

Table 15

EVALUATION OF MANAGEMENT OF TRADE TALKS BY REGION

<u>REGION</u>	<u>CANADIAN GOVERNMENT</u>		
	<u>Pushes Too Strongly</u> %	<u>Has Right Balance</u> %	<u>Doesn't Push Strongly Enough</u> %
British Columbia	10	32	58
Prairies	8	31	60
Ontario	14	22	63
Quebec	10	44	46
Atlantic Canada	8	32	59

Note: Rows sum horizontally and may not sum to 100% due to rounding and exclusion of "no opinion."

A. Perceived Legitimacy

Two scenarios were then presented to test for perceived legitimacy of the federal mandate in the talks. One hypothetical case stated that because the federal government had staked so much of its credibility on succeeding in the trade talks, it would "bargain away everything -- including the kitchen sink" in order to prevent their failure. The alternative hypothesized that the government would call the talks off if they did not prove in the best interests of Canada. The clear majority (68%) are of the view that the federal government puts the interests of Canada ahead of its own credibility. This reasonably high level of perceived legitimacy does not vary across region to any significant degree with the exception of metropolitan Toronto, where residents appear less convinced than the national average (-10) that the government would walk away from the table in the event of a bad deal.

By way of summary, then, while there is some dissatisfaction with federal leadership during the trade talks, there is no particular perception that this failure to assert Canadian views as vigorously as the public might like may amount to an impeding self-out.