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Home > Press Release > Marketwire

Nanos Poll: Canadians Back Government Food Scientist Who Called Attention to Safety Cuts

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OTTAWA, ONTARIO -- (Marketwire) -- 10/08/08 -- According to a survey conducted by Nanos Research, commissioned by the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, a large majority of Canadians believe that a scientist at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) did the right thing when he shared confidential information detailing plans to hand key food safety programs over to industry for self-policing.

In response to the Nanos questionnaire, 72.8% of Canadians supported the action

taken by Luc Pomerleau who shared a document with his union. The document

outlined a series of cuts to meat and other food inspection programs and a shift to self-policing by the food industry. Pomerleau was subsequently fired for doing what Canadians believe he was right to do.

A previous Nanos survey, also commissioned by the Professional Institute, revealed a high level of trust in government inspectors and scientists to ensure the safety of food (64%) and much less confidence in food industry employees (25%).

"Canadians trust government scientists like Luc Pomerleau and they expect them to do everything within their power to protect their health and safety," says Michele Demers, President of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada. "Instead of muzzling and intimidating these scientists, the federal government should be ensuring they have the tools and resources required to keep Canadians safe."

The results were obtained through a random telephone survey conducted by Nanos

Research with 1,200 Canadians from September 20 to September 22, 2008 and from

September 30 to October 2. The margin of accuracy for this sample is 2.8%, 19 times out of 20. Full results of the Nanos polls are available at

- September 30 to October 2, 2008 - 2nd Survey:

http://www3.pipsc.ca/portal/page/portal/website/issues/fed_elec08/nanos2.en.pdf

- September 20 to September 22, 2008 - 1st Survey:

http://www3.pipsc.ca/portal/page/portal/website/issues/fed_elec08/nanos.en.pdf

The Professional Institute is urging all federal election candidates to make a four-point commitment to food safety. Voters can visit www.pipsc.ca/foodsafety to ask their candidates to make this commitment.

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada represents 55,000 professionals and scientists of whom 1,800 work at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

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For more information, go to www.marketwire.com

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