

There are some distinct regional differences in familiarity. Respondents in Quebec (35%) and British Columbia (33%), appear to be the most familiar with the deal, although their reported level of familiarity is lower in Wave III than it was in Wave I. The level of familiarity with the contents of the deal decreases in all regions between the first and third wave, except in the Atlantic region, where it drops from 28% to 24% in the second wave, but then increases to 30% in the final wave. Prairie residents remain the least familiar with the contents of the deal, with only 23% claiming they are familiar with the deal by the third wave.

While Torontonians appeared to be much more familiar than average with the contents of the deal in October (51%), their level of familiarity as apparent in the results for the December 8-16 wave is virtually indistinguishable from that of the Canadian population on average.

#### B. Support/Opposition to the Free Trade Agreement

Overall levels of support for the FTA have undergone little significant change since October. A slight drop from the 49% of Canadians who supported the deal in October appeared in the first two waves of the study (46% in each wave), but a moderate rebound occurred subsequently, with third wave support coming in at 51%.

Expectations of economic prosperity or fears of economic drawbacks all affect Canadians' decisions on whether or not to support the agreement. Not surprisingly, those who believe that the agreement would be beneficial to their own province's or to Canada's economic well-being are generally more supportive of the agreement. This trend remains constant in each of the three waves of the study.

While support for the agreement continues to vary between regions of the country, these variations remain relatively unchanged from the pattern which has emerged through previous research. As Table 2 shows, the greatest level of support for the agreement exists in British Columbia and Quebec, while Ontarians continue to be the least supportive.