- A strong majority believe the FTA has hurt Canada since it has been in force. However, more troubling is the continued belief that in the long-term the agreement will hurt Canada. The top four reasons volunteered by those who have switched from believing the FTA has long-term benefits, to believing that Canada will be harmed in the long-term are:

  ☐ Relocation of businesses to the U.S.
  ☐ The FTA only benefits the U.S.
  ☐ Loss of jobs
  ☐ U.S. too strong

- Three-quarters of those surveyed believe that Canada has **lost** more trade disputes since the FTA went into effect. Additionally, a majority believe that more jobs have been lost than gained since the FTA was signed.

- While most opinions of the FTA are negative, a majority support the general concept of freer trade with the U.S. In addition, half of those surveyed would **not** re-open the current agreement.

- All of the arguments tested for building support for the FTA appear to be effective (refer to Table 37 in the report for details on specific arguments).

Training Issues

- Canadians have divided opinions on who should have primary responsibility for economic adjustment, but the plurality believe it should be the federal government.

- Less than one-in-five are satisfied with the federal government's performance in adjustment assistance. The major reasons offered for dissatisfaction include a general sense that nothing is being done, a lack of specific job creation initiatives, and unpopular government policies.

- Part of the reason for many respondents believing the federal government is under-performing on adjustment issues appears to be a lack of awareness of developments in training and learning. Additionally, there is an over-riding view that both federal and provincial adjustment programs are inaccessible.

- The most appropriate focus for federal employment initiatives is seen to be long-term skills development (as opposed to short-term job creation).

- While controversial, a slim majority (55%) support using U.I. funds for training unemployed workers.