

the free trade deal's effect on energy, are also the respondents most likely to indicate that guaranteeing access to American markets for Canadian energy would lead to jobs, energy development and energy security in Canada.

Opinions in Western Canada and the Atlantic region tend to mirror the national average with respect to the anticipated effects of the free trade deal on Canada's energy resources. Ontario and Quebec appear to be the only two regions with intensely negative or positive views of the free trade agreement with respect to its effect on energy.

3. Regional development

As reported above, no significant change was detected from October or the three waves of the November/December study in the percentage of Canadians who think it likely that differences in economic development among the regions in Canada would gradually reduce as a result of the free trade agreement between Canada and the United States. Only a slight increase occurred from October to the first wave of the November/December study (from 54% to 59%) in the percentage of Canadians who agree with the statement: "I'm concerned that free trade is only going to increase tension among regions and groups in Canada." This increase in agreement has not continued, however, in either of the subsequent waves -- agreement has actually declined in each of the second and third waves, reaching 56% by Wave III.

The analysis of regional differences of opinion on this issue shows that in both Quebec and British Columbia, the likelihood of disagreeing with the above statement has steadily increased from the first to the third wave. Correlation analysis continues to illustrate a strong relationship between the perceived effects of free trade on regional tensions and attitudes toward the agreement. The greater the likelihood that a respondent thinks that an increase in regional tensions is a possible result of free trade, the greater the chance that the respondent would oppose free trade.