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FREE-TRADE POLL SHOWS JOBS TOP PRIORITY

A public opinion poll commissioned by the Department of External Affairs shows that job creation is the most important consideration in Canadian attitudes toward Canada-U.S. free trade.

The Decima poll, conducted May 27 to June 7 of this year, covers a wide range of factors that contribute to Canadian attitudes on the bilateral trade initiative.

A summary of the main findings is attached.

Among those findings, the poll shows that 49 per cent believe Canada will benefit from a free-trade deal while 38 per cent think the country will lose. Thirteen per cent see neither benefit nor loss.

Overall, 50 per cent think that entering a free-trade agreement with the U.S. is a good or very good idea. Forty-three per cent think it is a bad or very bad idea.

When asked to comment on the importance to them of possible consequences of free trade between the two countries, 93 per cent ranked job creation as an important factor. Fifty-five per cent say it is likely that an agreement would result in more jobs being gained than lost.

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