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playing field, citing specific examples ("the FTA stopped the U.S. from petty restrictions on our pork products"). Residents of Vancouver also pointed out that there would be short-term difficulties in adjusting to free trade ("I don't know of an economic treaty that didn't bring benefits. In the short-term there will be problems"). Several respondents shared the view that it was too early to criticize the FTA ("It will be 5 - 10 years before we see the benefits;" "I would say in another 2 - 3 years, once things start happening, you'll see goods moving sooner than you anticipated;" "When FTA began, the U.S. economy took a nose-dive, but improvements will come with recovery").

Supporters in Winnipeg echoed the views of supportive residents of Vancouver. They too pointed out that the benefits of free trade with the U.S. would not be felt for some years to come (e.g., "I understand it's a twenty year plan").

The moderate supporters also pointed out that they were, in many ways, unfamiliar with the content of the FTA. They lacked information on which to make informed comments about the benefits, relying on their pervasive view that it would take some time for the benefits to be fully realized.

Not surprisingly, moderate opponents of the FTA were significantly harsher in their assessments of the Canada - U.S. Agreement. All opponent groups pointed out a concern about a further assimilation with the United States or, what one respondent called, "Americanization." In addition, concerns about free-trade with the U.S. centred on the loss of jobs resulting from the signing of the deal, the move of manufacturing-based companies to the U.S. and the additional difficulties Canadians were feeling with the GST.

