

has come out on the losing end of FTA disputes more often than it has been victorious. A great many Dispassionate Supporters - more than four in ten - hold the view that, even without the FTA in effect, changes in the global economy would have necessitated the loss of jobs and industrial restructuring that have occurred in this country, and that the FTA, is part of the government's broad plan to enhance this country's international trade position, although they are less convinced than Enthusiastic Advocates on both these points.

Dispassionate Supporters are even more on-side when it comes to the NAFTA. This three-way trade agreement is backed by fully eight in ten people within this segment, with an even greater proportion indicating support for the idea of free trade between Canada and its two southern neighbours - indeed, many see the NAFTA as superior to the existing FTA. No doubt contributing to their strong support for the NAFTA is the fact that a solid majority predict the agreement will benefit Canada in the long run and that the deal will produce more jobs than are eliminated. Upwards of eight out of every ten members of this segment have faith in Canadian businesses' ability to compete with their Mexican counterparts and feel that Canada will not isolate itself from other countries by entering into a North American trading arrangement. Besides this, a clear majority of Dispassionate Supporters believe it is essential that Canada participate in this trilateral agreement if it is to be an attractive location for plants to supply the market on this continent, and that the deal will also better the standard of living for the average Mexican.

Like their cohorts in the Enthusiastic Advocates attitudinal cluster, Dispassionate Supporters are markedly more inclined to put forward the argument that the Canadian government must be part of the NAFTA if our economic interests are to be protected (six in ten adopt this stance), and that present-day programs such as unemployment insurance and medicare will be preserved under a the NAFTA scenario (in excess of four in ten). On the flip side of this, Dispassionate Supporters walk the same line as the Enthusiastic Advocates with respect to the following negative sentiments pertaining to the NAFTA, each of which elicited low levels of agreement from these two segments relative to the other three - companies in Canada will be unable to compete with the low wages in Mexico; many Canadian businesses will head down to Mexico to take advantage of that country's cheaper