

approximately two out of three (65%) university educated respondents felt that free trade would weaken Canada's independent role in the world; however, in the third wave of the November/December study, only 53% of university graduates feel the free trade deal would weaken Canada's ability to play an independent role in the world; and

- o Another difference change to occur from the October study findings relates to the possible effects of the free trade agreement on the cultural industries such as films, books and magazines. While university educated Canadians continue to be more likely than other Canadians to believe that the so-called cultural industries would be worse off under the free trade agreement, the intensity of this consensus has decreased significantly -- only 52% of university educated Canadians as opposed to 62% of this group in October now believe that the cultural industries would be worse off under a free trade agreement.

In the final analysis, the more highly educated respondents continue to express more intense concerns than other Canadians about the effects of the free trade deal on Canada's independence and its cultural industries. There is, however, evidence that this intensity is subsiding on some fronts -- in particular the perceived effects of the free trade deal on Canada's ability to play an independent role in the world.

Finally, better educated Canadians, in particular those with university educations, remain more optimistic than other Canadians about the effects the trade deal would have on either the national economy or their provincial economy and on a number of specific industries.