into international business. An email from a Canadian MBA graduate working in Tokyo during the survey explains that, “maybe like many Canadians in Asia, I am working hard and helping Canada become more competitive in terms of international business.” That is similar to the message from many Canadians abroad.

The survey also indicates that much potential exists in developing ‘soft assets.’ Canadians living abroad perceive that the network of contacts they develop overseas can be useful for other Canadians. Overseas Canadians believe they can create or enhance institutional and cultural links between Canada and their host countries; create awareness of Canadian values and culture; and influence host country policies toward Canada, all of which Canadians at home may not be able to achieve so readily.

An admittedly extreme example is the success of one of the most famous comedians on Chinese television. Ottawa-born Mark Rowswell or “Dashan” as he is known in China, exports Canadian humour to China and Chinese viewers keep asking for more. In an interview with The Toronto Star, Rowswell described his character as having been accepted into Chinese homes like a good friend or close neighbour; it just happens that he comes from the other side of the planet.

Another role of overseas Canadians is in fostering business, education and research and development partnerships. Some diaspora-related studies from other countries point to the creation of business and technology linkages with home countries and the role that transnational migration plays in fostering knowledge transfers.

Threats

Recent public debate suggests that most of the perceived threats are related in part to the phenomenon of Canadians living abroad and partially related to the ambiguities of dual citizenship. These are separate but interrelated issues that can be discussed together in a generic category.
Will dual nationality jeopardize Canadians’ loyalty to Canada? This has been a question worrying many Canadians, especially when a French-Canadian, Madame Michaëlle Jean, designated as the Governor-General of Canada in fall 2005, had dual citizenship (which she subsequently renounced). It came to the fore again when Ottawa spent tens of millions of dollars to help about 15,000 Lebanese-Canadians flee war-ravaged Lebanon in July 2006; and again when another French-Canadian, Mr. Stéphane Dion, elected as Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and Leader of the Opposition in December 2006, declined to abandon his second, French citizenship.

A recent internal government paper by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) concludes that dual citizenship does not make Canadians less loyal to Canada. Though the question whether dual nationality has a positive, negative or neutral impact on Canadians’ attachment to Canada is still a concern and requires more in-depth study.

Another aspect of the threat is that citizenship issues may jeopardize Canada’s international relations. From Ottawa granting the Dalai Lama honorary Canadian citizenship, to Beijing’s insisting that convicted terrorist Huseyinçan Celil is a Chinese citizen regardless of his Canadian passport, to Maher Arar’s Canadian passport being ignored by US officials when he was deported to Syria as an alleged terrorist, all indicate that the case-by-case approach that Canada has used to date can lead to a series of international imbroglios. The most recent turn of events in the Celil case has led Canada to issue a formal diplomatic protest to China against the life sentence imposed on Celil.

These contentious examples show that citizenship issues are mounting in a globalized world, joining many more traditional concerns, such as trade and investment, development cooperation, national security and human rights in influencing Canada’s relations with other countries. However, the real threat of the citizenship issue to Canada’s foreign policy is that Ottawa lacks preparation to deal with this emerging issue systematically.

Using the Celil case as an example, Canada’s diplomatic protest to China in fact contradicts the clear warnings which appear in “Dual Citizenship” – a government document published by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The first sentence of this document states that “Every country decides who it considers to be a citizen.” Thus, in Celil’s case, even from a Canadian perspective, it is clear that China’s claim that Celil is a Chinese citizen is valid regardless of the fact that Canada also considers him to be a Canadian citizen. The same Canadian document indicates that Canada’s citizens are subject to the laws of the country in which they reside. Thus, Canada’s dual citizens, when residing in the country of their other citizenship, may be forced to travel only on the passport of their country of residence. Possession of a second passport could lead to confiscation, or even a fine in some countries.

Moreover, the Canadian document notes that, if a Canadian dual citizen finds himself in difficulty in his country of origin, Canadian officials may be entirely unable to help. In fact, CIC states that “Whenever you are in a country that recognizes you as a citizen, its laws take priority over the laws of any other country of which you may be a citizen. International treaties may, however, allow exceptions to this rule.”

Beyond these tragic cases of contested Canadian citizenship, little is heard of the many examples of foreign-born Canadians who represent Canada with honour. Dr. Margaret Chan, born in Hong Kong and newly elected as Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), is referred to in WHO documents as “of China.” Dr. Chan is a Canada-trained doctor and a Canadian citizen.

There is another risk that Canadians abroad may, in some extreme circumstances, require costly consular support. The government’s normal policy on assisting Canadians in crisis situations, and in particular evacuations, is to provide consular services on a cost-recovery basis (although in the exceptional case of the 2006 Lebanon evacuation, the government covered the cost). In addition, a consular fee of $25 — included in the cost of adult passports — is used to
help fund services provided to all Canadians in need. In 2006, consular fees collected as part of passport applications totalled $75 million.\(^2\) Given the much greater international mobility of Canadians, the magnitude of consular services has increased significantly in recent years. The Government of Canada provided consular services on nine million occasions in 2006, 1.4 million of which were delivered outside Canada, mainly in Europe and Asia/Oceania.

Beyond any issue of costs, the most fundamental challenge arises from a lack of adequate and up-to-date knowledge about Canadians living abroad, which could lead to misjudging the significance and importance of this large group. The Canadian public is gradually realizing that the issue of Canadians overseas has wide-ranging policy implications and that the potential impact of overseas Canadians is likely to become more important over time, particularly as the overseas population expands and ages. While the Canadian policy research community expresses interest in pursuing specific policy issues pertaining to particular government departments and agencies, there is no central agency that has comprehensive “ownership” of the issues related to Canadians abroad.

A major challenge in pursuing a policy research agenda on this topic, therefore, will be to bring together interests from across a range of government departments and organizations (including those at the provincial level, where education and health care are pertinent), while also maintaining a holistic view of Canadians abroad and their long-term significance to the country. The challenge includes the need to connect the issue of Canadians abroad with immediate government priorities.

**Conclusion: “Mission Invisible”**

It is always easy to see the costs and difficult to see the benefits for Canada that are derived from Canada’s diaspora. It is even more difficult to have a balanced and comprehensive view of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to this component of our population. This is not because Canadians are short-sighted, but rather that the issues of Canada’s diaspora are only just becoming recognized.

