

## B. Attentiveness, Understanding of Free Trade

The August results reveal that a majority of Canadians (58%) report that they are still not following the Canada-U.S. trade negotiations closely (Table 2). Three quarters of the population continue to say they feel they do not understand the issue as well as they would like, a view which is fairly uniform across all segments of the population.

Table 2

### AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

|  | JUNE<br>1987<br>% | AUGUST<br>1987<br>% |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| <u>FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS ON FREE TRADE</u> |                   |                     |
| Closely                                    | 41                | 42                  |
| Not Closely                                | 59                | 58                  |

### UNDERSTAND ISSUE OF FREE TRADE

|     | JUNE<br>1987<br>% | AUGUST<br>1987<br>% |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------|
| Yes | 24                | 25                  |
| No  | 76                | 75                  |

## C. Support/Opposition to Free Trade

Overall support for free trade with the U.S. at the national level remains constant, with 50% saying it is a good idea for Canada to enter into a free trade agreement with the United States and 44% saying it is a bad idea (Table 3).

Table 3

### SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION TO FREE TRADE

|                                   | JUNE<br>1987<br>% | AUGUST<br>1987<br>QUESTION 4<br>% | QUESTION 68<br>% |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <u>OVERALL SUPPORT/OPPOSITION</u> |                   |                                   |                  |
| Good idea                         | 50                | 50                                | 57               |
| Bad idea                          | 43                | 44                                | 41               |