

I. INTRODUCTION

Decima Research is pleased to present this report to the Department of External Affairs (DEA) on the results of a nation-wide survey conducted for the Department between May 27 and June 7, 1987. The survey probed the views of a disproportionate, randomly selected sample of adult Canadians regarding their attitudes and perceptions of issues related to Canada-U.S. free trade. A disproportionate sample which included a minimum of 100 cases for each province was used in order to facilitate interprovincial comparisons of Canadians' attitudes and opinions on the Canada-U.S. trade issues explored in the survey.

The report is structured as follows. Canadians' overall levels of awareness, understanding and perceptions of the discussions between Canada and the United States about free trade are reviewed in Section II following this Introduction, together with an analysis of the levels of support and opposition to Canada entering into a free trade agreement with the United States and the reasons for this support/opposition. Perceptions of economic and socio-political effects of a Canada-U.S. free trade agreement are discussed in Sections III and IV respectively, followed by a review of attitudes concerning U.S. protectionism and U.S. investment in Canada in Sections V and VI. A final section looks at Canadians' perceptions of the federal government's overall approach to Canada-U.S. free trade, with the main findings of the research presented in the "Summary of Conclusions" segment of the report.