

Table 7 outlines the perceived current bilateral relationship and compares the results with those previously obtained in April 1986.

Table 7

CANADA - UNITED STATES RELATIONS
BILATERAL RELATIONS

KEY: (1) July 1986 (2) Net Change from April 1986

	<u>PERSONAL PREFERENCE</u>		<u>CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S IDEAL</u>		<u>CURRENT RELATIONS</u>	
	<u>(1)</u> %	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(1)</u> %	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(1)</u> %	<u>(2)</u>
Cool and Independent Businesslike but Neighbourly	7	+1	7	+2	24	+9
Close Friends and Trading Partners	43	-3	29	-4	42	-2
Warmest and Closest of Friends	37	+1	41	+1	24	-9
	12	-1	21	+0	8	-4

Personal preference and perceptions of what the federal government wants in terms of bilateral relations have remained constant in the period since April 1986. Preference between friendly/close and cool/independent measures overall are split virtually evenly. What is remarkable is the reluctance to adopt extreme positions. Just one in ten Canadians, for example, advocate that Canada become "the warmest and closest of friends" with our neighbour to the south. The public marginally favours a businesslike but neighbourly tone.

The data substantiate a key proposition from the first wave of this study. The Canadian public continues to believe that the government wants a relationship much closer than is deemed appropriate. Overall, 49% of Canadians want to be close trading partners, but 62% see this as the central federal goal. The actual state of the current relationship is characterized in this way by 32%. The prairie provinces are less likely to say that the relationship at present is close, particularly in Saskatchewan where just 24% adopt this view.