

The lack of a profound sense of what the economic benefits of free trade would be, reflected in the distribution of responses in Table 6, is further evidence of the complexity of the free trade issue for Canadians and of the low level of understanding previously noted. Those who foresee benefits tend to view these as equally shared rather than disproportionately in Canada's favour.

What is noteworthy about the results in Table 6 is the extent to which the distribution of responses here mirrors that obtained for the question asking Canadians if they think free trade is a good or a bad idea. A total of 49% of Canadians think that Canada would benefit either somewhat or a great deal, as compared to 50% who think that Canada's entering into a free trade agreement with the United States is a good idea. On the other side, 38% expect that Canada would lose somewhat or a great deal, compared to 43% who think free trade with the U.S. is a bad idea. As could be expected, those respondents feeling free trade is a good idea are more likely to anticipate that Canada would benefit, while those opposed to free trade expect Canada would lose.

Almost half of Canadians who think Canada would benefit from the elimination of duties and barriers to trade between Canada and the U.S. expect that both countries would benefit equally. Among the rest, roughly equal proportions think that either Canada or the United States would benefit more than the other.

## 2. When would effects be felt in Canada?

Canadians were asked not only whether they think Canada would benefit or not from free trade with the U.S., but also how long they think it would be before the effects would be felt in Canada if an agreement on trade were reached. The results are arrayed in Table 7.