C. Education

The third major demographic basis for differing opinions on free trade relates to the degree of education that a respondent has attained. Attentiveness and familiarity with the FTA generally increases directly with the individual's level of educational attainment.

- The university educated appear to be following the free trade discussions more closely than are other Canadians, as 60% of university graduates compared to only 46% on average we indicate they are following the discussions closely. Half of all university educated respondents say they are familiar with the contents of the deal as opposed to only 31% of Canadians on average.

- The percentage of respondents who feel that the FTA will be a good thing for the national economy, the provincial economies and their personal well-being increases with the amount of education completed.

- Consistent with past survey results, only 49% of the university educated feel that the jobs created by the Free Trade Agreement are as important as restricting the amount of influence the United States has on the Canadian economy.

- Almost half (47%) of the university educated claim they have heard of the federal governments amendments to the free trade legislation regarding Canada's water resources, compared to only 33% of Canadians on average. This fact, however, does not result in a greater proportion of university educated feeling that water is not included in the FTA.

Overall, the well-educated continue to be more optimistic about the free trade deal's effects than do other Canadians. Concerns about Canadian sovereignty and how it may be affected by the Agreement, which previously were evident, appear to have subsided to a great extent, although the well-educated still display some concerns over American influence on the Canadian economy growing as a result of free trade.