

- o Relatively unchanged from the previous surveys is the number of people who say they believe the FTA will mean that Canada's ability to play an independent role in the world will be weakened (53%). At the same time, 53% of respondents feel that "we should be confident enough about the Free Trade Agreement because Canada's identity is now strong enough that it no longer needs as much protection through government measures."

Federal Government Management

- o Although about two-thirds of Canadians believe that the federal government has entered into this free trade deal as part of a general effort to improve Canada's trading situation in the world, there remains a majority of Canadians who feel that Canada is giving too much away to get the Agreement.
- o Perhaps the most negative result of the survey for the federal government is the fact that 65% of adult Canadians think they have not been provided with enough information about the FTA.
- o Fully three-quarters of the public surveyed agree that the "important thing now is to start planning on how to take advantage of the new opportunities the free trade deal has to offer." This is a belief which transcends support and opposition lines.

Free Trade Opinion Leaders

- o Canadians continue to turn to a variety of sources for their information about free trade, but still rely on certain sources to help make up their minds on the free trade deal.
- o Just under one-third of the population say they rely on the media most to help make up their minds about the Agreement. Only 20% turn to economists or other specialists to help form their opinions on the FTA. Both of these results are unchanged from the results of the past year.