

In interpreting these results, it should be recalled that the results obtained in each survey are accurate to within $\pm 8.7\%$, 95 times out of 100. In light of this margin, the observed difference in the results in British Columbia on the overall support question may only reflect a marginal opinion shift.

Nevertheless, there is some evidence in the August data of opinion regarding certain issues or considerations which may be contributing to the apparent growth in skepticism among residents of British Columbia. British Columbians are even more intensely concerned about "whether the United States will keep to the terms of the agreement" than are Canadians overall. A total of 77% of British Columbians see this as a "very important" consideration in making up their minds about free trade, compared to 66% of Canadians on average who hold this view.

British Columbians are also less likely (40% versus 49% for Canadians on average) to agree with the statement, "I think the government has a good idea of how to deal with the changes a free trade agreement would bring in Canada." Paradoxically, they are also somewhat more likely now (33%) than in June (22%) to think it likely that "Canadians will have higher incomes than they do now under free trade." Still, 67% think it unlikely that this will occur, and British Columbians do not differ in their outlook on this from Canadians on average (68%).