This paper reveals some of the mysteries about such a “mission invisible.” It is time for Canadians to review their mind-set on out-migration and for Canada to think seriously about its own diaspora strategy based on a better knowledge and understanding of this large group in the Canadian community.

**Notes**

5. By way of comparison, Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade estimates that 2.5 million Canadians may be eligible for consular services at any given time.
September 2007


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Global Canadians
A Survey of the Views of Canadians Abroad

Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
September 2007
# Table of Contents

- **Executive Summary** 2
- **1. Introduction** 4
- **2. Definitions and Methodology** 5
- **3. Survey Results** 7
  - **3.1 Profile of Canadians Abroad** 7
    - Age
    - Gender
    - Education
    - Country of Current Residence
    - Length of Time Living Abroad
    - Motivations for Living Abroad
    - Economic Activity
  - **3.2 Citizenship and Identity** 16
    - Solo Citizenship and Dual Citizenship
    - Sense of Belonging: Is Canada Home?
  - **3.3 Ties to Canada** 20
    - Trips to Canada
    - Return to Canada
    - Reasons for Return
    - Province of Origin
    - Keeping Ties
  - **3.4 Views of Canadians Abroad** 26
    - Dual Citizenship
    - Passport Renewal Fee Surcharges
    - Voting
    - Taxes
    - Government Services
    - Benefits to Canada
- **4. Conclusion** 33
- **References** 34

**Appendix:**
- **A. About the Author** 35
- **B. Acknowledgements** 36
- **C. Survey Questionnaire** 39
Executive Summary

- A total of 549 respondents, all age 20 and above and residing in either Asian countries\(^1\) or the United States, were successfully enumerated by online questionnaires between April 9 and June 14, 2007.

Profiles of Canadians Abroad

- Canadians abroad are widely scattered around Asia and the US.
- The average age of respondents is 41.7 years. The largest age group (52.4%) comprises respondents aged 30 to 44.
- The gender ratio of respondents is 58:42, men to women, or 1.39 males per female.
- Nearly 95% of respondents have some post-secondary education.
- Over 56% of respondents have lived outside of Canada for more than five years.
- Nearly 65% of respondents indicate that pursuing job and career opportunities in the global labour market is the main reason they chose to live abroad.
- Some 30% of respondents working abroad have careers related to Canada, either through government, business, NGOs or self-employment.

Citizenship and Identity

- The Canadian population abroad is a heterogeneous group: 44% are solo Canadian citizens, 36% are dual citizens, 16% are Canadian citizens with permanent residency in another country, and 4% are Canadian landed immigrants.
- Some 65% of respondents gained Canadian citizenship by birth, while 29% gained it through immigration and naturalization.
- Nearly 64% of respondents still call Canada home, though this percentage varies notably depending on the respondent’s citizenship status, level of education, and the length of time he or she has spent living abroad.
- Canadians abroad may possess more than one identity and identify more with one or another of them in different circumstances. In terms of their professional lives, respondents are almost even on identifying most closely with either Canada (47%) or their country of residence (46%). In terms of their personal or family lives, respondents overwhelmingly identify more closely with Canada (66%) than with their country of residence (31%).

\(^1\) A list of Asian countries included in the survey is provided in Figure 8 of this report.
Ties to Canada

- Nearly 54% of respondents make at least one trip to Canada per year.
- About 69% of respondents have plans to return to Canada and establish permanent residency.
- Among respondents’ reasons for returning to Canada, “being closer to family members and friends” and “enjoying the quality of life and culture in Canada” are the most frequently cited.
- Among the news sources used by respondents to get updated information about Canada, “friends and family” and Canadian media are the most frequently cited.
- The majority of respondents reported Ontario, British Columbia, or Quebec as their home provinces in Canada.

Views of Canadians Abroad

- Respondents hold clear views on many issues related to their overseas civil rights and responsibilities. They are likely to agree with the following statements:
  - Canadians living overseas should be allowed to vote in Canadian elections regardless of how long they have been absent from Canada;
  - Canadians living overseas should be entitled to the same level of consular support as Canadian tourists; and
  - The Canadian government should do more to keep in touch with Canadians living overseas.

- Respondents are less likely to agree that:
  - Canada should cease to recognize dual citizenship;
  - Canadians living overseas should pay a surcharge on the renewal of their passports; and
  - Canadians living overseas should be subject to Canadian income tax.

- Respondents also have clear views on the potential benefits they can provide to Canada. The most important of these include the belief that their overseas presence creates goodwill toward Canada, and that their overseas knowledge and skills are transferable to Canada.
1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present the results and findings of the survey *Views of Canadians Abroad*. The phenomenon of the growing Canadian diaspora\(^2\) has recently received increased public attention, and many discussions and debates have focused on the presumed consequences and impacts of Canada’s overseas population on Canada’s well-being. Some fundamental questions still remain unanswered, however, including (but not limited to):

- How many Canadian citizens reside abroad, and where are they?
- What are their demographic and economic profiles?
- What are their connections to Canada, if any?
- What are the implications of these new patterns and how should policy react?

In this debate, the views of one group of Canadians are seldom heard: those of overseas Canadians. Such exclusion is undemocratic — the people who are most likely to be affected by changes in citizenship policy are given little to no input in the relevant discussions themselves. Thus, a primary aim of this report is to fill the ‘knowledge gap’ created by unanswered questions and to obtain data on the views of Canadians abroad, both of which will contribute to a balanced assessment of Canadian diaspora policies.

The survey cited in this report was designed and conducted by Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. The survey’s target sample is the self-identified Canadian population currently residing in Asia and the United States who belong to business associations and social clubs or networks associated with Canada\(^3\).

The survey was designed in the form of an online questionnaire\(^4\) and was open for response from April 9 to June 14, 2007. During this period, we received a total of 597 individual responses, of which 48 were deemed incomplete and ultimately eliminated. The final 549 valid responses are used for analysis in this report.

The remainder of this report is organized in three parts. The next section discusses some working definitions and describes the method used in the survey. Section 3 reports the survey results, emphasizing profiles of Canadians abroad, their citizenships and identities, and their ties to Canada. The final section reports some conclusions.

