

V. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT

Respondents were presented with a number of "issue statements" concerning the federal government's management and objectives in the free trade talks. Responses provide an indication of public perceptions of how the federal government has handled the negotiations, whether it is prepared for the changes anticipated under free trade and whether the free trade initiative is an isolated one or part of a broader plan for Canada's economic development.

Aggregate results for the public's perceptions of how the federal government is handling a number of aspects of the free trade issue are found in Table 11 below. A perusal of the data shows that a majority (63%) of Canadians agree that the government's actions in initiating the free trade agreement are part of a "general effort...to improve Canada's trading situation with countries around the world."

Table 11

PERCEPTIONS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AND OBJECTIVES REGARDING FREE TRADE

	PERCENTAGE AGREE			GAMMA CORRELATION		
	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>
I see the free trade deal with the Americans as part of a general effort by the government to improve Canada's trade situation with countries around the world	63	59	63	.676	.647	.689
From what I've heard or read, Canada gave away too much to the Americans in the free trade agreement	63	60	57	-.591	-.670	-.641
I'm concerned that free trade is only going to increase tensions among regions and groups in Canada	59	58	56	-.524	-.615	-.615
I think the government has a good idea of how to deal with the changes the free trade agreement will bring in Canada	45	47	50	.675	.708	.714