

Table 23 explores how Canadians would prefer their government to approach the GATT negotiations. The data reported represent aggregate responses to the following forced choice question:

"Some people say that in order to get the best deal possible for Canadians, the government must be able to negotiate trade agreements in private, drawing on expert advice from the provinces and industry, so that other countries' negotiators don't find out the details of Canada's negotiating position.

Other people say that because trade agreements like GATT affect all Canadians, the government should provide Canadians with the details of their negotiating position. Which point of view is closest to your own?"

Clearly, a majority (77%) would prefer an open approach to negotiations, even if it exposes Canada's negotiating position to other countries. This opinion is held most strongly in B.C. and the Atlantic (both 80%), and most weakly in Ontario (74%). Demographic subgroups that are most supportive of the open approach to negotiations include women, the least educated, the least affluent, and blue collar workers (i.e. those who are generally least supportive of the government's trade policies).