\(^2\) APF Canada published a report in 2006 which estimates that some 2.7 million Canadian citizens are scattered around the world. The report is available at APF Canada’s website at [www.asiapacific.ca/analysis/pubs/pdfs/commentary/cac41.pdf](http://www.asiapacific.ca/analysis/pubs/pdfs/commentary/cac41.pdf).

\(^3\) It is obvious that the Asia Pacific region is of primary interest to the Foundation. We have chosen the US as a secondary region because over half of all Canadians abroad reside there. This choice does not mean to suggest that other regions are not important, however; given the limited time and resources at this stage, we have focused on areas that are immediately relevant to APF Canada’s mandate.

\(^4\) The survey website is operated and managed by InSite Survey System, Ltd., whose website is [www.insitesurveys.com](http://www.insitesurveys.com).
2. Definitions and Methodology

Working Definition of a ‘Canadian Abroad’

There are two nomenclatural challenges that must be addressed before a definition of ‘Canadian abroad’ can be established. The first entails considering precisely who is Canadian; the second is a definition of who can rightly be considered a Canadian “abroad”\(^5\). In this study, for reasons of simplicity, we classify Canadians abroad as being:

- **Those who self-identify as a Canadian or a landed immigrant of Canada.** This includes respondents who are Canadian citizens through birth, immigration and naturalization, or through Canadian parent(s). It also includes solo Canadian citizens, dual-citizens, Canadian citizens with permanent residency in another country, and Canadian landed immigrants who are citizens in another country.

- **Those who have principal residence status outside Canada.** This includes Canadians who are long-term residents (more than one year) or new residents (less than one year) in their host country. It also includes Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who have never lived or spent a significant time in Canada.

Different terms are also used to define Canada’s population abroad: diaspora, overseas citizens, expatriates, citizens abroad, etc. Canada has long been considered a country of immigrants, and it has no universally accepted term for Canadians who live outside Canada. In this report, the terms Canadian diaspora, overseas Canadians, and Canadians abroad are used interchangeably to apply to the self-identified Canadian population that holds principal residence outside Canada.

Moreover, the survey’s targeted areas are limited to countries in Asia and the Untied States, where probably over two-thirds of the Canadian overseas population currently resides. Thus, the findings and results of the survey represent only the views of the Canadian population living in these regions.

Method

The results presented in this report are derived from the previously mentioned online questionnaire. APF Canada designed the 18-question survey, which was posted on the website that is operated and managed by InSite Survey System Ltd. Detailed information on the questionnaire is provided in Appendix C.

Gathering as many targeted and representative respondents as possible while avoiding irrelevant respondents is a major challenge to conducting online surveys. Delivering the survey information to the expected potential respondents becomes a key to the success of the project. In facing these problems, we developed the following strategies to reach targeted groups and collect reasonably representative responses:

---

• Invite responses through Canadian diplomatic offices’ contacts in each country;
• Invite responses through members of Canadian chambers of commerce or
  Canadian business associations in each country;
• Invite responses through members of Canadian social and cultural organizations
  in each country;
• Invite responses through subscribers of the websites run by overseas Canadian
  organizations or individuals; and
• Invite responses through a ‘snowball’ onward-referral process.

Following these strategies, we sent an initial survey assistance inquiry to many
organizations and individuals falling under the above categories. With the exception of
Canadian diplomatic offices, where government policy does not permit the solicitation of
information for survey purposes, these groups were largely helpful. The invaluable
assistance provided by the Canadian chambers of commerce in many Asian countries is
highly appreciated and formally acknowledged in Appendix B of this report.

The survey was put online and opened for response on April 9, 2007. The original
deadline was set for April 23, 2007, but later postponed to June 14, 2007 in response to
some participating Canadian overseas organizations wishing to extend the survey
deadline so that it better coincided with their routine operations. Thus, the survey period
ran from April 9 to June 14, 2007.

We realized this method is subject to several sources of error. These include: sampling
error (because respondents needed to have Internet access to complete the survey; to have
some facility with English to understand and complete the survey; to have been informed
of the existence of the survey by Canadian organizations in their host countries or
through other sources; to be adults at the time of the survey in order to be members of
such organizations or subscribers to such e-contacts; and Canadian organizations in host
countries needed to be willing and legally able to forward survey information on to their
members or subscribers); and measurement error due to question wording and/or question
classification and order; deliberate or unintentional inaccurate responses, non-response or
refusals, etc. With the exception of sampling error, the magnitude of the errors cannot be
estimated. There is, therefore, no way to calculate a finite “margin of error” for this
survey.

With pure probability samples, it is possible to calculate the probability that the sampling
error is not greater than some number. However, that does not take other sources of error
into account. Generally, online surveys are not based on a probability sample and
therefore no theoretical sampling error can be calculated.
3. Survey Results

3.1 Profile of Canadians Abroad

Age

The age profile of the survey respondents varies widely, from 21 years at the youngest to 91 years at the oldest\(^6\). The median age of all respondents is 39 years, indicating that half of all Canadians abroad are above the age of 39. The average age of the pool is 41.7 years (Table 1). The largest age grouping among survey respondents is age 30 to 44 (Figure 1).

As shown in Figure 1, the overall age distribution of survey respondents is quite different from the age distribution in Canada. The survey data suggests that Canadians abroad are likely over-represented in the early period of working-age compared with the domestic Canadian population\(^7\). The group aged 30 to 44 accounts for 52.4% of all survey respondents while only representing 29.4% of domestic Canadians.

Post-secondary youth and retirement age demographics are likewise underrepresented in the survey pool. Youth aged 20 to 24 and those aged 65 and over make up only 1.2% and 6.0% of all survey respondents respectively, while in Canada these groups represent 9.1% and 12.4% of the overall population. The age structure of Canadians abroad is much younger than the domestic population, the latter being more akin to typical post-industrial demographic pyramids (Figures 2 and 3).

Table 1: Age Profile of Canadians Abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Dev.</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^6\) Because the survey only accepted responses from Canadians abroad aged 20 years and above, this age profile cannot represent the whole overseas strata.

\(^7\) For the purpose of comparison, the author recalculated age distribution of aged 20 years and up based on Statistics Canada, CANSIM, Table 051-0001, accessed on July 20, 2007, at http://www40.statcan.ca/l01/cst01/demo10a.htm
Gender

The gender ratio of all survey respondents is 58:42, men to women, or 1.39 males per female. This ratio is weighted toward the male gender significantly more than is the gender ratio of the domestic Canadian population (51:49, or 1.04 males per female).

