

possessing a passing knowledge of the subject experiences the flattery of public attention.”³³

Today, debates and conversations about our relationship with the United States fill the airwaves and are the subject of a number of television programs. Canadians from all walks of life are being reminded of the importance of trade with the U.S. to the Canadian economy. An Ekos survey of Canadians conducted between January 26th and February 6th, 2002 found that people are aware of, and interested, in Canada-U.S. issues, trade, and security—and are generally supportive of greater harmonization with regards to both border security and trade facilitation.³⁴

Just as momentum in favour of free trade with the United States began to develop in the 1980s, led by such groups as the Economic Council of Canada, the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, the C.D. Howe Institute and those involved with the Macdonald *Commission's Report on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada* (1985), many groups are now agitating for change with respect to Canada-U.S. trade relations (on free and secure trade). Consider these initiatives:

- The House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade included border issues on its agenda and prepared a report on border cooperation (*Towards a Secure and Trade-Efficient Border*), highlighting the question of secure trade.³⁵
- A flurry of attention accompanied the announcement by Thomas D'Aquino, head of the Canadian Council of Chief

³³ Winham, *Evolution of Trade Agreements*, viii.

³⁴ Department of Foreign Affairs, “Canadians on North American Integration,” (April 11th, 2002).

³⁵ House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Report of the Sub-Committee on International Trade, Trade Disputes and Investment, *Towards a Secure and Trade-Efficient Border*; November 2001; Available at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/InfoComDoc/37/1/FAIT/Studies/Reports/sintrp05-e.htm>