

As has been the case in the results from past surveys, there are a number of distinct regional variations in the support level for the FTA. The distinctions, however, have remained for the most part unchanged over the past few months.

Notable changes in the regional levels of support for the deal are as follows:

- o After an apparent steep decline in the levels of support for the FTA in British Columbia was recorded from December 1987 to May 1988 (44% to 42%), an increase in the support levels has emerged in this survey (50%). Although this level of support is still not what it was in late 1987, it does represent somewhat of a rebound toward previously recorded levels.
- o There has been a slight decline since May in the support levels for the Free Trade Agreement in the Prairies; however, this has occurred mainly in Manitoba (36% vs 43% in May) and to a lesser degree in Saskatchewan (41% versus 45% in May). A higher than average level of no opinion exists in both provinces (16% and 17% respectively). The majority of respondents in Alberta still support the FTA (59%).
- o Support for the FTA in Newfoundland continues to decline. Since June of 1987 support for the FTA in the province has dropped from 64% to just 49%.
- o Quebec residents continue to be the most supportive (44%) of the deal, while Ontarians are still the least supportive (39%).

C. Likelihood of Changing Present Opinion of the FTA

When asked how likely they think it would be that they would change their current opinion on the FTA, 52% of respondents indicate that they are "not likely" to change their view. More than one-fifth of respondents indicate that it is "not likely at all" that they would change their opinion of the deal. The percentage of Canadians who indicate that they are likely to change their present opinion has declined slightly since May (32% in August vs 41% in May). Overall, however, the likelihood of Canadians changing their opinion of the FTA has remained unchanged since May.