The respondent gender ratio varies tremendously by area of economic activity and employment. Men are overwhelmingly dominant in areas associated with Canadian business, NGOs, self-employment, international organizations and multi-national companies (MNCs). Conversely, women are dominant in the areas of education (both as students and employees) and unemployed/not working. The gender ratio is relatively balanced in the categories of Canadian government, local government, business/NGO, and retired/semi-retired.
Education

Canadians abroad are highly educated. Close to 95% of respondents have some post-secondary education or higher; over half have some level of postgraduate education and 43% have some level of undergraduate education.
Country of Current Residence

Because of the survey limitations discussed earlier, our results may not represent an absolutely accurate description of the Canadian population distribution in Asia and the US. Our survey outcomes do provide some indication that Canadians are widely scattered through these regions with relative concentration in some countries/territories, such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, New Zealand, Australia and the US. (Figure 8).

Furthermore, the results illustrate great variation in citizenship status of overseas Canadians that is dependant on the country in which they reside (Table 2). In Thailand, Japan, Vietnam and the US, for example, the majority of Canadians are citizens of Canada only. Dual citizenship is only prominent in countries such as Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia, which have policies favourable to dual-citizenship. Table 3 highlights differences from country to country in how Canadians abroad gained their citizenship statuses. Canadian citizens abroad in Australia, Japan and New Zealand are overwhelmingly citizens by birth, whereas China and Taiwan have higher proportions of Canadians who gained citizenship through immigration and naturalization. Both of the latter also see a larger share of Canadians who gained landed immigrant status in Canada, but returned to China or Taiwan before obtaining full citizenship.

---

8 Country list as used here refers to independent economies.
**Table 2: Respondents’ Country of Current Residence by Citizenship Status (%)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of current principal residence</th>
<th>Citizen of Canada and other country</th>
<th>Citizen of Canada only</th>
<th>Citizen of Canada with &quot;permanent residency&quot; in other country</th>
<th>Landed Immigrant of Canada and citizen of other country</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>79.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>53.2</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>36.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>44.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 539</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3: Country of Current Residence by Means of Acquiring Citizenship (%)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of current principal residence</th>
<th>Canadian citizen by birth</th>
<th>Canadian citizen through immigration and naturalization</th>
<th>Canadian citizen through parents’ Canadian citizenship</th>
<th>Canadian landed immigrant</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>86.1</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>83.6</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>76.0</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>67.6</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td><strong>10.8</strong></td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td><strong>45.0</strong></td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td><strong>30.0</strong></td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>65.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>28.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=549 Pr<0.001
Length of Time Living Abroad

Canadians living abroad tend to do so on a long-term basis. Over 56% of survey respondents have lived outside Canada for more than five years. Some 34% have lived overseas between 1-5 years, and another 8% joined the Canadian diaspora within the past year. Interestingly, approximately 1% of respondents have never lived in Canada.

![Figure 9: Years Having Lived Outside of Canada](image-url)
Motivations for Living Abroad

Following career opportunities is the dominant factor motivating Canadians to reside abroad. Nearly two-thirds of respondents indicate that “job and career opportunities” was the key reason for their decision to move abroad. This is followed by family and personal reasons — marrying a local or following a spouse overseas, for example — accounting for 19% of all responses. The third most frequently cited reason is related to lifestyle and climate, amounting to 8%.

Motivations for living abroad do not differ dramatically between Canadian-born and foreign-born. One notable difference, however, appears in the response to a question about Canadian taxes. Over 6% of foreign-born Canadians abroad indicate that tax was the key motivation for living outside Canada, while only 0.3% of Canadian-born indicates it was the reason for moving abroad, as shown in Figure 10.

Note: N=549; Pr<0.01
Economic Activity

Although approximately two out of every three Canadians abroad have left Canada for work-related reasons⁹, the types of economic activities they engage in vary significantly and have different implications for Canada (Figure 11). Some 30% of respondents working abroad do so for Canadian entities, such as governments, businesses, NGOs, or some form of self-employment. Over 31% of respondents are integrated into the local economy through local governments, businesses, schools, or NGOs. Another 27% of respondents work for international organizations or multinational entities, and some 12% are economically inactive because they are either retired/semi-retired, a student, or unemployed/not working.

Canadian-born- and foreign-born Canadians abroad seem to have different economic opportunities overseas. Canadian-born Canadians are more likely to be engaged in categories of “working for the Canadian government,” and “working for local government”. Foreign-born Canadians, however, are more frequently engaged in other categories, such as “working for an international organization or multinational business,” “self-employed,” or “unemployed/not working”.

Note: N=539, Pr<=0.001

⁹ This is similar to the findings of Sriskandarajah and Drew (2006:22) regarding overseas Britons.
In addition to the gender-related differences discussed earlier, economic activity also varies by citizenship status (Figure 12). Solo Canadian citizens living abroad are dominant in the Canada-related entities field, accounting for 38% of the group. Dual citizens and Canadian citizens with “permanent residency” in other countries are more likely to be engaged in local-related entities, representing some 40% of each group. However, Canadians abroad who are landed immigrants in Canada and citizens of another country are most likely to work for an international entity (37%).

**Figure 12: Overseas Canadians’ Economic Activity by Citizenship Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship Status</th>
<th>Working for Canada-related Entity</th>
<th>Working for Local Entity</th>
<th>Working for International Entity</th>
<th>Economically Inactive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizen of Canada only</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen of Canada and other country</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen of Canada with permanent residency in other country</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landed Immigrant of Canada and citizen of other country</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: N=539, Pr<0.001
3.2 Citizenship and Identity

Solo Citizenship and Dual Citizenship

As should now be clear, the Canadian population abroad is by no means a homogeneous group. It includes Canadians who are citizens of Canada only, dual citizens, multiple citizens, and other persons who hold various combinations of immigration, citizenship and residency statuses between Canada and their host countries. According to the results of this survey, 44% of all respondents are solo Canadian citizens, 36% are dual citizens of Canada and another country, 16% are Canadian citizens with permanent residency in another country, and 4% are landed immigrants in Canada (Figure 13a).

