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acknowledged that there would be short-term adjustments and difficulties. It is worth noting, that even among moderate opponents, there was a sense that perhaps longer-term benefits might accrue as a consequence of free trade. While opponent participants offered this view somewhat grudgingly, they did agree that longer-term benefits might be realized, although they believed the longer-term could be up to twenty years away.

Moderate opponents in Ottawa were most negative in their assessments or definitions of free trade. Again, they were unable to define free trade outside the context of the Canada - U.S. Free Trade Agreement. Comments included: "an unfair agreement between the U.S. and Canada;" "loss of opportunity and cheaper U.S. labour;" "Americanization;" "it was shoved down our throats." Some comments were more positive including: "free trade means an ability to trade more;" "as opposed to protectionism and tariffs;" "an opportunity, but with the U.S. FTA I feel negative;" "long-term benefits but adjustment problems." When asked directly how they felt about free trade (through a show of hands), eight out of nine participants in the Ottawa opponent group described free trade as a "bad thing."

These comments reflected comments among moderate opponents in both Vancouver and Winnipeg, although the two western cities were not as negative in their discussion. In Vancouver one respondent pointed out that "...eventually we will do well, but in the meantime, we're going to be hurting." Another said that free trade was "ahead of our time" and another pointed out the loss of jobs. Again, when asked to indicate by a show of hands whether they believed free trade was a good or a bad thing, ten out of eleven respondents in Vancouver said it was a "bad thing." The same ratio of opposition was apparent in the Winnipeg opponent group.

