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Canadians Want Harper to Consult Broadly on Budget 2009: Rideau Institute Poll

OTTAWA, Jan. 17 /CNW Telbec/ - Today, the Rideau Institute released a poll conducted by Nanos Research which indicated that Canadians expect the Harper government to consult broadly - beyond the business community - as they prepare the 2009 Budget.

"Of the respondents, only one in four indicated that the business community was the most important group for the Harper government to consult in its budgetary preparations," said Steven Staples, President of the Rideau Institute.

The poll conducted between January 3 and January 7, 2009, offered respondents six options of consultation by the federal government, as it prepared the 2009 Budget. These included: businesses and financial institutions; labour unions; environmental and social groups; other levels of government; opposition parties; and "the government does not need to consult other groups."

"Given the diverse options offered to respondents in the poll, it is noteworthy that respondents' second most preferred choice was that of consulting opposition parties," said Staples.

"The variance among respondents in this poll represents a diversity of views among Canadians with respect to whom the government should consult, but does signify a majority view that the government must consult broadly as it prepares its budget," said Staples. "Irrespective of the individual preferences of Canadians, the message is clear: consult broadly Mr. Prime Minister."

The results were obtained through a random telephone survey conducted by Nanos Research with 1,003 Canadians from January 3 to January 7, 2009. The margin of accuracy for a sample of 1,003 is 3.1%, 19 times out of 20. The complete poll is attached.

The tabulated results are available at:

<http://rideauinstitute.ca/file-library/200901-NATOMNI-RI-Tabulations-Pg2.pdf>

The Rideau Institute is an independent research, advocacy, and consulting group based in Ottawa.

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