Further analysis reveals the importance of expectations concerning Canada's identity and support for free trade. The majority of those who say we should not have free trade because of its potential threat to Canada's identity (71%) believe the initiative is not a good idea. In contrast, the majority of respondents who believe Canada's identity is strong enough to stand up to free trade (79%) think such an agreement is a good idea.

Another issue concerning the effect of free trade is its impact on provincial relations. Half the public (52% versus 55% in June) agree with the following statement: "I'm concerned that free trade is only going to increase tensions among regions and groups in Canada." This view, which is fairly uniform across all segments and regions of the country, is also linked to support for the initiative itself. Those who think regional tensions will stem from free trade are much more likely to feel the initiative is a bad idea.