The survey results also reveal the means through which Canadians abroad attained their Canadian citizenship statuses. Some 65% of respondents report that they are Canadian citizens by birth. Approximately 29% of respondents indicate that their Canadian citizenship was gained through Canada’s immigration and naturalization process. Only 3% are Canadians citizens through their parents’ Canadian citizenship, and another 3% are landed immigrants who are not yet Canadian citizens (Figure 13b).

Based on these figures, we can estimate that roughly 65% of all respondents are Canada-born Canadians and 35% are foreign-born Canadians, using the category of “citizenship by birth” as meaning “born in Canada.”

The survey data also show the most common countries that Canadians abroad have their citizenship of permanent residency are Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, UK, and USA. Nearly 4.5% of respondents have more than one citizenship or permanent residency other than Canada (Figure 14).

![Figure 13a: Citizenship of Canadians Abroad](image-url)
Figure 13b: How Canadians Abroad Gained Citizenship

- Canadian citizen by birth: 65%
- Canadian citizen through parents':
  - Canadian citizenship: 3%
- Canadian landed immigrant: 3%
- Canadian citizen through immigration and naturalization: 29%

Figure 14: Overseas Canadians' Dual/Multiple Citizenship or Permanent Residency (%)

- Hong Kong: 17.0%
- Taiwan: 16.3%
- Australia: 16.0%
- New Zealand: 13.2%
- UK: 10.1%
- USA: 6.9%
- China: 2.4%
- India: 2.1%
- France: 2.1%
- Other country: 9.4%
- Multiple-Countries: 4.5%
Sense of Belonging: Is Canada Home?

On the whole, members of the Canadian diaspora display significant personal linkages to Canada. One such linkage is respondents’ personal sense of belonging to Canada. Nearly 64% of respondents indicate that they consider Canada their home. While another 19% say they are not sure whether Canada is their home or not, only 17% say, definitively, that Canada is not their home (Figure 15).

This sense of belonging varies notably by citizenship status. Canadians abroad who gained citizenship through immigration and naturalization recognize Canada as their home more frequently than any other group. Although this level of recognition is not significantly different from that of Canadians abroad who gained citizenship by birth, it is still notably higher — even taking into account survey variation. It may not be surprising, then, that Canadians abroad who gained citizenship through their parents have the lowest level of recognition that Canada is their home (Figure 16).

Educational background also appears to affect a group’s personal linkages to Canada. In general, the higher the education level a respondent has, the more likely he or she or will associate Canada with home (Figures 17-19). Likewise, the longer a Canadian lives abroad, the less likely he or she will consider Canada home. Respondents who have never lived in Canada have the lowest frequency of association. There is no statistical difference between the proportion of males and females who call Canada home.

Another linkage to Canada is respondents’ close professional and personal associations with Canada. Respondents are almost evenly split over which country they most closely associate professionally with: Canada (47%) or their country of residence (46%). In terms of personal or family-life associations, 66% of respondents indicate that they feel closer to Canada than their host country (31%). This suggests that Canadians abroad may possess multiple national identities that gain prominence or diminish depending on the circumstance (Figure 20).
Figure 16: Canadians Abroad Calling Canada Home by Citizenship Status

- Canadian citizen through parents’ Canadian citizenship: 46.7%
- Canadian landed immigrant: 56.3%
- Canadian citizen by birth: 62.9%
- Canadian citizen through immigration and naturalization: 69.9%

Note: N=527, Pr<0.1

Figure 17: Canadians Abroad Calling Canada Home by Level of Education

- Highschool level: 50.0%
- Undergraduate level: 57.1%
- Postgraduate level: 70.2%

Note: N=501, Pr<0.1

Figure 18: Canadians Abroad Calling Canada Home by Gender

- Female: 65.4%
- Male: 62.1%

Note: N=504, Pr=0.486

Figure 19: Canadians Abroad Calling Canada Home by Years of Living Outside of Canada

- Less than 1 year: 87.2%
- 1-3 years: 77.1%
- 4-5 years: 64.4%
- 6-9 years: 63.6%
- 10 years or more: 53.1%
- Never lived in Canada: 25.0%

Note: N=527, Pr <= 0.001

Figure 20: Which Country Do You Identify With Most Closely?

- In Professional Life:
  - Canada: 47%
  - Country that you currently reside in: 46%
  - Other country: 6%

- In Personal/Family Life:
  - Canada: 66%
  - Country that you currently reside in: 31%
  - Other country: 3%

Note: “Other country” includes both Canada and country of current residence, or a third country
3.3 Ties to Canada

Trips to Canada

The Canadian diaspora also keeps close physical ties with Canada. One such tie is visits to Canada; over 94% of respondents have visited Canada since they established principal residency abroad. Nearly 54% of respondents make at least one trip to Canada per year, among which 9% make three or more trips a year. Some 40% have made at least one trip to Canada every two years or more. Only 6% of respondents have never made a trip to Canada (Figure 21).

Visiting Canada as a means of connecting with Canada varies notably in accordance with their characteristics. Those who consider Canada as home make more trips to Canada than those who do not or not sure they regard Canada as home (Table 4). Canadian students, those working for a Canadian business or NGO and self-employed are likely the most frequent travelers who make three or more trips a year back to Canada. Canadian academics, those working for a Canadian business and government are likely the moderate travelers who make 1-2 trips a year to Canada (Figure 22).
### Table 4: Trips to Canada by Whether Considering Canada Home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consider Canada Home (%)</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.06</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 trip every two or more years</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>48.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 trip(s) a year</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more trips a year</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=527
Pr<0.001

### Figure 22: Trips to Canada by Economic Activity

Note: N=527, Pr<0.001
Return to Canada

Re-establishing or planning to re-establish principal residence in Canada is another link between Canadians abroad and Canada. In total, as many as 69% of respondents indicate they have plans to return to Canada in the future; 11% report that will return within the next year, and 17% suggest their return will happen in 10 or more years. Over 40% of respondents indicate they plan to return to Canada within 10 years while 31% have no plans to return.

Canadian-born Canadians abroad are less likely to have plans to return to Canada compared with their foreign-born counterparts. However, foreign-born Canadians indicate their return will most likely be in 10 or more years.

