

As in May, current survey results appear to show that the supporters of the deal continue to be more likely than the opponents to change their opinion of the deal. In reality, however, and as has been suggested above, this has not been the case since May. The results would suggest that in fact the opposite is the case, as opposition to the deal has declined (causing an increase in the percentage of respondents with no opinion on the FTA), while support has remained unchanged from May.

D. Likelihood of Supporting the FTA if it Benefits Canada More Than it Does Your Own Province

Consistent with the May results, it would appear that Canadians have become more self-interested over the past year, at least with respect to the potential effects of the FTA. Support for the deal, if respondents were told it would benefit Canada more than their own province, is lower than it was in June of 1987 (44% in August 1988 versus 51% in June 1987). As Table 4 shows, this self-interest is more prominent in some provinces than it is in others.

Table 4

FREE TRADE SUPPORT IF AGREEMENT BENEFITS
CANADA MORE THAN YOUR PROVINCE

	<u>JUNE 1987</u>	<u>MAY 1988</u>	<u>AUGUST 1988</u>
	%	%	%
Canada	51	41	44
British Columbia	63	54	44
Prairies	52	46	49
Ontario	54	44	51
Quebec	44	30	32
Atlantic	50	36	36

The regional analysis identifies Quebec respondents as the most self-interested of Canadians in the above context. Although they remain the most supportive (64%) of the deal overall, they would be least supportive (32%) of the deal if it were to benefit Canada more than Quebec. Atlantic Canadians seem to display similar levels of self-interest.