Figure 23: Plan to Return to Canada to Establish Principal Residence?

Note: N=525, Pr<0.01
Reasons for Return

The top reason cited by respondents for wanting to return to Canada is that they miss their family and friends after some years away from home. Nearly 41% respondents say they plan to return for this or other family-related reasons.

A second reason often cited by respondents is their longing for home: 40% of Canadians abroad report that they miss their home and the culture and quality of life in Canada. This indicates that psychological and cultural ties are important fibres of the connection to Canada that may ultimately bring many overseas Canadians back home.

Returning to Canada for retirement, which 28% of respondents indicate as one of the reasons they wish to return, is a natural end for those Canadians living abroad for job-related purposes. Similarly, job availabilities or other economic opportunities in Canada are likely important factors that will bring some members of the Canadian diaspora home. Access to health services, social services or educational opportunities in Canada also attract many overseas Canadians. In sum, a respondent’s decision to return to Canada is the outcome of many factors, social and otherwise.

![Figure 24: Main Reasons for Return](chart)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>To be closer to family members/friends in Canada or other family reasons</td>
<td>41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>To enjoy the quality of life (culture) in Canada/To go back home</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To spend retirement years in Canada</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To pursue job opportunities in Canada or other economic avenues</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To access Canadian health services or other social services</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To enroll in Canadian schools or for other educational reasons</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To escape negative experiences abroad</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Multiple-choice question
Province of Origin

Many Canadians abroad associate “home” not only with Canada, but also with a particular province. The survey data shows that Ontario (40%) and British Columbia (30%) are the home provinces of most Canadians abroad. Quebec and Alberta are also the home province to a significant number, tallying 12% and 9% of responses respectively.

Figure 25: Home Province Before Leaving Canada

- Ontario: 40%
- British Columbia: 30%
- Quebec: 12%
- Alberta: 9%
- Nova Scotia: 4%
- Manitoba: 2%
- Saskatchewan: 1%
- Newfoundland and Labrador: 1%
- New Brunswick: 1%
- Never lived in Canada: 1%
Keeping Ties

It is important not only to have close ties connecting Canadians abroad with Canada, but to also keep such ties strong. One way Canadians abroad achieve this is by keeping themselves updated on Canadian news, events and issues. The survey finds that friends and family are the most important source of Canadian news for overseas Canadians; 64% of respondents indicate that they get Canadian information “frequently” or “very frequently” from this source. The second leading information source for Canadians abroad is the domestic Canadian media (including print, web and broadcast sources), through which 57% of respondents get information about Canada “frequently” or “very frequently.” International media plays a moderate role in providing Canada-related news to Canadians living abroad; 12% of respondents indicate that local media is their key source for information on Canada.

Surprisingly, overseas Canadian networks are rarely used as a primary source of information on Canada. Only 27% of respondents report that they “frequently” or “very frequently” get Canada-related information from overseas networks, while 43% of respondents indicate that they get Canada-related information from overseas networks “rarely” or “not at all.” As few as 13% of respondents indicate that they “frequently” or “very frequently” get information on Canada from Canadian diplomatic posts, while 70% say they do this “rarely” or “not at all.”

Figure 26: Sources That Overseas Canadians Use to Get Information about News and Issues in Canada

![Figure 26: Sources That Overseas Canadians Use to Get Information about News and Issues in Canada](image-url)
3.4 Views of Canadians Abroad

Dual Citizenship

One of the questions often raised in the public debate about Canada’s overseas citizens is whether or not Canada should continue to recognize dual citizenship. To ascertain what Canadians abroad think about the issue, our survey contained the statement “Canada should cease to recognize dual citizenship,” asking respondents to agree or disagree. The survey data suggests that most respondents strongly disagree: nearly 15% “disagree” and 61% “strongly disagree,” while only 14% of respondents indicate they agree with the statement.

Figure 27: "Canada should cease to recognize dual citizenship"
Passport Renewal Fee Surcharges

A majority of Canadians abroad would also oppose having to pay a surcharge on the renewal of their Canadian passports. Nearly 70% of respondents disagree or strongly disagree with the statement that “Canadians living overseas should pay a surcharge for the renewal of their passport.” Only 18% indicated agreement.

![Figure 28: "Canadians living overseas should pay a surcharge on the renewal of their passports"]
Voting

Canadians living abroad do not appear to have a strong desire to vote in Canada’s elections. When asked to agree or disagree with the statement, “Canadians living overseas should be entitled to vote in Canadian elections regardless of how long they have been absent from Canada,” just over 50% of respondents agreed. Some 29% of respondents do not agree with the statement, while the remaining 19% hold a neutral position.

Figure 29: "Canadians living overseas should be entitled to vote in Canadian elections regardless of how long they have been absent from Canada"
Taxes

Being subject to Canadian income tax is also highly unpopular with Canadians abroad. Over 77% of respondents “disagree” or “strongly disagree” with the statement that “Canadians living overseas should be subject to Canadian income tax,” while as few as 13% of respondents agree.

Figure 30: "Canadians living overseas should be subject to Canadian income tax"

- Strongly disagree: 59.0%
- Disagree: 18.0%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 7.0%
- Agree: 8.0%
- Strongly agree: 5.0%
- Don't know: 2.0%
Government Services

Canadians abroad on the whole feel that they should not be treated differently from Canadian tourists in terms of receiving Canadian consular support. When asked to respond to the statement, “Canadians living overseas should be entitled to the same level of consular support as Canadian tourists,” 76% of respondents agreed and 11% disagreed.

More than half of the survey respondents expect that “the Canadian government should do more to keep in touch with Canadians living overseas.” Only 14% disagree with this statement.
Benefits to Canada

Respondents’ opinions on the potential benefits Canadians abroad may provide to Canada are detailed in Table 5. Respondents were asked to rate eight categories of benefits each on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being “of no benefit” and 5 being “of very great benefit.”

Respondents most frequently espoused two benefits: that their overseas presence creates goodwill toward Canada, and that their overseas knowledge and skills are transferable to Canada. A second tier of benefits ranked high by respondents include the belief that:

- the network of overseas contacts created by Canadians abroad could be useful for other Canadians;
- Canadians abroad could be useful in creating or enhancing institutional and cultural links between Canada and their host countries;
- Canadians abroad could be useful in creating awareness of Canadian values and culture; and
- Canadians abroad could be useful in creating business, trade and investment links with Canada.

Respondents indicated that third-tier benefits, such as being able to influence host country policies toward Canada or sending remittances to family members in Canada, were not as important as the benefits cited above. Still, it is clear that most Canadians abroad view their benefits to Canada in a ‘soft power’ sense — they can influence a host country and its denizens in ways that Canadians at home cannot.
### Table 5: Respondents’ perception on the benefits to Canada derived from Canadians living abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Rate the Benefits (where 1 = no benefit and 5 = the greatest benefit)</th>
<th>Mean of rating</th>
<th>Std. Dev.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creating goodwill toward Canada</td>
<td>27 12 55 174 226 13 507</td>
<td>4.13</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge and skills that are transferable to Canada</td>
<td>20 28 75 137 227 21 508</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network of overseas contacts for other Canadians</td>
<td>28 19 66 164 216 15 508</td>
<td>4.06</td>
<td>1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating/enhancing institutional, cultural, and other links between host country and Canada</td>
<td>26 18 72 180 194 17 507</td>
<td>4.02</td>
<td>1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating awareness of Canadian values and culture</td>
<td>26 26 77 160 209 9 507</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating business/trading/investment links with Canada</td>
<td>29 28 75 148 210 17 507</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influencing host country policy toward Canada</td>
<td>40 64 133 121 100 49 507</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sending remittances to family members in Canada</td>
<td>88 82 125 85 56 71 507</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Percentages in italics are measured against the total number of respondents successfully enumerated.
4. Conclusion

This survey is part of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada’s innovative study series on global Canadians. Using APF Canada’s earlier estimation of the number of Canadians abroad as a starting point, this survey has attempted to provide a three-dimensional profile of Canadians living abroad. It has also aimed to obtain the views of Canadians abroad on specific policy issues that may have an impact on Canadian citizens living and working in the global economy, both at present and in the future.

This report has shed light on a number of unknowns surrounding the Canadian diaspora phenomenon, especially those regarding their demography, economic profiles, citizenship and identity, ties to Canada, and their views on aspects of Canadian domestic and foreign policies. It is hoped that this study will facilitate further public discussion in this area and contribute to a more balanced assessment of any policy that has an impact on Canadians, regardless of where they live.

The survey results have also suggested that Canadians are becoming more and more global, and that a large portion of this overseas population has retained a strong Canadian identity, kept close ties with Canada, and played an influential role abroad, where its influence on Canada’s foreign relations is unique. By these accounts, a global Canadian population is a significant asset for a global Canada. How Canada utilizes this asset is one of the many challenges Canada must soon face. We at APF Canada hope this study serves as a reference point for future research, debate and discussion of the diaspora phenomenon — a small step in the right direction.
References


Appendix A: About the Author

Kenny Zhang is Senior Research Analyst at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. Mr. Zhang received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in economics from Fudan University, China and the Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands, respectively. Prior to joining the Foundation, Mr. Zhang worked as an associate research professor at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) and as a senior researcher at the Centre of Excellence on Immigration Studies (RIIM) at Simon Fraser University. His main research interests focus on Canada-China trade and investment relations, China’s domestic labour migration, Canada’s immigration and emigration, and, most recently, the Canadian population abroad and its policy implications for Canada. Since May 2005, Mr. Zhang has been a member of the Vancouver Mayor’s Task Force on Immigration.

Kenny Zhang can be contacted at kenny.zhang@asiapacific.ca.
Appendix B: Acknowledgements

We are grateful to all the anonymous individuals who took part in the online survey. Without their participation, this study would have not been possible. We are especially grateful to the many Canadian organizations, associations and individuals who helped us in disseminating this survey information in Asia and the US. These organizations are listed in the following table of this Appendix.

Our thanks also go to Meyer Burstein, Shibao Guo, Jean Kunz, Chris Robinson and Wenhong Chen, all of whom provided invaluable research ideas and suggestions prior to the survey design. Special thanks must also be given to Don DeVoretz, who helped design the questionnaire and advised us on many research questions.

Several of our colleagues at APF Canada have contributed to this project. Yuen Pau Woo provided strong leadership in directing this study, and Ron Richardson and Christopher LaRoche helped extensively in editing this report.

List of Overseas Canadian Organizations Contacted in Asia and the US

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<td>The Canadian Society in Taiwan</td>
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<td><strong>Thailand</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce</strong> <a href="http://www.tecc.or.th">www.tecc.or.th</a></td>
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<td><strong>Vietnam</strong></td>
<td>The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (HoChi Minh City)</td>
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<td>The Phoenix Expat Canadian Meetup Group</td>
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<td>Digital Moose Lounge (Silicon Valley)</td>
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<td>Canadians Abroad (Los Angeles)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canadiansabroad.com">www.canadiansabroad.com</a></td>
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<td>Québécois a Los Angeles</td>
<td><a href="http://www.quebecoisalosangeles.org">www.quebecoisalosangeles.org</a></td>
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<td>Canadians in San Diego – CanDiego.org</td>
<td><a href="http://www.candiego.org/index.htm">www.candiego.org/index.htm</a></td>
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<td>Canada25 of San Francisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canada25.com/index.html">www.canada25.com/index.html</a></td>
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<td>Newfoundland Club of California</td>
<td><a href="http://www.newfoundlandclubofcalifornia.net/index.asp">www.newfoundlandclubofcalifornia.net/index.asp</a></td>
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<td>CanAm - The Canadian American Society of the Southeast</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canamsociety.org">www.canamsociety.org</a></td>
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<td>Canadian Women's Club of Atlanta</td>
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<td>Canadian Women's Club of Boston, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canadaclub.org">www.canadaclub.org</a></td>
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<td>The New England-Canada Business Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.neecbc.org">www.neecbc.org</a></td>
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<td>Upper North Side</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/uppernorthside">www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/uppernorthside</a></td>
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<td>Canadian Association of New York</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canadianassociationny.org">www.canadianassociationny.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Canadian Women’s Club of New York City</strong></td>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.cwency.org">www.cwency.org</a></strong></td>
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<td>CanSouth Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cansouth.org">www.cansouth.org</a></td>
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<td>Canada-America Society of Seattle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canada-americasociety.org">www.canada-americasociety.org</a></td>
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<td>Canadian Business Network</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canadianbusinessnetwork.com">www.canadianbusinessnetwork.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.canambusco.org">www.canambusco.org</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.canamce.org/index.html">www.canamce.org/index.html</a></td>
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<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.com">www.com</a></strong></td>
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<td>CRA Magazine</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cramagazine.com">www.cramagazine.com</a></td>
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<td>Canadian Expatriates Blog</td>
<td>canadianexpatriatesblog.blogspot.com</td>
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<td>Canadian Abroad Resource Guide</td>
<td><a href="http://www.geocities.com/canadians_abroad">www.geocities.com/canadians_abroad</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Association of Canadian Clubs</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canadianclub.ca">www.canadianclub.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connect2Canada</td>
<td><a href="http://www.connect2canada.com">www.connect2canada.com</a></td>
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**Note:** Highlighted organizations are those that helped the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada disseminate survey information to Canadians abroad.
Appendix C: Survey Questionnaire

Responses to this survey are strictly confidential and will only be used in the aggregate.

This survey is directed at Canadian citizens or landed immigrants currently living outside of Canada. Please indicate if you are a
- Canadian citizen by birth (continue)
- Canadian citizen through parental rights (continue)
- Canadian citizen through immigration (continue)
- Canadian landed immigrant (continue)
- Neither Canadian citizen nor landed immigrant (stop)

1. Where is your current principal residence?
- Australia
- China (PRC)
- Hong Kong SAR
- India
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Korea (Republic of)
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Philippine
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- USA
- Vietnam
- Other _______________

2. How many years have you lived outside of Canada?
- Less than 1 year
- 1-3 years
- 4-5 years
- 6-9 years
- 10 years or more
- Never lived in Canada

3. What is your main reason for living abroad?
- Job/career opportunities
- Cost of living
- Tax reasons
- Educational reasons
- Family/personal reasons
- Lifestyle/climate reasons
- Health reasons
- Other ___________________
Global Canadians: A Survey

4. Which one of the following categories best describes your current employment situation?
   - [ ] Working for the Canadian government
   - [ ] Working for a Canadian business or NGO
   - [ ] Working for an international organization or multinational business
   - [ ] Working for a local business or NGO
   - [ ] Self-employed
   - [ ] Unemployed
   - [ ] Student
   - [ ] Retired
   - [ ] Other (please specify) ______________

5. What is your citizenship?
   - [ ] Citizen of Canada only
   - [ ] Citizen of Canada and other country
   - [ ] Citizen of Canada with “permanent residency” status in other country
   - [ ] Landed immigrant of Canada and citizen of other country

5b. Please indicate the name of “other” country that you have citizenship or permanent residency

   ______________

6. In your professional life, which country do you identify most closely with?
   - [ ] Canada
   - [ ] Country that you currently reside in
   - [ ] Other country (please indicate) ___________

7. In terms of your personal/family life, which country do you identify most closely with?
   - [ ] Canada
   - [ ] Country that you currently reside in
   - [ ] Other country (please indicate) ___________

8. Do you consider Canada as your home?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] Not sure

9. Since living abroad, how often do you on average return to Canada for visits?
   - [ ] Never
   - [ ] 1 trip every two years or more
   - [ ] 1-2 trip(s) a year
   - [ ] 3 or more trips a year

10. Which of the following statements best describes your situation?
    - [ ] I plan to return to Canada to establish my principal residence within the next year
    - [ ] I plan to return to Canada to establish my principal residence within the next 2-3 years
    - [ ] I plan to return to Canada to establish my principal residence within the next 4-5 years
    - [ ] I plan to return to Canada to establish my principal residence within the next 6-9 years
    - [ ] I plan to return to Canada to establish my principal residence in 10 or more years
    - [ ] I have no plans to return to Canada to establish my principal residence (skip to 15)
11. What would be your main reason for returning to Canada? (Select all that apply)
- To spend retirement years in Canada
- Job opportunities in Canada or other economic reasons
- To enrol yourself or family members in Canadian schools or other educational reasons
- To be closer to family members in Canada or other family reasons
- To enjoy quality of life in Canada
- To access Canadian health services or other social services
- Negative experiences abroad
- Other (please specify) _______________

12. On a scale of 1-5, please indicate your level of agreement/disagreement with the following statements (1 = strongly disagree; 2 = disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 4 = agree; 5 = strongly agree)

- 12a) Canada should cease to recognize dual citizenship
- 12b) Canadians living overseas should be entitled to the same level of consular support as Canadian tourists
- 12c) Canadians living overseas should pay a surcharge for the renewal of their passports
- 12d) Canadians living overseas should be entitled to vote in Canadian elections regardless of how long they have been absent from Canada
- 12e) Canadians living overseas should be subject to a tax on their global income
- 12f) The Canadian government should do more to keep in touch with Canadians living overseas

13. On a scale of 1-5, please rate the benefits of Canadians living abroad for Canada as a whole (1 = no benefit, 2 = little benefit; 3 = moderate benefit; 4 = great benefit; 5 = very great benefit, DK = don’t know)
- Knowledge and skills that are transferable to Canada
- Remittances to family members in Canada
- Creating business/trading/investment links with Canada
- Creating awareness of Canadian values and culture
- Creating goodwill towards Canada
- Creating/enhancing institutional, cultural and other links between host country and Canada
- Influencing host country policy towards Canada
- Network of overseas contacts for Canadians
- Other (please specify) _______________

14. On a scale of 1-5, please rate the extent to which you get information about news and issues in Canada from the following sources (1 = not at all; 2 = rarely; 3 = occasionally; 4 = frequently; 5 = very frequently)
Global Canadians: A Survey

- Canadian media (print, web, or broadcast)
- Overseas Canadian networks
- Local media
- International media
- Canadian diplomatic posts
- Friends and family
- Other (please specify) _____________

15. What is your gender?
- Male
- Female

16. Year of birth _________

17. Which one of the following best describes your highest education level?
- Postgraduate level
- Undergraduate level
- High school level
- Other ________

18. Province of residence before leaving Canada:
- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- Prince Edward Island
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan
- Northwest Territories
- Yukon
- Nunavut
- Never lived in Canada

Thank you!